



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

Government of India



# COMPENDIUM OF BEST PRACTICES

ON ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
BY NON GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

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## Preface

**T**rafficking of women and children is one of the gravest organized crimes, extending beyond boundaries and jurisdictions. Combating and preventing human trafficking requires a holistic approach by all stakeholders and integrated action on prevention, protection and prosecution. Keeping this philosophy in mind, Project IND/S16 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which is a joint initiative of UNODC and the Government of India and funded by the US Government, was launched in April 2006 in India. This project is focused on “Strengthening the law enforcement response in India against trafficking in persons, through training and capacity building”. The major activities in the project are training of police officials and prosecutors, setting up integrated Anti Human Trafficking Units, establishing networks among law enforcement agencies and civil society partners as well as developing appropriate tools including Protocols, Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Compendiums and other training aids.

Recognizing the need for partnership and action at various levels, many sectors and actors are joining hands for positive action and change. The present decade has seen tremendous initiatives undertaken by the civil society (including NGOs) in addressing the various issues of human trafficking. NGOs have combined forces with the police, lawyers, the judiciary, media and the corporate sector and involved them in strategies and processes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, prosecution and advocacy, as this Compendium on ‘Best Practices against Human Trafficking’ aims to show.

The Compendium is divided into two parts. Part I highlights some successful initiatives of collaboration between NGOs and corporate/ business houses in combating trafficking. The other excellent initiatives have been put together in Part II of this Compendium under three broad categories viz. Prevention, Protection (including rehabilitation, repatriation and restoration) and Prosecution.

This Compendium has been put together through the combined efforts of UNODC, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights and all the NGOs whose work it represents. The case studies have been contributed by individuals/ agencies/ organizations whose names have been indicated on page 159. Genuineness and veracity of the factual content rests with the contributors of the case studies. UNODC has taken responsibility to facilitate collection, collation of these case studies and has been largely responsible for discussions and reviews to edit the case studies to make them brief and focused and, in this process HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi, has rendered commendable support.

The Compendium will be an inspiration and model for all stakeholders to intensify their efforts in responding to human trafficking through collaboration and cooperation.



**PART**

**I**

**Anti-Human Trafficking  
Initiatives - The NGO-Corporate  
Partnership**



## Rehabilitation and Social Re-integration of Trafficked victims: NGO-Corporate Sector Partnership model based on sound business logic and not just welfare and corporate social responsibility

**P**rajwala, the 'eternal flame' began as a response to increased incidences of trafficking in Andhra Pradesh. The organization is devoted exclusively to the cause of women and child victims and potential victims of trafficking, particularly for prostitution, which it considers to be the worst form of sexual slavery. Its activities include second-generation prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, restoration and social reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. These objectives are achieved through a multi-pronged approach, as trafficking is a multi-dimensional problem. In keeping with this, Prajwala is actively involved in advocacy and in networking with anti-trafficking organizations. During the process of implementation of various programmes to combat causes of trafficking, Prajwala has evolved need based interventions and methodologies which are mile stones for the organization and breakthroughs in the anti-trafficking sector.

### Prajwala's Rehabilitation Model - a tall order, but clear objectives ...

True social, economic and psychological rehabilitation is that which allows the victim to live with dignity in the mainstream society, not away from it in separate settlements. Given the personal trauma that a victim has undergone, rehabilitation also implies a complete break from the past life, its experiences and memories. Prajwala wants the rehabilitated survivor not to be identified as a 'Prajwala girl' by anyone, including herself. The NGO's need should not become her burden.

Prajwala has studied, negotiated, collaborated and partnered with all sectors of the society in its victim rehabilitation ventures. The corporate sector was a major challenge for Prajwala. It was clear to the organization that if the corporate sector has to partner with it, there has to be a sound business logic to the partnership, not just that of welfare and corporate social responsibility. Most of the corporate and business sector concerns need multi-skilled workers in large numbers and if Prajwala could create such a work force, the firms would see the business sense in combining forces. With this in mind, Prajwala began to understand the requirements of hospitals, the hospitality industry and the consumer market. It identified several sectors where its girls could fit in. Then it began active preparations for the same.

Identification of need-based, aptitude based, market assessed, viable & sustainable economic options is critical for long term rehabilitation. As this group is specially stigmatized and traumatized, the scope of social reintegration is limited. Any intervention for family based trades may not be suitable. Therefore, the options provided should be able to sustain the survivor's life independently without dependence for basic sustenance. Effort is hence taken to do a thorough market study before adopting any particular trade or employment option. Only those livelihood options are chosen which are viable in the job market.

*[www.prajwalaindia.com](http://www.prajwalaindia.com)*

Its first collaborative venture was with Amul, which was the first of its kind in the country. With the success of the Amul parlour, Prajwala moved on to other industries such as hospital, hospitality and construction. When Prajwala began its Amul experiment it had no examples to go by, hence detailed preparations were a must. Prajwala thus began at the very beginning — the first step was an attempt to understand the needs, strengths and limitations of the survivors. Based on the findings, IOM and Prajwala prepared a 15 days induction training module designed to prepare the survivors for such a venture. The module was an innovation in itself and consisted of many components ranging from numeracy, literacy, spoken English, basic book keeping, grooming skills interspersed with practical exposure to real working situations.

This module has formed the foundation of all Prajwala's corporate collaboration ventures, as well as all its work at skill building of survivors.

**This series of 3 case studies go to show what makes a difference in partnering with corporate and business houses as far as rehabilitation of victims of sexual exploitation is concerned. It also shows us what to watch out against and prepare ourselves for.**

### *Case 1 ... From Philanthropy to Partnership: The Prajwala - Amul Collaboration*

Back in 2002, when the concept of corporate partnership in anti human trafficking interventions was in its nascent stage and the corporate response was more about doling out either in cash or in kind, Prajwala was going through its own frustrations in evolving sustainable and viable economic options for survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation. A chance meeting of Prajwala functionaries with Amita Joseph (then in USAID) and Sarat Dash of IOM kicked off a whole new thought process of involving the corporate sector in economic empowerment of survivors. After a lot of brain storming the idea of taking over franchises of known brands of products was accepted as a good area to explore. Amita Joseph made the first contact with Dr. V. Kurien, the founder and the man behind Gujarat Cooperative Milk Federation (GCMF). The positive response from Mr. Kurien built a new momentum towards an innovative partnership model of civil society, the corporate sector and international organizations.

The basic idea of the venture was that survivors of trafficking will run an Amul Pizza Parlour. There were five partners in this venture:

- Amul India
- International Organization for Migration(IOM)
- Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Prajwala
- The Survivors

As the corporate partner, **Amul** provided the brand name as well as the on job training to run the parlour. Further it also provided the initial machinery such as a freezer at a nominal cost. As an international organization, **IOM** provided the initial capital that was required to set up two parlours and also supported in evolving a capacity building training module on life skills and entrepreneurial skills for survivors who were to manage the parlour. As an indication of government support and collaboration, the **Department of Women Development and Child Welfare** facilitated the allocation of free space to establish the parlour. As the civil society partner, **Prajwala** provided shelter to the survivors during the process of capacity building, counseling support and also, with its contacts, facilitated the allotment of the place to set up the parlour. As a field based organization Prajwala also contributed in developing a survivor friendly training module that kept the needs, aptitude, strengths and limitations of survivors in focus. **Victims** of trafficking, who were already on the road to recovery and could be termed as survivors, were

the core partners in this innovative venture. Their willingness to explore the unknown and experiment with it became the key force in initiating this model.

Fifteen survivors were trained using the Prajwala comprehensive training module. Simultaneously appropriate locations were identified where the parlour could be located. Prajwala contacted the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare and the Tourism Department for space in government offices and also in prominent tourist locations. None of the tourist locations were available for such a venture. Finally two locations, one inside the Secretariat and another in the campus of the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare were identified. Amul India then did a professional market assessment of the identified locations and certified them as suitable for the venture. IOM in the meantime had identified a Gujarat based architect/ builder who then came to Hyderabad, and designed the parlour based on existing designs of parlours running in Ahmedabad. One of the considerations in designing was the limited space available. The survivors were then sent to Ahmedabad to get an on job training in existing Amul Pizza Parlours functioning in Gujarat. This was a 15 days programme.

The first parlour started functioning in the Secretariat without any fanfare and publicity. The second parlour was inaugurated by the Minister of Women Development and Child Welfare.

One of the parlours has been running successfully for the past five years. It is totally self-sustaining and presently provides livelihood to eight girls, two of them non-survivors. The other parlour had to close down as the much publicized inauguration led to its identification as a place run by survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation, whom the public would rather refer to as 'ex-prostitutes'. Nevertheless, the one which is running is doing well and is even partially supporting the 'Children's Home' run by Prajwala.



As this was the first experiment of Prajwala, learnings from it were crucial for further innovations in the area of corporate partnership. The first learning was that the survivors have to be partners and not mere recipients or 'beneficiaries'. And to enable this, they have to be provided appropriate capacity building inputs, so that they can cope with the mainstream work culture. Another learning was that low profile interventions have better chances of success where survivors are concerned.

The Amul venture opened the doors to further thought and action on experimenting with the corporate world as partners in rehabilitation of survivors.

### *Case 2 ... Building Bridges: Prajwala Partners with a Prominent Super-Specialty Hospital in Rehabilitating Victims*

Prajwala's attempts to understand the 'demand' side of rehabilitation revealed that hospitals require a large number of workers who are multi-skilled, but prepared to work at odd hours. They are not able to find people from the mainstream society to fill into such jobs as job seekers will opt for them only as the very last resort. Victims of sexual exploitation have no problems in joining such jobs, which are perceived to be difficult by others.

Once the 'gap' was identified, Prajwala began negotiations with a super-specialty hospital. The process began with the constitution of a team represented by functionaries of the hospital and Prajwala, whose first task was to prepare an inventory of required skills. On its part, Prajwala had already prepared a

comprehensive module incorporating all kinds of skills, not just what the hospital required. The hospital identified the required skills as well as the job locations where these skills were required. The third set of partners in this venture was the victims themselves.

The vocation of **nursing attendants** was identified as a requirement of the hospital, where multi-skilled workers could fit in. The team also prepared a panel of trainers comprising again of representatives from both the sides of the partnership. The hospital represented the technical side and Prajwala, the social and psychological side. 25 girls joined the training programme which was conducted for 20 days. The hospital trainers turned out to be very skilled in participatory approaches and enthusiastically taught everything from where to stand and what to do to how to dispose off used material and handle equipment. Prajwala gave continuous sessions on life-skills so that the girls would be able to fit in as best as they could. This was followed by a 15 days on the job training. Placements came after this.

The first three months were very smooth and the girls fitted in very well. They were good workers and appreciated for that. Problems began when reports started coming about 'love-affairs' of some of the girls with some men from the hospital staff. Prajwala had not taken into account that the girls, having gone through extreme trauma, would look for an emotional anchor to fulfill their psychological needs. Sex and Sexuality had not formed part of the training module! The NGO role became immediately prominent. Prajwala prepared an interim training module after six months of placement of the girls, to cater to the 'missing content'. It set in a system where there are regular monthly meetings with all girls placed in different corporate/ business concerns. This was further strengthened with by-monthly skill-upgradation trainings where personal skills required by the girls were identified and imparted. Professional ethics formed a vital part of the trainings.



It is now one year since the venture began and 20 girls are working in the hospital. They earn INR 5,000.00 per month and have well set in their jobs.

The hospital, now outsourcing all its staffing requirements, regularly asks for multi-skilled workers from Prajwala. The girls are recognized as good workers.

***Case 3 ... Excelling in Male Bastions: Prajwala turns victims into masons in collaboration with National Academy for Constructions and Lanco Constructions***

Gender stereotypes in professions and livelihoods have long prevented women from coming on par with men in the economic scenario. Women are not expected to be drivers, mechanics, masons or managers. Women from the mainstream society hesitate to join the professional 'stream' not conventionally available to them. They are particularly afraid of working in predominantly male company. Victims



of trafficking for sexual exploitation, on the other hand, are exceptional survivors, fearless and therefore, well equipped to enter the arena of conventional male professions. Prajwala understood that this is one 'opening' it has to tap. Its previous successful experiments in this field reinforced its conviction.

Prajwala's focus has been on tapping the innate potential and strengths of these survivors in ventures aimed at their re-integration into the mainstream society as equals. This means capitalizing on the strength that the girls were forced to acquire – their fearlessness and lack of inhibition.

Thus began the partnership venture with National Academy for Constructions (NAC), in 2007. Prajwala approached the NAC with a collaborative venture on masonry training for victims of trafficking. The NAC consented and thus began the partnership between Prajwala, NAC, the District Administration, Lanco Constructions and victims of trafficking. In keeping with regular practice, a training team was constituted. NAC, being a training institute, took up the task of technical training and negotiated with Lanco for placement and post-training. The District Youth Welfare supported the venture with training costs including that for uniforms, helmet and implements. Lanco committed itself to placements for the trained masons. Prajwala provided the space for training, the residential accommodation for the trainees and the crucial life skills training. The survivors of trafficking, in their turn, plunged into the training with full enthusiasm.

The three months training was to be followed by 9 months of on the job training. A certification test was held after the training. All 25 girls who had participated in the training passed the test with flying colours and were given jobs in Lanco as masons. Presently they earn INR. 7500.00 per day. There have been no dropouts.



## Learnings

Prajwala has learnt several crucial lessons from its corporate collaborations. Each successive venture has built on the strengths of the earlier one and avoided its mistakes. Some of the crucial learnings are:

- Prior preparation is imperative when survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation have to be rehabilitated. The preparation has to be comprehensive and holistic, equipping the survivors not merely to fit in comfortably in the mainstream work culture but also meet any adverse circumstances that they may face, with courage.
- Anonymity is of vital importance where the survivors are concerned. They are looked down upon and stigmatized. If their past history is known, their survival in the workplace or the society may become impossible.
- It is important to bring in experts in the concerned industry to train the survivors. Apart from the fact that they are technically skilled in their particular profession, their very presence lends legitimacy to the profession in the eyes of the survivors.
- Corporate collaborations have to be business ventures and not welfare schemes, if they have to truly succeed.
- Forward and backward linkages set up through participation of various partners are good ingredients for success.

*Out-of-the-box thinking is called for in the rehabilitation process. When one gets involved, one gets to realize that 'sky is the limit'. There are so many willing persons and agencies ready to support the cause. We need to reach out to them.*

## NGO–corporate partnership in rehabilitating survivors: Unique initiatives by Sanlaap

Successful economic rehabilitation of victims of trafficking does not merely mean livelihood generation; it is a composite process where the person feels psychologically, physically and economically tuned with the work environment and the larger world in which they are placed. It has to be ensured that they acquire all the skills necessary to survive in mainstream society with dignity to achieve this.

SANLAAP works with a uni-focal approach and commitment – it works for the cause of the most vulnerable, i.e., women and children, particularly victims and potential victims of trafficking. In order to do complete justice to them i.e., in the social, economic and political arena, Sanlaap has put its full energies into everything that affects them — the immediate environment, the administration, the economy, media, judiciary and the civil society as such. In keeping with this, SANLAAP is not just active at the grassroots level, but is also an important policy-influencing organization on trafficking related issues in the South Asian region. It is one of the first organizations in the region to holistically approach the issue of trafficking in persons and work on a range of activities as a part of its counter trafficking measures – from campaign, advocacy, and sensitization of various stakeholders on the issue of trafficking, to the rescue, rehabilitation, and socio-economic reintegration of trafficked persons. The organization is a clear pathfinder in the area of rehabilitation of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation with special emphasis on economic rehabilitation of survivors of CSE&T (commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking).

With this conviction, Sanlaap, an NGO committed to the cause of improving the lives of trafficking victims in West Bengal, has made every effort to ensure that there is a multi-stakeholder partnership in the rehabilitation process. The organization believes that each stakeholder brings a special expertise and it is this expertise that has to be tapped to achieve a holistic and meaningful rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation is a long-term process and economic rehabilitation is an integral part of the overall psychosocial rehabilitation processes. Though Sanlaap has been involved in rehabilitation for several years, its efforts in social integration and inclusion of survivors have been crystallized and institutionalized in the past five years.

The following case studies on the Sanlaap–corporate partnership attempt to highlight what successful multi-stakeholder participation can achieve in the area of rehabilitation.

### **A lot can happen over a cup of coffee – Partnership between Sanlaap, Café Coffee Day, ITC Sonar Bangla and the EXPLOTEC Call Centre for the economic empowerment of trafficking survivors**

Finding appropriate livelihood options for survivors of trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is probably one of the hardest tasks in anti-trafficking work. Most often, Sanlaap staff members

working primarily on rehabilitation have been faced with the question: 'what particular kind of training will ensure sustainable livelihood development for the girls, in a complete sense'? Many of the girls left home at a very young age with zero skills and their subsequent experiences in life provided no opportunity to pick up any skills either. However, almost all of them know how to cook and some are pretty good at it!

Through its contacts with the ITC Sonar Bangla Hotel (a 5 Star Hotel in Kolkata), Sanlaap ensured that 5 survivors received training in basic catering and food preparation technique, in 2003. This ensured that the training was of the highest quality and also gave the survivors a tremendous amount of self-worth and confidence. These girls took responsibility of their lives and launched out as 'barefoot' chefs.

Around the same time, Sanlaap was negotiating with Café Coffee Day to set up kiosks in key locations in the city, where some of the girls could work. This was easily accomplished through the Sanlaap-IOM partnership since IOM had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the coffee company. The first Café Coffee Day Express Kiosk was started in Kolkata in 2003, with 4 survivors at its helm. A significant achievement was that Café Coffee Day reduced the price of the kiosk, in keeping with their Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, and provided a great deal of support such as training the survivors, offering direct personnel inputs, etc. The brand name of Café Coffee Day has significantly boosted the venture.

In late 2003, Sanlaap partnered with EXPLOTEC, a call centre in Kolkata, to provide canteen services to the 200 odd staff members of the organization.

A major boost was given to all three ventures when Sanlaap moved the Café Coffee Day Kiosk into the Call Centre, realizing its great business potential. The 5 girls trained as 'barefoot' chefs at ITC, were also brought to the Call Centre as Team Leaders.



Today 20 survivors work in this unit and earn as much as INR 3,500.00 per month. The success of the move was immediately visible and today, Sanlaap is ready to sign another contract on similar lines, with EXPLOTEC, for another Call Centre. Since this facility has almost 400 staff members, the organization is viewing the potential of economically rehabilitating at least 30 new survivors.

### **Sewing dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow: Sanlaap partners with IOM and NIFT for the skill development and economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking**

Sanlaap has been running a knitting and sewing training centre in its shelter home, since 1996. However, it lacked the professional approach and knowledge to convert it from a vocational training program into a successful livelihood generation initiative. This affected both the marketing quality and quantity of its products. In 2001, Sanlaap took the decision to partner with competent corporate and institutional players to convert the centre into a successful, livelihood generation initiative. The first step was to select 30 survivors of CSE&T. A training needs analysis endorsed that the selected young adults were genuinely interested in being trained as professional garment constructors and committed to continue in the garment manufacturing business, professionally.

Sanlaap then initiated a dialogue with the National Institute of Fashion Technology – NIFT (a premier institute in training and fashion design) with the support of IOM. NIFT agreed to redesign their training module to fit the specific requirements of the survivors and initiated a 90 days training program (established

as a Certificate Course) that would not only teach the girls the basics of garment construction but also give them the competence and confidence to design, cut and create garments on their own, with limited access to computerized machinery.

This practical course design positively impacted the training program.

Next, Sanlaap got IOM to financially support the initiative. During the training program, so as to lose no time, the organization reached out to local export houses and ensured that all the survivors would be offered jobs as semi-skilled workers in their factories. Three export houses (including Gama Styles and Calcutta Creations) came forward to offer the youngsters jobs as per the Government's labor norms.

The result: all the young women started to work in real factory settings after their training, and moved into mainstream society. Some moved in with their families in the cities, others lived in working girl's hostels and a couple got married and settled down with their partners.

In this collaborative venture, NIFT provided the technical input and the Certification, which has a long-term value. Saanlap identified the survivors, and through a psychosocial rehabilitation processes brought them to a situation where they could participate in training and successfully start work. Though the organization kept a low profile during training and placement, it followed up with each of the girls for the first couple of years, thus enabling them to settle in comfortably into their new jobs. As mentioned above, IOM provided the funding for the initiative and also helped in the initial coordination with NIFT and the Export Houses who offered the jobs. The survivors were the most important partners in the process who, despite their violent pasts, came forward with courage, trained hard and successfully started work to live their lives with dignity.



### Entering a new venture - Survivors as maintenance staff for Indian Bank ATMs

Sanlaap initiated a partnership with the Indian Bank in 2005, and signed an MOU to maintain its ATMs as a contractor. This has been the most profitable venture for the organization, especially in terms of a corporate partnership for the economic rehabilitation of trafficking survivors.

33 survivors are a part of this important initiative. Each is in charge of the complete maintenance of 2 ATMs. This earns the girls as much as INR 2, 000.00 per month. Since the task takes about 4 to 5 hours a day, the girls are free to pursue training and learning programs to further strengthen their skills for the future. Now, Sanlaap is reaching out to other banks as well, for similar contracts, so that the organization can rehabilitate more survivors in the process.

### Lessons and learnings:

From these ventures, Sanlaap has learnt that it is absolutely imperative to have a multi-stakeholder approach for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of victims into mainstream society. This not only ensures the involvement of appropriate players with their individual skills and expertise but also harnesses the nation's human resource potential to productive use while making exploited women and girls economically independent and self-confident.

Economic Rehabilitation (Livelihood Generation) is not a stand-alone program but an integral part of Sanlaap's overall psychosocial rehabilitation processes. Since rehabilitation is a long-term process a great deal of time is invested in it.

Each survivor finds a new identity through these initiatives which is probably the biggest element of success of these corporate partnership programs. Thus, individuals once victims of CSE are now not just survivors, but corporate representatives and successful individuals living a life of hard work and dignity like any other citizen of the country.

## Trafficking of women migrant workers - A model for prevention: Ankuram and Modi Builders

In recent years there has been a phenomenal growth of construction activity in Hyderabad, which is one of the 'happening' cities in India. Large numbers of manual and semi-skilled labor are required for this activity. On the 'supply side' factors such as low availability of agricultural labor, repeated crop failures, lack of avenues for employment and mechanization of many activities are driving the rural folk to Hyderabad in large numbers. On the 'demand side', booming economic activities require great numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled persons. Construction companies and contractors have become major employers of rural labor in the past decade. It is estimated that 4 lakh rural migrants are involved in the construction industry in Hyderabad city and its suburbs. They reportedly account for 90 per cent of the total construction workforce.

These migrants often do not get a place to call 'home' as they cannot afford rents. They are generally forced to live in open areas near the work sites, in hutments made of rough wooden structures with coarse plastic sheets, or on the pavements. Basic facilities are non-existent in these make-shift homes. Daily ablutions become a nightmare and simple jobs such as fetching water, an arduous task. They live in darkness without electricity. The only driving force is the hope that one day they will get a home in the city or earn sufficiently to live in comparative comfort in the villages. Women and girls of migrant families are particularly vulnerable due to the double burden of poverty and gender discrimination. Children of both sexes are vulnerable to exploitation, accidents and ill health. Traffickers thrive on the vulnerability of people, trapping women for sexual exploitation and children for begging.

**Life in Uppal Adda:** Uppal Adda is on the outskirts of Hyderabad, where hundreds of migrant laborers wait every morning for hours, to get work for the day. If they get a job, they feel blessed by the contractor who hires them for a particular employer. More often the contractors are the 'lords', many of whom indulge in the sexual exploitation of women, as a matter of right. In this process, the scope of sexual abuse becomes an important criterion in selecting the person for a job. Thus, the vulnerability of these migrant women is fully exploited by the contractors. Trafficking of women for sexual exploitation thus takes place under the facade of migration.



Y, was one of these women who belonged to Mahabubnagar District (one of the worst drought prone districts in Andhra Pradesh). She had migrated to Hyderabad three years ago along with her husband and four small children. Like most women, she used to ensure that her children's daily needs were met before she left her hutment near a National Highway and went to Adda to work. And like most women, she used to bear the violence meted out to her every day, by her drunken

husband who spent almost all his daily earnings on alcohol. Her only solace was her sister with whom she shared her miseries. She knew that every woman in her neighborhood had a similar tale to tell. But she believed, as most of her neighbors did, that domestic violence is part of a woman's life. So she moved on, working and feeding her family and feeling blessed for getting work that would see her through the day.

The local contractor took advantage of Y's pathetic condition and started exploiting her sexually. After a few days, he took her to a nearby *dhaba* (small roadside hotel) on the highway where truck drivers usually stayed overnight and indulged in commercial sex. After forcing her to have sex with his 'friends', he handed her over to the pimps active on the highway where the *dhaba* was situated. Y was no longer seen at the Adda for work.

**Ankuram steps in:** After working for slum dwellers and migrant workers for 9 years in Hyderabad and its suburbs, Ankuram started working with the women and children of the migrant community on this issue. Many of these children had either become beggars or street children. Ankuram started mobile crèches in these areas enrolling children which included Y's son and daughter who had become beggars after their mother disappeared. By this time, Y's husband, who had suffered from HIV/AIDS for four years, had passed away. During counseling sessions it was discovered that Y was HIV positive too.

Around the same time Ankuram invited the Builders' Association to visit the migrants' localities where they saw the plight of children and women in the makeshift settlements. They were sensitized on issues of trafficking in women and children and the need for change. Modi Builders, one of the biggest construction companies in the State, visited Ankuram's crèche centers at Uppal. They immediately called a Board meeting to apprise the Board members of the situation. Subsequently, the Board members invited Ankuram to discuss how they could help to prevent human trafficking and improve the lives of the migrants. A partnership between Modi Builders and Ankuram was established to lift the workers out of their pathetic situation and prevent further trafficking for commercial sex.

Ankuram sought a commitment from the Builders that:

1. Children below 14 years should not be employed on the work sites.
2. The builders would provide crèche facilities on the work sites for children between 0-6 years of age, and
3. Women working on the sites would be encouraged to join 'Bhadratha Committees' (Protection committees) to check trafficking and sexual exploitation.

**Modi Builders met all these demands.**

Today, at their work site in Charlapalli in RR District, a crèche centre for 50 children of the migrant workforce has been established. The running of the centre is a collaborative effort. Ankuram identifies and trains the teachers and monitors the activities, such as identifying school age children, mainstreaming them, getting them admission in local government schools, holding parent-teacher meetings etc. Modi Builders pays the teacher's salary, provides food and nutrition to the children and a room for the crèche in their newly constructed building at the worksite. Recently, when the teacher broke her leg at the crèche, Modi paid all the hospital expenses (around INR 5,000.00). They have made it clear to the workers that their children should be left at the crèche before they start work, everyday. Today, there are no child beggars around the site and the children are happy to spend their day at the crèche.



A *Bhadra* Committee with about 35 women migrant workers as members, is also active at the worksite. The Ankuram coordinator facilitates the *monthly* Committee meetings where members discuss issues that affect their daily routine. It primarily works as a 'vigilant group' in the locality. If there are any suspicious strangers around or vulnerable women looking for a helping hand, the committee takes control of the situation with Ankuram's help. The committee gets feedback on anti-human trafficking initiatives regularly.

Modi Builders is working towards establishing 'trafficking free' and 'child-friendly' zones by facilitating preventive activities in Anti-Human Trafficking. Today, no contractor dares to exploit or traffic women or children from their worksites. With sensitization of the management, supervisors and others, employees of the company are careful of their conduct with the female work force, feel responsible towards them and take the necessary precautions to prevent exploitation.

The women, on their part, understand the dangers and implications of sexual exploitation and prevent situations that could make them vulnerable. Posters have been pasted on all the worksites (see box).

Modi Builders have also agreed to support the construction of a Training Centre for survivors of trafficking on the First Floor of the Sankalpam Home for victim girl children at Bhogaram Village, Keesara Mandal and Ranga Reddy District. In another collaborative effort, Ankuram will construct the first floor of the building and Modi builders will provide it workers and materials. Modi Builders has already sanctioned INR 5,00,000.00 to Ankuram for the workers daily wages. Ankuram is planning to use this centre to train survivors of trafficking in vocational skills to enable them to make an independent living.

For Ankuram this is a tremendous learning experience and a major achievement. Builders do not often take notice of the laborers employed by contractors as long as their work is done. They often subvert laws and avoid issues of exploitation and hardly ever 'come down' to the level of the workers to understand their problems. They are invariably, wary of NGOs and activists who 'malign' their name. This case was different. Modi Builders did not merely try to understand the social issues involved in construction work, but willingly paid heed to the needs of their workers. The young, dynamic leaders took the initiative to convince their Board Members along with the Ankuram team, of the need to ensure the safety of their women workers and pay attention to the laws about the protection of children.

Y has been the first beneficiary of these efforts. Her children grew up in the crèche and today, she runs a tea stall and petty shop near her house. Many migrant women like her are prevented from being trafficked while their children have a crèche in their own locality with the active collaboration of Ankuram and Modi Builders at Charlapalli.

## WAKE UP CALL FOR WOMEN MIGRANT LABORERS!

### Before you leave your village:

- Give the details of your destination, name of the contractor etc to the village panchayat office\ SHG members\ family members.
- Enroll school going children in Residential Bridge course camps or Hostels; or put them in a relative's house so that they can continue their education.
- Take out an accident policy.
- Travel by government run buses or trains as much as possible. For any information on the place of destination, seek help from the enquiry counters there.
- Keep the telephone numbers of NGOs\ police\ help line numbers with you.
- Register your name in NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme). If it is possible to get work in the village or close by, never leave your village.

### At destination\ work place:

- Find out the Anganwadi Center, Government School, Hospital and other services extended by Government institutions in the locality and make use of them.

**Protect yourself and others from sexual harassment/ exploitation at workplace and trafficking by forming Bhadratha Committees in your locality. Strengthen this committee with the help of NGOs in your area.**

It is your RIGHT to demand time to feed your children, safe drinking water, a place to live and toilet facilities at your place of work.

Never make children work. It is a crime! Send them to school.

Contact: ANKURAM

H.No.12-13-309, St.No.19, Tarnaka, Secunderabad -17

Tel: 040-27017446

## The C3 Market Place: A Jabala initiative in rehabilitation

**T**rafficking, as we all know is no longer about drugs and arms only. Human beings, particularly women and children have become the most easily available commodities to be bought and sold, fetching high profits for those who deal in them. Although, not new to human civilization, over the years trafficking in human beings has been on the rise and the reasons are plenty. Development induced marginalization of populations, natural calamities and conflicts, uneven economic distribution, “demand” for persons who can be “subjected to exploitation”, etc. are some of the inter-related factors responsible for this crime.

As the old saying goes, “prevention is better than cure”. It is therefore, imperative to see and address the connection between human trafficking and the causes directly responsible for it. Over the years, both governments and civil society organizations have actively engaged in combating human trafficking through protection and rehabilitation of trafficked victims and generating awareness amongst the masses as a preventive measure. However, much more needs to be done in the area of prevention by addressing the root cause – economic empowerment. Empowering communities with livelihood options that reduce the risks of exploitation of women and children, is clearly one such step.

Jabala Charitable Trust, an NGO working on anti-human trafficking established a partnership with a reputed business house, ‘C3 Market Place’ which has helped to transform the lives of adolescent girls and women and saved many from the clutches of traffickers. The ‘C3 Market Place’ project was devised as a two-pronged response to conditions that lead to trafficking and exploitation of the poor: prevent trafficking by establishing a viable economic base for the poor and vulnerable and rehabilitate those who have been victims of trafficking. This is essentially a skill development program which is community based and targeted at a particular market. Jabala believes in community based initiatives that build livelihoods and all its efforts have been in this direction.

The C3 Market Place initiative is part of the Special Needs Vocational Program of Jabala that aims to prepare individuals better for community life as its ultimate goal. In order to best prepare the individual and ultimately to integrate them into the community as independent, motivated individuals, an initiative must include on-the-job training at competitive work sites in vocations of interest. At the same time, a market for their skills must be developed so that their skills are best made use of.

Keeping this in view, Jabala started a tie up with ‘C3 The Market Place’, a retail chain with 4 outlets at leading shopping malls in Kolkata, at Gariahat, Salt Lake and Lee Road. Young girls are selected from villages, given on-the job training, supported to produce products that are ultimately sold through the retail chain. So far, the products include greeting cards, wrapping paper, designed envelopes, puffed rice (*mouri*), etc.

The program focuses on especially vulnerable girls, particularly those who are survivors of violence. These girls fall victim to the ploys of unscrupulous elements and are most easily trafficked. Although, originally from different districts of West Bengal, like Murshidabad, 24 Parganas South and North, today these girls have been pushed into the slums and red light areas of Kolkata.

**The process:** As in other programs the process begins with the selection and training of survivors and members of vulnerable families/ communities at different vocational centers set up by Jabala. On-the-job training follows and the products are then taken to the C3 Market Place, from where they are selected to be sold through different outlets.

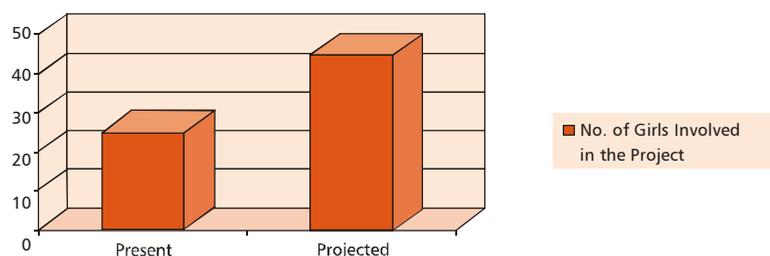
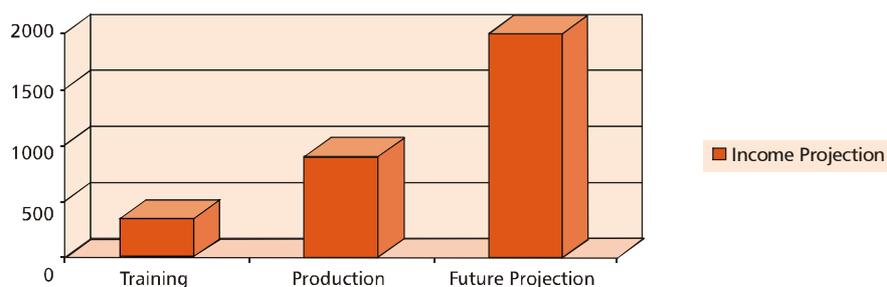
Today, products worth INR 7,000.00 to INR 9,000.00 are sold every month. The profits are shared among 10 individuals, who earn INR 700.00 to INR 900.00 per month. Though there are 25 girls in the production units 15 are still developing their skills. Jabala is providing them a token amount of INR 35.00 per day for their travel and food. It is hoped that their individual incomes will go up to INR 2500.00 per month, in the future.

Collaborations are in the pipeline to place 15 girls for the packaging of grocery items like sugar and flour and 6 as salesgirls in sophisticated outlets.



*Products prepared by the girls for C3 – The Market Place*

The initiative is sustainable as the demand for such products is high among the urban middle and upper class. For the producers, C3 The Market Place is a readymade outlet and they can expand to other outlets as well. The product range can be diversified to cover all kinds of household goods. It is also replicable in areas where the market and the marketing agency are within reach, such as other retail chains like Spencers, In & Out etc.



Young girls, poor, uneducated, unskilled, battered and abused cannot be left to be exploited for ever. Here is an initiative to remove their vulnerabilities. Although a small initiative in itself, C3 The Market Place is not just an example of a joint initiative between NGOs and the corporate sector to prevent human trafficking, but also an example of extending preventive action to address the vulnerabilities of communities/ families and individuals rather than restricting it to awareness programs, as is often the case.

## Partnership between ‘NGO-Corporate-Civil Society-Panchayat’ in addressing human trafficking – A Jabala Initiative

**X**, a resident of Beldanga, Murshidabad, was sold by her mother at the age of 13, to some relatives, for a paltry sum of INR 5,000.00. They took her to Mecca during the Haj where she escaped from the clutches of her ‘uncles’ and landed up in Bangladesh. From here she was finally repatriated in 2004, after four years.

R, of Hariharpara, Murshidabad is the eldest of six daughters. Her father, a rickshaw puller, could not afford to educate her or even keep her at home so she was married off at the tender age of 13, only to be deserted by her husband within two years. A ‘child-woman’ at 15, she returned home and is now a member of the adolescent group of Jabala.

Such incidences are not uncommon in Murshidabad, West Bengal, one of the declared backward districts in India. It ranks 17<sup>th</sup> among 20 Districts of West Bengal, on the Human Development Index. The 2001 census puts the child marriage rate in the district at 79 per cent. Unemployment is exceptionally high at 65.5 per cent. Not surprisingly, therefore, it is often deemed to be one of the most trafficking-prone districts in the state.

Jabala has been active in the district since 2000. Its key areas of work are prevention of child marriages and child labor, anti-human trafficking initiatives and HIV/AIDS. Interventions include training *panchayat* members on issues of human trafficking, addressing community groups like Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) workers, Self Help Groups (SHG), Mothers Committees, etc. on issues of human trafficking, child marriage, child labor and HIV/AIDS; rescue and restoration of victims; running a ‘Swadhar Shelter Home’ for survivors; formation of HRDS (Human Rights Defenders System) at village level and ATUs (Anti-Trafficking Units) at Block level to spearhead the campaign against human trafficking; formation of adolescent girls’ groups and their training on L4R (Leadership for Result); networking with cross-border and domestic NGOs, Community Based Organization (CBO), and government authorities for rescue, restoration and repatriation; running a pilot project on ‘Safe Migration’ with *panchayats* and HRDS, which is recognized by the West Bengal Government (Panchayat Department) as a model to be replicated; running a legal assistance cell every week in Kolkata and once a month in Murshidabad for survivors and families; and running livelihood programs for vulnerable families and survivors in partnership with polytechnics and private enterprises.

The organization took up the issue of trafficking in 1998 when it became apparent that it had become an organized crime in the area. Its anti-trafficking work has focused both on prevention and rehabilitation.

Jabala firmly believes that addressing the root causes is crucial to preventing trafficking; with this in view it has launched a series of programs aimed at stabilizing the economy of vulnerable populations so they are not forced to resort to desperate measures for survival. Awareness building initiatives continue alongside.

This is the story of one such venture.

'Community Based Skill Development' (CBSD) is a project for vulnerable families and survivors of trafficking to produce medicinal herbs. Its key focus is on developing their functional skills as a preventive and rehabilitative method. The project is based on Jabala's belief that in any venture:

- There must be marketing support for the skills for it to be sustainable
- There must be a public-private partnership
- Panchayats should be involved to provide community support for the program.

CBSD is a product of Jabala's liaison work with locally established public and private agencies/ organizations. In partnership with Jabala are:

1. MIT (Murshidabad Institute of Technology) – A West Bengal Government Enterprise
2. M/s Alberta Agro Pvt. Ltd – A herbal medicine manufacturing company
3. *Panchayat Samity* (block level institution of local self-governance) and Gram Panchayat (village level institution of local self-governance).

Roles and responsibilities of each partner are clearly worked out in advance:

1. MIT: Under its community polytechnic scheme, the institute has offered nearly one *bigha* (14,4000 sq ft.) of land for two years, as a demonstration field and is willing to allot more land for mass production if the quality of the produce is marketable. In addition to land, MIT is providing infrastructural support like class room and laboratory facilities, resource persons, etc.
2. M/s Alberta Agro: The Company provides training in production and management and offers technical support like soil testing and quality control. Most importantly, it has assured marketing support and buy-backs.
3. Panchayat: The panchayat is involved in the entire process from selection to follow-up. A panel of members comprising *panchayat pradhans*, *panchayat samity* members and representatives of Jabala as well as other local stakeholders, control the procedure. The committee keeps track of the families involved in production.

The panel has set clear criteria for selection: preference will be given to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, families with a survivor of trafficking, families with survivors of violence, the family should have an adolescent girl, should be prepared to cooperate in the rehabilitation of the survivor, should prevent human trafficking and child marriage.

This was the process followed:

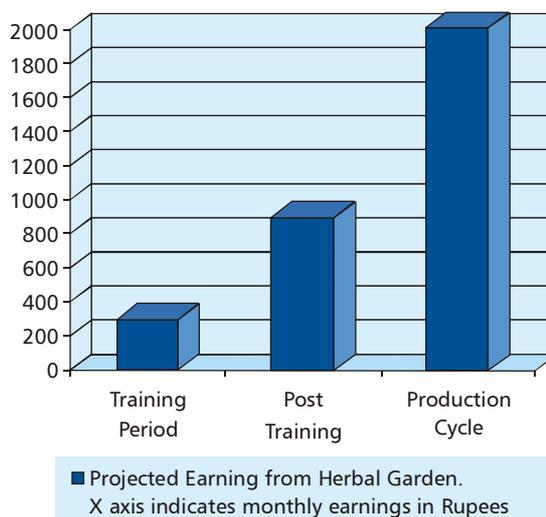
## PROCESS



Trainings are spread over two months in 12 sessions. Twenty persons are trained in one program. The trainees receive a stipend of INR 50.00 per day during training which is presently supported by Jabala, under a sponsorship. So far 12 young women have been trained of whom 5 are survivors.

As payment is in terms of share of income from marketing, it is expected that in the initial stages, each person will receive INR 800.00 to INR 1,000.00 per month. With increase in volume of production, earnings can go up to INR 2,000.00 per month.

Presently in its initial stages. Trainees and trained persons are enthusiastic and perceive the venture as an avenue for increased income and standard of living. Sustainability of the project will depend on the continued production of good quality herbs. The market for the products is sufficient to provide employment to 100 families and more depending on availability of cultivable land. Both MIT and Alberto Agro Pvt. Ltd. have assured full support in enhancing production and marketing.



## Multi-Stakeholder Response to Human Trafficking: Kolkata Police-Corporates-NGOs join hands on Anti Human Trafficking Initiatives

### Anti Human Trafficking concerns everybody

**H**uman Trafficking is an organized crime and one of the gravest violations of Human Rights transgressing boundaries of official jurisdictions and other man made restrictions of time and space. The list of traffickers and exploiters is too crowded. Indeed, it is a “high profit, low risk business”. More often, victims remain un-noticed, un-cared and not addressed. General masses are by and large unconcerned because they are unaware of the extent, dimensions and implications of human trafficking. The prevailing ‘culture of silence’, ‘culture of tolerance’ and the ‘culture of non-concern’ not only permits but, promotes and perpetuates human trafficking and gives a free hand to the traffickers to continue with impunity their merchandise of human suffering.

No doubt, law enforcement agencies are mandated to respond to the challenges of this transnational organized crime. However, the very complex nature and manifold dimensions of human trafficking requires concerted and synergic response especially in the context of rehabilitation of the trafficked persons and therefore, the anti-human trafficking response cannot be exclusively left to the domain of a police official at the police station. What is appropriate is an integrated and holistic response by a host of agencies including the law enforcement officials, the agencies concerned with justice delivery, welfare, development, civil society, media, academicians, etc.

### Synergy among stakeholders

A synergy of efforts is therefore, indispensable during the ‘3 Ps’ of anti human trafficking, namely, Prevention, Prosecution and Protection.

- A multi-pronged **prevention** strategy for creating awareness, sensitization, dealing with vulnerability factors of vulnerable areas/ communities can be effectively implemented with the involvement of the concerned government departments, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, media, corporate/ business houses, etc. Prevention from re-trafficking is an area where NGOs along with the assistance of corporate/ business houses can play a stellar role by ensuring the economic rehabilitation of rescued victims/ survivors. Prevention also calls for addressing the demand, which includes demand for child labour, demand for children in sex tourism, etc. Captains of industry and the tourism sector can do a lot in addressing this area.
- An effective and successful **prosecution** is essentially the responsibility of law enforcement agencies, but this can be expedited by the combined endeavors of NGOs (for e.g. by preparing a victim to face a court room situation, etc.) and the media (for e.g. by a continuous follow-up on the progress of the trial, by being vigilant to ensure that justice is delivered with celerity, certainty and surety).
- **Protection** of the rights of the victim during the criminal justice system processes (investigation and trial) can be effectively undertaken by all the stakeholders involved. The care and attention

of the rescued person can be broadly classified into two; firstly, counseling, de-traumatization and psychosocial and medical attention; and secondly, empowerment programmes and providing sustainable livelihood options. In these areas, every one can be a stakeholder, with a specific role to play; this includes law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, media, political personalities, celebrities, business houses, academics and every citizen who is concerned with human rights issues.

### The Kolkata Initiative

Kolkata Police, along with UNODC, undertook a landmark initiative in developing partnership of the police with the Corporate Sector and some NGOs in responding to human trafficking. Considering the need for synergy in addressing these issues and the requirement of a holistic response, the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, along with the Project Coordinator, Anti Human Trafficking, UNODC, New Delhi, invited the chiefs of business and industrial houses of Kolkata as well as a few NGOs working in the field of anti human trafficking for long years and deliberated upon as to how each one could contribute to preventing and responding to this colossal issue. Using the good offices of the Kolkata Police, the Kolkata Core Group on Anti Human Trafficking - KCGAHT - was set up on 10 December 2007.



*The Commissioner of Police, the UNODC Project Coordinator and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) officials at the dais at the first meeting of the Core Group*

The members from the corporates, NGOs and government agencies appreciated the role of UNODC in creating awareness in the country against human trafficking and all the participants unanimously welcomed the joint initiatives of UNODC with Kolkata Police and all other stakeholders.

The deliberations were carried further in subsequent meetings. The third meeting of the Core Group decided as follows:

- Women survivors of trafficking (who were recently rescued by the UNODC – trained police officers of West Bengal state) and those who are still with the NGOs awaiting rehabilitation will be provided training and sustainable employment by the business houses and the various Chambers of Commerce. ITC Sonar Bangla, Oberoi Hotel, Taj Group of Hotels, Messrs. Ram Sarup Industries, Merchant Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of Indian Industries came forward to provide jobs to survivors. The employment opportunities will be based on the interest, willingness, capability and 'best interest' of the rescued persons.
- Considering the scope for running fast food joints, it was decided to set up two such units. Allahabad Bank came forward to finance two mobile food vans.
- The West Bengal State Council, CII, agreed to provide a space to the survivors living in the NGO shelter homes to run a kiosk where they could display and sell the items, especially handicrafts and other related items.
- Child survivors of trafficking, rescued recently had been profiled by the NGOs, initiated by Women's Coordinating Council (WCC). These children would be provided formal/ non-formal/ vocational education/ training by the NGOs and this will be fully funded by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- The Women's Coordinating Council agreed to empower some survivors to become auto rickshaw

drivers. They will be taking steps for training them and getting the appropriate financial support from the bank for procuring the auto rickshaws.

- The translation into Bangla of four posters of UNODC on anti human trafficking messages is being supported by CII. The translation has been done by Sanlaap, Kolkata and CII is taking steps for getting the same printed.
- The conversion of the UNODC film, 'One Life, No Price' from DVD to a film format with Bangla subtitles is also in process. The financial cost of this venture is being supported by Chairman of the West Bengal State Council of CII and Ramsarup Industries. As a tool for large scale public awareness on anti human trafficking, the film will be run in the Metro Stations, Shopping Malls, Cinema Halls and Television Channels. The Commissioner of Police agreed to take steps in this process. Kolkata Police will also liaise with other police officers in West Bengal and facilitate the screening of this film in all the theatres in the state.
- The translation into Bangla of *the Standard Operating Procedures on Investigation of Crimes of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation* was completed by Socio Legal Aid Research and Training Centre (SLARTC). The expenditure of the same will be borne by SREI, a business group from Kolkata. The work is in progress.

### The process involved in setting up the Core Group

The rationale for this initiative stems from the need for synergy in addressing human trafficking and the fact that Corporate/ Business Houses are part of the stakeholders who need to synergize. More over the corporates have a social responsibility under which several issues are being taken up by them. If the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can be oriented to anti human trafficking and dove tailed with the law enforcement response, it can make tremendous impact in making a difference to the lives of many. With this philosophy in view, the Project Coordinator of the Anti Human Trafficking Project of UNODC, approached the Commissioner of Police to lend his good offices and facilitate the process. The Commissioner and his team were forthcoming and ready to undertake this task. From a law enforcement perspective this provides two immediate results, firstly, the rehabilitated person is prevented from being re-trafficked. Therefore, this amounts to prevention of crime, which is a major mandate of the Indian Police under the Indian Police Act, 1861. Secondly, a rehabilitated person is an empowered person and is a strong witness who would support the prosecution, and thereby ensuring stringent punishment for the offenders. The police agencies were willing to be associated for these and other reasons. Simultaneously, the Project Coordinator contacted a few Corporate Houses who were willing to be part of the process. However, they had only wanted somebody to "bell the cat" and get the process moving. This gap was appropriately addressed by the UNODC by setting up the Kolkata Core Group on Anti Human Trafficking.

Here is an initiative in bringing synergy among the responders for a holistic approach to address human trafficking. If law enforcement officials can be catalysts and facilitators of the rehabilitation process, by bringing in the cooperation of all concerned, it will not only be a great initiative in addressing human trafficking from a human rights perspective and in an integrated manner, but also the best strategy to prevent re-trafficking. Kolkata Core Group is an initiative in this un-chartered territory. A creation of the out-of-the box thinking.

## Creating awareness through Puja Pandals: A unique collaborative effort by Fellowship in preventing Human Trafficking in Orissa

**B**hadrak is situated on the extreme east corner of Orissa. Many girls are reported to be trafficked to Uttar Pradesh from this district every year, under the guise of marriage. Some are reportedly 'sold' by their parents to dubious 'bridegrooms' who in turn sell them or use them for CSE. Others are lured by touts with the promise of a happy and comfortable life. Once trafficked, the fate of very few is known to their families, who live in false complacency believing their daughters have been married into better households. Some who escape and come back relate their tales of horror.

Fellowship, the nodal organization of ATSEC (Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children) in Orissa, has been working in the district since 1978. Its primary agenda is to combat violence on women and address gender issues. Since the 90's, it has been fighting human trafficking through program intervention, public awareness, rescue and rehabilitation. Field studies and observations by Fellowship show that 90 per cent of the families from where girls get trafficked/sold come under the Below Poverty Line (BPL)/ very poor categories of which 35 per cent are *Dalit* households. Burdened with the upkeep of large families and lacking the capacity to marry off their daughters, these families sometimes fall prey to the lure of traffickers.

Innovation is required to change the psyche of simple people who so easily fall victim to unscrupulous agents. Keeping this in mind, Fellowship/ ATSEC thought of using the arena of *Kali Puja*, the most important religious function in the district which is organized with much pomp and ceremony. More than one lakh people visit each *pandal* during the festival that lasts from a week to a month. People come to pay homage to goddess *Kali* and also to view the idols that are placed beside the main goddess *Kali* (called "*Baruadi*" in Oriya). The *Baruadi* idol and the accompanying idols normally project a mythological theme, but the *pandals* are increasingly depicting current issues, dichotomies and dilemmas in society. Visitors to the *pandal* find these themes interesting and educative.

With this in mind, Fellowship decided to create its own *pandals*, not to depict the goddess or mythological scenes, but to showcase the modern day evils of trafficking/selling girls. Three *pandals* were created in the years 2004, 2005 and



The photograph above shows a 'dala' (middle-man or tout) accompanied by a prospective 'bridegroom' from outside the state, approaching a family and offering cash in exchange for the girl. The father is shown accepting the offer but the mother of the girl does not want to 'sell' her. The caption depicts the mother as saying, "So what if the girl is grown up, it is foolish to give her in marriage to an unknown man". At the back is another idol showing the girl being raped in the presence of her husband, who looks the other way. The caption there reads - "Do you care how she is leading her life after marrying an outsider?"

2006 in places like Basudevpur, Chandbali and Tihidi Blocks in Bhadrak District.

This mass awareness effort to combat trafficking of young girls would not have been possible without the support of several *puja* organizers and idol makers.

Aware of the evil practice that thrives in the area, the idol makers readily agreed to make the idols while the organizers agreed to provide space. Fellowship paid part of the expenses and the Committees agreed to bear the rest of the expenses.

The *pandals* were an instant hit. The general public, men and women, young and old who visited the *Kali Puja pandals* also viewed the *Baruadi* idols. This was the first time they had seen social issues being depicted in place of mythological themes. The theme also reflected current trends in the villages. Those viewers who were contemplating 'marrying' their daughters on the say so of traffickers, became aware of what they were doing. People liked it and opined that it would go a long way in preventing trafficking of young/ minor girls under the guise of marriage. The impact of the event encouraged organizers in other areas to replicate social themes in their *pandals*, in subsequent years (Tihidi Block and Dhusuri in Dhamnagar Block in Bhadrak district).

Over the years, other social issues like HIV/AIDS awareness, girl's education, child labor and anti-liquor campaigns started finding a place in the *pandals*. It was the beginning of a very positive trend never seen before.

This simple but effective method of raising awareness is easily replicable in areas where religious functions are huge public affairs. Apart from the *pandals* themselves, songs and skits can be organized at these sites to make people aware of the organized crime of trafficking and motivate them to detect, report and prevent it.

Fellowship is presently networking with the idol maker's association to undertake socially relevant issues in various *puja pandals* in and around the district. At the same time the organization continues its effort to involve more and more organizers in this exercise.

Fellowship feels that advocacy is required to sensitize the district administration to pass an order to all *Puja* Committees in the district, or add a clause while issuing licenses to them, to take up at least one social issue like trafficking, HIV/AIDS, gender based violence, other gender concerns, education of the girl child, anti-liquor campaigns, etc. at the *Baruadi* festival.

*Puja pandals*, though not large corporations are 'business' in their own right. They have large networks, collect huge funds from the public and spend the money in conducting religious activities. Over a period of time, these *pandal* committees and idol makers associations have become establishments holding large funds and employing a large work force. In partnership with them, Fellowship has initiated a quiet revolution against human trafficking in the rural areas of Orissa.

## Microsoft Unlimited Potential: Microsoft Corporation partners with NGOs in India to combat human trafficking<sup>1</sup>

**M**igration, which is a counterpart of ever-increasing trade has its darker side – human trafficking, which is the transfer and detention of people against their will for the purpose of economic or sexual exploitation. Strategies to combat trafficking focus on awareness, prevention, protection (including prosecution) and re-integration. Microsoft has decided to engage with all four strategies. The company has provided resources and technology to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking, help prevent the trade from thriving and reintegrate victims. Together with numerous specialist partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Microsoft has joined the fight against human trafficking.

As part of the Microsoft Unlimited Potential – Community Technology Skills Program (UP-CTSP), the project supports a number of initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, largely in imparting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills to victims and potential victims. The project's objective is to improve employability within underserved communities by teaching them how they can benefit from basic ICT skills training. In 2006, Microsoft committed over US\$1.2 million in cash and software to projects that target known 'at-risk' groups and help to reintegrate past victims.

Microsoft has also developed the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) - an application that enables law enforcement officers from different departments, in different countries, to collaborate in the pursuit of pedophiles and the rescue and repatriation of abused children. Lastly, the organization is engaged in law enforcement 'capacity building': training developing country officials and NGOs in internet and technology analysis techniques which can produce the evidence needed to prosecute traffickers and pedophiles.

In 2006, UP-CTSP in Asia, awarded six grants to projects that aim to assist communities where trafficking is concentrated. Through UP-CTSP, locally experienced NGOs are establishing 135 dedicated Community Technology Learning Centers (CTLC). They teach a specially adapted ICT curriculum honed by local expertise and enterprise. Microsoft's strategy has two distinct aspects. Firstly, CTLC graduates acquire skills for local employment. In doing so, the graduates demonstrate that there is a compelling alternative to illegal migration. Secondly, UP-CTSP projects rehabilitate victims of trafficking who are facing adverse circumstances and suffering rejection and social exclusion from their original communities.

In India, the CTLCs are run through the Communities and Progress (CAP) Foundation, a national non-profit organization which assists disadvantaged youths, disaster victims and refugees. CAP is coordinating the program to establish 95 CTLCs in nodal areas of human trafficking across India, in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. With the support of QUEST Alliance, CAP is also in the

<sup>1</sup> A major part of this case study is reproduced (with minor modifications) from the document "The Battle Against Human Trafficking in Asia" relating to the Unlimited Potential Project of Microsoft. Details on the India Program were provided by the officials of Community Affairs (LCA), Microsoft, during discussions.

process of digitizing its existing life- skills training curriculum for distribution across this network of ICT training centers.

CAP has a number of direct partners or sub-grantees in India, including the Delhi-based PRAYAS, which run CTLCs in rural and semi-urban areas – the recruitment grounds of trafficking victims. At present, there are over 50 CTLCs catering to the aspirations of thousands of youngsters ready to join the mainstream. Through these centers they acquire computer skills and the expertise to work on software applications such as Excel and Power Point. PRAYAS, as the main sub-grantee, is upgrading its community centers in Delhi, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana and Assam. By the end of 2007, they target to have trained 4,500 youth. Their aim is that 60% of graduates gain immediate job placements. In order to promote awareness through trainee alumni networks, NGOs like PRAYAS keep close contacts with trained youth. Furthermore, under this project, CAP has also joined forces with the police's Cyber Crime Division to encourage training and sensitization of cyber café owners in internet and online safety.

By informing potential victims of the dangers that confront them; by giving past victims the skills with which they can freely earn a living; by putting sophisticated technology at the disposal of those who fight exploitation; and by improving the ability of local law enforcement agencies to unmask and prosecute the perpetrators, Microsoft is helping to tackle this inhuman trade. The company's global Unlimited Potential – Community Technology Skills Program is playing a key role in prevention and reintegration because the opportunities it creates can help individuals and communities make informed choices.

## Combining efforts in prevention and rehabilitation: Prayas Bharti Trust and the Bihar Chamber of Commerce

**B**ihar is a land of diversities and multiple challenges. The existing social milieu is plagued with several challenges that have enhanced the vulnerability of a large mass of the population. Consequently, like many other problems, human trafficking is also high with source points spread all over the State. Women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation mostly in the name of better livelihoods, employment, happy marriage, better quality of life etc. Children, both boys and girls, are trafficked for domestic and industrial labor.

The need for a holistic approach to respond to human trafficking in Bihar compelled Prayas Bharati Trust (PBT) to approach the Bihar Chamber of Commerce (BCC) to partner with them in combating trafficking. Access to BCC was facilitated when the President of PBT was appointed as the President of the Women's Cell of BCC.

The need for partnership between PBT and BCC arose out of several factors:

1. PBT's conviction that the corporate sector has as much stake in human and social issues as any other sector. Good business and a concern for society are certainly not mutually exclusive.
2. The effort to promote effective partnerships between NGOs and corporate/ business houses to combat trafficking in persons is both timely and important in the present context. Adverse conditions have persisted for years and because of the sudden spurt in industrial activities in the recent past, it is essential that a step forward at this time can help save the freedom and lives of many.
3. Trafficking in persons has attracted little attention till now. It was time therefore, for PBT and BCC to make constructive efforts to eliminate or lessen this evil of human trafficking through prevention and rehabilitation.

PBT started working on awareness generation and environment building within the BCC, both individually and collectively, depending on opportunity. Owing to the track record of PBT in successful anti-trafficking work, BCC accepted the invitation to the marriage of Ms. P and Mr. D held in August 2007. P was a survivor of trafficking and had been rescued from a brothel in Mumbai. She had been at Prayas' Gharaunda - shelter home - since 2005. Members of BCC attended the function and offered financial support for the event. More importantly, those who participated spread the message of empowerment that PBT had brought about through this process. They appreciated the stupendous task undertaken by the organization.

Further efforts by PBT bore fruit when some members of BCC visited the Prayas Gharaunda and PBT's office to understand more about the organization's anti-trafficking work. They were surprised to learn about the grave trafficking situation in their own state and country. Impressed with the holistic approach adopted by PBT to prevent and combat human trafficking they applauded the achievements responsible to change the lives of many. One of the members offered to provide jobs to a few survivors according to their skills and capacity, another offered to provide support for a

school or computer training center in either Prayas Gharaunda or the vulnerable area of Arwal district of Bihar, for the children of women in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

Soon, another large area of collaboration opened up. The NNDS (National Network for the Development of Self Help Groups) launched by PBT to address trafficking and associated exploitation, focuses on promoting livelihood options in Bihar. PBT offered to join hands with BCC to design specific activities to be run through this network. After discussions with BCC executives, it was decided to start the activities soon under the heading, "LIVELIHOOD OPTION PROMOTION ACTION for DEVELOPMENT OF BIHAR". This is the first of its kind coalition in the state, where industry and NGO will work together to end trafficking in persons.



One of the first activities to be implemented under this program is to support the traditional art form of North Bihar by helping artisan's dependant on them, escape being exploited or trafficked. The three most flood prone districts of Mithilanchal, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi and parts of Samastipur and Muzaffarpur, will be covered under the first phase. These areas, highly affected by floods and other natural calamities, are poor in natural and financial resources, but rich in culture and particularly famous for the Mithila and Madhubani paintings. This well known art has a good market value. Floods deluge these areas almost every year, leading to large-scale migration and trafficking, because even the basics of food, shelter and work opportunities are not available. If such basic elements are made available, that itself will stem the vulnerabilities and trafficking in persons to a great extent.

Individual artisans as well as Self Help Groups (SHGs) involved in and dependent on this art form are all part of this program. Presently, the main hurdles in their development are the low standards and quality of the products and the lack of innovative and saleable ideas. To address these issues, 500 artisans will be selected from the three districts and 200 from other districts for training and skill up gradation. Around 1900 artisans including SHGs, will be covered under the program, which will benefit a total of 9,500 individuals.

As part of the program, exhibitions-cum-capacity building programs will be organized for five days, on Madhubani art and Fusion and Tikuli art which are derived from the same art form. The participation of various stakeholders, artisans, government, designers, businessmen, customers, NGOs etc. is being ensured to develop a national network, where best practices are shared, capacities built, innovations developed and demand and supply created for the artists. This process will ensure that those who understand, analyze and share market trends, will grade the products and help develop a better strategy for their promotion.

The PBT-BCC partnership endeavors to create an enabling environment and a new 'brand' of traditional local art so it finds representation and demand in international markets as well.

PBT believes that the initiative with BCC and NNDS will help minimize trafficking by motivating and empowering artisans and getting them better value for the same effort. Attempts are being made to link their products with various supply chains of national and international repute and showcase them in exhibitions organized by the government and non-government agencies.

BCC is ready to lead and play a major role in promoting the unique and valuable art of its state and

safeguard vulnerable women and children from human trafficking. PBT is confident that this innovative effort in preventing human trafficking will usher in a visible change.

## THE PARTNERS – A BRIEF PROFILE

**Prayas Bharati Trust** has been active in Muzaffarpur and the surrounding areas of Bihar since 1999. The erstwhile Prayas Mahila Cooperative Society was formally registered in 2001 as Prayas Mahila Trust. It has been working continuously and tirelessly on the issue of trafficking in persons (women & children). Interventions in anti-trafficking work focus on prevention (education, awareness generation, HIV/AIDS awareness and livelihood promotion); rescue, rehabilitation and restoration; advocacy; legal aid; counseling; and networking with NGOs, police and judiciary.

It cares for and rehabilitates victims of trafficking, destitute women, and women who are mentally challenged. PBT provides them a safe shelter, care, medical attention and a supportive environment to enable them to recover and take responsibility for their lives. PBT also supports women's return to their families and communities or in setting up new lives for themselves. During the six years of its existence, PBT has reached out to more than 272 women and reunited around 140 women with their families in Bihar. The media has been regularly carrying news on PBT.

The **Bihar Chamber of Commerce** completed its platinum jubilee in 2002. Its main objective is to develop an economically strong Bihar. Nation building through the development of trade and industry is a central theme in the policy and work of the BCC. Ever since its inception in 1926, the BCC has shown a deep sense of responsibility towards the welfare of society, while giving voice to the aspirations of the business community. The Chamber has strived to support and popularize government policies and assisted in their implementation. It has successfully built a bridge between the government and the business community and ensured that a variety of skills available with the private sector were channelized in the right direction to benefit society. In its bid to promote economic activities, the Chamber helped in the establishment of the Magadh stock exchange at Patna. Maintaining a strictly non political outlook, the Chamber has succeeded in building partnerships with the academic world to foster the development of the economy. Working with PBT is a new venture of corporate-NGO synergy for a very important public cause.

## The Sanchay Prayas Model – Prayas, Amul and IOM combine forces for the rehabilitation of trafficked victims

**P**rayas Juvenile Aid Centre, is a national level not-for-profit organization committed to restoring the rights of the marginalized, particularly children, youth and women since 1988. Actively engaged in anti-trafficking initiatives, its work focuses on issues related to rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of sex trafficking. It has been working in seven states and Union Territories: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana, providing direct support to 50,000 children with a holistic package of shelter, education, vocational training, counseling, recreation, health care and rehabilitation. Prayas is responsible for setting up the Institute of Juvenile Justice in New Delhi, the only one of its kind in India, which conducts action research, training and policy advocacy besides supporting local voluntary initiatives in different parts of the country. Prayas Jan Shiksan Sansthan, an agency established in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, runs vocational and life skills education, supports self-help groups and offers placement services to over 6000 marginalized youth and women.

Prayas adopts an integrated model in all its interventions where various strategies converge to ensure juvenile justice and child protection. These strategies include:

- Victim assistance and use of child protection laws for justice delivery
- Reducing the vulnerability of the potential migratory population, particularly children and women
- Creating viable livelihood options at source areas for economically gainful employment and empowerment of marginalized youth and women
- Establishing social safety networks and rehabilitative options at destination points for trafficking survivors and the vulnerable.

*The applicable link between counter-trafficking and juvenile justice is the most significant strategy adopted and promoted in meeting the challenge of child trafficking in India.*

Collaboration with all sectors of the society is imperative for these strategies to succeed. Prayas' innovations in collaborating with the corporate sector have established these models as accepted livelihood alternatives for both prevention and rehabilitation.

The partnership with Amul (Gujarat Milk Cooperative and Marketing Federation) and IOM (International Organization for Migration) is one such model. Under the framework of Economic Rehabilitation of Trafficked Victims (ERTV), this project has employed 35 victims of trafficking who earn between INR 4,500.00 to INR 5,000.00 a month.

This model works on the simple business principles of demand and supply. Amul products are popular in Indian cities. Victims of trafficking and sexual abuse need employment that will prevent further abuse, give them confidence, offer the space they need to leave their past behind and ensure their social mainstreaming as productive workers and contributors to the national economy.

Prayas has opened 7 Sanchay Prayas business outlets in Delhi where survivors of trafficking are employed as retailers and salespersons.

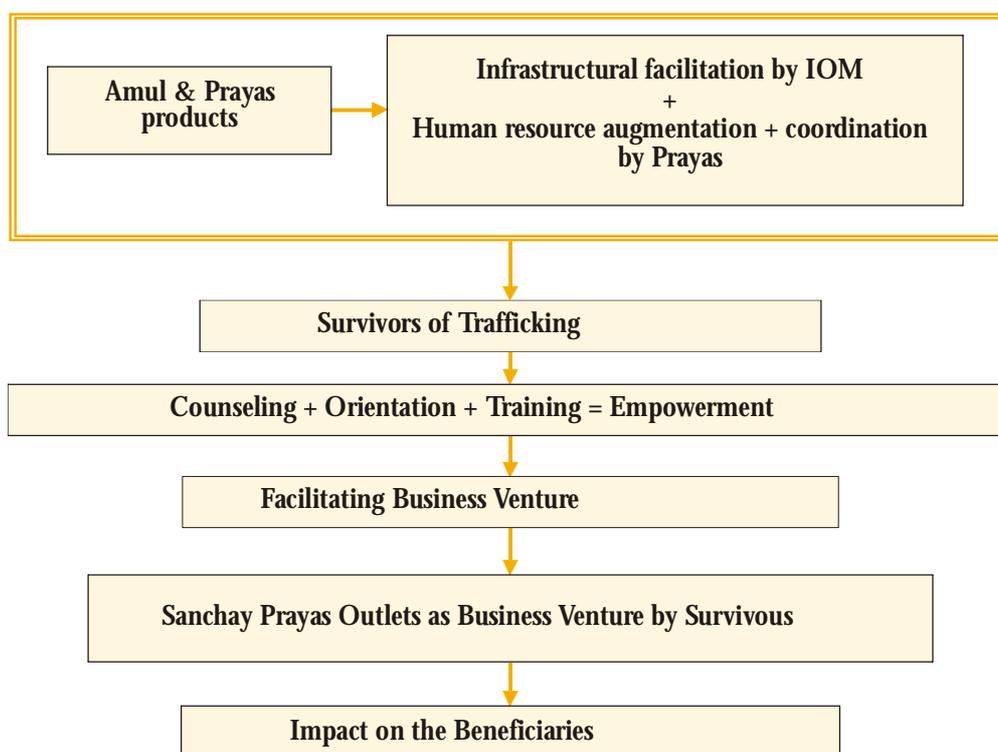
The model has been set up with the close collaboration of the agencies involved. IOM assists in selecting beneficiaries, provides technical inputs and guidance to train them, imparts training in marketing, provides capital support to set up the enterprise and works out a system for monitoring the projects. As the main facilitating agency, Prayas identifies trainees as per the criteria jointly laid down by the survivors, Prayas and IOM. It organizes training and exposure with the assistance of IOM project staff, appointing coordinators to ensure smooth management, provide orientation in the concept of micro-credit and assist in financial management.

### The Model

The model operates within these protocols:

- Livelihood options for the survivors of trafficking based on core business principles and entrepreneurship
- Outlets managed by rescued girls
- Beneficiary training in marketing, financial management and communication skills
- Credit facility for entrepreneurship
- Developing an attitude of saving with bank linkages.

### SAPI (Survivors, Amul, Prayas and IOM) Flow-Chart of Economic Rehabilitation



Eight preparatory training programs were organized prior to the initiative, to train trafficking survivors. The course included entrepreneurial development, retail marketing and financial management skills.

Of the 7 outlets planned, 5 outlets are already being independently managed by survivors and functioning successfully. IOM and Prayas regularly monitor the projects through field visits, monthly progress reports and a review of both investment and turnover.

Since the young entrepreneurs in these outlets are all girls, traditional gender roles have been dispensed with. Their past is never questioned so they are ready to support others in risky situations.

In recognition of the girl's efforts and success, IOM has agreed to support another 25 rescued victims of trafficking in New Delhi, through viable business opportunities. Prayas has initiated new ventures in collaboration with Delhi Tourism, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for similar business outlets/ parlors in metro stations.

Corporates like Taj Palace Hotel and HSBC have come forward to provide training assistance and products for these business ventures. This was achieved through the relentless efforts of Prayas, which has put in all actions, advocacy and leveraging of a successful sustainable business model.



US First Lady, Laura Bush at Sanchay Prayas

The model has proved to be sustainable and successful – from the business point of view, in terms of economic rehabilitation and the social transformation of trafficking survivors, particularly helping them regain their self-esteem, dignity and self-worth. These young girls previously known as “commercial sex workers”, are proud ‘Sanchay Prayas retailers’, today. This change of identity has given them tremendous self-confidence and recognition. Now, they have a right to decide, choose and access the resources they need to build a new future. With the rising demand in delicacies such as ice-creams and other savories, the model is highly replicable. This is precisely what Prayas hoped to achieve by establishing this model, which is worth replicating.

“Now I have become more confident and with Prayas’ input and support I am going to start a new life soon. I have become an independent person working at the Sanchay Prayas business outlet where I earn my livelihood. Today, I am enjoying a new lease of life and looking forward to a future with hope” (rehabilitated victim).



### Learning and lessons

- Unplanned raids/ rescue are sometimes counter-productive leading to further vulnerabilities, victimization and re-trafficking.
- Participation/ mainstreaming of trafficking survivors facilitated by civil society organizations and law enforcement agencies and creating opportunities for viable rehabilitation options lead to their social reintegration.

Reaffirming its belief that trafficking survivors themselves, can become the agents of change in the economic growth of the country, Prayas plans to replicate this model in new areas of business and create a growing cadre of entrepreneurs.

## Preventing human trafficking by empowering the most vulnerable: a Prayas-Microsoft collaboration

One of the best strategies for preventing trafficking is to provide a protective and supportive environment at the right places, where a potential victim can seek sustained employment, improve their quality of life in their community. This is a story of a partnership working to make this vision a reality.

**Prayas–Microsoft Project JYOTI** seeks to improve the learning opportunities of vulnerable young people and adults by providing technology skills through community-based technology learning centers (CTLCs). Both Microsoft and Prayas believe that providing market driven technical skills training to vulnerable children (above 14 years), youth and women, can help to effectively fight trafficking and create socio-economic opportunities that can transform communities and change people’s lives in India.

This philosophy governs Prayas’ efforts and directs its strategies to:

- Evolve a comprehensive and holistic approach for restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation of rescued child victims.
- Influence policies and decision-making agencies to protect and promote the interests and rights of vulnerable out-of-school youth.
- Prevent exploitation and abuse of children, including child victims of sexual, physical, emotional and economic abuse with special attention to the protection of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).
- Sensitize the law enforcement machinery and other stakeholders to develop vital attitudinal change towards the victims and those at risk for effective legal action.

Today, corporate houses are increasingly entering the arena of social development. A tremendous opportunity lies in collaborating with them. This is the story of one such partnership.

This venture is based on the recognition that very often, a qualified youngster from a poor family is unable to get employment due to the lack of computer and communication skills - a basic necessity in the job market today. Poor households cannot afford to send their children to computer classes. Gender discrimination in allocation of meager resources means that girls are particularly affected. This, in turn, means that the family is not lifted out of poverty and stays vulnerable to the clutches of traffickers and exploiters. Providing young children and youth opportunities to become computer literate at a marginal cost,



can change the situation completely. This program, supported by Microsoft Corporation, has established 30 Computer Technology Learning Centers (CTLCs) in trafficking source areas, in the country. Prayas is the main sub-grantee of this program operating the 30 CTLCs in Assam, Bihar, Delhi and Gujarat.

The program has been implemented in rural and semi-urban areas of these States in close collaboration with Microsoft. Microsoft provides the software and small grants to establish the center; Prayas manages it with local staff and mobilizes community resources for its development. Microsoft also provides a full-fledged training module on the basis of which training is conducted.

Basic computer operation and necessary programs such as Microsoft XL and Power Point are taught in these centers. Life skills development is a part of the training. The trainees gain a set of market-driven technology skills for Windows XP and MS Program 2003. The course includes two months preparatory training, additional life skills and IT- a module that has been extended to four months. At the end of six months, trainees are enrolled for job placement services and Prayas' existing personality development courses. Prayas runs bridge schools and adult education programs where out-of-school youth are imparted basic literacy and vocational education, of which computer literacy is an essential component.



A crucial element is job placement after training. Alongside the Information Technology (IT)-based training and creation of livelihood opportunities, Prayas has developed a support system for promotion of entrepreneurship, community ownership and micro enterprise besides adding programs of adult and family life education. Through its placement centers, Prayas has been able to ensure 100 per cent placement to the 3000 youth it has trained so far, of whom 1636 are girls. Many have joined small, medium establishments in data entry work and as receptionists. Some have joined cyber cafes and others placed in Business Process Outsource (BPO) through Prayas' effective network that attempts to place them in comfortable, secure environments. They earn between INR 4,000.00 and INR 5,000.00 a month.

The progress of the youngsters is followed up through the alumni networks of trafficking survivors and the Prayas team which regularly conducts impact assessment and mentoring.

### Future Plans

Empowerment through IT training of vulnerable youth and women can play a crucial role in changing their lives and reducing vulnerabilities to trafficking. Prayas' efforts to empower women through skills training and support towards economic independence have yielded encouraging results in Microsoft Project 'JYOTI'.

By the end of 2008, Prayas will have trained 4,500 youth; many of whom could have been possible victims of trafficking if not engaged in this innovative and successful prevention program. The target is that 60 per cent of graduates should get immediate job placements.

Most Prayas programs aim at supporting the most marginalized children, youth and women, developing and enhancing the potential of human resource and progressively transforming them into a knowledge-centric society. Prayas runs more than 225 alternative education centers and 50 skills training and activity centers. The organization hopes to convert all these into centers for market driven knowledge development

and employment generation. It has set-up an Institute of Economic Empowerment to take forward its mission of skills training, economic connectivity and prosperity besides bringing societal transformation through livelihood promotion and economic empowerment. With the Microsoft partnership in the Prayas-Microsoft Project 'JYOTI', Prayas hopes to multiply the benefits of training and scale-up operations over a period of five years to a level that will provide reasonable access to IT training for identified trafficking source and destination areas. It looks forward to partnerships from corporate, local governments and communities to make it sustainable.

## Bollywood joins in the Anti Human Trafficking Initiative

**I**rrrefutable is the fact that trafficking of women and children is a grave violation of Human Rights and one of the most serious organized crimes of the day, transcending cultures, geography and time. While Law Enforcement Agencies are mandated to respond to the challenges of this trans-national organized crime, the very complex nature and manifold dimensions of human trafficking requires concerted and synergic response by a host of agencies including the Law Enforcement Officials, the agencies concerned with justice delivery, welfare, development, etc. as well as the civil society, the media, the academicians, etc.

Through the various project activities being carried out across India, UNODC has been able to enlist the support of various film personalities from Bollywood to endorse and promote the Anti Human Trafficking activities being undertaken by UNODC. Various well known film personalities such as Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, Ms. Preity Zinta, Mr. Dino Morea, Mr. Suniel Shetty, Ms. Amisha Patel, Ms. Meeta Vashisht, Ms. Kirron Kher, Mr. Firoz Nadiadwala and Mr. John Abraham offered full support and cooperation to UNODC for the Anti Human Trafficking (AHT) cause. Some of the leading personalities in Bollywood have decided to partner with UNODC in supporting AHT activities. They have even offered to undertake premier shows of important films and involve major actors and actresses to support the cause of anti human trafficking by working together with UNODC.

To further raise awareness of this issue, a short film on AHT, titled '**One Life, No Price**' was commissioned by UNODC and developed in partnership with Prajwala and Touch River Pictures Pvt. Ltd. This film was released at the inauguration of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) Conference on 10 October 2007 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi in the presence of national and international audience. The film highlights the **dimensions** of human trafficking, the process of trafficking and the response systems in practice in South Asia. The film lays emphasis on an integrated method of addressing human trafficking, with attention to all the three P's of anti-trafficking that is **Prevention, Prosecution and Protection**. The celebrities who have lent their support for the cause, with their **endorsements** in the film, include Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, Ms. Preity Zinta and Mr. John Abraham, whose powerful messages can indeed spread awareness on the issue far and wide. When the Project Coordinator, UNODC approached these celebrities, they extended full support for the cause of anti human trafficking and readily agreed to join the documentary film being made by UNODC. The effectiveness and uniqueness of 'One Life, No Price' lies in the fact that it not only explains the problem with several visual examples from different parts of India, but also opens up the possible solutions and brings to focus the core point that "anti human trafficking is everybody's business".

The process involved in enlisting support of the celebrities had several dimensions. On the one hand, UNODC was undertaking several initiatives in building a synergy of multi-stakeholders in preventing and combating human trafficking. On the other side it is well known that celebrities wield lot of clout and sway in the public minds. Therefore, an endorsement of a human rights issue

can make a tremendous impact in the minds of many. It has not only a cascading effect, but also a replicating effect. Therefore, the Project Coordinator of the Anti Human Trafficking Project of UNODC, utilizing the networks in the law enforcement systems, established contact with celebrities like Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, Ms. Preity Zinta and Mr. John Abraham. Indeed, the celebrities were willing to be associated, but required a briefing on what would their specific role be and how would it benefit the public cause. Once the self-contained note was provided to them, they were on board. Considering the extremely busy schedule of these personalities, being top-most in Bollywood, it was not an easy task to get specific appointments and therefore, it was decided to find a few minutes at the places where shootings were being held, especially the recess hours. It was the greatness of the celebrities that they agreed to oblige despite being very busy. And the persistent efforts by the UNODC officials and the film producer, director and the cameraman, being prepared to shoot and document at any place paid dividends and the film was made.

UNODC undertook further steps for wider dissemination of the anti human trafficking message. In this context, the Project Coordinator had detailed discussions with certain film producers of Bollywood. One of them, Mr. Firoz Nadiadwala, who is a renowned and long standing producer in Bollywood, readily agreed to join hands with UNODC. Based on this discussion and follow up meetings between them, in a path breaking move, a two minute segment of the UNODC film 'One Life, No Price', has been integrated with the Bollywood commercial film 'Welcome', produced by Mr. Firoz Nadiadwala, which was released worldwide on 21 December 2007. This aims to sensitize millions of movie-goers to this form of modern-day slavery and galvanize action to prevent and combat human trafficking by civil society and law enforcement partners. The partnership of UNODC with Bollywood is part of its awareness-raising strategy under UN.GIFT, an initiative launched in March 2007, so as to support and strengthen the initiatives of all stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking. The integrated film is now available in DVD also. In yet another initiative, one minute Public Service Announcement (PSA) in Hindi has been made with a celebrity endorsement by Mr. Amitabh Bachchan exhorting the people to fight human trafficking.

The film 'One Life, No Price' as well as the PSA are indeed a mutual and collective endeavour of the Government of India, UNODC, NGOs, Bollywood and the media in creating awareness, knowledge and responsiveness on the part of all the stakeholders in fighting the scourge of human trafficking. These films are undeniably an important achievement in addressing the issues of human trafficking. This is the first time that Bollywood support has been endorsed in such a large measure in the anti human trafficking mission.

## **Economic rehabilitation of victims of trafficking: Prerana partners with the corporate sector for training and placement in four professions; treading an uncharted territory in NGO-Corporate synergy on anti human trafficking**

**C**ommercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (CSE&T) of children, underage girls and young women is the third largest illegal trade run by organized crime, next only to illegal trade in drugs and arms. Several millions of innocent children, underage girls, and young women have been victimized across continents and millions are being victimized every year, all over. CSE&T is an ultimate form of exploitation, an extreme violation of the rights of millions of children and women and a shame on any civilized society. The socio-economic, physical and psychological harm caused to the victims is indescribable.

Prerana, Mumbai, was started with the purpose of providing care to actual and potential victims of CSE&T. Through its program, 'Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking (VOCSET)', Prerana started working in the red light area of Mumbai in 1986, to end second generation trafficking of children of red light area-based women, protect and re-establish the rights and dignity of CSE&T victims based on a very clear 'rights perspective'. Today, Prerana is active on most issues of anti CSE&T work including protection, prevention, vigilance, rescue, post-rescue operation, victim care services, prosecution, empowerment of victim women, advocacy and lobbying, legal, policy level and administrative reforms, rehabilitation and social reintegration, generating social awareness, research, documentation, sensitization and training of special functionaries, networking and capacity building of fellow organizations.

Prerana's victim care services include Night Care and Day Care Centers, Educational Support Program, Institutional Placement Program, Drop-in-Centers, Victim Collectives for civic rights, Anti-CSE&T E-mail News Service, Community Animator's Project, sensitization of special functionaries and anti-trafficking networking of voluntary sector organizations. The Government of India adopted some of the services started by Prerana in its Plan of Action 1998, the first national policy on child trafficking.

Children of victims of commercial sexual exploitation are often trafficked for sexual exploitation or tend to get recruited into the flesh trade and allied activities like pimping, trafficking, bootlegging etc. They rarely have other dignified survival options as they are stigmatized and deprived of the opportunity to mingle with mainstream society. Since their very existence is not recognized, they live in small settlements within the city in poverty, squalor and exploitation. They have no legal protection and are viewed as offenders rather than victims by the authorities. A growing trend, perceived by Prerana, was that a very high percentage of them were becoming orphans, having lost their mothers to HIV/AIDS. This was one of the motivating factors for Prerana's work in eliminating second generation trafficking.

These children need education, protection and a viable livelihood option that can enable them to join mainstream economy as workers in their own right. The reality is that they are rarely accepted by the mainstream. If their identity is exposed, society loses no time in pointing fingers at them and

declaring them unworthy of any support. It is a huge task for a civil society organization (CSO) to rehabilitate them by giving them economic stability and a feeling of self-worth.

A substantial and growing component of Prerana's work is the intervention for girls rescued by the police, from destinations of CSE&T. Besides providing immediate and long-term post-rescue services in terms of victim assistance; Prerana also equips them with viable livelihood options. *Pratishtha* (Dignity) is the residential-vocational training centre for rescued girls and potential victims. A vocational training program becomes viable when it is designed taking into consideration the demands of the market. Prerana has learnt that this can be effectively accomplished in collaboration with the market institution itself. While this is true for every person seeking a livelihood option, in this case Prerana has a crucial, additional responsibility — that of keeping a high level of confidentiality. An otherwise viable livelihood option can still be an impossibility for victims of CSE&T because of the stigma and discrimination with which society treats them.

Of the many avenues of collaboration identified, Prerana believes that the corporate/ private sector is a large area for employment. So far, Prerana has been successful in providing training and ensuring job placements for trained persons in partnership with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (petrol filling), Taj Mahal Hotel (catering and housekeeping), Sundaram Jewels (diamond setting and polishing), National Institute of Fashion and Design (NIFD - fashion designing) and ITM Institute of Hotel Management (catering and hospitality management). With the help of IOM, a bakery unit is on the anvil for which Taj Mahal Hotel will provide the training.

This task could not have been possible without the close support of several agencies and the forward-backward linkages they have encouraged, particularly prominent sponsors like: the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNDP-Trafficking and HIV AIDS Project (UNDP-TAHA). IOM laid the initial groundwork for Prerana's collaboration with BPCL and NIFD. The CRS took on the responsibility to meet the maintenance costs of the resident trainee girls of *Prathistha* without which many of the training and preparatory sessions would not have been possible. UNDP-TAHA contacted Taj Mahal Hotel and Sundaram Jewels.

Once the groundwork for these collaborations was laid, Prerana started the process of orienting the young girls on the employment opportunity offered by the initiative. The orientation sessions explored the vocation's potential in terms of economic rehabilitation so girls could opt for their preferred choice. Further orientation sessions explored/ honed personal skills and clarified doubts and apprehensions.

The girls simultaneously attended sessions on learning life skills, forging relationships, behavior in different environments, peer influence, trust, health etc., using the Family Health International module of USAID.

Each trainee receives a certificate from the institute which has helped them tremendously, as it lends legitimacy to their qualifications for any job, wherever they are. Many girls have preferred to go back to their native village and Prerana has facilitated the move with the help of friendly CSOs. Prerana remains in close contact when the girls remain in Mumbai.

The process, method and results of Prerana's partnership with the corporate sector in economic rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation are highlighted in the following initiatives.

### Catering with Taj Mahal Hotel

Taj Mahal hotel agreed to train some girls in catering, with the chef as the chief trainer. Though 10 girls opted for the training the hotel offered to accommodate 8 in the program. The course period of 15 days

started on 01 September 2006, for 3 hours a day between 3.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. A pre-placement visit was organized where the DOs and DON'Ts were shared with the trainees. Since the girls were totally unfamiliar with the workings of a five star hotel, a lot of preparation was necessary.

Over the next 14 days, the girls were alternatively taught a few dishes one day and given the chance to cook them on the next. The girls learnt to make *sambhar*, *chatni*, *masala dosa*, *uttappam*, potato *sabji*, *upama*, onion *poha*, among other Indian dishes. Though initially there were complaints of indiscipline, late arrival and misuse of raw material, the final outcome was positive and the training concluded successfully.

Apart from the courteous behavior of the hotel staff and their support, one of the reasons for the success of the program was the simultaneous sessions on life skills, counseling and regular debriefing conducted by the Prerana team. The girls who received vocational training also received a monthly stipend from UNDP-TAHA.

### **Housekeeping as a viable employment opportunity: Prerana with Taj Mahal Hotel**

As in the case of catering, the initiative began with a special orientation session for the girls after which they were given a 10-day gap to consider housekeeping in hotels as a serious profession.

Training by the Taj team started on 01 December, 2006 at the hotel premises. The girls were first oriented into the running of the hotel with particular focus on its housekeeping functions. Training was conducted in 2 batches of 5 girls each, teaching them how to make the bed, clean toilets, dust and mop, keep rooms neat, arrange flowers, etc. They were also taught to use gadgets like the vacuum cleaner. There were no dropouts during the training. The girls received a monthly stipend from UNDP-TAHA.

### **Victim-survivors as petrol fillers: rehabilitating victims with the support of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**

This was a very successful venture. 27 girls were trained by BPCL as petrol fillers and the company was willing to absorb them all in its labor force. The girls were first trained for a month and later placed at a location close to their residence so they could commute easily from there. Today, some of them are working in the company owned petrol pumps where they earn INR 3,000.00 per month besides Employees State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund. Though some of the trained girls have moved out of Mumbai, 9 are still working in the city. Two other petrol pumps requested Prerana for girls, acknowledging the hard work put in by them and the visibility accorded to the initiative itself. BPCL has also shown interest in starting an 'All Girls' petrol pump as and when the girls are ready for it. During the training period BPCL gave them a stipend of INR 1,000.00 per month.

### **Fashion garments production: Prerana combines forces with National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD) and IOM to rehabilitate trafficked victims and their children**

The *Pratishtha* training centre was set up by Prerana with the capacity to accommodate 25 girls in Navi Mumbai in 2006, for the specific purpose of rehabilitating victims/ children of victims. CRS sponsored the entire cost of setting up and running the Centre. NIFD trained 23 girls in the first batch and there were no dropouts. The groundwork was handled by IOM who approached the Institute for the training. IOM paid the tuition fees to the Institute, and provided the raw material as well as the machinery. After training, the girls were taken into Prerana's Fashion Garments Production Unit. A tie up has been made with IOM to source initial orders for garments from local fashion houses.

NIFD had the following responsibilities:

1. Designing course and curriculum
2. Designing course schedule
3. Conducting the course
4. Identifying and placing/ appointing highly skilled and qualified faculty/ trainer/resource person
5. Devising and carrying out periodic assessment and evaluation of trainees
6. Devising and carrying out end term assessment and evaluation of trainees
7. Accrediting the course
8. Issuing certificates on behalf of NIFD to successful trainees
9. Any other matters relevant to the above

Of the 23 girls trained in the *Pratishtha* Training Centre, 6 got jobs in boutiques and two got married. The others have migrated to their native places. Twelve continue with *Pratishtha* designing and producing clothes. The girls put up sales in exhibitions, fairs, offices, etc. They also have orders to make men's shirts, school uniforms, aprons, fancy bags, etc.

### **Rehabilitating trafficking victims: Prerana combines forces with the Information for Technology and Management (ITM) Institute for course on hospitality and catering**

Prerana approached the ITM Institute of Hotel Management in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai with the aim of involving the corporate/ private sector in helping trafficked victims-survivors acquire livelihood skills which are non-traditional and financially viable and will help the girls become economically self sufficient.

This was the first time Prerana was approaching a prominent private sector concern, independently. The institute's commitment to the cause and Prerana's earlier successes in collaborating with the corporate sector facilitated the collaboration. It was encouraging that the Institute was undeterred by the fact that many of the girls had been rescued from CSE.

The institute designed a special course on Hospitality and Catering Management structured to enable unskilled young victims acquire the strengths to become economically self-reliant in the mainstream economy. Prerana considers this a good example of local resource mobilization particularly since the institute is in the same vicinity as Prerana's residential centre in Kharghar. 25 girls between 16 and 19 years are participating and staying in Prerana's *Pratishtha* centre in Kharghar during the course.

Prerana has taken on the responsibility of identifying girls with suitable aptitudes, orienting them and providing pre-training counseling. Prerana will also provide functional literacy to any illiterate girl who wants to join the training. Regular monitoring and review with the ITM representative will be conducted every fortnight.

As in other cases, the Institute will issue a certificate to each girl on successful completion of the course. The entire course is being sponsored by the ITM Institute, totally free of cost for the girls. There will be no operational costs (raw material/ tools/ equipment) or fees. The course will emphasize practical training to enable the girls to move on and find suitable employment as soon as possible. The CRS has agreed to sponsor the maintenance of the trainees, during training.

### **Some significant learnings from Prerana's experience in collaborating with the corporate/ private sector**

Recognition by reputed private bodies is highly beneficial for the reintegration of victims burdened by social stigma and oppression, into mainstream society. The certificates issued by the training institutes,

prized possessions for the girls, are responsible for getting them jobs and social status. Many are working in Mumbai while others have opted to find work at home.

Motivational and orientation sessions help trainees understand the skills being offered by the organization so they are in a better position to make a committed choice. Individual sessions work as ice-breakers focusing on clarifying doubts, removing apprehensions and analyzing individual potential to work in a different environment.

After the job is ensured, follow up for a minimum of one year, is beneficial for the victim.

Besides arranging their stay, food and overall maintenance, giving trainees a stipend during training is important.

Being treated like any mainstream person during training and after placement is a tremendous boost for the girls. It is absolutely imperative that victims of CSE&T are not singled out as exceptions. Prerana's life skill training and the 'normal' behavior of the training agencies are responsible for this non-discriminative attitude. Today, the girls are well equipped to handle unsolicited advances or comments in any environment.

Forward and backward linkages are important for such a venture to be successful. For instance, the CRS support for the training centre has enabled Prerana to negotiate and conduct a successful program with NIFD. Similarly, in Mumbai it has networked with the Government and CSO shelter homes like Navjyothi, St Catherine's Home etc. Prerana's networking with CSOs and working in the victims' hometown/ village/ nearby city has been useful in rehabilitating girls who wished to go back home, Prayas, in Delhi, HELP in Andhra Pradesh and Sanlaap in West Bengal for example. Getting reintegrated survivors back into their families/ society gives them a feeling of security.

The commitment of the training/ placement institute to keep the identity of the girls confidential is crucial. So far, none of the girls have felt that their jobs were threatened because of their past. Significantly, none of the institutions capitalized on the fact that they were training/ employing victims-survivors of trafficking as part of their 'social responsibility', though they could have boosted their 'social image' by publicizing it. Experience has shown that after one or two years of viable livelihood training and job placement girls get reintegrated into mainstream society. This is an important factor in checking re-trafficking, effectively.

Prerana believes that in a city like Mumbai, modern, professional skills are absolutely essential to reintegrate victims into the mainstream economy and society. The success of these ventures has strengthened its conviction that unless proactive efforts are made to forge relationships with different sectors of society, offering them a dignified life will be full of hurdles. Their meaningful rehabilitation is based on the acceptance of society and the option to contribute to it like any other person. Acceptance is not easy, but the ultimate result is worth the struggle of the supporting agency and the victims themselves.

## Swift Wash: A public-private partnership on rehabilitation, social reintegration and empowerment of trafficked victims in Goa

**S**wift Wash, a mechanized laundry unit, is the brainchild of Arz (Anyay Rahit Zindagi), an NGO active in Goa. Goa is an important tourist destination for national and international tourists. Reported incidents of trafficking for pedophilia and sex tourism have cautioned the public about the trafficking of women and children for CSE in the state. Trafficking is both trans-border and internal.

Arz has been involved with issues of human trafficking since 1997, working mainly with commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) victims and those vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. Arz believes that trafficking victims are the most stigmatized, marginalized and victimized group in society and the lack of livelihood options forces them to live a life of exploitation. Arz also believes that their effective economic rehabilitation can be achieved in partnership with NGOs, the government, corporate bodies and civil society.

The Swift Wash experiment started as a solution to the immediate needs of CSE victims when Arz realized that their employment options have to be based on two important objectives: it should shield the survivors from the social stigma of having been commercial sex workers and also be viable enough to help them lead a decent life.

The result was a professionally run 24-hour laundry service. Since September 2007, it employs 25 females and 10 males working in 3 shifts. Set up in an industrial area where the business potential is greater, it currently provides the beneficiaries INR 2,000.00 per month, for 6 hrs of work. Male members from the victims' families are also given jobs to prevent them from indulging in anti-social activities.

After counseling the rescued victims about the job, those suitable and willing to join the venture were oriented into this rehabilitation program. The Taj Group of Hotels volunteered to train the beneficiaries, build their capacities and also provide managerial skills. Training included sessions on teamwork, communication, time management and customer relationship. The NGO-Corporate partnership was successful.

Intensive public relations and liaison work has resulted in the smooth running and success of Swift Wash. During the past year the unit has received laundry orders from several pharmaceuticals, hotels and business houses. Others have offered support to train the workers. These are some of the Swift Wash corporate/ private partners:

**Hotels:** Caritas Holiday Home, Park Plaza, Coconut Creek, Anant Ashram and Youth Hostel.

**Companies:** Sanofi Aventis Pharma, Blue Cross Laboratories, Indoco Pharma, Wallace, Indipharma, Transocean, Equator, Duraline and Corlim Marine Exports Pvt. Ltd.

**Others:** SNIP Beauty Parlour, Subrai Motors, Institute of Maritime Studies, Salgaoncars Office, Vivus Hospital.

Regular training and motivation of beneficiaries, boosts their morale and their income. It is important to ensure that social pressures do not compel vulnerable victims to get re-trafficked. Apart from the initial training, they are also regularly counseled on self-awareness, group bonding, self-development, team building, leadership, motivation, ownership etc. These sessions help to dissolve their inhibitions so they feel comfortable while working in a team. To build their confidence levels they are given the opportunity to interact with government and UN officials, people from the corporate sector, other spheres of life and with foreigners. On-the-job training by the manager and supervisors continues on operation of machines, use of chemicals, ironing, removal of stains, packing etc. The trained, professional staff closely supervises laundry work to maintain quality and efficiency. Since, two women have been trained to drive four-wheeler vehicles they drive the laundry vehicle to collect and deliver clothes from clients in Verna, Sancoale, Ponda and Vasco. Both are the proud owners of driving licenses. This initiative has also challenged gender stereotypes about women and machines!



Beneficiaries were also counseled on their rights, given the space to voice pent up emotions about the violence/ abuse committed on them and given legal assistance to get relief/ justice. Other services range from aftercare, awareness, counseling and guidance on issues concerning work and family to a crèche facility, education for children and health services. The crèche for children below 6 years - located in the premises - focuses on the education, nutrition and healthy development of the child.

Swift Wash has faced several challenges. Some victims have regularly faced pressure from their family members, spouses, people in the community, and exploiters (traffickers) to quit work, as these people have hitherto survived on their earnings. As long as the women were victims of CSE these people extracted money from them, but ever since they joined Swift Wash, exploitation has become difficult. Regular counseling and guidance has helped them handle such conflicts. Police complaints have been made and community interventions sought whenever the perpetrators have tried to entice the victims to leave the job. Psychiatric assistance has been provided in cases of addiction, depression and mental retardation. More serious cases have been taken to the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Constant counseling for family members and male partners has also helped to bring about change and elicit their support in empowering the victims.

Children's education is also being supported. Beneficiaries have been encouraged to send older children to school without discriminating between a son and daughter. In addition, women have been encouraged to open a bank account and learn to save. The women have formed a self-help group and plan to register themselves as a women's cooperative so they can become the owners of Swift Wash. The dark days of CSE seem to have ended for these women. Three of them including a former '*devadasi*' have got married.

Swift Wash had a very positive partnership and this is the main reason for its success. Various NGOs, national and international, colleges of social work, members of the media and civil society have visited the unit to understand how this concept works. An exposure visit was arranged for the police to show them how victims of trafficking could be rehabilitated. Swift Wash has also received support from senior

government officials who visited the unit, interacted and conducted sessions with the workers. Support from UN officials has also been forthcoming.

On the demand of victims of CSE, Swift Wash intends to expand and rehabilitate 100 trafficked victims with the active partnership of the Goa State Government and corporate bodies.

A replicable and sustainable model, Swift Wash can be successful in commercial areas, particularly tourist destinations. However, constant motivation and close monitoring will be required to ensure that victims are not lured away for exploitative work.

At the moment the laundry does not have enough space to provide employment to more victims, to relax after work, set up a canteen etc., all of which would enable them to build positive interpersonal relationships with their colleagues who share the same challenges in life. A bonding that would help each one motivate the other better than any outsider.

The Swift Wash effort has clearly demonstrated that a 'public-private' partnership can transform the financial status and morale of victims and empowerment, both in letter and spirit.

## Reintegrating survivors – Sthree’s “Mix & Match” strategies in alternative livelihoods

**H**aving spent seven years in building partnerships with the communities with a thrust on social mobilization, leading to successful anti-trafficking interventions, Sthree has come to be one of the pioneers in grassroots anti – trafficking initiatives.

In 2000, a fledgling Sthree joined the ranks of those committed to the cause of combating trafficking of children and women for commercial sexual exploitation. It started by looking at interventions at the source/ supply zones instead of demand destinations in India’s metro cities.

### ‘Mix and Match’ Strategies

Sthree has strived to look at unique combinations and permutations for corporate assistance that can have an impact in the long run for the survivors living in the shelter homes or communities. The efforts of Sthree have primarily linked community work in crafts to a corporate sector patronage that provides consistent marketing of their products, as much as the regular outlets of designer shops, who sell Sthree’s products in the metro city of Bangalore.

The NGO runs skill centers in the villages of their two working districts to train drop outs, abandoned wives and other vulnerable children and women as a preventive measure from being trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. This has helped towards a regular means of income through piece work, after the training has been given over periods of 3-6 months, depending on the capabilities of the community members. Once their goods are showcased with the designer outlets or corporates of Bangalore city, they are assured of earning INR 800.00 – 1500.00 per month. In the case of youngsters who tend to have better speed at the crafts work, sometimes the earnings are nearly INR 1500.00 – 2500.00 per month. This amount though not an extremely large sum, assures them of a decent living in their homes.

Some of Sthree’s corporate partners include\*:

- Gokuldas Images (Fabric supply, employment)
- HSBC (HDPI) (Shelter support, ATC awards, exhibitions, Wellness center funding)
- Lifestyle Academy (Beautician courses)
- ING Vysya Bank (Crafts as corporate gifts, soft toys for their Foundation)
- Titan Industries (Tanishq) (Jewelry pouches)
- Karnataka State Police (R&T) (Files for trainings)
- Mysore Silk Saree Udyog (Cushion covers for home linen store)

Designer Shops/ Fabric supply/ Outlets\*

- Salonee (Fabric supply)
- Kahawa (Designer outlet, belts, pouches, crochet products)
- Isis (Designer outlet, beaded & macramé bags, mobile covers)

- Things (Upmarket store, tailoring products, embroidered home – linen, shell belts, mobile covers, belts and wallets in macramé )
- Levitate (Upmarket store, brocade bags, kutch mirror work purses, stoles, clutch purses and files)
- The Leather Shop (Upmarket store, leather bags with beaded work, wallets and pouches)

\* All of the above are Bangalore based in Karnataka.

The corporates who exercise their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) also extend help in supporting survivors who take shelter at the Sthree home, sponsoring education for those interested, selecting places for exhibition/ sales of their products or, as in the case of HSBC, Bangalore, and even sponsoring awards for the anti – trafficking committee members. These awards were given to members, who have largely contributed in reducing the incidents of trafficking from their areas. This recognition of the communities for their committed work is a fine example of a CSR act that has scope for others to replicate.

From the village centers where some of the products are made, the brighter girls, further through Sthree’s linkages with the government and donors, trained along with survivors, in two batches with NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology), Hyderabad. The training syllabus comprised of fashion technology and garment making over a period of six months. Some of these girls with Sthree’s corporate linkages are currently employed in export garment houses in Bangalore, earning INR 3500.00 – 4000.00 per month and sometimes making nearly INR 6000.00 on their overtime work. Four others are employed with Sthree as assistant trainers at the Sthree livelihood center at the “Sitara rehabilitation center” in Kadiri, Anantapur district, earning a salary of INR 2000.00 – 2500.00 per month. The absolute importance of alternative livelihoods for such survivors is very well understood by all stakeholders who work on anti – trafficking initiatives. Sthree has taken a lead in this, by exploring/ assuring multiple aspects where livelihoods are concerned, most successful being the crafts.

### ***What other novel ideas has Sthree explored?***

As another first at the grassroots, Sthree attempted micro – enterprises with the survivors of trafficking. Beautician courses from corporates such as Lifestyle Academy, Bangalore, resulted in six girls running a beauty parlour and 6 others an embroidery center for garments in Kadiri. Over two years this collective ran its business together, but as some of the girls opted for marriage and resettled in different *mandals* or districts, the beauty parlor was closed, however, the crafts center continues to date, although they have also relocated as a group to the Sthree livelihood center, integrating work in fashion accessories and home – linen as well. At least 3 of the girls, who worked in the beauty parlor, today run services in threading, pedicure/ manicure, hair cuts, henna and facials from their homes, doubling the household income along with their husbands. Most of these young wives earn nearly INR 5000.00 – 7500.00 per month.

Other micro – enterprises with the survivors included canteens, at strategic places like the Kadapa Collectorate and the Kadapa Government Technical and training centers. The other girls chose to individually run *tiffin* (packed food) centers in their own villages, or start a small fancy store or provision store from their *mandal* areas, feeling the need to be with their families. The monies they earned collectively at the canteen was divided between the four of them for capital towards their new businesses.

Sthree’s recognition of a “Mix & Match” system in alternative livelihoods has led to many success stories of the survivor’s reintegration into mainstream society. They have spread out into multiple ventures such as, employment with the corporates, micro – credit for small loans like petty shops, vegetable vending, individuals rearing sheep or buffaloes, tiffin centers, provision stores, fancy shops/ stores, income through crafts and even working as “security checking” for women at a Corporate BPO in Bangalore city, ... so

many varied jobs and businesses, following the new age mantra of “Each to his/ her own” spelling a final coming to terms with their own lives, poised for a worthy future.

Operating in rural, high source districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely Anantapur and Kadapa, Sthree has settled nearly 900 girls who today are well versed in alternative employment, empowered through building their capacities in life skills, educated in formal or non formal mediums and well integrated into mainstream society.

It is not a simple question of exercising one’s CSR, but using it in the right way by funding projects that are need based for the NGO – Community partnership growth. If more Corporate companies encourage such linkages and ventures, many useful interventions in tackling human trafficking and it’s multiple complexities can be taken care of, not only for NGO partners, but government and other related networks.

## Jet Airways–STCI partnership making a difference: A case study of a Corporate-NGO partnership transforming the lives of many

**M**umbai is a destination for victims of trafficking from Nepal, Bangladesh and from within India itself. In reality, no single agency has the ability, by acting alone, to either extend or improve the quality of care and support being provided to every rescued young girl, or to ensure that those who victimized her are punished under the law.

STCI (Save the Children, India) had always envisioned an integrated support system to assist trafficking victims and has always considered networking with other stakeholders as an essential requirement in the anti-trafficking movement. One of STCI's major initiatives is partnering with corporate houses, its partnership with Jet Airways is presented below.

### Enabling corporates to support grass roots economic and social development projects

Jet Airways launched its in-flight collection program the '*Magic Box Program*' in association with Save the Children India (STCI) on January 7, 1997. This fund-raising program, unique to Jet Airways, is implemented on all its flights on the domestic network, thereby allowing its passengers to participate in this cause.



Passengers can contribute onboard through cash/ cheque or Credit Card in the envelope placed in the seat pocket in front of them which is then put into the Magic Box brought around by the cabin crew. Mrs. Anita Goyal is a trustee of the organization who along with the founder, the late Mrs. Vipula Kadri, initiated this phenomenal program. The association boasts a strong ten-year history which has helped launch and implement several successful programs under Save The Children India.



Save The Children India's work includes running pre-schools for urban slum children in Mumbai and a Special Care Centre which is a school for the intellectually impaired, speech and hearing impaired. Another unique project is to respond and build confidence among pregnant women who are HIV positive, with a view to decreasing the infant mortality rate.

Part of the funds collected through the Magic Box program are also used to support the *Save Our Sisters program*, an anti trafficking movement under STCI. Several initiatives have been undertaken in response to human trafficking, including prevention and prosecution and protection (rehabilitation) of rescued persons. In this context, three examples of the services rendered by STCI are highlighted below. The Save The Children–Jet Airways association is a successful example of a partnership which contributes to national level social and economic development and touches the lives of many to transform their future.

On 19 April 2006, STCI officials had gone on a mission to a brothel, in search of the sister of a victim of CSE residing in a government protective home. STCI officers accompanied the victim girl to the police station and convinced the senior inspector of the police station of the immediate need to conduct a search. Convinced of the gravity of the situation, the inspector sent a police team. STCI officers and the police entered the Kamathipura brothels of Mumbai. At the time of conducting search, STCI officers received information that some girls were locked up in the toilets. On breaking open the door, the team was horrified to find 2 minor girls locked inside. They were rescued and the brothel manager immediately arrested and taken into custody.

The girls trapped in the brothels had been threatened of dire consequences by the brothel keepers, not to reveal their correct identity. Therefore, as anticipated, both the girls lied that they were adults and had come into prostitution willingly. However, counseling by the STCI legal cell put them at ease, provided them all the help and support and ensured they would not be threatened. Counseling had a positive impact on the girls. One of them confessed that she was 14 years old and had been trafficked by her own boyfriend from West Bengal, by stealthily mixing an intoxicant in her cold drink. She had no idea what happened after she drank it. Later, she realized that she had been confined within the four walls of a brothel and had no way to escape. She was subjected to rape as many as 10 times a day and the brothel keeper kept the money earned. A complaint/ FIR was lodged and the girls immediately transferred to a government home for protection. A rehabilitation and reintegration plan was drawn up for them. After some time they were transferred to a protective home in Calcutta. The girls are continuing their education in Kolkata, under the supervision of an NGO. One of them wants to become a lawyer.

### **Case Study 1**

N is 25 years old and belongs to Uttar 24 Parganas in West Bengal where she lived with her parents and two children after being separated from her husband. She was compelled to leave her husband's house because of the unbearable torture and harassment meted out to her by her husband.

The family's financial condition was not good. Her father was unemployed, her mother worked as a cook and N as a tailor.

One day, N met a woman named K who was about 30-35 years, and belonged to the same village. K told N that she was working in Mumbai where the salaries offered to cooks were very good. K convinced N to go to Mumbai with her and assured her that she would find her a job as a cook. Little realizing that it was a completely false assurance, N decided to go with K to Mumbai.

K and N left for Mumbai in April-May 2005. 2 other girls also joined them on the same false assurance of getting a good job. N's 5-year-old son R also accompanied them. After reaching Mumbai, K took them to

her house in Kamathipura. The next morning a man named M took N and R to his house where he lived with his wife. On reaching the house, N was horrified to learn that M and P were running a brothel, and K had sold N to them for INR 6000.00 for the purposes of prostitution. N was shocked and devastated. Since she refused to comply with their demands, P and M beat her mercilessly with heated steel rods and forced her into prostitution. Having no other recourse and fearing that she and her son would be harmed, N submitted.

M and P were continuously abusive towards N and R. N was forced to provide sexual services to as many as 15 men in a day, and was not excused even during menstruation. The money earned out of subjecting N to exploitation was kept by the brothel keepers.

N and R were not given proper meals and were allowed to eat only once a day. She was forced to wear revealing clothes and make up and to use steroids to increase her weight, if she refused she was severely beaten up. N's son R was the worst affected. M and P would mercilessly beat him if he ever inquired about his mother. He would be burnt with a heated iron rod, thrown on the ground, stamped on, sometimes M would even injure the young boy's genitals, hit him on the head even bite him. He was forced to swallow tobacco and if he resisted M would gag him with his hands so the boy would suffocate.

R had suffered grievous injuries due to the acute physical torture meted out to him. He remained in the hospital for a month and a half after the local police rescued them. After the raid, N and R were housed in a government protective home, where N first interacted with STCI's legal counsel. The sessions had a very positive impact; she understood the necessity and importance of pursuing a criminal prosecution against the trafficker and the brothel keepers and seek justice for herself and her son. STCI aided N to initiate prosecution against the perpetrators.

Being a 5-year-old child, R was produced before the Child Welfare Committee Dongri, Mumbai as it has exclusive jurisdiction to hear cases of children in need of care and protection. After viewing the medical documents, talking to R and the STCI lawyer, the CWC was convinced that the child was indeed a victim of grave physical torture. It passed an order confirming the contents of the statement and directed the concerned police station to lodge an FIR and take action against the accused. The STCI lawyer and police team were instructed to conduct the arrest. The brothel keeper was arrested immediately and taken into custody. N's belongings were restored to her and STCI ensured that a police team escorted N and R back to the village to reunite them with the family.

## **Case Study 2**

S is a 16-year-old girl rescued from a brothel in Mumbai. When the STCI officials came to know about her exploitation, the officials took the help of the local police to find S and conduct the rescue. During the search, the STCI team found several girls locked up in one bedroom of the brothel. On breaking open the door the team found S and another girl locked up with an old man believed to be the husband of the brothel owner. S was rescued and the brothel manager arrested and taken into custody.

The STCI Officers immediately conducted a legal counseling session, ensuring that the brothel manager could not exercise any threats or influence over her. She was counseled about the different vocational courses which she could take while residing in a protective home, which would enable her to choose an alternative livelihood option. Counseling had a very positive impact on S. Today S is participating in various courses with the support of the STCI's livelihood program. She is also taking literacy classes conducted by the organization along with a course in hospitality and has been assured of a job after the completion of her course. Employment would enable her to become economically independent and reduce her vulnerability to any kind of exploitation.

**Conclusion:** The Corporate NGO partnership has immense potential. In this case the orientation was focused on rescue, legal empowerment, financial empowerment, restoration, rehabilitation, prosecution of the offenders and delivery of justice.

## Corporate–Media–NGO partnership in advocacy on anti-human trafficking: The Apne Aap initiative

If human trafficking is an organized crime, the response to it also has to be well organized and well coordinated. The fight against it is a long and continuous process, requiring action and coordination between various stakeholders. The government, private sector, civil society, including NGOs and media, are all critical stakeholders, often working independently of each other. Apne Aap Women Worldwide (Apne Aap) realized the importance of bringing these sectors together under a common platform and synergizing all their efforts towards the common goal of countering human trafficking.

Here are some examples of Apne Aap's multi-pronged advocacy initiatives involving corporates and the media:

- A) A joint conference between Apne Aap Women Worldwide, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the US Consulate facilitated an interface between corporate houses, the media and NGOs working on human trafficking. This conference titled, '*Corporate Social Responsibility to Counter Human Trafficking*' was designed by Apne Aap and held on 19th March, 2004. Support for the venue came from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, lunch was sponsored by CII and the US Consulate sponsored the travel of NGO participants. Industry leaders such as Sanjay Budhia, Chairman CII (Eastern Region) and Mr. Brij Kishore Jhavar, Vice Chairman, Usha Martin Group represented the private sector. Around 90 corporate representatives, 60 NGOs and 30 media persons attended the workshop.
- B) A year-long media advocacy program spearheaded by Apne Aap, resulted in building up the necessary institutional linkages with the media in combating human trafficking. Events were designed to ensure that the media was not merely a channel to highlight/ publicize achievements, but an active partner in solving the problem through co-sponsorship, development of messages, running campaigns and providing space. For example, Anand Bazaar Patrika sponsored the screening of a movie on child labor, Radio Mirchi became a valuable partner launching a book by Apne Aap '*The place where we live is called a red light area*', and Karukrit donated free billboards across Kolkata to spread anti-trafficking messages designed by Apne Aap. All these initiatives conducted in 2006, further strengthened the NGO-Media collaboration and commitment to the issue.
- C) Multiple events involving the participation of renowned experts discussing and finding solutions to issues related to human trafficking were organized in partnership with the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce (BNCC). The events aimed at creating awareness amongst the private sector on the need for their pro-active involvement in combating human trafficking and setting standards that would not only help check the demand for women and children but ensure better services for their rehabilitation and social re-integration. For example, events at the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) included a Workshop for

Confronting the Demand of Human Trafficking, the screening of the documentary '*Selling of Innocents*' and a lecture on trafficking by Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi, in Delhi and Kolkata in 2006. During her visit to Kolkata on 21 November 2006, Shirin Ebadi spoke on "Gender Discrimination and Sex Trafficking" and released a book '*The place where we live is called a red light area*' written and illustrated by the children of Kalighat and Sonaghachi in Kolkata.

The results of this multi-pronged approach were far-reaching. Involvement of the media provided small NGOs and CBOs, a platform for expressing their views and concerns. The media, too, has become proactive, establishing a long-term relationship with Apne Aap, to ensure enhanced and better media coverage on anti-trafficking. Involvement of the corporate sector brought education into the life of children of women in prostitution and also led to an increase in the professional database, providing Apne Aap and other stakeholders more options and solutions in the anti-trafficking field. The corporate groups have enrolled several children of women in prostitution in formal schools with the help of corporate sponsorship and through facilitation. About 16 children have benefited.

These initiatives of Apne Aap have demonstrated that the involvement of small, medium and large businesses in anti-trafficking programs has tremendous potential for rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and their children and also for awareness generation. Efforts need to be encouraged at various levels to join hands with multiple actors. The 'Corporate Social Responsibility' mandate of the corporate sector has brought many corporates closer to the issue of human trafficking and which can be further strengthened through the NGO-Corporate Alliance on Human Trafficking.

## Linking Self Help Groups with international and local business houses: Providing sustained livelihood options to survivors – Initiatives by Apne Aap

**T**rafficked women and children can seldom exit situations of exploitation, because there are very few survival options available to them. They live in ghettos inside red light areas and slums, they are isolated, branded and stigmatized and have no access to dignified livelihood options. At the same time, small family-owned businesses located in villages, towns and communities need skilled and unskilled employees in their own localities, to sustain their businesses.

Apne Aap Women Worldwide has created Mahila Mandals (Self-Help Groups) for 1500 women and girls, who are at risk or have been trafficked into prostitution in Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Bihar and has linked them with locally-owned small businesses and international markets.

Several steps were followed to set up the Mahila Mandals in each of these areas. The process started by holding small group meetings and enrolling members into Apne Aap. Each member was entitled to a common safe space to sit, sing, chat or sleep in the community centre that Apne Aap set up in the heart of the red-light area or slum. Each member was also allowed to admit her children into the Apne Aap crèche at the community centre. These members were initially formed as Mother's Committees to oversee the welfare of their children. As a next step, they were transformed into Mahila Mandals with their own office bearers, elections, minute-book and cultural activities. Slowly, income-generation activities were introduced into the groups.

At this stage the small locally-owned businesses were brought into the picture. Apne Aap Board members, staff, friends and well wishers looked for small family-owned businesses that wanted to contribute something to society. They were requested to provide technical training to the Mahila Mandals based on their own strengths and expertise.

For example, a premiere Kolkata sari boutique, Paridhan, decided to train the girls in embroidery and stitching skills. The owner, Rajni Gupta and her colleague Kusum Khemka, held a series of workshops with the Kidderpore red-light area Mahila Mandal to train and ensure quality control. The women produced bags and scarves which were then marketed in the US through Goody's chain of stores under the label of 'Made by Survivors'.

Another example is the Mahila Mandal in the Delhi *Harijan* Migrant Worker's colony Subhash Camp, supported and trained in jewelry making by a local designer, who then links the Mahila Mandal with stalls at different cultural exhibitions, to sell the jewelry.

In Mumbai, Apne Aap has supported older women in prostitution in Kamathipura to set up a soup kitchen. The women were first taught by local restaurant owners on purchasing, cooking and distributing food on a mass scale, on a daily basis. They have now learnt how to run and manage a professional kitchen.

Many members of these Mahila Mandals have been able to leave the brothels and rent a small room from the income generated through these projects. Some are still in the brothels and others are on the pavements, but they are now able to feed themselves due to these interventions.

Each group elects its own office bearers – President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and is trained by Apne Aap staff to constantly assess, articulate their needs and evaluate their programs. Some of the programs are overseen by the beneficiaries. Each member gives a monthly membership fee to the organization. After two years, the women’s group of each community centre is transformed into a self-help group.

These self-help groups are given legal support and training to register and open a bank account, run the group, assign roles and responsibilities. The process of transforming mandals into self-help groups is difficult as many of the women are illiterate and sometimes staff develop a vested interest in keeping the Mahila Mandal under their control by not opening the bank account. It is very important to conduct constant team building meetings and communication and information-sharing meetings with both groups. The process is continuing as it will take another year or so for the self-help groups to become fully functional and independent.

These girls have also been trained on book keeping, stock keeping, procuring raw material, basic computer skills and English so that they can manage their own income generation programs with minimal assistance from Apne Aap. Coordination with local businesses like Paridhan and Jyotirmayee Sreepriya Exports has helped. The sponsorship of stalls at local *melas* during cultural festivals to sell jewelry designed by top designers from New York, Delhi and Kolkota, has given women access to local markets as well. The women manage the stalls and sell their products, independently.



Around 1000 pieces of different kinds of products made by these women and girls, under income generation activities, have been supplied to the USA and Canada. These include scarves, bags, purses and paper packets. The organization has successfully trained almost 100 women and

girls in its three centers at Topsia, Khidderpore and the Subhash Camp. With intensive training from Apne Aap and the help of Institutes such as Sarojini, Nalini and Paridhan, the organization provides ongoing training and certificates in income generation to the centers in Kolkota as well.



Apne Aap has also sought the help of designers such as Asha Veza in Mumbai, Fatima Tomar in Delhi and Paridhan in Kolkota to help in training these women and girls. This has enabled them supply well-finished products to a growing market, enhance their own creativity in designing and helped them gain practical knowledge about the availability of raw material, marketing, accounting, etc. A continuous earning opportunity has further increased their self-worth and the confidence to resist exploitation.



"I am now sitting with a group of adolescent girls in Midnapore, and discussing Child Rights and Child Trafficking with them", says T, a 17 year old from Darapara Topsia.

T's father used to have a regular job and the family was comfortable till the day he lost his job and they were suddenly confronted by a financial crisis. T's mother started working as a maid in some neighboring houses. T who always wanted to study, was going to school until her parents could no longer afford to send her. When her father managed to get another job, T joined the Topsia Apne Aap Center with her mother's support.

In the beginning she was very nervous, avoided eye-to-eye contact with everyone, and could hardly speak. After psychological counseling and motivation for participation and involvement in different educational and skill building programs, there was a dramatic change in her personality. Now she is confident, has developed immense leadership qualities and plays the role of a peer advocate for other girls in the Center. Her resilience and determination are clearly visible in the way she conducts herself. She wants to be economically independent and become a role model for other girls like her. Her parents want to marry her off but she has clearly stated that she will not get married until she is economically independent and empowered. She also says that after her marriage she will continue to play the role of a peer advocate at Apne Aap.

As a junior advocate of the Apne Aap delegation at the Indian Social Forum, T will speak on the ways and means of combating trafficking and child abuse. She has also learnt embroidery and works in the NIOS production unit.

## Public awareness building through theatre: Campaign against Child Trafficking (CACT) combines with corporate/ business houses

Child trafficking has become a fast growing human trade where children are trafficked for unconscionable gains, sometimes by people they trust. The movement of the trafficked child may be in the form of a sale, kidnapping and abduction, or recruitment. Child trafficking is often an organized crime and commercial in nature, characterised by low investment and high returns. Some of its known forms and purposes are trafficking for sexual purposes such as child prostitution, child pornography, sex-tourism etc; for labour including work situations not recognized as harmful/ hazardous for children such as child domestic labour; for sports and entertainment like camel races and the circus; for and through adoption; for and through marriage; for organ transplants; and for begging, drug peddling and other illegal activities.

Child sexual abuse and child trafficking are often closely connected. Trafficking of the child into prostitution or use of the child to produce pornographic materials may follow the sexual abuse of a child. Victims of all forms and purposes of child trafficking may suffer sexual abuse in the course of being trafficked or thereafter.

With a view to creating public awareness on these facts, several organisations and networks came together to organise 'Ankahi' (the unspoken) – a four day theatre event exposing the dark side of exploitation of childhood, from 9–12 December, 2004 in the city of Mumbai. The unique event was a spin off from the staging of 'Bitter Chocolate' in Delhi, a solo performance on child sexual abuse by theatre artist Ms. Lushin Dubey based on Ms. Pinky Virani's book of the same title. The public debate that followed the staging of the play led to the realization that more such events, on wider platforms aimed at reaching out to larger audiences, were required to build public consciousness on the issue of child abuse and child trafficking.

Once the idea of 'Ankahi' came into being, it was decided that a panel discussion would be organised after every play and the panel would consist of experts from the field of law and law enforcement, medicine, psychiatry and social work. Another decision taken by the group was that each play would be inaugurated by an eminent theatre personality willing to lend their name to the event and the cause. This would be one of the ways to ensure greater involvement of theatre personalities in anti-child trafficking initiatives. Press releases and a poster exhibition were also planned as part of the event.

A major concern facing the organisers was where to get sufficient funds to organise such a large event. CACT committed to meet some costs but these were hardly adequate. Hence, it was decided to request INGOs, other donor agencies and the corporate sector to fund different aspects of the theatre workshop.

The corporate offices approached were more than willing to oblige and took active interest in the event. Indian Airlines offered to support the travel costs of the 'Bitter Chocolate' team, Leo

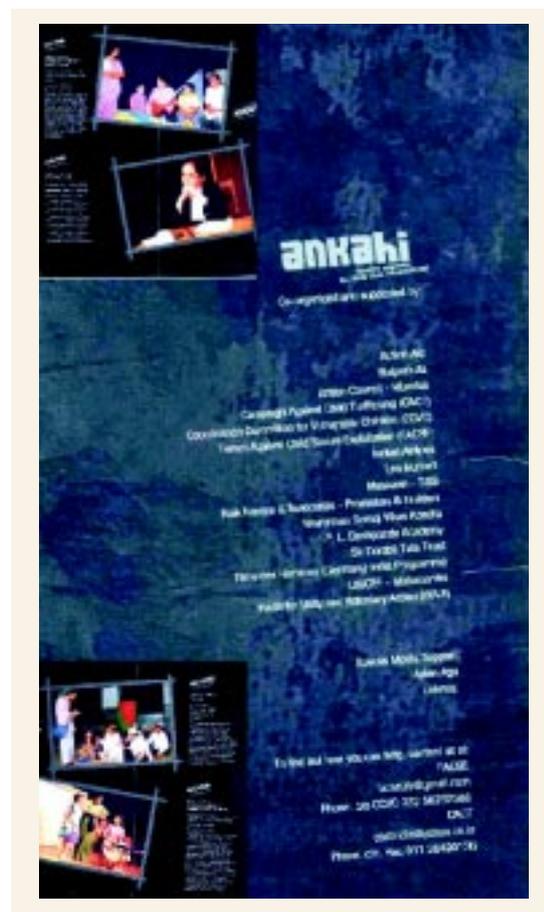
Burnett agreed to pay for developing and printing of all posters, brochures and publicity material for the event. The P.L. Deshpande Academy provided the venue at highly subsidized rates; Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Naik Navare Associates also extended their support.

Ankahi began on 9<sup>th</sup> December with an inauguration by Mr. Vijay Tendulkar, eminent playwright and thinker. Four plays, two in Marathi and two in Hindi were staged during the four day program. On each day, well known theatre personalities such as Ms. Sonali Kulkarni, Ms. Rohini Hattangadi, and Ms. Neena Kulkarni inaugurated the shows. Each of them expressed their thoughts and views on the subject, on child rights, the role of the state in protecting the rights of children, the need for more endeavours such as Ankahi, and shared their experiences related to child sexual abuse.

In response to a question on reaching initiatives like 'Ankahi' to the common people and to those sections of society to which the trafficked and abused children belong, the organizers of 'Ankahi' and theatre artists proposed taking this initiative to different states and small towns.

Ankahi was a meaningful and learning experience for the organizers in terms of teamwork. The event was well covered by the media in terms of extent and content. One of the challenges was to reach the publicity material about the event to the public in different corners of the city. No doubt there were many more events being organized in the city of Mumbai simultaneously, that influenced the attendance of certain groups. Nonetheless, it was observed that the shows went packed and the need to reach out to different sections of society has emerged very strongly. Ankahi, working with the business houses and corporates has been able to make a change.

**Beyond Ankahi** has been a phase that has seen many more such events in subsequent years with corporate tie-ups – as equal partners in bringing some grave human rights violations faced by our children into the public domain. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, which held the National Secretariat of CACT between 2000 and 2005 and continues to be a member of the campaign took on the task of organising more such events in different cities. This awareness raising exercise has been received successfully by audiences in Pune, Delhi and Lucknow in the years 2004, 2005, 2007 and most recently on 12 March 2008 at the Sri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, New Delhi. Corporates such as The Times of India (Lucknow), India TV, radio channel Fever FM 104, Hindustan Times and Grant Thornton have joined in to promote such public awareness programmes at different points of time. Every event is organized through a local organization in the concerned city in order to ensure that not only do people go back well informed after the discussions on subjects such as child sexual exploitation and abuse that have remained within the private domain for years, but they have a local organization to fall back upon for additional support, guidance and information if required.



**PART**

# **II**

**Anti-Human Trafficking  
Initiatives - NGOs Collaborate with  
Several Stakeholders on Prevention,  
Protection and Prosecution**

## A. PREVENTION

Combining Forces: Networking, Coordination and Cooperation

- Awareness-raising ventures

- Creating 'Alternative Forces': Capacity Building and Sensitization Efforts

- Working with potential victims and their communities

- Empowering vulnerable sections

## Religious Leaders Unite Against Human Trafficking – The Inter-Religious Priests Forum (IRPF) in Bihar

**H**uman trafficking is an organized crime transcending borders of time and space. The traffickers know no religion or caste, but only exploitation and trading in human misery. When there is extreme vulnerability, especially due to lack of development and lack of education, coupled with improper response systems, traffickers flourish. When the land is on the porous international border allowing free migration, traffickers use this opportunity to their advantage. Same is the case with inter district trafficking too, as the scenario stands in Bihar. However, the common man, being religiously oriented and being God fearing, the religious leaders in all communities, have a lot of influence on the masses. Here is a case study where the NGOs utilized this opportunity to involve the clergy to address human trafficking in Bihar.

### The Inter Religious Priest Forum (IRPF)

The National Inter Religious Priest Forum (IRPF) is a unique model of Anti Human Trafficking (AHT) initiatives, which came up as a response to such a situation. Initiated by ATSEC Bihar, this is a forum of priests of different religions, viz. Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, etc., who have come together to help people make informed choices and against communalization of human rights abuses. The forum was launched recognizing that religious sentiments and communal identity play a pivotal role in an individual's life — hence these should form key elements in bringing behavioral change in people. The priests stand on a unified platform to curb trafficking and launch a crusade against trafficking. Their voice is their weapon — they preach against the evil of human trafficking quoting holy books and scriptures. At the same time they go into action in other ways too – active awareness generation among fellow religious groups and among the masses by effective mobilization and information dissemination.

The forum took birth in Gaya in Bihar in 2002 during a meeting where the decision to launch such a forum was taken. It was first initiated in three Districts of Bihar and is presently active in fifteen Districts, i.e. in Patna, Jehanabad, Gaya, Gopalganj, Munger, Purnea, Jamui, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Kishanganj, Araria, Supaul and Madhubani.

### The Governing Board of NIRFP

Name	Designation	Address
Mr. Nawajis Ali	President	Arrabari (Babubari) PO – Raipur, Kishanganj
Sister Angela	Secretary	Sewa Kendra Kurji, Patna.
Mr. Anil Thakur	Treasurer	Vill +PO- DapurkhaVia- Triveniganj, Supaul
Mr. Raj Kumar Pandey	Member	Vill +PO - Chota Twmaria Tola, Near Indian Custom House Raxaul, Dist- Motihari
Mr. Umesh Prasad	Member	Vill +PO- Prahampost- Farda, Dist- Munger
Md. Hakeem	Member	Vill – Moben Ghako Boot, Bhikhua Dist – Gopalganj
Sister Rosita	Member	NIRPF, BiharSSH, Secret Heart Convent Kurjee, Patna.
Md. Firoz Akhter	Member	NIRPF, BiharVill + PO – Balha,Block- Raj Nagar, Madhubani.

Though in its infant stages, the IRPF in Bihar has already started producing significant results in the districts where it is functional. Fake marriages and related social evils have begun to decrease and communal harmony and cooperation where trafficking is suspected, has increased. Religious leaders are sensitized to deal with human trafficking in a professional manner. They address congregations and empower the followers on how to prevent trafficking. The strategies for prevention at the grass roots are developed based on the reality check at each place. The clergy addresses the followers through the principles in the concerned religion, by invoking hymns, stories and anecdotes in the scriptures and linking them to the reality in the society. The command and control the clergy enjoys among the masses help to transform these promotional and inspirational discourses into positive commitment and action by the masses in preventing human trafficking.

The success of the Forum has motivated the leaders and initiators to decide on its expansion within the state and outside. The decision at present is to replicate the model both nationally and internationally. IRPF is under formation in West Bengal, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in India and in Bangladesh and Nepal. Recognizing its tremendous scope, the Forum has recently been given a proper structure and regulation through byelaws. In a meeting in Darjeeling, Bihar was given the charge of leading NIRPF and ATSEC Bihar became its National Secretariat. The IRPF members were invited as resource persons to talk about the scope and importance of the Forum. The Inter-Religious Priests' Forum became National Inter Religious Priest Forum (NIRPF) at this meeting.

The approach and objectives of the NIRPF were also crystallized at this meeting:

- Replication of the idea/ model in the neighboring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Replication of the model in other states in the country.
- Facilitation of formation and nurturing of IRPF at district and block levels.
- Designing and developing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.
- Addressing common masses after performing religious rituals.

“Inter Religious Priest Forum is a great initiative by the anti human trafficking NGOs in Bihar. One platform was shared by the clergy from different communities, especially Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity. The common principles and philosophy underlying all these religions were brought out during the discourse and discussions. The positive impact on the masses was tremendous. Another spin – off is that this Forum provided a great platform for developing communal amity. In a land known for several communal skirmishes and violent communal riots in the past, the IRPF became a great boon. Going beyond the mandate (as it was intended to address human trafficking), nevertheless a great boon in facilitating public tranquility and public security” ... the then Inspector General (IG), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Bihar, 2002.

## Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC): a First Initiative in Networking among NGOs and International Agencies against Human Trafficking

If trafficking is an organized crime, it requires an equally organized counter-force to fight it. ATSEC or Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children is a case in point. ATSEC is the first network in South Asia to come up exclusively against trafficking. Today it is a formidable army of NGOs supported by several international agencies that fight human trafficking through extensive networking on prevention, prosecution and protection work. It is spread over five countries — Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India, with two more being added: Afghanistan and Mauritius.

The idea of ATSEC emerged at an international workshop that SLARTC (Socio-Legal Aid Research & Training Center) had organized in Kolkata on 'Development Management of NGOs', in 1998. Ten NGO representatives from Bangladesh were among the participants. After a session by the Child Protection Officer from UNICEF on networking, the participants came up with a suggestion: there should be a network on the issue of trafficking between Bangladesh and West Bengal, as lot of cross-border trafficking takes place on this route. Statistics presented estimated that at least three to five thousand children and women were being trafficked from Bangladesh to West Bengal and from there to Pakistan and Middle East.

The suggestion was taken seriously and following the workshop, Save the Children (SCF) (Denmark), UNICEF (Kolkata) and UNICEF (Bangladesh) came together to work out the possibilities. SLARTC was requested to organize a meeting in Kolkata, which took place in 1999. On the international front UNICEF (Bangladesh), British Council (Dhaka), SCF (Denmark), SCF (UK) and eleven NGOs from Bangladesh were represented in the meeting while at the national level, UNICEF (Kolkata), SCF (Kolkata), SCF (UK), British Council (Kolkata) and about 15 NGOs took part. Child victims of trafficking were also a part of the discussion and presented their views in a separate session.

The meeting ended with the decision that the network will be developed initially in Bangladesh and West Bengal and would be known as ATSEC — Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children.

ATSEC started working with children initially, but gradually expanded its purview to also reach women victims of trafficking. Till 2001, ATSEC India with its headquarters in Kolkata, worked in both the countries simultaneously, but in January 2001, at a coordination meeting in Dhaka under the auspices of ATSEC-Bangladesh, the idea of 'national chapters' was floated and the decision to form ATSEC India and ATSEC Nepal was taken. All the members of ATSEC West Bengal and UNICEF Kolkata were part of this decision. Following this, in July 2001 a meeting was organized in Kolkata where 118 NGOs from 19 states participated and it was here that ATSEC India took birth. UNIFEM, UNICEF, British Council and Save the Children agreed to support the venture. This was followed by

setting up of ATSEC Bihar in 2002, wherein the government officials and senior police officials (the then IG Police, CID) also participated and joined hands with NGOs in setting up the much desired network against human trafficking. This was followed in other states too.

As action picked up, membership at the State level expanded with a number of new NGOs joining in. They came together through a central NGO that worked as the ATSEC State secretariat, a functionary of which was the State Coordinator and therefore, represented the State at national meetings. At present 541 NGOs are part of ATSEC India, which functions in 26 States through 21 State secretariats.

Presently ATSEC India, headquartered at Kolkata (with SLARTC) is the South Asia Secretariat with Mr. Manabendra Mandal as its Chairperson. The Secretariat is rotational.

**Structure and function:** ATSEC India has a National Committee, the members of which are the coordinators of the ATSEC State chapters. They meet at least three to four times a year and develop a plan of action and activities from time to time and coordinate implementation of the same. Though they remain affiliated to the ATSEC National Chapter and are party to all decisions concerning National Policy and National Plan of Action of ATSEC, the State chapters are independent in their administration and finance.

ATSEC member NGOs take on a wide range of activities at present. These broadly include:

- Awareness, sensitization and advocacy at different levels, including sensitization of Police, Judiciary, Border Security Force, Government officials and others.
- Training of Prosecutors on trafficking related issues.
- Rescue and trauma counseling of victims.
- Development and maintenance of homes for victims.
- Restoration of victims, repatriation in cases of cross border trafficking.
- Development and regular running of the Inter Religious Priest Forum against human trafficking.
- Liaison with media through different sensitization programs to reduce stigma in the society for the survivor of trafficking and to raise public awareness against trafficking.
- Networking with lawyers for better prosecution to combat trafficking.
- Training on various aspects of trafficking. In the recent past there has been:
  - A program on Institutional development framework by ATSEC India in two phases in Delhi and Kolkata with the help of Management System International (MSI), Washington DC and AED, for State coordinators.
  - Certificate Course on Monitoring and Evaluation for ATSEC South Asia chapters, to enable them to run their projects more effectively by developing resource persons on Monitoring & Evaluation by AED.
  - Training on mental health for State chapters to deal with survivors in a better way with the help of SAARTHAK.
  - Program on Skill Development and Livelihood Options by Skill Share International for member NGOs of ATSEC India for program sustainability.
  - National level workshop on training of facilitators on right based approach (in Dehradun) for their state partners, for better impact.
  - Exposure visit organized by ATSEC India for its member organizations to several South Asian countries, to look at the best practices in those countries.
  - With cooperation from Community and Progress Foundation (CAP), ATSEC is going to start livelihood programs in 15 states in India.

## Achievements

Here are a few examples of achievements of ATSEC at the State and National levels:

### States

West Bengal: One of the member NGOs – SLARTC — is doing prosecution work on trafficking cases on behalf of the Government. This is an extraordinary achievement where an NGO is substituting government agencies in specific roles. The transfer of responsibility from government prosecutor to the NGO lawyers took place during deliberations and subsequent judgment by the High Court on a Public Interest Litigation.

Orissa: ATSEC has been able to develop a Government-NGO collaboration model in Orissa. In this model, NGOs have been able to create a space for themselves within the Government in policy making and other related issues.

Bihar: ATSEC Bihar came up with the Inter Religious Priest Forum (IRPF) to combat trafficking and with its great success, it is now being replicated in six more states of India.

### National

ATSEC India has been able to impart training programs of International standard by developing training modules in collaboration with AED, American Education Development (Washington DC), SARI/Q, Management System International (Washington DC), Advocacy Institute (Washington DC), USAID, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNODC and other organisations of repute.

ATSEC India has been recognized by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry has agreed to partner with ATSEC as a nodal agency to assist in:

1. Awareness creation on the need for training and capacity building.
2. Undertake advocacy and other preventive measures.
3. Assist in effective implementation of standardized procedures (minimum standards of care) for rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation processes, etc. through monitoring and evaluation of the member NGOs.
4. Enthusing NGO partners to apply for and implement new schemes on prevention of trafficking.

In recognition of the initiatives and efforts by ATSEC India, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi has supported the efforts of ATSEC in several ways. This partnership has been of tremendous use in empowering law enforcement officials, including police, prosecutors, magistrates and judiciary as well as other Government officials in several states, as a part of the UNODC project on Anti Human Trafficking.

### An ATSEC State Chapter : Jharkhand

ATSEC Jharkhand was formed in 2001. It has 64 member NGOs spread over Districts. Bhartiya Kisan Sangh functions as its State Secretariat.

The highlights of ATSEC Jharkhand are:

- Close coordination, cooperation and advocacy with the Government.
- Running of efficient, safe and friendly shelter homes for survivors of trafficking.
- Close interaction with media.
- Inter Religious Priest Forum against trafficking.

ATSEC Jharkhand works closely with the Social Welfare Department, Labour Department and Education Project Council. It has been successful in sensitizing the Police Department on issues of trafficking. The Social Welfare Department and the Labour Department, Jharkhand provides support for assistance in rescuing girls, who are then given shelter at the transit home “Kishori Niketan”. The Jharkhand Education Project Council has nominated ATSEC as member NGO for HARD TO REACH CHILDREN, particularly “MIGRATING CHILDREN”. As far as sensitizing the police is concerned, to date, 543 police personnel at different levels of the hierarchy have been trained. The result is seen in the increased number of rescue by the police. Where the police officers earlier hesitated to register FIRs, they now readily register an FIR on a complaint of a missing person.

The shelter home ‘Kishori Niketan’ was started in 2003, with the sole aim of providing care and protection to survivors of trafficking. Now ATSEC Jharkhand has two such shelter homes in Ranchi Districts — in Bijupara, Chanho Block and Burmu.

A Media Forum has been started in which important media representatives are members. This has helped ATSEC in advocacy with the media on trafficking issues. In turn, both the electronic and print media have started playing active roles in changing the mind set of the people of Jharkhand towards the issue of trafficking. The media coverage has meant that the Government has taken notice of the severity of trafficking in the State. The media has also changed the attitude of the common people towards trafficked survivors – they are slowly turning empathetic towards the victims.

The Jharkhand Inter Religious Priest Forum (IRPF) was formed in 2005. The main logic for its foundation was that religion plays a key role in society and religious ethics promote basic human values and shape an individual’s personal and organizational behavior, including her/his expression of gender sensitivity. All religions share the desire to work for the well being of humanity. Religious leaders representing all religions that are part of the IRPF are helping in awareness generation in their own community and village.

### **Success story of a girl showing transition due to education**

Seventeen year old R was rescued from the railway station by an ATSEC Jharkhand partner working in Rania Block of Ranchi District. She had been trafficked to Jamshedpur on the pretext of providing her a lucrative job. Her employers turned out to be extremely cruel and R managed to flee from their house. She was found wandering at the railway station in Jamshedpur and brought to the ‘Kishori Niketan’ run by an ATSEC partner.

Initially unwilling to return home, R kept giving wrong addresses. After a series of regular counseling sessions she revealed that she didn’t wanted to go home because of her step mother’s atrocities on her. She was then introduced to a Bridge Course for learning functional academics. She successfully cleared the Jharkhand State Board Class X examination. Subsequent assessment of interest and aptitude ensured her enrolment in embroidery and tailoring classes. She successfully completed both vocational courses and was awarded certificate of merit for her outstanding performance. Additionally she received many certificates of appreciation in competitions of painting/ essay on different occasions. After completion of her tenth standard, she was shifted to Pakur, where she is working as an Office Assistant for Bhartiya Kisan Sangh and is also preparing for her Intermediate examinations (Class XII). Her income is deposited into her bank account for her future growth and development. She stayed in the ATSEC shelter home for 6 years.

## State Chapter : ATSEC BIHAR

In keeping with the purpose with which ATSEC India was formed in 2002 with the active involvement of NGOs in Bihar as well as the then IG Police, CID, the synergy with police even at the formative stage, has given strength to the Bihar unit of ATSEC. ATSEC – BIHAR sees its prime objective as fighting the trafficking of children and women in the State. Its ammunition in the fight are 115 NGOs in 38 Districts, hosted by 26 District secretariats.

ATSEC Bihar has a well-balanced democratic set-up - a State Executive Board and Contact Point NGO networks at District level. ATSEC Bihar has also set in place a well trained cadre of trainers drawn from expertise from within the network. It has different forums (e.g. the Inter-Religious Priest Forum), groups and activities, (e.g. the Advocates group, Women activists, sensitized representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and State based Resource Center for coordination, data collection and dissemination of information.

ATSEC-Bihar is actively involved in awareness generation on the issue at the grass roots level and amongst other stakeholders. With raising awareness among different stakeholders, the possibility of negotiation for policy level changes has increased tremendously.

### Its Vision

- A trafficking-free State where all children and women, without exception are protected from criminals who take advantage of their vulnerability.
- A strong force that understands the issues and dynamics of human trafficking thoroughly and is equipped to effectively counter it, made up of like minded groups/ people and organizations.
- An environment where strategies can be developed in cooperation with government and law agencies such as Police, Judiciary and Administration via direct interface.
- All concerned (i.e., all stakeholders) well aware of all issues related to trafficking of children and women.
- Sufficient number of arms and effective activities in vigilance, counseling, orientation and sensitization of all concerned.
- A strong Inter Religious Priest Forum (IRPF) in Bihar.

The main strategies developed by ATSEC Bihar to reach this vision are:

- Mass mobilization and awareness generation on the issue of anti trafficking
- Advocacy
- Capacity building of stakeholders (lawyers, NGOs, Bus/ Truck drivers, Hotel owners, Priests, etc.)
- Reaching the unreached areas through effective networking
- Sensitization of government functionaries like Police, Administration, State Selection Board (SSB), etc.
- Documentation and research
- Participatory decision making process
- Identification of source districts such as Samastipur, Katihar, Sitamarhi, Kisanganj, Madhubani, East Champaran, Araria, Bettiah and Purnea and subsequent intensification of preventive activities in these districts
- Identification of transit districts such as Lakhisarai, Patna, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Supaul

- Intervention in Source, Transit and Destination districts
- Identification and intensification of activities in destination district such as Patna, Muzafferpur, Begusarai and Gaya
- Convergence with other networks.

The achievements of ATSEC Bihar are wide ranging. It has trained and oriented 55 lawyers on the issue of child trafficking; organized trainings of trainers for heads of NGOs, sensitized police and the state selection board and government functionaries on the issue, given orientation to priests of different religions and established the Inter Religious Priest Forum in Bihar. It has established vigilance cells in 8 Bihar districts that lie across the international (Indo-Nepal) border to check trafficking, created mass awareness in 8 districts with a car decorated with Anti-Trafficking messages and posters. ATSEC organized orientation and sensitization of bus and truck drivers, hotel owners, PRIs and rickshaw pullers on the issue of trafficking, helped prevent child marriages and 'fake' marriages, mobilized community resources for the cause of anti-trafficking and rescued 265 children and repatriated 125 children (through various partners). 209 legal cases have been filed against trafficking of children.

ATSEC Bihar plans to replicate the concept of Vigilance Cell at all the entry points across the Indo-Nepal border with the support of PRIs, further strengthen the State Government to combat trafficking, sensitize a greater number of police and S.S.B., reach out to the grass root in all 38 districts with the concept of IRPF and develop sustainable livelihood programmes for communities at large and victims of trafficking in particular.

## Multi-pronged approach to prevent trafficking of children in the name of religious practices - The Vimochana Model

**V**imochana Devadasi Punarvasati Sangha – Athani, District Belgaum, Karnataka, India, was registered in the year 1985, but its activities had started much earlier, aiming at eliminating the *Devadasi* system rampantly practiced in North Karnataka & Southern Maharashtra.

The term *Devadasi* in Sanskrit denotes 'Deva' (GOD) and 'Dasi' (MAID) which literally means 'female servant of god'. *Devadasi* is thus a cult under which a teenage girl is dedicated to or married to an idol or deity or an object of worship or to a temple. In different geographical areas in India *Devadasis* are known under various names "Bhavanis", "Kudikari", "Bhogamvandi", "Jogin", "Thevaridiar", "Jogati" or "Basavi" etc.

In the olden days, it was a highly honored system, patronized by the kings. Over a period of time, the system deteriorated because of superstition, religious dogma and illiteracy and the dedicated women began to be trafficked for flesh trade, reducing their dignity to the level of a commodity.

Thousands of young backward community girls used to be dedicated to Goddess *Yellamma* of *Savadatti* and forced into prostitution, promoting and perpetuating child prostitution. In the face of acute poverty, illiteracy, landlessness and lack of job opportunities, people were lured by those already in the profession. Natural calamities like floods and famines have always been the annual hazards which leave people poverty stricken with no alternative but to seek refuge in the system.

Reports on the *Devadasi* cult in Athani taluka vividly brought out the heinous effects of this system, narrating how the system ultimately contributes to trafficking of children of *Devadasis*. This inspired Vimochana to work on the subject. At that time 85 per cent *Devadasis* were reportedly found to be suffering from skin diseases and other STDs, tuberculosis, etc.

With its holistic approach and efforts towards elimination of this practice and combating trafficking for sexual exploitation of girls, today Vimochana can vouch for achieving a 95 per cent reduction in the practice of *Devadasi* in Athani Taluka, District Belgaum, Karnataka.

### Vimochana's holistic model on Prevention

#### *Public Awareness and Mass Awakening*

Having known that this system had originated in the religious beliefs, Vimochana approached the religious heads of this area, who can be most influential in changing the public opinion. With their active support and assistance, mass awakening programmes were undertaken in each of the villages of Athani taluka. Support was also drawn from the administrative machinery, the Police and various *Dalit* organizations in this mass movement against the *Devadasi* cult. Others who have contributed to Vimochana's public awareness efforts include visitors from the National Human Rights Commission

of India, National Commission for Women, Judicial Officers, Governor of Karnataka, Legislators, renowned literary figures and personalities from theatre and music world.

After initial efforts of mass awakening, Vimochana slowly made inroads into the vulnerable communities and tried to build a rapport and gain their confidence.

As part of its extensive public awareness and awakening program, Vimochana was able to reach the community and their mind-sets using local mass media and educational tools, including use of folk media such as *jathas*. Vimochana has also been the first in the state to involve saints and seers of Karnataka in HIV/ AIDS awareness *jathas*.

### ***Mainstreaming Devadasis, their children and families – Vimochana’s Child and Family Development Program***

One of the disturbing factors that needed to be looked into was the pathetic condition of the children of *Devadasis*. These children are exposed to the sex market and crime at a very early age, constantly being subjected to psychological trauma and ill effects of the situation existing there. Vimochana’s visits to the sex markets in the urban area revealed that almost all the girl children followed the path of their mothers and male children ended as criminals, pimps & traffickers.

It was in this backdrop that Vimochana initiated the task of re-integrating *Devadasis* who were sexually exploited and their children into the mainstream society.

Vimochana faced many challenges in this regard. The society was reluctant to accept the change envisaged. In any case, social change is always a slow process and particularly so for people who have been suppressed and oppressed for generations. Gradually Vimochana tried to convince people on the ill effects of the *Devadasi* system, that too on the children. Ex-*devadasis*, *jogtis* etc. were motivated to create awareness and educate community.

- ***Educational Support Programmes and Health Care***

In order to prevent the second generation entry into this system of religious prostitution, Vimochana opened a residential school in the year 1990 and persuaded the *Devadasis* to get their children enrolled. These children were supported with free boarding, lodging, 2 sets of dresses (uniforms), text books and tuition.

In addition to supplementary nutrition and health check-ups for children in these schools, addressing health needs of the entire family of a *Devadasi* also became part of Vimochana’s approach to prevention of trafficking in women for religious purposes.

Other children in the locality were also given admission in this school to ensure that it did not turn into an exclusive school for *Devadasi* children but at the same time became a special school that provided an opportunity for the *Devadasi* children to become part of mainstream society. As no land was available for the school at that time, it started in the house of a philanthropist, whose daughter later donated 8 acres of land for the school campus. This process of land donation from public spirited citizens has recently added 10 acres more to the school campus with donation from others. Over the years, secondary school and a Pre-University College too have been added to the primary school.

Mothers are allowed to come and see their children and stay in the campus for the whole day, so that they are satisfied with the progress and growth of their children.

The people who were initially critical and apprehensive about allowing their children to mingle with children of *Devadasis*, gradually started appreciating the efforts when they saw many dignitaries and religious heads visiting this school and advocating for social change. Inviting dignitaries, intellectuals, religious heads of different faiths and persons from similar backgrounds who have made it big in life with their struggle and efforts to address the children in the school is a regular feature. Some of them stay at the school for few days and impart lively discourses on cultural heritage and historical glory of the nation, so that children's vision gets expanded.

For further studies children are sent to various colleges and institutions, some of which also extend free of cost facilities.

- *Creating employment opportunities through vocational trainings, skill development & entrepreneurship development programmes, was the next inevitable step*

With the consent of the mothers, Vimochana started imparting job oriented courses to their children in areas such as dress making, dairy, chappal making (Athani is known for Kolhapur Chappal making), wool knitting, rope making, handloom training, etc.

In 2001 Vimochana started a Diploma course in Nursing as there is a huge demand for nurses world wide. Unfortunately this effort came to a standstill this year when the Indian Nursing Council demanded that Vimochana should have its own building, full strength of tutors and 100 bedded hospital in the institution to be able to run this course.

Vimochana Institute of Self-Employment Training is yet another reflection of the organization's commitment and holistic approach to combating human trafficking. Ongoing construction of a Nursing school is yet another step in this direction. Children are trained in various vocations and with assistance from banks as well as marketing linkages, they are able to seek gainful employment and lead a respectable life.

#### *Some of the other important and strategic interventions of Vimochana include:*

- Formation of vigilance committees in each village – particularly at the panchayat level
  - to report & prevent dedications
  - to report about frequent visits by ex-*devadasis* from urban red light areas
  - to keeping strict vigilance at the time of fairs at the *Yellamma* temple
- Implementing livelihood & economic empowerment programmes, including income generation programmes linked with SHG
- Socio-legal education to community, social workers & *Panchayat Raj* members
- Legal Aid Camps
- Lobbying & advocacy at various levels
- Net working with NGOs working in the same field. Vimochana is part of national anti-human trafficking network called NACSET (Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking)
- Need based and planned programmes in Reproductive and Child Health, Nutrition & Early Childhood Care and Development
- Motivating girl children to marry after completing their education & getting training in self-employment trainings
- Special camps for adolescent girl children

- Water and land management activities
- Providing health care facilities both preventive and curative, including ambulance services
- Adoption of 1024 children from amongst 960 families spread over 73 villages of Athani taluka
- Establishment of Vimochana Multipurpose Co-operative Society in 1992 exclusively for Devadasi women of Athani Taluka. It runs a Provisions Store and is managed completely by the *Devadasi* women, with Vimochana only to guide. Its membership is 600 & share capital is INR 5, 00,000.00
- Publication of literature through Vimochana Publications. So far 57 books on various social issues and literature have been published. It has created mass awareness among academic circles as well as among common people

## Achievements

Through this journey of 25 years, Vimochana could prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of a large number of children and women. The number is countless and phenomenal.

Other achievements significant for the families of *Devadasis*, which have been instrumental in preventing human trafficking and all types of exploitation are:

- 100% school enrolment amongst the target group.
- The Residential school in Athani is the only school in the entire nation ever started for the children of *Devadasis*. As a result of this, more than 500 vulnerable children could be prevented from being trafficked through the *Devadasi* tradition.
- Increase in literacy rate amongst the *Devadasi* community from 17 per cent to 62.26 per cent.
- 540 children have successfully completed secondary education. 2 completed BE degrees. 32 completed DEd. & BEd. 39 completed Diploma in Nursing and are working in KLE Hospital, Belgaum. 2 did a Master's Degree in Geography, 4 completed ITI and 4 a Computer Diploma, and 1 girl child is pursuing Ph.D from Karnataka University.
- Vimochana Institute of Self Employment Training Center has trained 590 people in various avocations, out of which 471 have settled with bank support & marketing linkages.
- In terms of other employments, 6 are working in Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), 3 are working in Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), 5 joined military service and 4 are in the police department.
- 316 girl children of *Devadasis* have got married, after due education and life supporting job training, there by saying goodbye to the age old profession of treading the path of their *devadasi* mother.
- 74 Self Help Groups have been organized with a total membership of 1013 members. Their saving stands at INR 10, 21,010.00.
- More than 758 families have obtained financial help to start income generating activities.
- Families have been given she buffaloes & goats with due training in dairy farming.

While keeping to its focused intervention for a specific category of women, being able to build linkages between micro and macro issues confronting the *Devadasi* women has indeed been the strength of the organization and learning for all. Today, the development sector has come to realize that unless there is convergence of services and synergy in action, the fruits are hard to get. Vimochana has undertaken a silent revolution at the grassroots in containing *Devdasi* system and thereby preventing human trafficking, especially trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.

## Sakhi Educates Adolescents to Gear up to Fight for their Rights and Stop Trafficking of Women and Girls

**S**aged 12 years, living in village Usrar, Panchayat Harari under Andhrathari Block of Madhubani, belongs to the *Mallah* (fishing) community. She lives with her mother and grandmother, along with her three sisters and a brother. S is the eldest of the four children. Her father died in the month of January 2007. The family survives on the earnings from their fishing business. While playing with her friends one day, S came at the Kishori Shiksha Kendra (education centre for adolescent girls) in Usrar, run by Sakhi. She was uneducated and did not even have basic literacy. Gradually she started coming regularly to the centre. One day *Didi*<sup>1</sup> (the NGO worker) asked her to sit & learn something but she refused saying that her mother would beat her if she did not get back home. Sakhi's counselor at the centre was then asked to intervene. Painsstaking efforts taken by the counselor brought optimistic results in terms of the change in the attitude of S's mother. In the course of interaction, it was found that her mother had planned to get S married somewhere in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The Sakhi team persuaded S's mother against taking such a step and also helped S and her mother realize what it meant for children to have no childhood. Finally, Sakhi achieved the goal to prevent S from falling prey to early marriage, which would have dragged her into an endless journey of exploitation. Soon S and even her younger sisters started coming to the centre regularly. The results shown by her were incredible; her attitude towards life has changed; health, sanitation and education have become a part of her mindset and S is ready to go for further studies to become a teacher. Her mother has become an active member in Sakhi's village networking system.

Lack of education and employment avenues increased the vulnerabilities of the people, which caused young women and children, both boys and girls to be trafficked from Madhubani to Delhi, Kolkata and other places, especially for labour and sexual exploitation. Focusing on education as an empowerment tool in communities that are vulnerable to trafficking, Sakhi, an NGO based in Madhubani, Bihar, runs several such Kishori Shiksha Kendras (education



centers for adolescent girls) in ten pockets of Andrathari Block in District Madhubani. The centers are supported by World Education (USA). One of the main objectives of this initiative is to prevent vulnerable children from being trafficked by giving them basic knowledge on education, health, sanitation, violence, abuse and exploitation, safety, including trafficking.

In these Kishori Shiksha Kendras, the main focus is in to bring about a change in the girls' attitude towards themselves, their behavior in general and development of group culture with a feeling of collectivity and strength to fight against social evils in the society.

<sup>1</sup> Colloquial term for 'sister'

Formal and/ or vocational training is provided to the girls based on their age, capability, interest, etc.

**Remarkable changes that can be seen amongst the girls at these centers may be summed up as follows:**

- Behavioral change
- Social change
- Talking about education
- Discussion without hesitation on social issues, HIV/AIDS and Trafficking
- Development of group culture
- Increased participation
- Sense of self-dependency and confidence building

The 300 girls attending these education centers are today part of Sakhi's campaign to stop trafficking of women and girls. 'Empowerment through education' is thus a significant strategy in prevention of trafficking.

## Contact Base uses theatre to sensitize and mobilize community led action in preventing trafficking of women and children in Goa

Goa, the land of mesmerizing beaches is a leading tourist destination of India. Growth of tourism in Goa has been phenomenal with an inflow of around 10 lakh domestic and foreign tourists every year. However, along with the rapid change in the economy, society and culture, violence against children and women has also increased. Sex tourism, rave parties by drug addicts and pedophilia are being reported in large numbers. Organized rackets are reportedly involved in sexual abuse of children and trafficking young boys and girls into Goa from other states like Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and even distant Kashmir to meet the demands of the commercial sex industry.

### The Action!

Contact Base worked across the entire state of Goa between November 2005 and August 2006 as part of a UNIFEM project on reducing vulnerabilities of women and children in Goa. A wide variety of interventions were undertaken by Contact Base with the objective of building awareness and sensitivity among the stakeholders and empowering them to act when necessary.

### *The First Step: Making community 'see' the problem*

Awareness is the prelude to action. Contact Base's awareness campaigns targeted the most vulnerable – poor families, rural people, youth and children. It used street theatre and ventriloquism (talking doll shows) as tools to build mass awareness. The street theatre shows in *Konkani, Hindi and Marathi*<sup>1</sup> simply told about real life incidents - a young girl who fails to convince her mother why she does not like her uncle's visits or a child taking gifts from a stranger and accompanying him to his room. Shows were held on the beaches, market places, slums where migrants lived, bus stands, jetties, ferry *ghats*<sup>2</sup> and interior villages. As people saw them they started acknowledging existing domestic and commercial sexual abuse of children and women, pedophilia and other forms of violence against women and children. Beach boys, shack owners and staff, auto drivers, ordinary men and women came up after the shows and shared incidents of children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation, pornography rackets and pedophilia. The campaign thus created an enabling environment where the local community realized the importance of acknowledging the existence of the problem and the need to work in a concerted manner to prevent the rising incidence of the problem in future.

### *The Bigger Challenge: Creating a Social Safety Net*

Contact Base envisioned building community based structures for protection of the vulnerable. This was a challenging task as it had to find the right partners who would continue the work beyond the project life cycle. It worked with caregivers of children, law enforcement agencies, faith based

<sup>1</sup> These are the three different languages spoken in different parts of India. Konkani is spoken in the state of Goa, Hindi is India's national language and Marathi is spoken in the state of Maharashtra.

<sup>2</sup> Ghats refers to wharfs or quayside.

organizations, youth and self help groups (SHGs) of poor women formed by the Government as part of its initiatives for fostering pro-poor growth. Stakeholders in care and protection of children who became critical components of the *social safety net* included the *Anganwadi*<sup>3</sup> workers (women who work with under 5 year old children as part of the Integrated Child Development Services of the Government of India), homes for children in need of care and protection like the state run *Apna Ghar*<sup>4</sup>, organizations like El Shaddai running shelter homes for street children, night shelters, and schools for disadvantaged children, Children's Rights in Goa (CRG) working on awareness building on child rights and combating abuse of children, Sangath working on welfare of children and youth and their families, Don Bosco Childline offering toll free 24x7 support to help and protect children in distress needing urgent assistance.

A large number of capacity building workshops were held to sensitize possible stakeholders, draw up a plan with them for their action and build their capacity in combating trafficking and abuse of children. Innovative use of storytelling, role plays, short dramas and creative theatre based activities were used effectively to sensitize the participants on the issues of abuse of children and human trafficking, laws for their protection (Goa Children Act, 2003) and ramifications of trafficking. Theatre based activities were also used to build their communication skills, confidence and to instill leadership skills so that they became the champions for advocacy at grass root level.

Empowering vulnerable children from villages, shelter homes and open schools was an equally significant step. More than 160 children from open schools, children in shelter homes, juveniles in conflict with law and village children at Arambol attended these workshops. Children were sensitized on being alert and conscious about accepting gifts from strangers by which they get lured, are befriended and enticed into pedophilic activities. Workshops with the children also focused on instilling confidence in them, building their capacity to say 'No' and protecting themselves. Street theatre shows and talking doll shows were held in schools, *Anganwadi* centers, migrant colonies and villages in beach areas. As children enjoyed the shows they also learnt various aspects of child protection, how to seek help from Childline, etc.

There are 1012 *Anganwadi* centers in Goa. Workshops were held with 935 *Anganwadi* workers across all 11 Talukas of Goa. *Anganwadi* women were mostly unaware of pedophilia and trafficking or did not have a very clear idea about these particular terms.

Goa is famous for Churches. Contact Base thus approached the Faith Based Organizations (FBOs). It worked with the Council for Social Justice and Peace, the social interface of the Church in North and South Goa. Council for Social Justice and Peace has a number of Centers like the Social Center, the Youth Center, etc. Each center operates units or forums in the Parishes called the Parish Social Apostolate Forum (PSAF) for providing social service. 121 members of PSAF involving village women, youth, self help group members, teachers of catechetic, school teachers across Goa participated in the workshops. FBOs were mobilized to create a social safety net to prevent abuse of women and children.

Students of various colleges too were part of the capacity building initiatives leading to action plans and student intervention. NGO workers and youth were trained in interactive theatre based communication for building awareness among vulnerable groups.

Workshops were held to strengthen law enforcement and equip them to identify situations of trafficking, become sensitive to the circumstances, mindset and emotional needs of women and children who have been victimized, communicate effectively with survivors as well as public and mobilize their cooperation in detection, prevention and prosecution of crime. This included workshops with police constables, tourist police and Women and Child Protection Cell of Goa Police.

<sup>3</sup> Anganwadi is an early childhood care center run for the 3-6 year olds under the Government of India's flagship program called the Integrated Child Development Scheme.

<sup>4</sup> Apna Ghar means one's home.

## Immediacy of response!

Grassroots action created immediate results.

An *Anganwadi* worker from Indira Nagar village in Sattari Taluka – “I want to call meetings at Anganwadi Center to make people aware of trafficking and child abuse, through stories.”

After the workshops with *Anganwadi* workers, not only did they learn about such crimes, they were also able to relate to several incidences and mentioned cases of trafficking and abuse which have occurred in their area. They realized how widespread the problem has become and planned to intervene by teaching women and children in their community. The participants said that they will arrange for visiting homes in the village and arrange meetings to help villagers and children understand about vulnerabilities of women and children. The *Anganwadi* workers also decided to encourage the community to inform Childline 1098, Sangath, the police, or the Women and Child Protection Cell if there is any case of abuse and improve the system of reporting. Building a friendly relationship with the children and making them aware of vulnerability factors also became an important part of the *Anganwadi* workers' plan.

The workshops with FBO members led to integration of the issues in their outreach programmes and formation of teams of youth groups and self help groups to create awareness on prevention of child abuse in the villages using theatre based methodology that worked excellently owing to its non- threatening approach.

Trisa from Benaulim – “The workshop has brought me out of my house to the society”.

The members of Council for Social Justice and Peace have started using the techniques they learnt in the workshop in their work with community women. As a result, the group of villagers from Benaulim has taken up the responsibility of training peer groups from other villages in using theatre based methodologies to create awareness in their respective villages.

The teachers appreciated the training received on innovative ways of teaching children. The participants felt that the experiential learning had greatly boosted their self confidence and communication skills. They shared how they planned to use their learning in future interventions. Some of the teachers and youths planned to conduct awareness programmes in their area with children using theatre based approach. Teachers of Tiswadi schools expressed their idea of using role plays and theatre based methods in their parent - teacher meetings in order to discuss the vulnerabilities of their children which the parents are either unaware of or fail to understand. They felt that by enacting situations where the children are being victimized in different ways, it would be easier for them to communicate to the parents.

A student after a workshop – “Now that I am aware of the issues plaguing Goa, I will do my part in helping Goa”.

Work with students of St. Xavier's College, DM's College, Salgaocar Law College, Dhempe College and Damodar College brought an overwhelming response. St Xavier's College has child rights cell. Salgaocar Law College students are involved in operation of 40 Legal Aid Cells (LAC) across Goa as part of their curriculum. DM's College students are also involved in various outreach programmes and also participate in college dramas on social evils like drug abuse etc. After the workshop attended by students of DM's College, they created awareness on child rights and abuse through drama. Students of Salgaocar Law College organized community level multi-stakeholder workshops as part of their LAC activities and listened to cases from the community and offered legal advice and help. The youth admitted that they have a key

role in providing leadership in stopping violence against women and children, creating awareness on dangers of sex tourism and trafficking and mobilizing their peers not to emulate Western culture and values blindly.

It was noticed that the knowledge of the grass roots level of law enforcement agencies was uneven with respect to the issues of human trafficking and vulnerabilities of women and children in Goa to such crime. When sensitized on trafficking, they said that people are often brought from outside states to work in menial jobs and upon reaching the destination they are forced to work at a lower wage. Tourist Police of South Goa narrated that commercial sex increases during tourist season and the girls are trafficked from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Though the term 'pedophilia' was mostly unknown to many responders, they were mostly aware of abuse of children occurring at home, school and outside. They mentioned cases of children sold for money, forced into begging, forced child labour, rape, kidnapping, organ replacement rackets, child pornography, etc. Sensitivity also improved towards abused children and women. They said that they would be conscious and also make their colleagues aware that survivors must be protected and treated sensitively.

When the policemen were made aware that outsiders often visit schools and give gifts to children to lure them, as a response to the problem, police constables started visiting schools in some places and making teachers aware.

Cases related to women were not being sent to Women and Child Protection Cell often leading to harassment of the complainant or the victim. However, improved awareness on Women and Child Protection Cell at Panjim, led to improved coordination with the local police stations.

The police also became sensitive on support services provided by NGOs and help lines. For the first time they were mobilized to work with other stakeholders like *Panchayat* and community at large for improved vigilance. Areas of partnership, e.g. between police and *Panchayat*, police and community were identified.

The police acknowledged that the workshops had led to improved awareness and motivation among them to take a proactive role in combating sex tourism and human trafficking and had empowered them with new tools for self-motivation and stress management.

### **Mass media – the way to mobilize community action!**

Multi-stakeholder action and participation in preventing trafficking and reducing vulnerabilities of women and children to abuse is a unique outcome of the project. The interventions resulted in a paradigm shift – from an attitude of denial to one of active cooperation. The project evolved a truly sustainable model of fostering partnership at grass roots level by mobilizing the participation of *Anganwadis*, faith based organizations, self help groups and youth. It also established how culture based approaches are effective in addressing barriers like lack of community participation - the issue of denial about the existence of the problem. Use of theatre was also able to create an emotional appeal to overcome barriers posed by differences in education and social status and to build leadership and communication skills. Networking meets helped building linkages among different stakeholders for improved synergy.

## An innovative training program of i-land Informatics Limited for empowering police constables with knowledge, skills and attitude to stop human trafficking in West Bengal

### A brief background of the issue at hand

India is a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. Uneven law enforcement for prevention and prosecution of crime is a concern area. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has launched a project titled “Strengthening the law enforcement response in India against trafficking in humans through training and capacity building” in five states of the country. The project targets building capacity of law enforcement officers by raising their awareness on the problem of human trafficking and enabling them to better investigate and prosecute crimes of trafficking. As part of this programme i-land Informatics Limited conducted workshops with police officials across twelve districts of West Bengal in 2006-2008.

### Prelude to the action

While designing the training programme the first rule was to accept certain ground realities. It was recognized that often the police personnel were overworked, stressed out, frustrated, felt estranged and demotivated. A difficult working environment and lack of man power and resources deteriorated the situation. Access to training and sensitization programmes was poor. Lack of inter/ intra communication was also visible.

Trafficking in persons was not prioritised as a top crime by most police officers. Most of them failed to differentiate between victims of trafficking who were being exploited for commercial sex and sex workers. Some of them were not sensitive to the mental health situation of survivors and opined that the girls and women who were rescued could not be trusted as they never told the truth! Majority of the Supporting Officers (SOs) had uneven knowledge of laws to be enforced to prosecute commercial sexual exploitation, exploitative labour, organ transplantation, cross border trafficking, etc. It was found they were also not keen to know them as they felt that they did not need to apply such knowledge as only Investigating Officers (IOs) record the First Information Report of a crime (FIR).

### The action

Two days workshops were held with 20-25 Assistant Sub Inspectors and Constables. i-land Informatics Limited conducted 62 workshops covering more than 2000 SOs in twelve districts.

The training programme for SOs laid emphasis on bringing about attitudinal change for taking effective action for prevention of crime, rescue and protection of victims, collection of evidence and prosecution of criminals.

Using the traditional 'chalk and talk' method was out of question as the participants do not find the training interesting, their retention is poor and they feel threatened when criticized. The workshops delved into a wide number of subjects and it was felt that didactic lectures would make it uninteresting. Participative methodologies, lucid discussions and theatre based activities were thus innovatively used to make the programme effective. Simple theatre based games were used for example to enlighten the difference between 'Obey' and 'Analyze' which leads to ineffectual response. Theatre was also used for skill development. Activities were held to improve skills like communication, self management, empathy, observation, leadership, trust, cooperation, etc. Simple activities on eye contact and body language, for example, helped the participants understand how they could use non-verbal communication to portray empathy and support to survivors of human trafficking.



Concentration & ice breaking exercises create open, relaxed and participative learning environment



Making images help in improving body language, expression & communication skills

Addressing some behavioural limitations was also a key component of the workshops. The workshops thus targeted in making a paradigm shift in their attitude by mobilising them to work in partnership with the community for prevention of trafficking and also transforming the public-frightening image of the police to a public-friendly image.

Improving service delivery systems was a specific agenda. Features like alertness, cooperation, coordination, applying learning to action and observation while tackling self-management, accuracy and analytical skills, were dealt with during the workshops.



Exercises like 'Building a Safety Net' to protect vulnerable fosters experiential learning and inculcate team spirit



Role playing sessions reinforce learning

Partners in the training programme SLARTC, Sanlaap and Police Training College officers shared real life case studies to improve understanding on human rights, gender aspects, ramifications of trafficking,

importance of proper evidence collection, mental health and psychology aspects, etc. Apart from improved knowledge of laws and procedures the targeted outcomes were first and foremost the prioritization of human trafficking as an organized crime, which lacked almost everywhere. Along with this the need was also of improving service delivery through coordinated action, improving Police-Public Relationship, Improving Witness and Victim Management and Mobilizing Proactive Action to Stop TIP (Trafficking in Persons).

### Achievements and Learnings

The workshops were much appreciated by the participants. Most of them acknowledged that the sessions helped them to clear many misconceptions and provided new information. Most were unaware of provisions of ITPA (The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956).

Use of theatre based activities helped in creating a relaxed environment. Initial reticence in sharing information was overcome. The police personnel candidly shared the difficulties they face in their work and also many incidents where they have succeeded or failed in the rescue of a victim and conviction of the accused. Most importantly, this approach helped to reach out to the person within.

Another achievement was that through this method the value of collective action was put across. This included working as a team, developing a help seeking attitude, overcoming resource constraints and being self led amongst others. Being public friendly was yet another critical facet that addressed aspects like image, behavior and attitude.

The training programme has made a difference. Feedback received few months after the programme was very positive as it was learnt that the police are giving higher priority to anti-human trafficking action after the workshop. Also, now, there is a clear understanding on human trafficking leading to proper use of laws, prompt action, effective investigation, etc. The training improved help seeking behavior and police has been actively soliciting participation of NGOs during rescue interventions. Not only has the Police-NGO partnering for rescue and investigation increased, action is also being taken to strengthen Police-NGO-Community partnership. Police is also now more sensitive about the mental situation of the victims.

The attitude to address a case as an organized crime with various entities involved in the chain and track it from source to destination was facilitated through the training.

One of the ASPs shared a recent case where a local girl was sold to Rajasthan. The police did a good job in nabbing the trafficker and they tracked the chain up to the destination.

Preventive arrest of traffickers which were unusual, are taking place as a result of improved awareness, recognition and commitment in stopping the crime. Interstate networking too has developed.

### Improved coordination and partnership brings results

In Kolkata, a girl went missing from one of the settlements in an area called Madurdaha. The father of the girl sought assistance of the Project Director by using the suggestion boxes set up for grievance redressal. It was found that such incidents of missing persons had happened earlier too. The police was informed and they took immediate action. They have arrested suspects from Garia and Ichapur and have also traced the route by which the girls are trafficked to Mumbai. The Police is also taking awareness drives at *Panchayat* level and there is better support from judiciary.

## Apne Aap Women Worldwide Addresses the Demand Factor through Awareness, Advocacy, Capacity Building and Law Enforcement

The continuous demand for people, particularly women and children, for various purposes from sexual exploitation to domestic and industrial work is what makes human trafficking thrive. The demand comes both from those who make a profit out of the trade and those who are known as the end users – the ultimate exploiters who look for cheap means to satisfy their greed. The profiteers have elaborate networks - known as supply chains. The chain includes the recruiter, transporter, smuggler, agent and middlemen, brothel manager, industry owner, money lenders and 'owners' of the victims as well as any industry that makes a profit off the trafficked people. The end users 'purchase' the services of the trafficked women and children, for the purpose of sexual gratification or cheap and exploitative work. The buyers of sex are variously called "customers", "clients", or "consumers". The trafficking industry has expanded because of the unending demand from such people.

On the supply side are women and children who are victims of ignorance and poverty. Once trafficked, the victims are continuously subjected to abuse, exploitation, rape, poverty and discrimination. Those who come out of the abuse become victims of social stigma, which does not allow them to survive in the mainstream society.

This unending process could end if there was a forceful element to stop traffickers and prevent women and children from being trafficked. But lacking this, the perpetrators of the crime - the profiteers and buyers that constitute the demand side — carry on their work with impunity.

### Submission of petitions and testifying before the Parliament on addressing the demand for trafficking

On 09 October 2006, on behalf of the women from the Apne Aap Mahila Mandal in Kolkata, Ms. KC gave her testimony before the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development working on The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2006. Ms. KC spoke about how she was trafficked into a brothel and the need for penalizing the buyers of sex, agents and brothel keepers.

In November 2006, Apne Aap has submitted a Petition to the Lok Sabha Speaker, to amend the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (1956) focusing on the need to address the demand for trafficking.

Apne Aap Women Worldwide aims to end trafficking by striking at various points of the chain – beginning at the source areas which supply victims, up to national level law and policy. The Apne Aap anti-trafficking units established in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar and New Delhi work for reduction of demand through awareness, advocacy and conviction of buyers and traffickers. Its activities are:

- Establishing legal cells which closely coordinate with vigilance committees of *Kishori Mandals*
- Victim Witness Program
- Program for Youth from the Community
- Filing and Registering of FIRs
- Enhanced coordination with law enforcement agencies to improve conviction of traffickers and buyers

Legal cells established by Apne Aap not only provide legal trainings and outreach services to the *Kishoris* (adolescent girls) but also support formation of these girls into watch dog groups. The girls are specially trained by the Apne Aap staff and experts on how to identify potential victims of trafficking to red light areas. The information is then relayed to the Legal Cell which mobilizes resources to prevent the woman or girl from being trafficked. In the Topsis, Khidderpore, Bhivandi and Kamathipura centers of Apne Aap more than 100 girls are members of watch dog groups.

The Legal Cell in each of the anti-trafficking unit has a Victim Witness Program devised exclusively to train victims to testify against traffickers. Legal support and referrals are provided to those wanting to get justice against traffickers.

Prevention education programs for young men and boys are held in the anti-trafficking centers to curb supply and thus discourage demand for prostitution. The program is designed to change the attitude and behavior of boys and men from the community. They are also trained on how to assist the law enforcement agencies in case of a planned rescue or when information is received about a trafficked/trafficking situation.

The women and *kishoris* who are part of the centers are provided training on how to register an FIR, their rights vis-à-vis the police, whom to approach when they face police harassment and atrocities.

#### Araria Police Station (case no. 271/07) u/s 419, 420, 34 IPC & 5 (c) ITPA

The police received information from their sources that some traffickers were staying at a Guest House. The police raided the guest house immediately and made a thorough investigation. Two women were brought to the police station for investigation. The traffickers were residents of Kumhari, District Mewat, Haryana. On further enquiry, it was found out that these traffickers regularly come to buy girls from Bihar and made money selling them back in Haryana. One of the traffickers confessed to the police that three years ago, he got married to a local girl from Plassey in Araria and that he regularly commutes between Haryana and Bihar to buy and sell girls in Haryana.

With the support and active involvement of UNODC officials, Apne Aap has undertaken training of police, law enforcement agencies, lawyers and prosecutors on anti human trafficking, aimed at increasing coordination among the police, other law enforcement agencies and NGOs as well as to improve convictions of traffickers and buyers. The main thrust of these training programs being carried out as per the UNODC curriculum and resource materials, is on sensitizing law enforcement agencies on how to identify and handle trafficked victims and also to develop an integrated approach towards involving NGOs and other stakeholders for increased convictions of traffickers. In several cases registered against traffickers in Bihar, the lawyers and prosecutors have continued to oppose the bail application of the accused.

As a direct outcome of these trainings five cases were registered in Araria, Bihar between May and August 2007. The trainings have:

- Created awareness among the police on the dynamics of the relationship between the trafficker and the victim.
- Increased sensitivity towards victims.
- Increased use of Section 5 and 7 of ITPA as well as IPC against traffickers.
- Helped in identifying cases of trafficking.
- Assisted in arresting the trafficker.
- Prepared the witnesses to testify against traffickers.
- Helped in identifying victims.
- Helped in identifying the vast array of traffickers.
- Helped in containing 'demand' as well as action against those who 'demand'.
- Increased liaison between police and NGOs.
- Increased liaison among the various government agencies.
- Improved the outreach of police as people-friendly.
- Helped police in community policing.
- Made a paradigm shift in the response systems.

## Preventing Trafficking among Especially Vulnerable Groups – the Nutts, Bedias and Kanjars - The Apne Aap Women Worldwide Experience

One of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities of India, the Nutts, Kanjars and Bedia tribes have been subjected to both economic and social deprivation for many years. Isolated from the mainstream they continue to suffer under the stigma of being labeled as “criminal tribes” even though legally they have been de-criminalized after independence.

This continued branding and marginalization of certain nomadic tribes has forced entire communities of the tribes into inter-generational prostitution as the only available livelihood option. Prostitution has become a way of life for the women/ girls who are forced into the profession to support their families. Most are sold off by their own families, particularly by the male members.

With the aim of stopping this institutionalized form of trafficking, Apne Aap initiated a targeted intervention programme in Forbesganj, Bihar. Women of the community are organized under the program into collectives that aim to break the cycle of marginalization and exploitation and give them a viable livelihood option. By doing so they help themselves and others in the community.

The initiative began with a preliminary study in select regions of Bihar and Rajasthan to understand the factors which lead to and sustain intergenerational prostitution as well as its gendered dimension of this kind of exploitation of certain communities. The survey revealed that as soon as the girls reached puberty they are sent to smaller towns or even cities such as Delhi and Mumbai for grooming. Once groomed, the girls either come back to their respective villages or continue to work in the brothels and dance bars of the cities.

Based on the survey results and after interacting with the women of the community, Apne Aap started working in the red light area of Forbesganj, Bihar. Women and girls from the Nutt community were mobilized to become members of Women’s groups (Mahila Mandals) and Kishori Mandals (Adolescent Groups). The Apne Aap Community Center in Forbesganj has Mahila Mandals in which approximately fifty three women (among whom fifteen are very active in organizing anti-trafficking movement even among their own people) are actively participating in all group activities like income generation programs, adult literacy and legal training. The Kishori Mandals have a membership of almost sixty girls. The members of the Kishori Mandals are actively working on several programs like dance movement therapy, art resilience, mainstreaming through education, etc.

In order to break the cycle of intergenerational prostitution, life skills training is given to women and girls from the Nutt Community. The training is given in stages after initial counseling and provision of adequate information on the potential of a particular skill for income generation. Apne Aap is presently trying to link these women with district development agencies and negotiating with NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) for sponsorship in training.

These communities have so internalized the subjugation and exploitation of their daily lives that facing violence within the family has become a normal routine. To give them a sense of selfhood and citizenship, the organization provides psychological and legal counseling to the women and adolescent girls, which not only makes them aware of their legal rights but also helps them recognize their inherent right to freedom and dignity. Besides participating in legal programs, the women are also encouraged to write in the Red Light Despatch, a magazine published by Apne Aap, where they come out with their struggles and life stories.

On 27 September 2006, in the wake of the proposed ITPA amendments, the women of the Nutt Community, all of whom were forced to make their living through prostitution submitted a historic petition articulating their views and demands to the District Magistrate of their area. The women demanded residential schools, benefits under the 'Indira Awas Yojana', their names to be included in the BPL (Below Poverty Line) Antyodaya and Annapurna schemes, construction of toilets in their localities, guarantee of livelihood under the NREG (National Rural Employment Guarantee) scheme for male members, electrification of their village and for a police chowki in their area.

A residential hostel for 50 girls was established in Forbesganj soon after with the aim of preventing second generation prostitution amongst the Nutt tribe. Set up with the support of the local government, the hostel was formally inaugurated on May 1, 2007.

In the case of Nutts and Bedias, the organization realized the importance of educating the male members of the community on prevention and the consequences of trafficking. This becomes imperative since the women and girls from the community are sold off mostly by their own fathers and brothers, thus pushing them, into the hands of organized criminal networks that traffic them to places as far as Mumbai.

Today, regular in-house training programs are conducted for the men from these communities along with the Kishori and Mahila Mandals, to become witnesses against traffickers. The program has wide spread support from the community thereby ensuring that demand is curbed and the guilty are convicted. For example, in one case, where a young girl of barely 14 years was rescued from the clutches of traffickers, four people trained under the program testified as witnesses against the traffickers.

Apne Aap has been commissioned to conduct a study by the National Commission for Women on the situation of Nutts in Bihar and Bedias in Rajasthan. For the study men and women from the communities themselves are the field workers together with eminent academicians, the aim being to bridge the gap in understanding of issues between the community and the policy makers and jointly coming out with possible policy interventions.

"I was born in a village in North Bengal. I was trafficked by my neighbors when I was barely 8 years old, and sold to a brothel in Katihar. I escaped from that brothel at the age of 18 leaving my five-year old daughter and three year old son behind. I thought that later I would come back and recover them. But I was re-trafficked to another red light area near Purnea as I was very young and fell easy prey to the traffickers. I escaped again, came to the red light area of Forbesganj and with great efforts started my small betel shop. In the meantime I had two other daughters. By then I had decided that come what may I will neither allow myself nor my daughters to be forced into prostitution nor will I traffic any other person into prostitution. Well, you can well understand how difficult it was for a woman formerly into prostitution to live with her head held high. I was subjected to suffering from both sides — people from other communities branded me as a fallen woman and the people from my community accused me of being arrogant. I was a very lonely woman and always worried about my future. I was also worried about my first two children who were still living

with those who had trafficked me and forced me into prostitution. I went and begged them several times to give my children back but was only thrown out. I feared that sooner or later they will force my first daughter into prostitution — and that actually turned true. I wanted to enroll my daughters into a school and give them all a proper upbringing.

When Apne Aap started its community center in the red light area, I was really happy and immediately enrolled in it. As I became more involved in the activities, I got the opportunity to go to Mussourie to get a training on running a crèche. While my other two daughters started studying in the Apne Aap School, I was still very restless as regards my elder daughter who was already pushed into prostitution. My efforts at any kind of negotiation with the traffickers to return my children only brought me beatings and humiliation. I told Apne Aap about this. Exactly one month later we approached the police in Katihar and raided the brothel where my daughter lived and rescued her. Today, all my children are in school and I am very happy that I could get all my children out of the vicious cycle of trafficking and prostitution”.

*M, a young woman member of the Mahila Mandal*

## Life Guard Centers – Manav Seva Sansthan (MSS) Blows Whistle on Traffickers at the Indo-Nepal Border

**U**ttar Pradesh in North India shares the international boundary with Nepal. The porous border along this stretch, which has 7 legal entry points and numerous un-manned routes, is an open field for human traffickers. Traffickers often hide victims in the stream of legal migrants, following the same roads and traveling on the same trains and buses as the legal migrants. Their victims are innocent women and girls who are lured in the name of love and/ or better opportunities.

A study by the National Human Rights Commission in 2003-04 reveals that Uttar Pradesh is the main state through which victims are sourced from across the border. The combined estimates for Nepal and Bangladesh by various agencies range from 500 a year, to around 7,000 a year (SOS 2001) to 10,000 girls (UNDP 2002). A study by UNDP (2002) shows that the average age of trafficked girls from Nepal to India fell from 14–16 years in the 1980s to 10–14 years in 1994. There are 100,000 to 160,000 Nepali girls in Indian brothels, with about 5,000 to 7,000 being sold every year (Joshi 2002). Other estimates put the figure at 200,000 Nepalese women in Indian brothels (ADB 2002: 21).

During the month of May 2001, UNIFEM organized a meeting in the District Magistrate's Conference Hall, Gorakhpur. The focal point of the discussion was the extent of trafficking along the border and the provisions and efforts of Government and NGOs in combating trafficking.

Following this, on 15 October 2001, MSS-SEVA organized a Workshop in Sonauli at the Indo-Nepal Border to highlight the issue. Identifying poverty and illiteracy as major causes of trafficking, the workshop highlighted the importance of concerted efforts in prevention.

### The Lifeguard Centers

For MSS-SEVA, this was a call for serious and effective steps in curbing trafficking in all ways possible. With this in view various strategies were devised. The *Seva Satarkta Prakosht*, known also as the 'Life Guard Centers' is one such strategy. When the venture began, it was a unique effort at preventing trafficking, the first of its kind. The centers are essentially units from which volunteers identify and apprehend traffickers and counsel victims. Since instant action is required, close collaboration with the police is ensured, thus turning this into a NGO-Police collaboration of a unique kind. Corresponding units run by Maiti Nepal and the Nepal police keep vigil on the other side of the border.

The Lifeguard volunteers keep vigil on anti-socials and traffickers. They are quick to 'blow whistle' on the suspicion that somebody is being trafficked. Adequate care is taken to ensure that the rights of migrants are not violated. Persons who look vulnerable to trafficking are invited to the center and the volunteers engage them in conversation. The entire approach is based on a clear

'human rights paradigm'. The victims are informed about their rights, their privileges under the Constitution and the law, the rights that accrue to a person against traffickers, against brothel keepers, against middlemen and against any other violators of rights. They are also told about the constitutional and legal mechanisms, remedies and machinery available for immediate help. As a result of this approach the victim often becomes aware of the trap into which she has fallen and requests the volunteers at the center for help in returning to Nepal. The volunteers are only too happy to extend any help to prevent trafficking. Once the team of Police - NGO is convinced that the victim is vulnerable to trafficking from Nepal to India, she is handed over to the Nepal NGO for safe care and return. In such situations, the accompanying persons, if suspected to be involved in trafficking are brought to the notice of the Nepal Police for needful. However, the volunteers at the center do not leave things to chance, because the trafficker can re-traffick the victim, or harass and assault her. Therefore, besides handing over the victim to the NGO and handing over the suspected person to the Nepal police, the details of the victims and accompanying persons, including their names and address are recorded in a register meant for this purpose and these are also handed over to the respective official/ center across the border.

Today, there are Life Guard Centers in 10 cross border transit points along the Indo-Nepal border of U.P., Uttaranchal and Bihar, covering 1268 kilometers of the Uttar Pradesh border adjoining Nepal. The centers have to date counseled over 72,000 cross border migrants and repatriated 1,434 women and girls with the help of the Government of Nepal.



Life Guard Centers at Galgaliya, Kishanganj, Bihar



### The Life Guard centers along the Border



A corresponding initiative is the Community Based Vigilance Group that MSS has developed to prevent trafficking at source. This is aimed at tracking movements along the 100 unmanned routes covering five border districts. This began with

PLA (Participatory Learning and Action Approach) and micro-planning exercises in 400 villages along these unmanned routes. The exercises brought out underlying issues such as poverty, gender inequity, discrimination in justice delivery, police-community relationships, etc. that lead to trafficking.

The National Human Rights Commission<sup>1</sup> has appreciated this replicable model and commended this initiative as follows:

Rights intervention cells started by SEVA at Sonauli, Gorakhpur & Bahraich involving NGO workers & police officials, have demonstrated their effective role in preventing trafficking. The Sonauli experiment shows that over a period of 9 months, 'SEVA' was able to prevent the trafficking of 65 girls. But for this intervention, these girls would have become CSE victims in some brothels in India. This experiment by SEVA in Sonauli is a classic example of community policing in preventing trafficking.

<sup>1</sup> Nair, PM and Sen, S., *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, NHRC, 2005, Orient Longman, New Delhi

The centers have played a significant role in repatriation of cross border migrants. Apart from it they have also helped in determining life choices of villagers in the area. Migrating with unknown persons or those whom they cannot fully trust is no longer a choice for most people.

A glimpse of achievements in the past six years:

Particulars	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Segment #1 Cross Border Migrants (Returned to Nepal into their families)</b>						
How many apparent victims rescued at transit point, while being trafficked?	57	339	116	245	543	134
How many changed? (Changes in terms of awareness, life planning etc.)	57	339	116	245	543	134
<b>Segment #2 Interstate Migrants (Returned to India into their families)</b>						
How many apparent victims of Indian origin rescued at transit point, while being trafficked?	11	6	13	10	50	19
How many changed? (Changes in terms of awareness, life planning etc.)	11	6	13	10	50	19
<b>Segment #3 Media</b>						
How many media persons began intervention? (associated with the project)	55	79	75	105	112	96
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem and victim friendly reporting)	27	34	41	76	89	74
<b>Segment # 4 Religious Leaders</b>						
How many religious leaders began interventions? (associated with the project)	-	-	-	-	-	77
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Segment #5 PCO Owners</b>						
How many PCO owners began intervention? (associated with the project)	10	17	20	180	136	112
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem, involving with project as informants )	3	11	9	107	102	94
<b>Segment #6 Hotel Owners</b>						
How many hotel owners began intervention? (associated with the project)	6	14	12	92	86	63
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem, involving with project as informants )	3	9	6	59	65	48
<b>Segment #7 Bus Drivers and Conductors</b>						
How many bus drivers and conductors began intervention? (associated with the project)	42	106	51	56	48	37
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem, involving with project as informants )	7	32	13	14	22	16
<b>Segment #8 NGOs</b>						
How many NGOs began intervention? (associated with the project)	5	24	46	200	227	163
How many changed? (Changes in terms of visibility, sensitivity towards the problem, synchronizing anti trafficking strategies into their existing developmental programs )	1	17	37	177	195	112
<b>Segment # 9 Counseling</b>						
Total Counseled till date	-	-	-	-	-	60688
<b>Segment # 10 Community Based Organizations</b>						
No. of community groups associated with the project in community vigilance at unmanned routes	-	-	-	-	-	137
<b>Segment # 11 Key Stakeholders</b>						
How many stakeholders sensitized and made aware (Govt. Depts. – Law enforcing agencies / DWCD/others	-	-	-	-	-	478

## Learning

Most anti-trafficking programs focus on source and destination points. Transit points, where a lot of activity goes on and are strategically important in prevention, are normally neglected in AHT work. The Life Guard Centers are an appropriate mechanism for preventing trafficking and protecting the rights of victims in transit. Victims rescued in transit have greater chances of reintegration with their families and community, as the stigma attached to them is relatively low.

The Centers are also a highly replicable model for transit locations and are in fact being replicated in other States of India, as it can work for transits on the international borders as well as inter state/ inter district borders and even major transit hubs like Railway Stations, bus stands, etc.

The model is also a significant achievement as a joint venture of NGO and law enforcement agency—within and beyond the border.

The model is also sustainable — a permanent feature of the administration, with the law enforcement agencies as crucial partners in this venture. The State Police and the Border Police could sustain this activity at cross border transit points after the withdrawal of the NGO, while at major transportation hubs, the Railway Protection Force and State Police could be the facilitating units.

Through this model the crime of trafficking has been made visible. Key stakeholders such as the law enforcement agencies, the media and the general public have become aware of trafficking. Increasingly, the media, lawyers, as well as religious teachers are coming forward to fight the menace.

## Trafficking in the Mahananda-Kosi belt – Bhoomika Vihar ensures involvement of the community in Anti-Human Trafficking work

### The Mahananda-Kosi belt

**M**eager land holdings, low agricultural productivity, regular floods, increasing water logging of agricultural lands, rampant illiteracy, inadequate state social welfare interventions, social orthodoxy and stigma, population explosion & dwindling employment avenues - all these have combined to define the fate of a large population of people in the Kosi-Mahananda region consisting of 14 districts of North Bihar and North of West Bengal.

A long stretch of the North Bihar tract also borders Nepal and Bangladesh is not far either.

These circumstances have turned the area into a haven for traffickers – both within the country and trans-border. Over the past decade or so, trafficking has reportedly increased in the region. The targets of trafficking are young women and girls, but boys are not spared either. They hail from villages from both sides of the border and are bound for larger metropolises in India and Bangladesh. At times young girls from the villages are trafficked to Nepal too.



One of the most common forms of human trafficking in the villages from the belt is on the pretext of marriage. The process goes thus: a local contact approaches the parents of a young girl offering substantial money in exchange for her marriage to a rich man from outside the area. The parents are shown photographs of other 'similarly married' girls wearing expensive clothes and jewellery, as 'evidence' of how comfortably girls married off to bridegrooms from outside live. The parents, often with several girls to marry off, little savings to pay for their dowry and practically no knowledge of how the larger world operates, are easily convinced. The marriage is solemnized and the bridegroom makes off with his bride – only to sell her promptly to a tout for commercial sexual exploitation or to a family for domestic labor and sexual exploitation. Some actually manage to enter households as legitimate wives, but are treated no better than slaves.

The offenders are a well organized network of touts beginning with the local contact, the 'bridegroom' and through various other points, the ultimate 'buyer'. The demand could be from as far away as Haryana and Punjab or as close as other districts of Bihar. While most of the victims are young unmarried girls/ women, married women whose husbands have abandoned them are targets too. Young boys are trafficked for domestic or industrial work.

A different kind of ploy is used by the traffickers' counterparts in Nepal and those in India who are trans-border traffickers. Lack of livelihood options coupled with the lure of big cities, make it easy for the local contacts (women or young men) to approach the girls (or boys) with job offers. At times the young touts trap the girls in love entanglements and promise marriage upon reaching the city. The young girls are easy prey. They accompany their contacts till the border and then board buses or trains. Often they are put in groups and the tout keeps a safe distance till they reach their destination. Then the victims are sold as commercial sex workers or as domestic/ industrial labor.

Bhoomika Vihar is active in three districts — Katihar, Araria and Kishanganj. Beginning with education and formation of Self-Help Groups, Bhoomika Vihar decided to focus on anti human trafficking (AHT) work once it became apparent that this was the most pressing need in the region. The AHT intervention of the organization began with an extensive survey in the three districts mentioned above, which revealed some startling facts (see box).

A survey conducted in 58 villages in Katihar, Araria and Kishanganj, identified 204 cases of trafficking, of which 173 were of young women/ girls and 31 cases, of boys. On an average from every village 3 girls had been trafficked. The survey highlighted the possibility of more than 25 thousand girls having been trafficked from this region for marriage or work. The trafficked girls belonged to poor families and were ethnic minorities (17.34%) or marginalized sections (Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, together forming 81.5%) and had low or no literacy levels (90.17% were totally illiterate).

As many as 85.54 per cent of the trafficked girls were below 18 years of age.

The anti-human trafficking work of Bhoomika Vihar has two dimensions to it – the first one is the multi disciplinary rehabilitation package for the rescued person (i.e. regular counseling, provision of basic necessities, medical treatment and income opportunities, a close contact with workers, a 'normal' approach that avoids discussion on past experiences, encouragement for participation in the meetings/ workshops etc.). The second is social security through Community Safety Nets, anti-trafficking centers, *kishori samuhs*, counseling of parents, meeting with villagers, close watch and the like.

### **Community policing – power of the people in preventing trafficking**

Bhoomika Vihar works on the concept of community participation in combating social evils. It believes that the root cause of social problems lie in the society and hence solutions can also be found in the society itself. The only need is to set in motion a social movement that combines awareness and action. In keeping with this, strategies are devised and implemented with and for the local village societies. Problems are identified and all strategies focus on enabling the people to come out of them.

Believing as it does that the solutions lie within the community and that without the support of the community it is next to impossible to find a solution to any problem or expect success in any mission, Bhoomika Vihar began with extensive meetings with *Panchayat* members and other local leaders of different walks of life. The purpose of these meetings was to create the climate for fighting trafficking of girls and children by analyzing and therefore understanding community social problems. More than 400 meetings were organized in remote hamlets in trafficking-prone areas. The results were slow but conclusive – the community began to come forward to resist trafficking as well as taking action against the traffickers. At the community level, the Community Social Net (CSN) and *Kishori Samuhs* (Adolescent girls' groups) were formed to identify and rescue victims and take action against traffickers. These groups also keep one step ahead of the traffickers by tracking their movements in the area and creating awareness among the community at large about the dangers of sending off children to unknown destinations.

## Community Safety Nets

The Community Safety Nets or CSNs, formed through the combined efforts of Bhoomika Vihar and the local community are proving to be effective nets to catch traffickers with. The CSN is essentially a network through which information is passed on about trafficking taking place in the locality and the movement of traffickers. Its objectives are to check external/ internal trafficking, to develop the feeling of ownership among the community against trafficking, to engage the local and border area administrative systems and local community in protecting potential victims, apprehending and prosecuting offenders and to rehabilitate victims and their children within the society.

The Araria Superintendent of Police, in a meeting, in 2007 remarked that these types of marriages are planned and executed for the sake of illegal human trafficking. He said that poor families are lured into marrying off their daughters and many of these girls end up in brothels of Metro cities and even five star hotels to meet the sexual demands of the customers. The girls, he said, are offered to clients and tourists, like new cuisines while traffickers go out in search for new victims in the name of marriages. He said that after taking over as the SP he had come to know that a gang of criminals is active in illegal human trafficking.

The police officer said that with the active role of the police, criminals involved in human trafficking can be put behind bars. Due to the positive attitude of the police, cases of human trafficking are now being registered. It is due to the awareness campaign launched by Bhoomika Vihar and the positive action of the police, that the local people have started reacting to marriages of girls to unknown and aged grooms. Members of the CSN are actively reporting cases.

The CSNs are located in vulnerable villages, transit points, along the trafficking route and destination points. The CSN at the village level consists of 15 to 25 members, of which 5 are office-holders. One-third of members and office-holders are women. The village CSN meets regularly and upgrades its knowledge base on the issue of trafficking through discussions and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. It is also active in awareness-raising among the public. It works as a pressure group and is linked to other CSNs through an informal network.



The many examples of apprehension, rescue, prevention and prosecution by the CSN prove that 'people's power' works effectively in anti-trafficking action.

R of Jogbani in Araria district was just 14 years old when a local trafficker K promised her poor parents INR 5000.00 for R's marriage to 35 years old S of Bareilly district in UP. K also weaved stories about the riches their daughter would enjoy after marriage. The marriage took place, but the money never came. This triggered off a row between the parents and K. The local CSN members came to know about the incident and informed the police. Both K and the groom were arrested and a FIR was lodged under section 366 A, 370, 373 and 34 of the IPC. The culprits are presently in jail.

M of Katihar district was regularly attending non-formal classes in her village. When her father, along with other villagers tried to arrange her marriage with a UP based groom, she ran away from home. She told her friends and the Non-Formal Education (NFE) teacher about the marriage plan.

The teacher then informed the local CSN members and an investigation was carried out. It showed that the groom had given INR 4000.00 to M's mother, INR 33,000.00 to local brokers, INR 1500.00 for new clothes and INR 5000.00 for jewelry. Actively aided by M, the CSN members, Bhoomika volunteers and the villagers informed the Kursela police station about the case, with the result that a case was lodged against the culprits.

### *Kishori Samuhs*

The parents of S, presently 18 years of age and belonging to Kishanganj district, were approached through a local female contact for her marriage to an unknown outsider aged about 35 years, hailing from Haryana. S was then only 14 years old. The groom promised financial support and prosperity to the family and a prosperous life for S. The marriage was solemnized on May 1, 2005. After the marriage the groom made a shocking revelation to his newly wedded wife: that he was only a 'nakli' (fake) husband and she would be handed over to her 'real' husband later on. In the meantime, the news of S's marriage spread in the area. The village community along with the Panchayat Ward Member contacted local volunteers of Bhoomika Vihar. As a combined force, the community members, media persons and volunteers of Bhoomika Vihar caught hold of the local contact of the groom and pressurized her to reveal the whereabouts of S. At the same time, a stunned S fled from her husband's house. The newly wed 'groom' was caught and beaten-up by the villagers and forced to flee.

The local contact however, continued to threaten S and her family of dire consequences if she did not go back to her 'husband's place'. S, along with a local volunteer, petitioned the SP of Kishanganj with the result that the woman in question was warned against issuing threats to her and her family. Through this incident, S came within the purview of Bhoomika Vihar's social rehabilitation program. She was given medical aid to overcome her anxiety-induced illnesses and joined a non-formal education center run by Bhoomika Vihar. Today, she is studying in class IX in a formal school and is an active member of Bhoomika Vihar's Kishori Samuh (adolescent's group). She also moves around in anti-trafficking centers and tries to counsel girls about trafficking.

Girls like S and M are today part of *Kishori Samuhs* (adolescents' groups) formed at the village level with the aim of empowering adolescent girls with knowledge on trafficking and its various manifestations. These groups are a crucial part of community policing too. The agenda of the *Kishori Samuhs* is the security, safe mobility and self defense of the girls as well as their maturity not to fall prey to the attractions offered by the traffickers. The *Samuhs* also pass on information about local contacts of traffickers and intervene in rescue operations as well as give moral support for social rehabilitation of affected girls. They immediately identify and sometimes apprehend any suspicious character coming to the village with a marriage proposal. The *Samuhs* meet regularly in the villages.

There are 28 girls empowering anti-trafficking centers in Katihar, Araria and Kishanganj. These are also linked to non formal education centers, providing different kinds of information on the environment surrounding the girls, safe mobility, various dimensions of trafficking and existing welfare programs of government that they could avail of. Apart from these 28 centers, two Read and Teach Centers have been opened for girls who are victims of trafficking or local girls lacking the opportunity to go to school for various reasons.



## The Safe Migration Model of Jabala in Prevention of Trafficking from Murshidabad & 24 Parganas-North, in West Bengal

**M**igration is the crossing of the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a certain period of time. It includes the movement of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people as well as those seeking temporary employment. Migration and trafficking are distinct but interconnected and intertwined. Often trafficking is passed off as a case of legitimate migration and again, cases of trafficking are hidden within migratory trends, e.g. when girls are trafficked on the pretext of legitimate domestic work from areas where migration for domestic work is common. They are actually trafficked for cheap labor and/ or sexual exploitation. The traffickers can be spurious employment agencies or belonging to an independent network.

Trafficking for cheap labor is common in Murshidabad and 24 Parganas-North in West Bengal — there are numerous cases where young people are trafficked to distant destinations not knowing the dangers that await them and ultimately land up in a highly exploitative environment.

The major reasons for seeking work outside these areas are:

- Low and variable agricultural productivity
- Lack of local employment or opportunities for advancement
- Landlessness
- Marginalization
- Population pressure
- Domestic or community conflict
- Political unrest, natural calamities
- Ignorance about trafficking and exploitation.

Most of the out-migrants from these districts do not carry proper documents about themselves. Very few take residence certificates from the *Panchayat*. Most also do not have a proper address of their destination and blindly rely on those whom they accompany.

Magnitude and Pattern of Internal Female Migration in West Bengal	
Intra-District: 71.9 %	From other states: 7.1%
Inter-District: 18.5 %	From other countries: 2.4 %
<b>Type of migration</b>	
Rural to Rural: 58.6 %	Urban to Urban 18.5 %
Rural to Urban 19.3%	Urban to Rural 3.5%
<i>Source - NSSO 55<sup>th</sup> Round Household Survey Data</i>	

Knowing well that a well-established pattern of trafficking is hidden in this data, Jabala has started a 'safe migration' program. The aim, as apparent in the term is to ensure that migration is to a safe and non-exploitative environment. This is a trafficking prevention method with special emphasis on female migrants. At the same time, Jabala has devised several initiatives to reduce distress migration from its areas of operation.

The safe migration pattern is an initiative taken jointly with selected *Gram Panchayats* in Murshidabad and 24 Parganas-North Districts, as shown in the box below. Selected village committees also got involved in the process at a later stage.

District	Panchayats
Murshidabad	Debkundu Sagarapara Sahebnagar Malopara
24 Parganas-North	Gobindapur Balti Nitynandakuthi Bithari

The Initiative comprises of four steps:

1. Empowering potential migrants with information that ensures safety from exploitation and vulnerable situations like Trafficking and HIV/AIDS.
2. Providing potential migrants with a 'Safe Migration' card that carries contact numbers (helpline) on which he/ she can call when necessary.
3. Maintaining corresponding records at the *Panchayat* and village committee levels, and regular updating of these records.
4. Regular tracking, as much as possible, of the migrants especially in Delhi to establish their whereabouts, followed by maintenance of these records at the *Panchayat* and village levels.



It must be noted that there is no record whatsoever at any level at present of out-migration, except for what the safe migration model is maintaining.

Examination of trends in one *Panchayat* showed that migration is slowly reducing

### Records of Migration at Gobindapur Panchayat

Month	No. of Women	No. with family
September 06	13	15
October 06	03	18
November 06	03	13
December 06	08	14
January 07	03	07
February 07	01	05
March 07	03	05
April 07	-	03

Origin (Villages): Taranipur, Polta, Balti, Gunrajpur, Duttapara, Gobindopur  
Destination: Mumbai, Delhi, Muradabad, Kashmir  
Purpose: Domestic Help, Mason, Construction worker, Cook

The 'Safe Migration' initiative has inspired the administration and is now in the process of getting institutionalized by the *Panchayat* department of the Government of West Bengal. The guidelines for the same have been formulated and piloting will start soon. Agencies involved in this process are the National Commission for Women, the CID of West Bengal Police, the West Bengal State Women Commission and the District Social Welfare Department.

## Nedan Foundation seeks to reduce vulnerability by creating livelihood options through best use of traditional skills

**K**okrajhar, 24 July 2006 - 66 women and girls in the age group of 15-30 years, largely belonging to the Bodo and Rajbongshi communities in the ethnic conflict hit villages and flood affected areas of Baksa (BTC) Nalbari, Kamrup, Udalguri, Boropeta, Dhubri and Goalpara districts, were rescued from being trafficked on the Gujarat bound Okha express DN 5636 at Kokrajhar, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Assam Railway Station.

24 August 2004 - 200 women and girls were rescued from the same train. It is suspected that they were lured by the pimps (*dala*) on the pretext of lucrative jobs in Gujarat.

NEDAN Foundation's joint rescue operations in the last few years has clearly raised an alarm on the increasing number of women and girls going missing and being trafficked by recruitment agents. Trafficking in the North East regions occurs at two levels. There is the internal trafficking of children and women from conflict affected rural areas for domestic work and prostitution on one hand, and on the other hand is trafficking at international level, where women from the region are trafficked to other South Asian and South East Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangkok via Myanmar (Burma), for purposes such as drug trafficking, labor, entertainment as bar girls and prostitution.

Ethnic conflict within the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam makes it the worst hit area. The relief camps in this area act as the recruitment ground from where women are trafficked by means of false promises of employment and better life. The reported cases of trafficking by the community people is also a clear evidence of the increasing number of women soliciting sex work in and around of the National Highway 31 connecting to the rest of the Indian states bordering Bhutan and having direct route to Nepal in the North and West Bengal bordering Bangladesh.

Women in relief camps are deprived of their traditional livelihood and they are unable to take up alternative income generating activities. Thousands of girls in the relief camps are made to sacrifice their education for the reason that it is unsafe for them to venture out of the camps to attend school. Many schools in the vicinity of the conflict areas are taken over by the security forces for their temporary shelter. Relief camps do not have proper education facility. Economic reasons also compel parents to send their children out of the state as domestic servants.

Realizing the vulnerability of women and children, particularly their vulnerability to trafficking and abuse, NEDAN FOUNDATION decided to work towards generating alternative livelihood options, using the already existing traditional skills.

Among the seven northeastern states, the newly created BTC is largely inhabited by Bodos. Bodo women are skilled weavers. They have a history in weaving and are recognized as the finest weavers in the entire North East region. The weaving magic in their fingers can be traced to the rich social,

cultural and traditional practices associated with it. Bodoland has rich and colorful range of weaving (handlooms), which consists of breathtaking display of intricate designs. The items too have immense social and cultural significance. For instance, Agor Gubwi is the most important handloom for every Bodo girl who has to take this piece of woven cloth when she gets married.

NEDAN FOUNDATION is working with 65 home based weavers in Kokrajhar district, BTC. With the skills of the illiterate women weavers (handloom), it has successfully designed the cotton fabric as per the demand and the market's need, catering to both national and international markets. It started with a humble initiative with three volunteers who were skilled weavers. Though politically the situation of the area is quite uncertain, with tireless energy and efforts, the initiative was gradually systematized. The weavers are provided raw materials and they are instructed to weave within the specific time frame.



NEDAN initiated an income generation activity for women and youth of the area. Weaving (handloom) is becoming a means of earning for many women in the villages. Finished products such as cushion covers, curtains, mats and other handloom goods have been created from the woven fabric. Experience suggests that unless the community is involved in the entire process, from planning to marketing, they tend to become dependent and less responsible. Therefore, the focus of NEDAN has been initiation of this process by mobilizing women and youth interested in participating in this program. People's participation and commitment to the process and entrepreneurship development program has been achieved to a considerable degree.

In the 21 working days of a month, one weaver is able to weave 36 meters of fabric. The weaving rate per meter is INR 50.00. Monthly earnings of a weaver go up to INR 1800.00 - 2000.00, depending on the quantity produced and the time spent. Some times they weave 40-50 meters within 21 days of work. In the course of systematizing this income generation activity, NEDAN FOUNDATION has trained and established 15 ethnic women entrepreneurs through weaving (handloom weaving), resulting in their economic upliftment. This effort has also contributed to preservation and protection of the traditional heritage and the ethnic culture and inborn weaving skills of Bodo women.

The challenge of creating alternative livelihood for women in ethnic conflict zones has been a rich learning for NEDAN FOUNDATION.

The organization has been exploring the market for the traditionally designed fabric made by the Bodo women and found great demand for it in the national and international market. Since then it has been considering various ways of developing diverse and better quality designs of locally made handloom products in sophisticated ways. It has realized that since handlooms are weaved in the traditional way, the volume of production is slow and the women are unable to supply according to the demand. Further, to be able to compete in the national and international market, NEDAN FOUNDATION has well understood that the fabric produced by the weavers need the power of information technology. It is now very clear to NEDAN FOUNDATION that while working on alternative livelihood for women and girls who are victims of the ethnic conflict in the heart of Bodoland, the organization can create livelihood



for many more skilled weavers if the power of information technology is sought for marketing and upgrading traditional weaving with modern technology. This would enable digitizing the designs of the handloom products available in the state and delivery of quality outputs and quantity which the buyers require.

Finally, recognizing the efforts of NEDAN FOUNDATION in generating alternative livelihood options using traditional skills, the present government is trying to set up more handloom units to give a boost to its handloom (weaving) sector in the BTC. This would certainly provide income option for those living below the poverty line and reduce vulnerability to exploitation in the form of trafficking.

NEDAN'S model of creating alternative livelihood for the vulnerable women and girls within Kokrajhar and Chirang has been replicated by the BTC administration in three other districts within the jurisdiction of the BTC administration. This economic empowerment initiative not only makes families free from hunger but also brings freedom from various forms of exploitation and empowers the women to raise their voice for their rights. NEDAN believes that economic empowerment implies empowered women, which in turn results in social change and national progress.



Giving the finishing touches to the end products

## MV Foundation facilitates and empowers Gram Panchayats to act as Preventive Agents against Child Trafficking

In terms of human trafficking, the state of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has been reported to be one of the source areas of trafficking of human beings for various forms of exploitation. Particularly coastal Andhra Pradesh is identified as a high supply zone for recruitment and transiting of women from other states. Women and girls are trafficked to Mumbai, Calcutta, Goa, Chennai and Orissa and within the state for prostitution, marriage and cheap labour. According to the NHRC<sup>1</sup> study in 2002-2004, around 30 per cent of the trafficked victims in the country were from AP.

Trafficking of children for cheap labour and commercial sexual exploitation has been reportedly going on for the last decade and a half in the state. Trafficking children, mostly girls, to work on the hybrid cottonseed farms of multi national companies like Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta, etc. who have commercial interests in the backward districts of Kurnool and Mahabubnagar.

Trafficking children for working as domestic child labour is also rampant in the state. The list of employers of children as domestic help sometimes also includes government employees and elected representatives amongst others. This phenomenon is more in urban centers and Hyderabad city is the largest employer of children in this respect. While there is a mediators' system to traffic children for working on the seed farms, there is no visible system as far as trafficking of children to work as domestic help is concerned. In such cases until an untoward event takes place the presence of the child working in the house does not surface. Apart from working as domestic maids, children can be seen working in hotels, petty shops, mechanic sheds, etc.

As mentioned earlier, Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts produce more than 50% of the cottonseed in the country. Being a labour intensive activity, cottonseed production especially the emasculation process, which lasts for three to four months, has to be done manually, and it requires nearly 70% of the labour force in the entire production. To save production costs, farmers prefer children as they are more amenable and cheap labour. As cottonseed is cultivated in large areas, there is huge demand for labour. In this background a system of mediators to supply child labour has come into being. Prospective farmers approach mediators, and pay them an advance for supplying the required number of children to work on their farms. Mediators lure poor parents (most of them belonging to backward and *dalit* communities) and pay them an advance and bind the parents to send their children to work on the cottonseed farms. Nandyal revenue division in Kurnool district and Gadwal revenue division in Mahabubnagar have large areas under seed farming. Mediators bring young girls from distances as far as 200 kilometres. The contract between the employers, parents and the mediators is unwritten and the process that entails is all kept under wraps. When girls are not seen in their village during the cotton picking season, one can conclude that they have been trafficked for work on the seed farm. In most of the cases, even parents don't know where their children are sent to work.

<sup>1</sup> Refer Nair, PM and Sen, S., *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, NHRC, 2005, Orient Longman, New Delhi

Girls are forced to work on the farms from dawn to dusk, about 12 hours a day, under hot sun. They are paid INR 1000.00 to 1500.00 per month based on their previous experience. Girls working on these farms are prone to severe health hazards as they keep working while concentrated chemicals are sprayed and are also subjected to various forms of abuses including sexual assault. Last year i.e. in 2006, it was reported that two young girls who were trafficked were raped and brutally murdered.

### **Gram Panchayats as Preventive Agents of Child Trafficking**

MV Foundation is empathetic in its view that it should not set up institutions that are parallel to those set up by the State. Instead, existing public institutions — schools, social welfare hostels, *Gram Panchayats* — should be strengthened and made partners in the fight against exploitation of children.

To prevent trafficking of girls, MV Foundation (MVF) has been working in Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts for the last couple of years. As an effective strategy *Gram Panchayats* and other *Panchayat Raj Institutions*<sup>2</sup> (PRIs) are involved in this programme. As child trafficking is taking place on a large scale, there is a need for mobilising these institutions. Volunteers through constant interaction with the *Gram Panchayats* and the elected representatives have made this issue a priority in the *Gram Panchayat* agenda. Youth are also mobilised and organised to prevent trafficking of children. There are number of incidents where *Gram Panchayat* Village Presidents and the Child Rights Protection Forum facilitated by M.V. Foundation at the village level got involved and prevented trafficking of children.

Following are four such successful interventions, which took place within a period of a month, in Yemmiganoor *Mandal*<sup>3</sup> in Kurnool District.

Child Rights Protection Committees at the village level emerged spontaneously after a case of child marriage.

The involvement of the community and local self government facilitated the creation of child protection committee/ forums in the villages and the involvement of thousands of young people as volunteers. Now they play a major role in creating awareness and acting as pressure groups.

A mediator and six children were found travelling by a three wheeler auto in Polukallu village in Yemmiganoor *Mandal*. The local Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF) members spotted these children and guessed there was something not right about these children travelling alone without any guardian(s). They stopped the three wheeler auto rickshaw, called the village Sarpanch and started enquiring. In the meanwhile, parents of the girls came to the place where the auto was stopped and argued with the Sarpanch and others that they have every right to send their children. The Sarpanch threatened the auto driver, the mediator and the parents that he will file a case with the police unless they release the children. These children were rescued from being trafficked to the city.

In two other incidents in the same *Mandal*, the village presidents of Daivamdinne village and Pesaladine village stopped trafficking of 22 and 6 children respectively and admitted them in one of MVF's Residential Bridge Course (RBC) Centers.

Due to MVF's concerted social mobilisation efforts, 3000 village level School Education Committees<sup>4</sup> and active *Gram Panchayats* now back their campaign against child labour and child trafficking. MVF is attracting a large number of volunteers from the communities as partners in the process of enrolling and keeping

<sup>2</sup> Gram Panchayats are the Panchayati Raj Institutions i.e. institutions of local self-governance at the village level

<sup>3</sup> *Mandal* is a revenue administrative unit

<sup>4</sup> Also known as the Village Education Committees. These are part of the decentralised form of local self-governance at the village level i.e. the Gram Panchayats and a very important mandate of every Gram Panchayat.

children in schools. Today it has about 30,000 Education Activists who have been mobilised to liberate children from work. The attitude of the entire village community towards school has changed.

### *Tackling resistance*

There is always resistance from various sections in the village. In the case of bonded labour, the resistance is mainly from the employers, as the children often work against a debt. Usually, these employers tend to be aggressive and on occasions physically intimidating. Over the years, MVF has trained its village level activists to deal with these situations through a combination of methods. The main strategy is to indulge in some kind of moral persuasion through the village level committees.

**MV Foundation's strategy of working with the existing structures enhances the possibility of replication and sustainability**

### *"We, the people" – A case study of Kulkacherla Gram Panchayat*

Green rolling grass fields, small water bodies and cattle grazing presents a picturesque setting. Life seems to have slowed and one can almost feel the pace slacken. It was monsoon and even the rains seemed to be in the same mood. Amidst this idyllic setting in Kulkacherla Mandal the dynamism of the Gram Panchayat was in contrast to the rural setting. The inroads that some gram panchayats have made in this Mandal were revolutionary by the standards of this state. Still caught in the bureaucratic wrangle for power, the local panchayats are a long way from being called the Local Self Government (LSG). Yet amidst this struggle, it is heartening to find examples like Kulkacherla Gram Panchayat where the Gram Panchayat is slowly emerging as the central hub of power. The community is also recognizing the role and importance of asserting a local presence at not just the village level but also at the district level. The seeds of decentralization have been sown!

### *"We shall make this a model village"*

Kulkacherla Gram Panchayat building was buzzing with activity. The Sarpanch, Yelliah, was the focal point of the activity that was happening. A retired army officer, Yelliah shows all the signs of his many years in the army. Discipline, cleanliness and respect are something he emulates in his work. "Education is the only answer to eradication of poverty", says Yelliah. He adds, "As a sarpanch I will do as much as I can to see that the Anganwadi and the school function efficiently. I personally visit the school and anganwadi at least thrice a week. The teachers are coordinating with the gram panchayat to ensure that education reaches all children. They inform us about the dropouts and we at the gram panchayat meet the parents/ guardians of the child and coax them to send the child back to school. I am educated myself and I understand the need for good education for all the children in the village".

### *Initiatives to arrest trafficking*

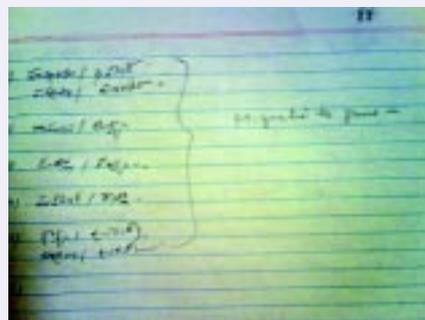
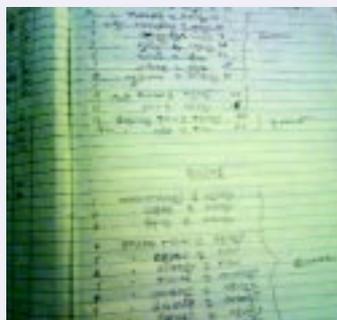
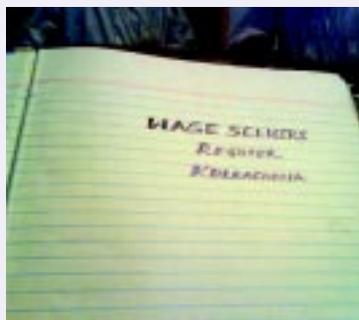
"MVF volunteers regularly visit the anganwadi, the school and the Primary Health Center. They approach the gram panchayat if they find any child on long leave or not attending the school regularly. When dealing with such cases the background of cases of trafficking that have been reported from other villages in our Mandal is kept in mind. So far there has not been any case of trafficking from our village but it is better to prepare ourselves. Hence with MVF support we keep track of all children in the village. However, if there is some issue that cannot be solved at the village

itself then I report to the higher officials like the Mandal Executive Officer or raise the issue at the General Body Meeting”, says Yellaih.

### *Gram panchayat initiatives for tracking migrants*

The panchayat also has an interesting mechanism of tracking these migrants. The landless labour in the village migrates regularly to other districts and sometimes as far as Pune and Mumbai to work on construction sites. There is a wage seekers list at the gram panchayat office. Every person who seeks labour opportunities outside the village is required to enter the place, duration and the reason for their migration in the register in the gram panchayat office. These people are also being coaxed to get a health check-up at the Primary Health Center when they return back to the village. “The cases of HIV/AIDS that are filtering from the neighboring villages are increasing. I do not want that to happen here as well. Hence, we have decided to make it mandatory for all who return back from migration after certain duration to get a health check-up done”.

### **Wage seekers List**



This is just the beginning says Yellaih, “We still have a long way to go before this gram panchayat can become like our counterparts in Kerala and with support from MVF all children in my village will go to school and will enjoy the joys of childhood.” This hope is what keeps the dynamism in this gram panchayat high and after all hoping for a better world is what makes the journey more purposeful.

## Reducing the Vulnerability of Fisher Women in Bihar – The Sakhi Experience in Preventing Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation through Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiatives

**T**he areas of North Bihar, Madhubani, Darbhanga and Motihari (including East & West Champaran) are worst affected by flood every year. The area is submerged in water for a large part of the year and people do not even have the bare minimum of food, shelter and clothing, which renders them vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuse. Such times of adversity are one of the significant factors contributing to trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women in this region.

To add to this is the plight of the fishing community in the region which dates back to 1990, when a study conducted by Adithi (an NGO) had highlighted the situation of the fishing community and the exploitation of fisher women. People were not allowed to fish in their own ponds even though the ponds were allotted to them by the local governing bodies. The rate of migration amongst the fishing community was therefore high and the community was on the verge of losing its identity and traditional business of fishing with the male earners moving out in search of work. The condition of women left behind in their houses was very miserable. The literacy level was appallingly low among them. They were forced to work on the fishing pond @ INR 30.00 per day. Those who were not ready to work at this price had to starve. The atrocities of some landlords on the fisher women and young girls was taking their own toll. The women were often working under various threats from the landlords and had to give in to their demands against their will and freedom. To think about the future of their children in terms of education and well-being was beyond comprehension.

It was in this background that organizations like Sakhi started working with the fisher women, facilitating formation of Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Cooperatives. The objective was to reduce the vulnerability of the fisherwomen, who had to bear the brunt of unemployment of their men folk and their drinking and gambling habits on the one hand as well as take on the main responsibility of running the household, and on the hand deal with the physical, mental and sexual exploitation faced from the land lords.

### **The Process of Intervention**

The first step was generation of awareness amongst the fishing community regarding their social status, scope of development, hurdles in the development and how to overcome these.

The second step was mobilization of the fisherwomen to organize themselves as a collective.

The capacity building of the fisherwomen and selection of the leaders who can represent their community if a cooperative were to be formed was the next inevitable step. The fisherwomen were trained in group management, cooperative laws, modern methods of fish farming, health and sanitation, etc.

A habit of saving was inculcated in them as the saving amount helped them in payment of revenue to the government at the time of settlement. Simultaneously, a process of advocacy began with the government for the settlement of the government pond in favour of fisherwomen.

Fisherwomen's cooperatives were formed at the district level, panchayat level and block level after a lot of agitation and struggle. Even after the registration of the cooperatives, the ponds were not settled in favour of the fisherwomen.

In the years of struggle for settlement of ponds, the settlement of sixty (60) ponds in favour of these women under a World Bank scheme has been a landmark step and achievement. If a dead pond was settled in favour of the fisherwomen the World Bank had to bear the cost of renovation as per the scheme.

The women worked very hard on their pond in order to make it suitable for fishing, beginning with cleaning of the ponds.

In the year 2006 after the acceptance of Matsyaniti (a fishery scheme of the government) in which the right over the pond had been given to fisherwomen, 20 ponds have been settled in favour of fisherwomen for a period of five years.



Women working on the fish pond

900 fisherwomen in Madhubani District have been made technically proficient in carrying out fisheries related operations. They have personal accounts in nationalized banks and their saving has increased from nothing to INR 25,000.00.

These SHGs are now moving ahead with the formation of a Federation of Fisherwomen. The Fisherwomen Cooperative which is running successfully will now be replicated in the entire state under the forthcoming Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Program, funded by the World Bank.

Women from such marginalized communities have also been organized into 300 SHGs with a cumulative membership of 5000 women having a total saving amount of INR 1,500,000.00. 1100 SHG members have already got access to loan to the tune of INR 1,300,000.00 from Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi working in the area of micro-credit.



Training of women members of the Cooperatives



Mahila Cooperative Foundation members

The Sakhi team could make this possible due to their vast experience in different aspects of and activities related to fisheries, cooperative management and the various training requirements for the cooperatives. Sakhi has successfully formed 13 block level fisheries cooperatives and is at present working with 3 cooperatives.

### **Impact of economic empowerment of fisherwomen**

Organizing women and facilitating their economic empowerment has increased women's self-esteem and confidence. It has become the foundation to reducing not only their economic exploitation but also the risk of being subjected to worst forms of gender based violence, including trafficking and sexual exploitation. Their children too are being sent to schools, which in itself will reduce vulnerability and exploitation of this generation and the rest to come by.

## **B. PROTECTION**

Protection, Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Restoration

**Including –**

Identification of victims; fact finding and rescue at source, transit, destination; care and attention during rescue and post – rescue situations; counseling; victim protection measures during trial; skill development and economic empowerment of survivors; networking with different agencies for rehabilitation of victim; steps for rehabilitation, restoration and reintegration in family/community; empowering survivors; addressing adolescents on trafficking, gender rights, HIV and other issues related to trafficking; creation of alternative 'forces', special cells/ departments to deal with the issue

## Joint efforts of Panah Ashram, ATSEC- Bihar and Bihar Police in rescuing girl children from being trafficked into forced labor and sexual exploitation

The *adivasi* areas of Bihar and Jharkhand provide a resource of a rare kind – from here originates the large domestic workforce that provides the crucial support that is needed in homes of major metropolises in India. Every year, thousands of girls join friends and friendly organizations to work as domestic help in big cities. Many reach their desired destinations and many others are trafficked under the guise of providing lucrative jobs. As most of the *adivasis* are Christians, a large number of 'Christian Welfare Organizations' have come up in the destinations and at the source points, with their objective declared as the welfare of the girls. A considerable proportion of the workforce is recruited through some of these organizations. Many of the organizations do cater to the welfare of the girls, but there are also those who are mainly involved in trafficking.

### Rescuing a victim

**Close coordination between NGOs and the police is the key to any rescue operation.** Here is a case in point to illustrate this.

In a rescue operation in Jamui, the partnership between the NGO and the police translated into smooth action with an NGO volunteer informing the railway police, who in turn acted swiftly, verified the complaint, took all legal steps for rescue by involving other colleagues and NGOs for counseling the victims and enabled their restoration. During restoration, the NGO discussed the problem with the villagers and made them sensitized, alerting them for the future. This has come to be the main strategy adopted by the NGOs and Police in this part of Bihar in preventing and combating human trafficking.

As per the data available with the NGO Panah Ashram, during the past five years, 23 girls have been trafficked to Delhi and Kerala for domestic forced labor and sexual exploitation by traffickers, some of them, disguised as missionaries. The 'missionaries' approached the girls as harbingers of faith for the poor *adivasis* and *dalits*. Of the 23, 12 returned home, 5 girls are in contact with their parents but 6 are still traceless. These are the 'known' cases. There are several unknown ones too.

Four *adivasi* girls in the age group of 8-12 years were rescued from the clutches of traffickers at Jamui Railway Station in Bihar. The traffickers were well acquainted with a "mission" that claims to work for *adivasi* welfare in Jamui district and areas bordering Nawada in Bihar and Gridih in Jharkhand. They used the name of the religious Mission to gain trust and legitimacy in their operation.

On 26 June 2007 at 8 AM four girls were seen with a local elder, A1 and two outsiders A2 & A3. An NGO volunteer informed the Railway Police. The four girls were sitting in a corner in the

general waiting hall at the station while A2 and A3 sat on the platform benches. A1 moved like a shuttle between the enquiry counter and the other two men, informing them from time to time about the trains. Police personnel, who were keeping an eye on them, decided that their behavior was suspicious enough to investigate. ASI Mr. Paritosh Prasad and GRP (Government Railway Police) constable Mr. Mahendra Prasad asked A2 & A3 about their destination. They said they were going to Delhi but were soon trying to board a local train to Patna. The police also interviewed the girls who said that they were going to Delhi to earn a living. A1 was questioned and he too informed that they were going to earn a living and lift their families out of poverty. When questioned about the jobs they would be joining, he directed them to A2 & A3.

When the Policemen questioned A2 & A3 again about the jobs being provided to the girls, they faltered, but said they will ensure good jobs. Sustained questioning revealed that the two were natives of Kerala and one was working in Delhi and the other in Roorkee in Uttaranchal. The two policemen telephonically brought the matter to the notice of the Railway SP Mr. Vimal Kumar and Md. Mahfooz Alam of Panah Ashram and ATSEC Bihar. A woman volunteer from the organization was asked to reach the railway station as soon as possible. Further investigations revealed that the two men had used the good reputation of the "Mission" to entice the girls to join them. Police arrested all three men under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (sections 5 and 7) and under sections 363, 365, 366, 373, 374 and 120 B of Indian Penal Code.

After counseling by the volunteer, the girls were sent home. Volunteers of Panah Ashram repeatedly visited the homes of the girls and in order to prevent future incidents of the sort, sensitized the villagers about child abuse and illegal trafficking of girl children. The villagers now understand the issue and are supportive.

One of the main challenges when traffickers are intercepted at railway stations is that there are few short stay homes or counseling facilities for rescued children and women. The Police therefore, sometimes hesitate to raid and arrest the traffickers. The presence of an NGO in urban transit locations is crucial, but prevention work in rural belt would ensure that trafficking does not happen in the first place.

#### **Concerted efforts at rescue have a remarkable deterrent impact.**

As a result of drastic action by the police and Panah Ashram's groundwork in the villages, no case of trafficking has been reported since June 2007, in the area.

The community is now aware of the operation of the network of traffickers. Constant vigil of Police and volunteers at bus stops and railway stations has alerted the traffickers.

It is important to recognize that such coordinated and concerted effort does not happen on its own. There is a prelude to it, which requires background work that brings the various actors closer to an understanding of the issue, their roles and the partnership needed.

From 11-16 June 2007, anti-human trafficking training and sensitization workshops were organized for Police and Prosecution Officers by 'Panah Ashram' and ATSEC Bihar, with support from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, New Delhi. The training was conducted in three phases of two days' each in the Conference Hall at the Munger Collectorate. These trained officers are the ones who are making a difference in addressing human trafficking.

A major reason for the alertness shown by the law enforcement agencies has been the stepped-up activities of NGOs like Panah Ashram and the ATSEC Bihar network in the region, and their proactive efforts at sensitization of police and media. Members of ATSEC Bihar feel that it is important to train all police officers and prosecutors on the issues of trafficking. In this mission, ATSEC Bihar has been supported by UNODC under its project on 'Strengthening the law enforcement response in India against trafficking in persons through training and capacity building'. Awards and honorariums are called for prevention and prosecution work. A monitoring system at the Police Station level needs to be activated with volunteers, police officers, informers and local journalists as active members. An information system for quick response is required.

## Controlling Trafficking for Domestic Labor - ATSEC Jharkhand takes up cudgels against Traffickers

Two or three decades ago, *adivasi* girls from Jharkhand began to migrate to big cities in search of work. Some of them were literate but unable to find jobs locally. Many belonged to poor families that lacked the opportunity to improve their standard of living. Shrinking of forests, degradation of other resources, diversification and disintegration of land, takeover of land for infrastructure building and mining are among the factors responsible for their impoverishment. There were also those who were merely lured by the attractions of the city – the standard of living, markets, modern clothes etc.

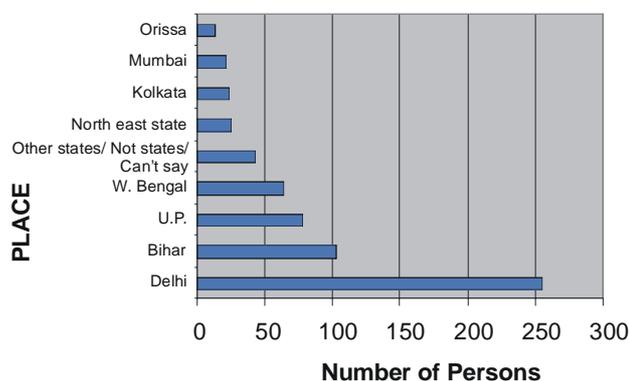
As the tempo of migration increased, placement agencies began to spring up to help the girls find a safe home for work and a contact address in times of distress. Looking at the demand and supply situation and knowing well that migration is not likely to stem in the near future, spurious organizations too began to spring up offering lucrative jobs but actually putting the girls (and occasionally young boys) in unsafe work environment. Under the guise of providing domestic work, trafficking for sexual exploitation too began. At present both genuine and spurious organizations are flourishing in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

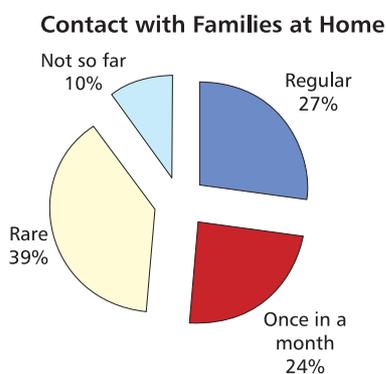
In the year 2005 ATSEC Jharkhand conducted a sample survey to study the trend. The survey was done both with migrants who had returned in the village and family members of those who were on migration. The study showed that 77 per cent of the sample population migrating out of Jharkhand came under the category of Scheduled Tribes, 12 percent under Scheduled Caste, 8 percent under Other Backward Classes and 3 per cent under the General category. Significantly, 70 per cent of out migrants were female and 30 per cent male. Girls moved out predominantly for domestic work while boys went for casual work, such as work in hotels and shops and even domestic work. 67 per cent were below 20 years of age, 15 per cent between 20 and 25 and 18 per cent above 25 years of age. 65 percent were illiterate, 17 percent educated up to the primary level, 16 per cent below matriculation (Class X) and 2 per cent matriculation and above. While a vast majority moved out with relatives or other villagers, a significant 9 per cent went with unknown persons and 3 per cent were taken by force.

The survey showed that 69 per cent had moved out because of lack of opportunities back home, while 23 percent believed that better opportunities awaited them at the place of destination.

Delhi was the preferred destination for a vast majority of migrants.

Place of Out Migration





Predominant among migrants to Delhi are girls who go in for domestic work, as the city is said to pay the most for such work. While a significant proportion of migrants maintained some contact with their family members, the whereabouts of 10 per cent were not known to their family members.

While 59.4 percent claimed to receive less than INR 1000.00 per month as payment, 38.4 percent said they received INR 1000.00 to 2000.00 and 2.2 percent more than INR 2000.00.

The pace of out migration as well as human trafficking under its guise is ever increasing. This presents a disturbing trend which calls for immediate action.

ATSEC Jharkhand has taken several actions based on this analysis.

### Prevention

- Alternative small scale women cooperative industries are being planned at different levels so that the potential migrant is provided with an alternative source of income if her family is dependent on her for a living. NGOs too are being encouraged to absorb them in any suitable capacity so as to prevent out migration.
- People who have migrated are main agents in luring others to follow suit. ATSEC attempts to stem such peer pressure. Also, pressure is exercised on placement agencies so that they strictly adhere to rules regarding age of the individual — the person should not be a child (i.e. below 14 yrs). Violation of such conditions if found is to be strictly dealt with.
- Placement agencies are being pressurized to ensure appropriate placement in a protective and secure workplace by way of being selective in the choice of house for placement and if necessary, coordinating with the police on this.

### Rescue

- Toll free numbers are being made available for people in distress, so that they may be traced out easily and rescued. ATSEC – Jharkhand has one such number 1800 180 1000. Victims of violence and cheating have been benefiting from this number.
- A rescued adult is provided with an alternative income opportunity. Traumatized victims are rehabilitated effectively within the larger society.
- Coordination with the Government at the Police, Judiciary and Executive level is being encouraged. Apart from this the issue is also being taken up at the NGO level through workshops, meetings and at diverse platforms whenever possible.

### Building Pressure

A clear plan of action is being formulated by the Department of Social Welfare, Jharkhand to address this issue.

- Coordination and advocacy at different platforms are set in motion.
- Raids at some of the suspected homes and areas have been done so as to reduce and finally eradicate the problem of child domestic labor.

## The Jogbani Counseling Center - Bhoomika Vihar's efforts at arresting trans-border trafficking

**J**ogbani in District Araria, Bihar, is a small town situated near the Nepal border and hence is an important transit point for traffickers from Nepal. The traffickers reportedly arrive by bus from across the border with their victims and board trains and buses from Jogbani, headed mainly for big cities in India.

Women and children being trafficked can be spotted, especially at the transit places like bus stands and railway platforms, from their nervousness and diffidence. The traffickers are not so easy to detect, but prolonged and expert observation almost always reveals the connection between the group of nervous girls and their 'friend' or 'contact'.

This is where the activists of the Bhoomika Vihar counseling center enter the scene. Dressed in uniform, individually or in teams, they try to befriend the girls and ask them seemingly simple questions – where they came from, where they are bound for, who is traveling with them, etc. Most often the questioning reveals their status as to whether they are victims of trafficking. At times, the counselors talk directly to the trafficker and persuade him/ her, to accompany them to the counseling center. Once it is clear that the girls are victims and the suspect a trafficker, the police is informed and immediate action taken. A corresponding team from across the border, workers of an NGO ABC-Nepal, is called and the girls are taken back to Nepal after counseling, or handed over to the Nepal police for safety and care. Often one set of questioning reveals the scale of operation of the traffickers and the number of persons they have trapped.

Between June 2004 to May 2005, 13,617 girls/ women from Nepal have been counseled by the Jogbani Counselors on safe migration and 93 suspected victims have been repatriated to Nepal through the efforts of Bhoomika Vihar. From June 1, 2005 till March 13, 2006, a total number of 54,075 have been counseled and 69 repatriated. From January 2007 till May 2007, a total number of 32,884 were counseled and 37 repatriated. This data shows the sheer volume of migration and trafficking trans-border from just one stretch of the Bihar-Nepal border.

Local informers are, in fact, a crucial part of the Bhoomika Vihar information network. They are recruited from any walk of life and are normally people like vendors and rickshaw pullers. The Jogbani Counseling Center works closely with the Railway police personnel, the Rani (Nepal) Police and its counterparts from across the border. This is what makes all action possible and sustainable.

### *A Few Stories ...*

- (1) On 30 May 2007, the Bhoomika Vihar counselors went to a tea stall on the railway platform after counseling train passengers on the dangers of traveling to unknown destinations and falling prey to promises of employment, riches or marriage. At the tea stall they saw a group of four girls and a woman in front of the railway storehouse. The girls appeared to be

nervous and waiting for something or someone. After half an hour of observation, when the girls did not board any train, the counselors became suspicious and got into conversation with the girls. First the girls said that they were going to Katihar, then that they were going to Lucknow. The counselors then gave the girls information material and also talked about the networks of traffickers. When the counselors were talking to them, one of the girls disappeared on the pretext of drinking water, but was soon traced out.

The girls were traveling out of Nepal for the first time and did not have any contact number or address for their destination. Their parents were also unaware of their movement. After a lot of persuasion the four girls agreed to visit the Counseling Center. In the process of interaction with the counselors, the girls changed their version and said that while two of them were going to Katihar, the other two were going to Lucknow. After more questioning, they revealed the truth: all of them were going to Delhi and X, a local contact of theirs had promised to meet them in Katihar. Their Passports had already been made and X had promised to send them to Dubai from Delhi for highly paid jobs.

X is a resident of Nepal and a well known trafficker. She works for a network that traffick girls to urban centers. Bhoomika Vihar handed over the girls to the Nepal police for repatriation to their families.

- (2) On 21 November 2005, while the counseling process was on near Jogbani Railway Station, the counselors of Bhoomika were approached by a rickshaw puller ferrying a woman, four girls and a man across the border into India. He informed them that the girls were being taken to Kuwait. The rickshaw puller was an informer of the counseling center, who had been hearing exchanges between the man and woman about their plans. The woman was Y, a regular trafficker.

The counselors started a friendly conversation with the girls, who told them that they were going to Katihar to attend their relative's marriage. When the counselors requested to talk to the girls in private, the woman got annoyed and asked the counselors to go away. The counselors revealed their identity and asked the girls to accompany them. At the counseling center the girls were made comfortable and gently interviewed. The girls were shocked to hear about trafficking and after two hours of counseling, revealed that they were going to Delhi and from there on to Kuwait. Y had promised them jobs as house maids. Y admitted to the charges and said that she was enticed by the huge cash offer and threatened as well. The girls belonged to Village Mreegaulia in Belbari in Nepal. They were handed over to Maiti Nepal, a local NGO in Nepal in the presence of Rani (Nepal) Police and the border police arrested the two agents.

*And many more such stories are available ...*

## Village Vigilance Committees and Information Booths act as the safety net: Nedan Foundation's initiative towards preventing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Mobility

The mobility of individuals, particularly of women, across national and international borders has increased considerably in the North East over the past decade.

**NEDAN FOUNDATION** is registered under the Public Charitable Trust Act. It has emerged through a common vision shared by trained Social Work Professionals to work with the poorest and voiceless ethnic communities living in the far-flung un-reached villages of North East Region of India. Presently NEDAN is based at Kokrajhar, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). However NEDAN also works in other areas of North East region through network partners called North East Network Forum on Anti Trafficking (NENFAT). NEDAN'S philosophy and belief is that collective action will bring societal change in North East.

While migration can empower women with greater economic and "social" independence, it can also increase their vulnerabilities. Women's decisions to migrate are often taken under conditions of distress and disparity thus heightening their vulnerability to various forms of exploitation, including trafficking and HIV/AIDS. In the North East region and particularly at the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam, acute poverty and displacement due to ethnic conflict and floods has forced women to look for livelihood options elsewhere. They need jobs but do not have sufficient qualifications and barriers such as identity crisis, language problem, constantly being made to feel isolated from the main stream society and lack of information and opportunities for safe migration have only additionally contributed to their vulnerability, throwing them "into the trap" of trafficking and abuse.

Prevention of trafficking in women and children and unsafe mobility in the trans-border areas has been one of the core areas of NEDAN's anti-human trafficking work in the region. Various awareness and sensitization programs have been held as part of this preventive action. An outcome of these programs is the formation of Village Vigilance Committees in the borders areas to combat cross-border trafficking.



Two Village Vigilance Committees

These Committees are instrumental in protection of women and children from trafficking and unsafe mobility. There are 6 border check posts where trafficking is rampant, especially those leading to Daranga (Deosri), Datgari (Deosri), Sorolpara in BTC, Assam, connecting to The Royal Kingdom of Bhutan and Siliguri in West Bengal to Phuentsholing, Bhutan and from Dhubri District of lower Assam to Bangladesh. There are 12 Village Vigilance Committees established in the trans-border areas, where large numbers of ethnic communities displaced due to conflict are living in the relief camps. These committees check the entry of new comers coming to these camps as recruiters of domestic workers and check their genuineness. Through this process, the committees are able to identify the agents and save the innocent girls from being lured away from the camps. The committees have played a vital role in identifying 110 missing ethnic women and girls from the camps, whose whereabouts are to be traced.

The Village Vigilance Committees are complemented with the Information Booth Centers established by NEDAN Foundation in the trans-border areas. Over the years, parents have started reporting incidences of missing girls or trafficked daughters at these Information Booth Centers.



Information Booth Center and family of a missing girl reporting to NEDAN

The Information Booth Centers established in the bordering districts have provided access to the communities not only to report on missing children but also a platform for discussing the problems faced by them. The Information Booth Centers also disseminate information to adult domestic workers on safe migration norms. A list of organizations working in metros cities of India along with police phone numbers are available in the Information Booth Centers and shared with the community in case they face any problem while they are away from home working as a domestic worker outside the state.

Through setting up Information Booth Centers, NEDAN could reach out to the ethnic domestic workers working in various metros cities of India, who are recruited by deceit and also face sexual exploitation. The success of the Information Booth Center today is that NEDAN receives calls from the un-reached community members too with information about arrival of the recruiters and their efforts at trying to lure ethnic women and girls in the name of job, marriage and glamour. Besides, this information is further used for mass rescues from various train stations of Assam carried out by NEDAN in collaboration with Student's Union and participation of other members of the society.

Such initiatives of NEDAN on combating trans-border trafficking of women and girls have resulted in meaningful transborder collaboration in countering trafficking. Border Districts Coordination Committees have been set up in BTC, Assam and Bhutan for combating trafficking of women and girls. Development of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) was agreed upon and planned during a Regional Consultation on Trafficking & HIV held on 27-28 January 2008 at Kokrajhar, BTC and this is in process.

## Prayas Juvenile Aid Center Works towards Realizing the Rights of Child Survivors of Trafficking

### Prayas Anti-Trafficking Agenda

**P**rayas Juvenile Aid Center, a national level voluntary organization committed for restoring the rights of the marginalized, particularly children since 1988 has been actively engaged in anti-trafficking initiatives; especially on issues related to rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of children as victims of sex trafficking. Prayas has reasons to believe that trafficking for internal commercial sexual exploitation of children and women has far surpassed trans-border trafficking for the purpose. Most of the victims of trafficking are marginalized rural women and girls who lack basic education and skills and are trafficked into cities on the pretext of employment.

Prayas promotes a rights-based approach in its anti-trafficking programs by progressively addressing the cause of vulnerability reduction and thus preventing trafficking of marginalized population. It works towards re-integration of survivors through feasible empowerment programs and policy initiatives.

#### Prayas-UNODC partnership in Action Programmes on Trafficking and Commercial Sex Exploitation and Forced Labour of Children

Prayas has been a working partner of UNODC and manages an action programme in the states of Delhi, Bihar and Gujarat. This cooperation focuses on the tasks of:

- *Developing replicable model for addressing child trafficking*
- *Working towards juvenile justice in terms of basic needs and rights*
- *Creating a center for the neglected and destitute children*
- *Bridging the visible gaps between grassroots practice and policy change*

**Vulnerability reduction forms the core of Prayas's preventive action.** This includes creation of viable livelihood options at source areas for economically gainful employment as well as empowerment of marginalized women. Social safety networks are built for the vulnerable and rehabilitative options at destination points are established for the survivors. Prayas supports child victims of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor and those most vulnerable among the vulnerable, without economic stability and support systems. Often they fall into the deceitful trap of traffickers who lure them to a brighter future on false promises of providing lucrative job opportunities.

#### Building Institutional Capacities of Communities

Community awareness programs form an integral element of the Prayas Anti-Trafficking program. This is undertaken through non-institutional services and interventions like family counseling, sponsorship, self help groups, theatre and street plays, documentaries which serve as preventive

measures to reduce vulnerabilities and prevention of trafficking. Recognizing the close link between the 'child in need' and the community, Prayas has programs to empower the vulnerable communities. Creating livelihood options is an integral part of its program interventions.

These include:

Capacity building of the community is integral to Prayas for prevention of trafficking and the long-term sustainability of the restored trafficking cases. Through regular interaction with the community women, Prayas explains to them the challenge of child trafficking and the advantages of prevention.

- Life skills education and computer-based learning technology center through Prayas Institute of Economic Empowerment in partnership with Microsoft and providing them with jobs through corporate linkages as part of its post – training interventions.
- Formation of self-help groups for promoting economic empowerment of women and formation of community vigilance groups.
- Fostering entrepreneurship through micro-credits and skill training workshops.
- Empowerment of girls through sponsorships.
- Setting up of community libraries.
- Community mobilization and participation through Prayas Samudai Samities (Community Councils).

#### **Information, Education and Communication Materials**

- Prayas has produced two thematic documentaries on child abuse, child labor and juvenile justice. These documentaries are extensively used as training materials and for advocacy on policy issues.
- Printed posters with appropriate messages to stop child trafficking.

#### **Training, Sensitization and Capacity Building**

Workshops and Consultations are held to sensitize law enforcement agencies, partner NGOs and society at large and also to build the capacity of NGOs, local bodies and State Governments to undertake child related responsibilities. In this regard Prayas has been holding regional and national level workshops every year since 2002 in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNODC, NGOs, Media and other stakeholders in Delhi, Bihar and Gujarat.

#### **Networking**

Creation of strong network with Allied Systems (Government and Non-Government agencies) has enabled it to achieve success in the intervention undertaken especially with regard to care, rehabilitation and reintegration with biological/ adoptive families. As a member of anti-trafficking network in Delhi it has made active contributions on various programs and policies related to this issue. It is also a proactive member of South Asia Forum Against Human Trafficking (SAFAHT), a network organization from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, initiated and supported by UNIFEM and ATSEC in Delhi and is jointly addressing the issues along with member organizations on national and cross border trafficking.

#### **Policy Research, Lobbying and Advocacy**

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) and the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIC) enables it to undertake studies on State and NGO response to children under the law and the process adopted for rehabilitation. Based on the findings of the action research programs it undertakes Policy Advocacy to influence policies and

decision-making agencies to protect and promote the interests and rights of victimized children. Based on its experiences the organization played an instrumental role in the formulation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000; a landmark legislation, that provides protection, care, treatment and rehabilitation of neglected children and juveniles in conflict with law below eighteen years.

### **Coordination with Government Agencies**

The Crisis Intervention Center (CIC), Crime Against Women Cells (Police), local Police, Childline, Courts, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and other enforcement agencies, NGOs and Anti-trafficking Networks, etc. comprise important referral sources.

### **Reducing Vulnerabilities and Preventive Action at Transit Points**

Prayas has set up Child Assistance Booths at the New Delhi, Patna and Samastipur Railway Stations under its Railway Children Project to save a large number of children who are trafficked through railways. In the year 2005 more than 150 trafficked children for forced labor were rescued at Patna Railway Station and 160 girls rescued at New Delhi railway assistance booth. In January 2006 to December 2006, around 280 girls and 300 boys were referred for shelter facilities by this project. Some of them were found to have been trafficked from their native place to work as forced/ bonded labor in the growing Zari (Embroidery) industry in Delhi. These children most of them illiterate were lured by job opportunities and the prospects of a better life and belonged to remote villages of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh, Bihar, Nepal, Bangladesh, etc.

### **Linkages for Effective Rescue and Rehabilitation**

To evolve a comprehensive and integrated approach for the restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation of the rescued child victims Prayas has created a strong network with police, judiciary and individuals.

### **Home Away from Home**

To provide a child-friendly and safe protective environment for the growth and development of the marginalized children Prayas runs seven shelters in Delhi, Samastipur and Guwahati. These include Shelter Home for Girls, Bal Griha, Children's Home for Boys, Observation Home for children in conflict with law under the Juvenile Justice Act and Night Shelter Homes. Child victims rescued from abusive and exploitative situations receive a holistic program of rehabilitation in these Homes. The activities are Children's Meeting (Bal Sabha), specialized and Clinical Counseling, Health Care and Medical facilities, Social Investigation/ Home Investigation, Recreational facilities, Education and Vocational-cum-skill Training and regular follow-up through visits, networking and correspondence for ensuring safe repatriation to prevent re-trafficking. These Homes also carry out different programs for the effective rehabilitation and repatriation of the children.

Prayas Shelter Home for Girls is ideally fit to serve as a non-custodial institutional care with community based facilities as one of the modes of disposition of cases u/s. 15 of Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.

The Bal Griha, an independent living home for working girls above eighteen years is an example of innovative rehabilitative approach for their effective reintegration in the society. The Home provides the girls an option of living in a homely environment and also helps them to learn to stand on their own and be independent, thus preparing them for future life.

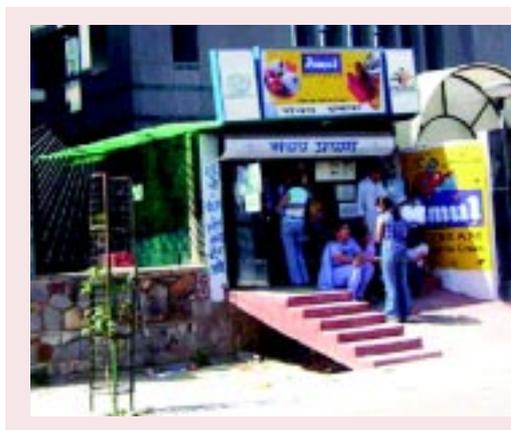
## Rehabilitation of Victims

- **Economic Empowerment through Alternative Livelihood Options**

Economic consideration, poverty and efforts for sheer survival remain the most important factors behind the vulnerability of women and children and a strong reason behind the phenomenon of trafficking. To address this problem Prayas has made valuable efforts to create livelihood opportunities and income generation through life-skills development program and self-help groups for the marginalized population both in the source as well as the destination areas. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Prayas Institute of Economic Empowerment has been working tirelessly to reach out to more and more marginalized youth and women by providing them skills training in need based market driven trades. This program and the efforts of the placement cell have enabled a sizeable population from deprived communities in becoming self-employed / employed.

- **Fostering Corporate Partnerships**

Prayas has established strong linkages and partnership with corporate houses to harness their valuable resources and managerial skills as part of promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In this regard, sponsorship of children and placement of trained and skilled youth in jobs play a key role. The 7 Sanchay-Prayas business outlets in Delhi, being managed by the survivors of trafficking under the Economic Rehabilitation of Trafficked Victims (ERTV), in partnership with International Organization for Migration (IOM), is yet another facet of Prayas model with the corporate sector. This initiative helps survivors of trafficking to earn their livelihood in a respectable way.



## Achievements in the Anti-Trafficking Project

*Prayas model encompasses the judicious integration and creative use of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection system. The organization successfully demonstrates by directly supporting the trafficked victims and working with the law enforcement & policy making bodies.*

- A Crisis Intervention Center (CIC) modeled and set-up in Delhi for protecting the rights of girl child and rape victims. Established on 09 January 2000 the CIC primarily caters to cases of rape of minor girls in South District of Delhi. Such cases frequently need psychological support, shelter and rehabilitation. This pilot project is being run in collaboration with Delhi Commission for Women, Government of Delhi, Central Social Welfare Board and the Delhi Police.
- Several Police officers and counter-trafficking NGOs personnel trained.
- Assisting the Delhi High Court in developing guidelines for investigation and support by Police of trafficking and juvenile crime cases.
- Guidelines for NGOs cooperation for rescue and rehabilitation developed and published.
- 7 Sanchay Prayas Business Outlets set-up for economic rehabilitation of trafficking survivors.
- A National Study on Child Abuse, the Indian part of the UN Study on Violence against Children conducted.

- An independent living Home for 18+ working girls set-up in Delhi.
- Action program for victim assistance established at Motihari in Bihar.
- Creating alternative rehabilitation systems for trafficked and migrant children and those in forced labor, in collaboration with Railway authorities. Innovative prevention, rescue and rehabilitation programs set-up at source area at Samastipur railway station, transit point at Patna and destination center at New Delhi railway station.
- Developed comprehensive and holistic rehabilitation and reintegration measures for trafficked children through action program.
- Rescue, rehabilitation and social integration program for survivors of trafficking.
- Economic rehabilitation of the trafficked victims through collaborative programs for micro-enterprise and self-help groups.
- Organized sensitization workshops and seminars for policy makers, media, police and NGOs on issues relating to child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, child rape and gender violence. It has organized a number of consultations with support from Government agencies, UNIFEM and UNODC.
- Prayas runs a 24-hour helpline called CHILDLINE (1098) for children in distress. Children and adults can report incidences of child trafficking and child abuse.
- Advocacy and networking for legal and policy change and enforcement, awareness and attitudinal change. It has developed links with the Anti -Trafficking Network, Delhi, ATSEC and South Asia Forum against Human Trafficking (SAFAHT).
- Launched first ever academic training course in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice for meeting trained manpower needs in the counter-trafficking sector.

## Kishori Niketans set up by ATSEC Jharkhand facilitate and ensure rehabilitation and social re-integration of trafficked victims

**D**elhi returned', as the girls who come back to Jharkhand after a stint in a large city are called, are not a well accepted lot. In fact, 'Delhi returned' has become a derogatory term as such girls are perceived to be of loose morals, fashion-conscious and not able to fit into community life anymore. Finding a match for these girls is considered a very difficult task, as the general belief is that they cannot adjust to the hard life in the villages and will not be able to respect their husbands or in-laws. This is despite the fact that a large number of girls who migrate for domestic work send back the crucial remuneration that helps the family have a better life.

Among the 'Delhi returned' are also those who were trafficked for domestic work and/ or sexual exploitation. Instead of being treated as victims, they are treated as offenders, reinforcing the community's convictions about the bad morals of the Delhi-returned girls. Very often such girls are not accepted back in the community and in cases where they are, they face day to day derision and suspicion. Already traumatized, victims of abuse are most often not prepared to face such a situation and provide false addresses to prevent restoration.

ATSEC-Jharkhand is clear as to where their priority lies – the girls should be restored to their family and community and be able to live with dignity. To this end, a victim, once rescued is continuously counseled and simultaneous counseling sessions are conducted with her family and as much as possible, motivation sessions are conducted among the entire community by the partner NGO working in the village.

S, aged 18 years has been staying at the *Kishori Niketan* for the past one year. At the age of 14 years, she had been lured by a placement agency with promises of a better future and more comfortable life. She was given a job at a house that turned out to be virtual hell for her – she had to work for more than 16 hours a day and was tortured as well as sexually abused. She managed to escape one night and her plight came to the notice of ATSEC-Delhi. In a joint effort with ATSEC Jharkhand, S was brought to Jharkhand and put up at the 'Kishori Niketan', Ranchi.

Already traumatized and bitter, the discovery that she was pregnant hit S very hard. She became violent and aggressive, demanded tobacco and used abusive language when her demands were not met. She wanted to escape and spend her life on the streets. She gave false addresses of her village. A series of intensive counseling sessions later, S gradually opened up and shared her experiences. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl at the center, who was named 'Purnima'. Presently efforts are on to contact S's parents.

The *Kishori Niketan* or rehabilitation home for girls/ young women supported by the network is the place where the transition takes place. ATSEC – Jharkhand has two *Kishori Niketans* at Ranchi which can house around 200 girls. A total of 179 girls have been mainstreamed since the setting-up

of these centers. The centers provide services of continued and intensive counseling to rescued girls, aimed at slowly drawing them out from the shell that they have formed around themselves. Simultaneous counseling is done at the level of the parents to motivate them to accept the girls back and restore their lost sense of dignity. Parents meetings are held with this objective.

The girls are also provided the opportunity to join schools and jobs as much as possible. Girls thus mainstreamed by ATSEC – Jharkhand have performed well at the school level and in the Board level examinations. Where necessary, vocational training is provided to help the girls find a source of regular income. As an added aid in social rehabilitation, the girls are encouraged to join singing and dancing sessions. Most often the girls recover completely and once contact is established by the partner NGO with their family and community and their acceptance confirmed, they willingly return to their families. The partner NGO follows up with regular contact.

Building capacities to be self-reliant is one of the main objectives of *Kishori Niketans*. Where requisite skills have been developed, the girls are even absorbed at the *Kishori Niketan* itself as teachers or at various positions in partner organizations. Non-partner NGOs too provide them with jobs, on request.

R is today an independent and confident girl of 19 years. In fact, she looks so relaxed, smiling most of the time, that it is difficult to believe the trauma she has gone through as a domestic worker in Delhi. R had lost her parents at the tender age of 10 years and became dependent on her brother and sister-in-law. Looking at the income opportunity, they sent her to Delhi with a middleman, for domestic work. She was placed in a family where she had to do tiresome work throughout the day and was not allowed sufficient sleep. She was also abused physically, verbally and sexually. Unable to bear it any longer, she escaped the 'cage' as she calls it and reached the New Delhi Railway Station. A policeman noticed and rescued her and took her to a nearby shelter home. From here she was transferred to the *Kishori Niketan*.

Counseling and the atmosphere at the *Niketan* helped her so much that today she is happy to stay at the center. She is a pillar of courage and determination and as such, an example of what they can be, for other victims.

## Viable Employment Options in Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking: A Case Study by STOP, Delhi

**Z**, now aged 19 years became a victim of trafficking at the tender age of 13 and was rescued from a brothel in Delhi. Interviews with her revealed that she was a victim of child marriage as well as poverty. For livelihood, Z taught tailoring to a girl whose house was situated five kilometers away from her own house. Z used to commute by auto rickshaw of a local person R, while going for her tailoring classes. Noticing this and knowing that Z was young and good looking, R lured her with the offer of a much more lucrative job in Delhi which would not require the present long distance communication and meager remuneration. Z did not agree initially, but when her father fell ill and the family was plunged into financial crisis including medical expenses for her father, Z decided to take the offer.

She accompanied R to Hyderabad and from there S, R's wife brought her to Delhi. To Z's horror, she had actually been trafficked to a brothel in Delhi. Z tried to flee but was unsuccessful. Later she found that she had actually been sold by R for a hefty amount and that R had paid INR 20,000.00 to her parents saying that she was earning well now and had sent the money for her father's medication.

Post rescue and counseling and in search of a dignified alternative to living a stigmatized life, Z became a part of 'Koshish', a unique Self Help Group (SHG) initiated by STOP (Stop Trafficking and Oppression of Children and Women) to rehabilitate survivors of trafficking. 'Koshish' was formed in November 2006 and runs a cafeteria in a college in the Delhi University Campus. Its 10 members are girls who have come from highly difficult and exploitative situations and are the owners and managers of this venture. All the girls in the group have been trained in cooking by chefs of reputed hotels and are efficient in their work. Besides cooking, they have also been trained in maintaining a high standard of hygiene and in managing the finances of the venture.

The idea of 'Koshish' came up when girls of STOP Family Home put up a food court in the College where it is presently located. The food was highly appreciated by all present. At that point of time, the cafeteria committee of the College was not happy with the then cafeteria and therefore enquired from STOP about a good alternative. Another self-help group started by the initiative of STOP, 'Khatir', was already running a cafeteria in the premises of the Department of Social Work. STOP explored the idea of forming 'Koshish' and running a cafeteria in the College. From past experiences and the positive response from the college, the whole idea of developing a group named 'Koshish' was conceived.

'Koshish' has a Cafeteria Committee with 10 members in it. The cafeteria is run by the committee, whose members have divided the responsibilities amongst themselves for the smooth running of the cafeteria. While some are involved in service, others deal with the dealers, maintain accounts and ledgers, etc.

Initially, the task was challenging for the inexperienced hands – the pace was hectic, the students demanding, the volume of orders very large, there was demand for fast delivery of food, orders from the teaching faculty had to be met, full lunch for seminars/ conferences had to be prepared, etc. But with time and practice and also with the help and support of the Principal, college staff and the students, the girls began to prove their ability and expertise.

Today 'Koshish' offers a variety of Indian and Chinese cuisine and bakery items from its bakery section. The Group is not only managing the cafeteria in terms of variety in cuisine but also in account maintenance,



stock management and getting the best deal in terms of procurement of stock and service management. In this process, the Group is also learning about waste management which could be used as an ancillary trade at a later stage.

The services of the girls have been appreciated and have fitted in well with the College culture. The girls themselves are independently running and managing the cafeteria and also showing great interest in their work. Their self-confidence and self-esteem are growing and becoming stronger day by day. They have graduated from being a

victim of circumstances to a survivor turned activist. Today they are highly empowered and self confident about running the entrepreneurship venture. But running such a venture successfully implies public exposure. The members of 'Koshish' have decided to shed their fears and take hurdles and challenges as they come. To add to the confidence of the girls, the University too has acted as a strong protective shield in every difficult situation.

Being a part of 'Koshish', Z has by now acquired all the qualities of an efficient entrepreneur, by being able to manage accounts, stock, services and other ancillary trade from the existing business of the cafeteria. As part of this SHG, Z now leads a life of dignity and self respect and is driven with the ambition and mission of establishing herself as a successful entrepreneur and to work with other victims of trafficking.

## Community Social Rehabilitation - The other side of AHT work undertaken by Bhoomika Vihar

**W**here preventing trafficking and rescuing trafficked victims is a difficult job in itself, rehabilitating them is even more difficult. Victims of trafficking are often treated as social outcasts and suspects even by members of their own family. They are also traumatized. Believing firmly in community rehabilitation, Bhoomika Vihar has not established any shelter or remand homes. The organization has focused its efforts on making the victims a part of society and get treated with respect. The bottom line is social integration so that the person is able to live with dignity. Two examples, given below, will prove the point.

K from Kishanganj is an example.

*K, from Kishanganj district was just 16 when a man from an adjoining village came with a marriage proposal for her. The 'matchmaker' L told K's father that the young man was his relative and hailed from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh and belonged to a Zamindar (big landlord) family. He said that she would be marrying into a rich family. Initially, her father refused to accept the marriage proposal, not prepared to send his daughter so far away. However, L pressurized him through other villagers and even scared him with subtle threats of preventing the marriage of his other daughters. Her father ultimately succumbed to the pressure and agreed. He was told not to invite anyone to the marriage, which took place in the night without any fanfare. The next morning when K reached the local railway station with her father and sister along with her newly wed husband, another youth came forward and was introduced as a friend by her husband. The husband then disappeared with K's father and sister, and the 'friend' told her that he had been directed to take her to Delhi.*

*It was learnt only later that the 'groom' was a trafficker and had asked L to get him a good looking girl belonging to a poor family. He had deliberately stayed at L's house and introduced himself in the village as L's relative.*

*K, who had seldom ventured outside her village located in a remote area of Bihar, found herself at the New Delhi Railway Station. Then the 'friend' too did a disappearing act. The 16 year old was weeping helplessly at the station when a 'lady' turned up as a Good Samaritan, in a well-planned drama. The innocent girl pleaded to the lady for help. The lady took her to a red light area and asked K to 'work' and make her living there. When K refused, she was taken to a 'respectable' person's house and locked up there. Despite being tortured and mentally harassed, K refused to succumb to pressure. Ultimately, the broker from her area L was called, who told her that he would take her back to her village. Instead, he took her to another house and kept her in a room telling her that he will fetch her after the house owner's Puja (religious function) was over.*

*K, in the meantime saw L taking a bundle of notes and escaped from the house. A vegetable vendor from Bihar took mercy on her and gave a train ticket back to Bihar. K came to Patna by train and later took another train to Kishanganj.*

*Back home a visibly demoralized and silent K was brought to the volunteers of Bhoomika Vihar. It took almost six months and a lot of counseling for the shell-shocked victim to open up. Through the efforts of the activists she was subsequently encouraged to join a non formal education center and was gifted with a bicycle. Transformation took time but today, 19 year old K is brimming with confidence and is very bold. She speaks out against trafficking and has counseled girls and their parents against sending off their daughters with unknown grooms. She loves to ride her bicycle from village to village and counsel potential victims.*

The case of D is one of abject poverty and ignorance that creates conditions for traffickers to step in.

*14 year old D was sold off to 45 years old RB for just INR 1000.00- by her father who was a landless carpenter struggling for survival. With four daughters and four sons, life was difficult for the father. Desperate to get 'rid' of his daughters, he accepted whatever was given to him in exchange for them. RB had played on the poverty of the family and promised to help get the daughters married provided he could himself marry D. The marriage took place in 2002 in the middle of the night as neighbors had advised D's father against it.*

*Life became hell for D the day she married RB. He began to abuse and physically torture her. She was forced to work endlessly as an agricultural laborer and accused of illicit relationship with her father-in-law and brother-in-law. Being illiterate, she could not write to her parents. She was not given sufficient food and endured all kinds of pain. After two years of this, D managed to escape and come back to her natal home. However, her father was not happy, anticipating the expense of keeping her.*

*D was mentally and physically broken. She remained in a state of trauma and cut-off from others, but agreed to participate in a meeting organized by Bhoomika Vihar in Kishanganj. There she spoke about her traumatic experiences and asked for help. She was counseled and later joined the non - formal education center.*

*Her personality underwent a change as she achieved economic independence to the extent that she began to sing anti-trafficking songs and give advice to other girls of her age. She was also trained in jute product making by Bhoomika Vihar. She became economically so strong that she even began to support the very family which had sold her off.*

*An impressed local youth proposed to her and this time the marriage took place with fanfare and social sanctity. When the proposal came, she gave Bhoomika Vihar the right to decide, saying that the organization had given her a chance to restart her life. The marriage of D was a Bhoomika Family affair.*

## STOP fights for Repatriation of Foreign Victims

**Y**, a Bangladeshi national was trafficked from Bangladesh to India for commercial sexual exploitation. She was rescued at the age of 16 from a brothel in Mumbai. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Mumbai ordered repatriation of Y through STOP and therefore sent Y to the family home run by STOP in Delhi.

### Repatriation – a long and tedious procedure

In India, there is no set protocol for repatriation of trafficked victims who are foreign nationals. The existing process of repatriation has evolved through the practice of NGOs and a few other stake holders/ agencies/ individuals who are repeatedly faced with the need to repatriate foreign nationals trafficked to India. Further, the process of repatriation of foreign victims differs from state to state.

In Delhi, the repatriation process is set in motion immediately after the order of repatriation is issued by the appropriate authority, and in common practice, such orders are issued only after the completion of all the legal requirements. After the order of repatriation is received, the rescued victim is counseled and her address found out so that the same could be sent to the counterpart NGO in the source nation for verification and confirmation.

The counterpart NGO, after verification of the victim's address gets in touch with its Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The MHA in the source country, after satisfying itself of the case, issues a permission order for repatriation. The said permission order is sent to the High Commission (of the source country) situated in Delhi (i.e., the country of destination). A copy of the permission order is also given to the concerned NGO in the source country, which in turn sends a copy to its counterpart in India. Using the order, the Indian NGO then has to apply to the High Commission of the source country for the victim's travel documents. After the travel documents are received, the NGO in Delhi applies for exit permission in the MHA in Delhi. When the exit permission comes through, the NGO approaches the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for endorsement of the travel documents. It is only after the endorsement that the victim is handed over to the NGO in the source country, which then hands over the victim to her family in the presence of local government authorities.

During the process of counseling Y in Delhi, STOP got her address and sent it to Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), a counterpart NGO in Bangladesh, for confirmation and verification.

The counterpart in Bangladesh verified the address and upon confirmation, approached the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Bangladesh for the permission order to get Y back from India. The Bangladesh MHA, after being satisfied, issued the letter of permission to the counterpart NGO who

sent a copy of the same to STOP. The MHA of Bangladesh also sent the order of permission to the High Commission of Bangladesh in Delhi. Based on the copy of the letter of permission, STOP wrote to the High Commission, Bangladesh for issuance of travel documents and the High Commission accordingly handed over the travel documents to STOP.

After receiving the travel documents, STOP approached the MHA, India (based in Delhi) for issuance of exit permission but received no reply for over a month. STOP then wrote to the MHA, but again received no reply. After repeated phone calls, STOP finally succeeded in contacting the concerned officer in the MHA, Delhi, who then fixed up a meeting with STOP to discuss the issue.

The meeting took place between Government of India and STOP, wherein the officials agreed to give the exit permission, but only after fulfilling two conditions:

1. STOP should prove that Y is not an Indian national.
2. STOP should publish details of Y in newspapers with photographs, just to confirm that Y has no Indian claimant.

STOP suggested that Y was already confirmed to be a Bangladeshi national by the Bangladesh authorities and the second condition was totally disagreeable as it was against the interest of Y, who was a minor. Printing her photographs and details in newspapers would mean revealing her identity to the public, thus making her vulnerable to further trafficking and prostitution.

Four months passed arguing these points and in the meantime, the travel documents of Y expired. Another round of applying for travel documents was gone through and again the Government of India was approached for exit orders, but with no success.

Having no other alternative, STOP applied to the CWC, Delhi for instituting a magisterial order for repatriation of Y. The order was issued and armed with it STOP once again approached the government officials.

Instead of issuing the Exit Permission in response to the order by CWC, the officials wrote to the Department of Social Welfare, Delhi asking for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the local Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the area where Y was residing. The Department of Social Welfare, Delhi wrote to STOP asking it to get the NOC from the local Sub-Divisional Magistrate. STOP wrote to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate for the NOC upon which representatives from the Deportation Unit were sent to conduct an enquiry into the matter. After the visit of the representatives of the Deportation unit, STOP heard nothing from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, leave alone get the NOC.

In the meantime in a similar case of repatriation in which STOP was facilitating the repatriation in pursuance of a Court order of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), the government officials had refused to issue the exit orders for which it was summoned to appear before the Court and was asked to give an explanation for such a response. The JJB, while seeking an explanation also charged the officials with Contempt of Court if there was non-compliance of the repatriation order passed by the Board. The officials got in to action and replied that there was a miscommunication and that it would issue the exit order immediately. The exit orders were issued.

Keeping the above incident in mind STOP wrote to the officials explaining that Y's case was of similar nature and hence there was no requirement of an NOC from the local Sub-Divisional Magistrate, therefore, the exit permission of Y should also be issued without it.

The Exit Permit was prepared soon after and sent to the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office, Delhi for

endorsement by the MHA. All set, Y was taken to Bangladesh by air and was handed over by STOP to its Bangladeshi counterpart, which further handed Y over to her parents in front of the local authorities and Bangladeshi officials. Y was thus finally reunited with her family in Bangladesh.

This complicated case has a few lessons for those working on anti-human trafficking:

- The absence of a set protocol on repatriation means that regular practices can be dropped or changed at any point of time by the concerned authorities.
- A victim of circumstances against whom a crime had been committed and should be given justice can instead become a criminal in the eyes of insensitive authorities.
- Insensitivity and the absence of a protocol can mean undue delays and a lot of avoidable back and forth, leading to violation of human rights of the victim.
- The SAARC conditional protocol requires that an NGO should help in the process of repatriation. But in this case the role of the NGO, which was facilitating the repatriation and was an important stakeholder as well, was unrecognized and ignored.



Repatriation – The President of STOP Dr. Roma Debabrata hands over Bangladeshi Girl to a partner organisation in Dhaka

## C. PROSECUTION



## Combating organized crimes through coordinated efforts - An effort of HAQ: Centre for Child Rights to ensure prosecution and justice in a case of illegal baby sale through coordinated action

**H**AQ: Centre for Child Rights, a Delhi based NGO strives towards recognition, protection and promotion of children's rights. In its efforts to monitor implementation of the nation's commitments to its children, HAQ's work concentrates around issues of children and governance, including child protection. In the last five years HAQ has focused on child protection and justice through its legal aid and resource center and engaged with law enforcement agencies, judiciary, media and other civil society actors in order to become a support base for children in difficult circumstances. S's case was one of the 40 cases where HAQ was able to intervene and draw light to illegal baby sale through exemplary collaboration between various agencies. While the matter is still pending in the court, the importance of collaboration in justice delivery and child protection stands out in this case.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007, a lady police constable from Delhi Police (who was one of the participants at a training session on child rights undertaken by HAQ: Centre for Child Rights), on request of anonymity, referred to HAQ a case of a placement agency which had sold a newborn baby to a family in the city (Delhi) illegally. Since the matter was being looked into by another colleague of hers, she could not do much to ensure proper investigation and wanted an outside agency to expose the case.

The child that had been sold was born to S, a 14-16 year old girl from Jharkhand, who had come to a placement agency that had promised her a job as a domestic servant. The child born to this young girl was a result of rape. While the placement agency did not show any interest in helping the girl get justice for the rape that she had been subjected to, it was certainly keen on making money out of the sale of her baby. Not knowing what to do, the girl too had agreed to give the baby away.

The placement agency first planned to sell the baby to a family in Kanpur and struck a deal for INR 150,000.00. But in the meantime, the family in Kanpur got another child and refused to take this one. A deal was then struck between the placement agency and another family in Delhi.

When HAQ received the news, it decided to take the matter to the Special Investigation Team of CNN-IBN, a national TV News channel to investigate and bring the matter to public attention. This was the only best possible strategy at that time as by itself HAQ had no locus standi to approach the investigating officer from the concerned police station. Moreover, for HAQ to undertake any investigation would have meant more planning and hence more time. After informing CNN-IBN, HAQ was in constant touch with their investigating team. Once their investigation was complete and the case was in news, HAQ worked with CNN-IBN investigating team to see that the case is being booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The police were thus moved to register the case appropriately, which is the first step towards ensuring effective prosecution and justice.

After the story was aired and followed up by the News channel, the police arrested the lady running the placement agency. However, the police handed over the baby to the family which had bought him. By the time, it came out that the illegal sale was for an amount of INR 40,000.00.

The statement of the young mother under section 164 Criminal Procedure Code had already been taken by the Rohini Court, Delhi. As per the girl's statement, she was not interested in taking the custody of the baby and was ready to give the child to the illegal adoptive family. The Magistrate thus handed over the child to the illegal adoptive family without considering the facts of the case and the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act on adoption. On the next date of hearing the Magistrate was on leave and the case was transferred to the Link Magistrate.

HAQ's advocate argued in this case that the family had illegally bought the infant from a placement agency; that the custody of the infant cannot be given to a family which has bought the child in violation of all legal procedures, as that would amount to trafficking; that the biological mother of the said infant had stated before the court that she wanted to give the infant away in adoption and hence the child becomes a 'surrendered' child and the biological mother is accordingly required to sign a 'surrender deed' as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, as amended in 2006 and the Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA) guidelines; that such surrendered children are 'children in need of care and protection' and fall under the jurisdiction of the Child Welfare Committee; that the due process of law as regards adoption of 'children in need of care and protection' is clearly listed under the Juvenile Justice Act 2000, and the CARA guidelines; and that this due process must be followed under all circumstances.

The Link Magistrate, after listening to the arguments, sent the case back to the court of the Magistrate, before whom it was initially listed. In the court of this Magistrate, HAQ filed an application with all the facts of the case, but this court too refused to give the child to the Child Welfare Committee and handed over the child to the illegal adoptive family.

This was then shared by HAQ with the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, Nirmal Chhaya with an advice to approach the Monitoring Committee on Juvenile Justice set up by the High Court of Delhi. On taking note of the matter, the Chairman of this Monitoring Committee passed on the application to the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The Chief Justice took cognizance of the matter and initiated judicial proceedings. Based on the application filed by the Child Welfare Committee, Nirmal Chhaya, on 12 December 2007, the High Court of Delhi passed an order of giving the protective custody of the child to the Committee until further orders.

Excerpts from the Order of the High Court dated 12 December 2007

"The child is in the custody of the mother. The Child Welfare Committee is looking after both the mother as also the small child. Mother and child shall remain in the protective custody of the Committee till further orders of this Court. We also allow time to the mother to take a decision in the matter as regards the custody or adoption of the child.

A party desirous of taking the child in adoption may make a request to the Child Welfare Committee in accordance with the law".

This has so far been just the first leg in the fight for justice and humanity. The child certainly has a right to a family, but not by way of illegal sale/ trafficking.

Organized crimes such as human trafficking have to be fought in an equally organized, planned and coordinated manner.

## Just Trust joins hands with Law Enforcement Agencies and like-minded NGOs in Tamil Nadu to Combat Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Victims of trafficking in Tamil Nadu are mostly from such households whose members are ignorant about trafficking, its manifestations and impact. They are generally from remote villages and are bound by customary obligations relating to marriage, dowry and marriage expenses. These conditions are exploited by traffickers, the kingpins being pimps and brokers. There is invariably a local contact involved – relative, friend or neighbor. Most of the victims reportedly are between 15 and 17 years of age and a vast majority are girls. Many of these girls are sent off by their ignorant parents and some go away with their consent. Yet others go away without either knowledge or consent of family members – this category of girls in particular hesitate to contact their parents when in distress.

In view of the gravity of the situation and the increasing trend of trafficking, the Tamil Nadu government has taken a very progressive and proactive stance where anti-trafficking work is concerned. Both the law enforcement sector and the judiciary are very sensitive to the issue and consequently systems have been put in place to prevent trafficking in every possible way. These agencies closely coordinate with NGOs in identifying traffickers and potential victims, tracking them, rescuing victims and prosecuting traffickers.

NGOs on their part, have devised multi-pronged strategies in prevention, prosecution and protection. Just Trust is one such NGO.

### Important Strategies of the Just Trust

- Rescue operations are regular and are focused on transit points such as Koyembedu Bus Station and Central Railway Station and in brothels. Close co-ordination is sought with various police departments including the Central Bureau of Investigation and the local Police Stations, like-minded NGOs and inter state networking for rescue work. Once a victim of sexual abuse is rescued, Just Trust establishes links with the relatives of the victim and attempts to persuade them to accept her back. Interim arrangements are made at transit shelters, where the victim is given counseling and other support. In order to smoothen these tasks, Just Trust uses its regular network with concerned NGOs, activists, and inter-state organizations. Skill development and mainstreaming of rescued persons are built into the Just Trust rehabilitation program.
- The game plan of traffickers in re-trafficking rescued victims is rather innovative. Lacking the means to support their own cause, victims and their families most often rely on their brokers or on moneylenders to get a release from the Government Protective (vigilance) home. The brokers lend money to the victim's family to pay for the advocate's fees and other expenses. Doing so makes the victim indebted to the broker and this enables him/her to re-traffick them, through the prevalent debt bondage system.

Just Trust has sidetracked this system by insisting on verification of the petitioner who claims possession of the victim. It also provides free legal aid for the victims. These two strategies in themselves prevent both debt-bondage and re-trafficking. At the same time once and for all, the relationship of dependence between the trafficker and the victim is broken.

- Among the innovative strategies and actions adopted by Just Trust is the identification of offenders through the records of the Chennai City Police & Anti Trafficking Cell of the Central Bureau of Investigation. Using these records Just Trust created a poster showing the names and photographs of offenders. The poster was displayed in all police stations of Chennai city and in the outskirts district of Chennai East.
- The continuous sensitization programs of Just Trust in Chennai city – in slums, among the law enforcement agency and the judiciary has resulted in greater focus on the issue of trafficking. Now the law enforcement agencies concentrate on prosecuting traffickers and not the victims of trafficking. Consequently, there is a visible reduction in cases under Section 8 of ITPA. In one land mark case the Judicial Magistrate himself found out that the girls were innocent victims of trafficking and he ordered their release. To prevent further victimization/ re-trafficking he directed the police to hand the victims over to their respective families after proper verification. Just Trust was asked to assist in the reintegration and to submit a report on this before the Court.



**Rescued and rehabilitated through close coordination between NGOs, police and the judiciary - Two case studies on the anti-trafficking work of Just Trust**

**Case 1**

Just Trust got information in 2007 through volunteers about a brothel house in Vadapalani, Chennai, which was involved in trafficking. After lodging a complaint with the Chennai city AVS Police, a team comprising of representatives of the organization and the police was formed, which raided the brothel premises and rescued two victims. The rescued victims were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate XVII of Chennai and sent to the Government Protective home.

One of the victims of trafficking X was trafficked from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, while the other, Y was from Tirunelveli district of South Tamil Nadu. The mother of X filed a petition for the custody of the victim. For victim Y the state legal aid services filed a petition on behalf of Just Trust for her reintegration and rehabilitation.



The Metropolitan Magistrate passed orders to establish the bona fides of the petitioners and examined the documents relating to the custodies through memorandum dated 11 September 2007. Just Trust in turn contacted its network partner HELP for reintegration of the victim X.

With the assistance of HELP, Just Trust submitted the Home Investigation report before the Court on 26 September 2007, along with the details about the family of X. The quick action and commitment of the NGOs has been appreciated by the Magistrate, which passed an order for reintegration and rehabilitation.

Just Trust sent a copy of the court order to HELP for immediate rehabilitation of the victim.

Y being from South Tamil Nadu, the Director of Just Trust conducted the home investigation report and counseled the family. The findings of the investigation were placed before the Court and it was assured to the court that appropriate economic rehabilitation and follow-ups will be provided. Just Trust got individual sponsorships for the education of the two female children of the victim, aged 13 & 10. Since Y comes from a very poor socio-economic background, her economic rehabilitation is in progress and support is being sought to acquire a sewing machine for her.

## Case 2

Just Trust received information through its network of volunteers about an international trafficker and sex racketeer, V. He had already been detained once under the Goondas Act for one year. After verifying the information, the organization lodged a complaint before the Anti Trafficking Cell of the Central Bureau of Investigation. An in-depth investigation was done by the law enforcement agency and a raid was conducted. Three girls were rescued and six persons arrested, including V and S, a leading female trafficker.

One of the victims A was trafficked from Nagpur. The other victim B was trafficked from West Bengal. The third victim C was trafficked from Delhi.

The rescued girls and the accused were produced before the Court in Chennai for remand extension. The Principal Special Judge directed Just Trust to file applications for the reintegration of the victims of trafficking under section 17A of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA).

In keeping with the directions of the Court, Just Trust filed an affidavit under Sections 17 & 17A of ITPA for all the three victims and verified the genuineness and capability of the petitioner. The accused applied for bail but considering the gravity of the offence, the petition was dismissed. The bail was granted to the accused after 18 months and the trial is still pending.

There are several landmarks in these cases, apart from the closely coordinated rescue operation itself:

- The first case speaks of a shared understanding and commitment between NGOs, police and the judiciary on the heinous crime of trafficking.
- In both cases, close coordination between NGOs both within the State and between States ensured effective restoration, rehabilitation and protection of a victim.
- Mainstreaming of the victim, without stigma and discrimination was possible because of the groundwork of the NGO and the support of the Court. Government schemes could easily be accessed because of the latter.
- Re-trafficking of the victims was made impossible, as also second-generation trafficking and/or prostitution.

## Role of NGO in Justice Delivery System - STOP Prosecutes Offenders in Trans-border Trafficking Case

**X**, a girl from a remote village in Nepal, fell into the hands of traffickers at the tender age of 9. Belonging to a very poor family that was unaware of the modus operandi of traffickers, X was an easy prey for her maternal aunt, who offered to take her to Delhi to work as domestic servant. X innocently believed, as did her family members, that a big city like Delhi would provide her enough income to lift the family out of poverty. On reaching Delhi, her aunt found her several jobs as domestic help, but the conditions of work were so bad that X complained to her aunt about them, demanding a good placement. This time her aunt offered to find her a job in a hotel where she said, working conditions would be good, as would be the salary. Thus, playing on her miseries as per a pre-decided plan, her aunt sold her to a brothel for an amount of INR 7000.00.

At the tender age of 10, X had no clue about all that was happening around her. It was too late when she realized that she had been sold into the flesh trade. Customers after customers were forced upon her, subjecting her to rape and torture, but there was nothing she could do. Gradually, X compromised with the situation and remained with the flesh trade in the belief that at least the money she was regularly remitting was helping her family and hoping that one day she would be reunited with them. But to her horror, she discovered one day that the money she had been regularly sending through her aunt was not reaching her family at all.

X was 14 years of age when she was rescued by STOP in a rescue operation carried out in a brothel in Delhi in October, 2001. Through an order of the High Court, she was placed with STOP for post rescue care and rehabilitation. By now X had lost complete faith in humanity and did not trust anyone. She refused to give any information about her trafficker or the brothel owner.

As X was from Nepal, she was rehabilitated with Maiti Nepal, an NGO working on anti-human trafficking in that country. Maiti traced her family so that she could be restored. But X refused to go back, fearing social ostracisation and recognizing well the stigma attached to her.

In 2002, X agreed to cooperate in punishing the people who were the cause of all her trauma. She came to India and stayed at the STOP Family Home. Her interactions with STOP while staying at the Home emboldened her to the extent that she deposed against her aunt in an exemplary manner. The route to justice began to be visible when the police arrested the aunt and uncle (who were a party to the trafficking), who had so cruelly pushed her into the world of commercial sexual exploitation.

But then the trial began. As trials in such cases go, X had to relive her experiences again and again as she narrated them in the Trial Court. The defense counsel tried to break her confidence by repeatedly asking embarrassing questions, as she was the complainant and a witness. Additionally, she had to face the accused practically everyday. The defense at one point tried to weaken the prosecution case by recalling X for further recording of evidence on the false pretext of change of

counsel for the accused. The Trial Court allowed the plea of the accused. But STOP, well versed with the tactics applied to counter the evidence of the prosecution (by recalling her again and again and putting forth embarrassing questions so that the prosecutrix ends up giving contradictory statements) challenged the order in the High Court of Delhi. The organization lawyers appraised the Court that X, the prosecutrix had testified at length before the Trial Court and had fully satisfied the questions put forth to her and there was no need for further recalling as this would be detrimental both for the case and for X as a person. The High Court was convinced by the submissions and quashed the recall order passed by the Trial Court.

Based on X's testimony, her offenders, i.e. her uncle and aunt were convicted finally by the Trial Court which awarded them imprisonment for seven years.

The conviction of the perpetrators brought tremendous self confidence in X and today, through the concerted efforts of STOP, X has emerged as an activist with the mission of combating trafficking and oppression of women and children. She now not only conducts rescue operations but also counsels victims of trafficking. She participates in various workshops to share her experiences as well as strengthen her knowledge on the issue of trafficking.

As a survivor of trafficking X has become a role model — exemplifying how a victim can lead a dignified life by choosing a life free of stigma, oppression and shame. At present, she is back home in Nepal and has bought land in her village with the money she earned while working in STOP. She has set up a Bio Gas Plant for her family.

X is also planning to get married soon.



**An example of a peer counseling session**  
*The identity of the victim is protected in this picture.*

STOP believes in restoring the victim's sense of justice as part of a rights based approach to human rights violations. Counseling and legal aid are therefore critical and essential components of its post rescue care and rehabilitation work. While counseling is therapeutic and important at various stages, justice that is finally meted out to the victims acts as the ultimate medicine for self-restoration and is indeed empowering in helping them start their life afresh with dignity and self-confidence.

STOP was formed when a group of academicians, professionals and grass-root level workers got together with the aim of making the world more habitable for the deprived, weaker and exploited sections of society. In doing so, the organization aims to bridge the gap between academics and activism. One of its main objectives is total elimination of child sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and women. Towards this end, the organization works through coordination and cooperation with other organizations /individuals. It was on STOP's intervention that the Delhi Chapter of ATSEC was formed. STOP organizes and participates in awareness building programs for community workers and policy makers. It is directly involved in rescue, repatriation and re-integration of child and women victims of trafficking. With a focus on children, STOP conducts research on various aspects concerning exploitation of children

## Slavery and Sexual Exploitation of Trafficked Girls in Circuses - Bachpan Bachao Andolan Fights to End Employment of Children in the Entertainment Industry

The reported ever-increasing pace of trafficking of girls between India and Nepal has been an area of concern for many. Girls are trafficked for the purposes of slavery, including sexual slavery and prostitution, mostly from Nepal to India. The frequent socio – political turmoil in Nepal, coupled with illiteracy and ignorance, creates the situation for a large number of children (especially girls) to be trafficked to India. Middlemen lure the parents of the children with an advance payment and dreams of a better life for themselves and their children. Within India, the unorganized sectors like the entertainment industry, circuses, agriculture and the sex industry play a willing host to these victims, as a lot of industrial laws are not applicable in these sectors.

Focusing its attention on the entertainment industry, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) initiated concerted efforts in 2002 to end child labor in circuses. The organization had received a number of complaints by parents in Nepal who had been duped into sending their children across the border to work in circuses and had no idea of their children's whereabouts. It became clear to BBA that forces within the industry have to be coerced using the argument of legal compliance and human rights to end the social evil.

The first step was an undercover survey of all circuses in India to find out more about the magnitude of the problem. Conducted in 2002, the survey revealed that thousands of girls are being lured into India with the enticement of a small advance payment (as little as INR Rs.1000.00) to parents, and promises of greater income. The girls are brought via the Gorakhpur-Sonauli border into India by trains or buses. Of the Nepali girls, 1 out of 10 leaving their villages ended up in circuses. The treatment during transit was bearable to most victims but their ordeal began after they entered the circuses. They practiced for the shows during the day when they were not allowed to move out of their circus premises, were provided with bare minimum nutrition, made to perform in the evenings and were sometimes supplied as sex slaves to some government officials and local businessmen at night.

An advocacy campaign was subsequently launched in the sources areas – significantly Hetauda, Makwanpur in Nepal and Bihar and West Bengal in India. Simultaneously, BBA began serious negotiations with the circus industry. The two-pronged initiative — reaching out to the potential victims and negotiating with the industry, simultaneously, achieved two important results: one, large-scale awareness in the source areas on the problem led to a lot of complaints being registered by parents, with the BBA; two, the Indian Circus Federation (ICF) agreed to have the first conference to discuss and solve the problem of child trafficking for circus industry in August 2003.

In January 2004, as a result of the constant lobbying with the ICF, a declaration was signed between the BBA and the ICF stating that there shall be no further use of children in Indian Circuses and that all circuses across India would phase out children in a timely fashion. Subsequently, more than 80

children and young women were liberated from circuses either through voluntary releases or raid and rescue operations. But this still left a lot of circuses that were not part of the ICF, outside the purview of action. Many of those that did not oblige were also the ones against whom there were a lot of complaints of missing girls by parents in Nepal.



A concerted attack was launched against these. In April 2004, 29 girls were rescued from one Circus company in India. With the return of the girls, the news of their exploitation and abuse in circuses and the way they could be rescued spread like wildfire in Nepal.

Maximum complaints were against one Circus company running its shows in Lucknow. During the rescue operation on 15 June 2004, in the presence of the Sub Divisional Magistrate and local police, BBA activists were attacked by the circus mafia. Some were severely beaten and had to be hospitalized. No girls could be rescued. The founder of BBA, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, in spite of serious injuries sat on a hunger strike outside the Uttar Pradesh State Assembly.

S was 8 years old when she arrived in a circus. A woman she called 'aunty' had told her father that circuses were all about fun and frolic and moreover the girl could earn INR 100.00 everyday. When S was rescued 10 years later, all she did was cry. When asked what was wrong, she begged - 'please don't kill my father'. Her friends told the team that during the raid, when the circus owner saw her father with the raid and rescue team, he told her that he would bring his head in a plate and present it to her if she recognized and went with him. When the father came, she refused to recognize him and the shock of waiting for her father for 11 years hoping he would come and rescue her one day and then letting go of that chance made her lose her mental balance.

3 yrs later, after a lot of medical and psychological care and rehabilitation, S is happily married and settled in Nepal.

The entire case shows the connivance between some government officials and the circus mafia which was breached by judicial intervention. Thanks to the sensitivity and initiative of the police investigators, the cases were investigated properly, and cases were filed against the offenders which are pending in the court. To ensure that the circus owner remained in custody, the issue was raised by several civil society organizations including women's organizations which went to every court hearing to stage a demonstration and ensure that the employer did not get bail for six months.

The rescued girls were repatriated to Nepal where several organizations took up the responsibility of their rehabilitation.

The episode of the circus attack spread like wildfire in Nepal, particularly the source areas. The Nepalese public held a demonstration in front of their Parliament House demanding the rescue of the girls and the safety of BBA activists.

The attack was also telecast live by the Indian media which helped generate huge awareness against trafficking of girls for forced labor and sexual slavery. In Bihar, the government categorically refused permission to circuses that employed even a single child below the age of 14 or a trafficked victim.

The entire process from investigation and research on the problem, to the conference with Indian Circus Federation to the Public Interest Litigation led to the ultimate inclusion of entertainment under the list of hazardous occupations, when the notification of 10 July 2006 came into effect on 10 October 2006.

This case study epitomizes the use of the carrot and stick policy. It forced the industry to regularize better service conditions and end trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. It ensured legal deterrent against others that did not follow the rule of law. Large scale awareness at the source areas was carried out by the BBA. This also led to many other parents approaching BBA with complaints about girls who left years ago with no trace at all.

The success of the holistic approach in which the victims and their families, the police officials and district officials, the civil society and the circus fraternity as a whole were part of the entire process makes this a case to follow – a standard procedure to be adopted when dealing with cases of trafficking, especially trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. It also uncovers the very important fact that commercial sexual exploitation is just one means of exploitation and the same children could be victims of forced labor as well.

The most important achievements indeed have been the policy change and the change in the mindset of the masses. When some trafficked girls were once again seen in another Circus in Uttar Pradesh, people themselves approached the circus owner to release the girls and thus 20 girls were released in January 2007. The initiative by BBA has thus, become institutionalized.

## NGO can also contribute to Prosecution: The importance of timely and well-planned action followed by Legal Aid and Counseling: Rescue Foundation's experience at ensuring prosecution of offenders and justice for the victim

**T**raffickers and the ultimate exploiters of trafficked victims often get away because of inadequate response systems and lack of evidence. To ensure justice to the victim and to prevent crimes of trafficking per se, it is imperative that the rescue operation is planned and executed well and in time and that sufficient evidence is collected to nail the offenders.

Rescue Foundation, which works in Mumbai, prepares well in advance for impending raids cum rescue in brothels. As soon as information is received about a victim of trafficking who has been forced into prostitution, a plan of action is prepared. The Investigation Department of the organization first verifies the information through its network of informants and friendly organizations. A decoy customer is then sent to the brothel to gain confidence of the victim. At times it takes 10 to 12 sittings to convince the girl that she can be rescued and to allay her fears about violence and retribution by the brothel keepers. The decoy customer also carries with him five notes of INR 500.00 each, the numbers of which are noted down in advance, so as to use them as evidence in court later on. Armed with all the information collected by the decoy, the Rescue Foundation workers approach the police to organize a raid cum rescue. At the time of raid, the NGO functionaries ensure that all kinds of evidence such as the electricity and telephone bills, municipality documents, ration card, etc. are collected and that the victim's belongings are returned. The collected Material Objects are then effectively used as evidence during the trial. *Panchnamas* too are carried out in the presence of the NGO and the *Panch* (witness).

All these precautions and prior preparations go into ensuring justice for the victim, without which rescue is more often than not, ineffectual. The offenders take advantage of this and are given the benefit of doubt and accordingly acquitted.

For Rescue Foundation, legal aid to victims does not end at this point. The other major area where role of legal aid and counseling comes in is in protection and care of victims. Having gone through a trauma, they are in no condition to be questioned by the law enforcement authorities repeatedly. What they need is a friendly environment and adequate counseling to put them at ease. The Rescue Foundation functionaries are present when the victim is initially questioned in the police station, to ensure gentle handling. The provision of translator too is made so that the girl is at ease as well as adequately understood. Before producing the victim before a competent authority, Rescue Foundation already applies for their safe custody to ensure rehabilitation and repatriation/ restoration of the victim. This enables the organization to give her shelter in its shelter home. Here she receives proper care and psychosocial counseling. The Rescue Foundation shelter home also equips the victim with requisite skills to be independent economically and socially. The rescued person is taught stitching, candle making, repairing of mobile phones, the basics of computer operation, making handmade articles, etc.

## The Legal Department of Rescue Foundation

Rescue Foundation has a full-fledged Legal Department to look after the entire legal procedures and formalities where seeking justice for victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is concerned. The Department is staffed with full time lawyers including women Advocates.

The first task of the Legal Department when a case comes to notice is to lodge an FIR u/s. 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the concerned Police Station and following up with the procedures laid down under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA). Police officers are familiar with the Indian Penal Code (IPC) but some of them have uneven knowledge regarding the provisions of the ITPA. Hence the Advocates have to be present while filing an FIR.

When a victim is rescued u/s. 16(1) of the ITPA, a medical examination is conducted for age verification and then she is taken into custody by the NGO. Rescue Foundation lawyers assist the police in this, as well as ensure that a woman from the team accompanies the victim to the hospital. The team also supports in taking the statement of the girls. A copy of the FIR is kept with the Rescue Foundation team as a record.

The victim is then produced before the competent authority within 24 hours of the examination. A custody application is filed by the organization's lawyer in the concerned Court. The victim is then sent to the protective home of Rescue Foundation. A report is prepared by the Probation Officer after counseling the victim, which is filed in the Court within 21 days. The girl is taken into custody by the NGO after she is informed about her legal rights.

Rescue Foundation provides detailed information obtained by them to the Investigation Officer in the concerned case. Co-operation with the Public Prosecutor is ensured by assisting him/ her in the case with proper information and documents. The facts of the case are explained by the Advocates to the Prosecutors and the Police. Proper assistance is also provided in terms of legal research and administrative support to the Prosecutor. The Prosecutor is primarily dependent on the Legal Officers of Rescue Foundation because they have no direct contact with the complainant, witnesses or victims, or any access to first hand source of information.

Mock trials are a regular part of the Rescue Foundation work. The mock trials are held once a month, in which the victims too participate. The mock trials help them understand the proceedings of the court and give them the confidence to face it.

The lawyers of Rescue Foundation:

- Interview and counsel the victim
- Register the case under all the appropriate legal provisions
- Conduct an in house preliminary investigation of the incident and assist the police in locating the offender
- Place the victim in protective custody
- Assist the Public Prosecutor.

## Strategic intervention and Optimization of Opportunities help STOP rescue two Nepalese girls and a few other minors from Delhi's Red Light Area

**O**n 7 January 2008, a rescue operation was planned by STOP, Andhra Pradesh (AP) Police, Delhi Police, the Rescue Foundation (Mumbai based NGO) and some other NGOs at Delhi's Red Light area - GB Road. While the AP Police was primarily interested in rescuing girls from their State and had therefore, approached STOP for help and cooperation, the Rescue Foundation had requested assistance from STOP for rescuing two Nepalese girls, who had been transferred from Pune to Delhi overnight. These two girls were taken away by the brothel keepers after the joint rescue operation in Pune by the Rescue Foundation and the AP Police because the AP Police could only take back girls belonging to their State. For STOP this was an opportunity that could be used to try and rescue other minor girls also as far as possible. Planning of the rescue operation in both these cases began immediately after the requests from the AP Police and the Rescue Foundation came in.

A Rescue Team of AP Police and other NGOs of Hyderabad plus the Rescue Team of Rescue Foundation, Mumbai came to Delhi for the rescue operation at the GB Road. Since such rescue operations require planning and strategic intervention, the teams met in Delhi at the Andhra Pradesh Bhavan on the morning of 7 January 2008. Subsequently, a meeting took place at the Delhi Police Headquarters with Mr. Satyendra Garg, Additional Commissioner, Crime, Delhi regarding the police force and transportation required during the rescue operation.

It was decided that before the rescue, the teams would meet again at the Andhra Pradesh Bhavan at 6:30 p.m. and the rescue operation was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Accordingly all concerned teams gathered in the Andhra Pradesh Bhavan that evening. Five Rescue Teams were made, including Delhi Police and AP Police personnel, NGO staff and STOP representatives.

Raids were conducted at various *Kothas* (the tenements where prostitutions is carried out). When the Rescue Teams reached the *Kothas* there was a lot of hustle-bustle and the customers began running away as quickly as they could. Clearly the information about the raid had been leaked. Nevertheless, the AP Police managed to rescue all girls from their State and STOP rescued six other minor girls from a different *Kotha*. However, the two Nepalese girls that STOP and the Rescue Foundation were looking for could not be found. They had quickly been removed and taken elsewhere as was obvious.

Representatives of STOP and Rescue Foundation were disappointed by the fact that they could not rescue the two minor Nepalese girls. The mother of the two girls, who was accompanying the rescue teams all this while along with her son, was really anxious and broke down. STOP immediately started informing its sources to get some information about the girls.

Meanwhile Ms. Roma Debabrata of STOP went to the Darya Ganj Police Station to seek assistance in finding the missing Nepalese girls. Fortunately, she met a woman apprehended by the AP Police as a trafficker and kept at the Darya Ganj Police Station for the night, who offered to help STOP in finding out the two Nepalese girls. STOP took her out, because this woman had helped the organization earlier also in rescuing six minor girls from the GB Road.

She was taken in a car with Ms. Debabrata and some STOP Rescue Team members. She started calling up her contacts and three places were named subsequently, where the two girls could possibly be found. All the places were on the outskirts of Delhi. The first two places proved to be fake but at the last place, when the team reached there, the two girls were found coming towards them in a rickshaw. It was one of the most heart rendering scenes watching them unite with their mother and brother after 18 months since they were trafficked from Nepal. In fact they had lost their father in these 18 months who died out of sheer shock.

All of them were then taken to the STOP office where the woman from the GB Road who had helped STOP locate the girls promised to get back all the girls' belongings along with INR 55,000.00 that was owed to them. Within three hours all the belongings in two huge steel trunks along with the money was brought by another informer.

The same night all of them were sent to Mumbai along with Rescue Foundation for further legal work.

It was a successful rescue operation where partner organizations helped each other, taking strategic measures and optimizing on the opportunity at hand for rescuing the innocent victims of human trade.

### **Best practices formulated by STOP in conducting rescue operations**

#### **Pre Rescue Activities**

##### ■ *Building strong networks*

Relationships to be nurtured with the informers including sensitive brothel keepers, who could be resourceful, in giving information about specific minors or women or for children or women who become untraceable. The reason being once a child is lost, she is lost for ever.

##### ■ *Matching of Information*

- The information collected from different sources to be collected and matched.
- Any uncertainty with respect to existence of any sexual exploitation of minors, in a specific brothel, is eliminated.

##### ■ *Planning*

- Once the information is received, proper planning is required to be done to undertake the rescue operation.
- All actions should be strategized in advance.

##### ■ *Cooperation*

If more than one NGO is involved, cooperation is the key to success of the recovery operation.

##### ■ *Security*

- Of the Rescued Girls
- Of the Rescue Team

- *Mode of transportation to be kept ready for the recovered survivors*

### **Rescue Activities**

- *Cooperation of sensitized police officers*  
Help of the local police to be taken only, if they are sensitized, as there are chances of leakage of information.
- *Involvement of Women Police Officer*  
Women police officer to be included in the rescue operation team from the police side.
- *Recovery*
  - Rescue of only minors, minor looking girls and women who are forced into prostitution.
  - No rescue of over-aged girl pursuant to a target driven approach.
- *Respecting the Human Rights / Democratic Rights of the recovered survivors.*
- *Collection of Belongings*  
The recovered survivors are allowed to collect their belongings from the rescue spot.

### **Post Rescue Activities**

- *After rescue, victims and traffickers to be kept separately and not to be taken together to the police station in the same vehicle.*
- *Emergency kits to be distributed to the recovered victims.*
- *Keep the media away as the news can be exaggerated. If not there are chances of the identity of the victim being revealed.*
- *Immediate legal assistance – awareness about rights and entitlements of the recovered survivors.*
- *Interview of the victim to be conducted only by a woman police officer.*
- *Ensuring the victim be placed under safe custody.*

## Framework for Preparing a Best Practice Case Study

### **B**est Practices:

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people's quality of life;
- Are the results of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of the society;
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.
- Are replicable

The Compendium of Anti-trafficking Initiatives will focus on best practices in prevention of trafficking, and rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of all kinds of trafficking. Women and children are the primary targets in trafficking in India hence they are of primary concern in the Compendium of case studies.

The 'best practices' could be on all or some of the following initiatives in anti-trafficking:

- Awareness-raising and sensitization ventures
  - o local camps
  - o public meetings
  - o involvement of PRIs/municipal bodies
  - o involvement of CBOs
  - o conferences/workshops
  - o campaigns
  - o trainings
  - o training materials prepared
  - o theatre
  - o media advocacy
  - o development and dissemination of IEC materials
  - o workshops with police, judiciary and others
- Prevention (working with potential victims and their communities)
- Fact finding and rescue at source, transit, destination. (Active involvement with law enforcement agencies, creation of alternative 'forces')
- Prosecution of offenders including:
  - o investigation
  - o identification of traffickers and other offenders
  - o arrest and detention
  - o interrogation
  - o prosecution

- o conviction
- o post – conviction activities
- Protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and restoration of victims including –
  - o identification of victims
  - o care and attention during rescue and post – rescue situations
  - o counseling
  - o victim protection measures during trial
  - o skill development and economic empowerment of survivors
  - o networking with different agencies for rehabilitation of victim
  - o steps for rehabilitation, restoration and reintegration in family/community
  - o empowering vulnerable sections
  - o addressing adolescents on trafficking, gender rights, HIV and other issues related to trafficking
- Creation of special cells/departments to deal with the issue
- Successful Networking, Coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders
- Lobbying and advocacy for prevention and rehabilitation
- Lobbying and advocacy for change in policy and law, at national and international levels including PILs and role of Judiciary
- Action in confronting perpetrators of the crime: groups, syndicates, middlemen, individuals
- Research ventures

The Compendium will be in volumes. The first volume will focus on best practices of cooperation and partnership between NGOs and corporate/private enterprises. The other volumes will highlight best practices involving other stakeholders.

The case studies should be prepared as follows:

1. **Title/Headline for your case study.** (Use a headline style to catch people’s attention. The title/ heading will highlight the core activity or achievement of the case. This will help in easy identification and placement of the case study in the Compendium).

#### Case Study Writing Tips

1. **Keep in mind the end user:** Remember that people who read the case study may not be familiar with the back- ground, details, and terminology of the situation. Keep technical jargon to a minimum.
2. **Use short-story-writing techniques:** Make the story and the characters grasp the attention of the reader.
3. **Present situations and scenes without any attempt to analyze:** The story in the case study should have a logical flow and should adequately illustrate points, concepts, or issues that relate to the problem.
4. **Provide relevant details:** After an opening that sets up the situation, provide relevant details about the situation, issues involved, challenges, strategies, dilemmas, conflicts, roadblocks, etc.
5. Use simple language in describing the case study.
6. **Conclusion:** Leave the reader with a clear picture of the major problems -- either ask or imply "what is to be done now?", "what would you have done in a similar situation", "is there any other way to solve this problem"? etc. The case study should highlight possibilities of replication.

2. A brief background of the issue at hand (in 2 paragraphs) as given below:
  - a. The kind of trafficking targeted (commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking for exploitative labour or any other type of exploitation)
  - b. Information on age, sex and socio-economic background of victim/s the numbers involved.
  - c. Information on destination and offenders.
  - d. Method of luring or compelling
  - e. Individuals or groups involved
  - f. Transportation
  - g. Treatment during transit and at destination
  - h. Contact with family/village after reaching destination
  - i. Payment and compensation
  
3. Description of action on the case (1 -1 ½ pages) as relevant:
  - a. Acquiring and sharing information about the trafficking case/trafficking in the area; seeking support from various supportive agencies.
  - b. Fact finding, relaying information, planning action
  - c. Confrontation, rescue
  - d. Coordination with law enforcement agencies (police, where relevant)
  - e. Coordination with government agencies
  - f. Prosecution of offenders
  - g. Rehabilitation of victim/s
  - h. Preventive action at the level of the victim/s and their family/community
  - i. Formation of task force or specific unit of action where relevant
  - j. Lobbying and advocacy
  - k. Preparation of IEC material and other relevant final products
  - l. Cost sharing

If the case pertains to collaboration between NGO and corporate/private sector, highlight the ways in which partnership/collaboration took place on the above actions.

- 4 **Learnings (2) pages** (Please make it descriptive and not in the form of answers to the lead questions below)
  - a. In what way is this a 'best practice' of anti-trafficking work (If the case study pertains to NGO-corporate collaboration/partnership, in what way is it a 'best practice' of successful collaboration)?
  - b. Is it sustainable? In what way?
  - c. To what extent has the venture generated awareness among the general public, the media and the community/family of the victim/s about the dangers of being trafficked?
  - d. To what extent has awareness been raised among the police and other law enforcing agencies and relevant government agencies about trafficking?

- e. To what extent has it prevented trafficking?
- f. Has it put the fear of prosecution among the offenders?
- g. How effective was detection/fact finding and prevention at various points along the route of trafficking?
- h. How satisfactorily have the victims been rehabilitated and restored?
- i. What are the dangers/challenges involved (e.g., can the situation revert back to those which led to trafficking?)
- j. Has the effort led to meaningful changes in law and/or policy?
- k. Were there any unexpected outcomes?
- l. How could things have been done differently?
- m. How was your experience in collaboration with the corporate sector/police/judiciary/media/ panchayats and municipal bodies/CBOs and NGOs etc.? What are the highlights of the collaboration? What were the drawbacks?
- n. What further action would you recommend for replication of best practices highlighted through your case study and its sustainability?

A very brief background (separately) on the NGO/ Private sector that you represent will be useful. A brochure will do equally well.

Kindly share all materials that may best represent your anti-trafficking work and successful initiatives. These could include:

- Relevant Reports/Documentation
- Photographs
- Audio-visuals
- Other IEC materials
- Training Manuals
- Information on products made by survivors
- Any other material that you find pertinent for the purpose of this compendium

**Photographs and audio-visuals will not be used for this Compendium unless there is a written consent and permission from your organization.**

## Abbreviations

### A

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AED	Academy for Educational Development
AHT	Anti Human Trafficking
ASI	Assistant Sub-Inspector
ATM	Automatic Teller Machine
ATSEC	Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children
ATU	Anti- Trafficking Units

### B

BBA	Bachpan Bachao Andolan
BCC	Bihar Chamber of Commerce
BE	Bachelor in Engineering ( a graduation degree)
B Ed.	Bachelor in Education (a graduation degree)
BNCC	Bengal National Chamber of Commerce
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association
BPCL	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
BPL	Below Poverty Line
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BPR&D	Bureau of Police Research and Development
BTC	Bodoland Territorial Council

### C

CACT	Campaign Against Child Trafficking
CAP	Communities and Progress Foundation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBSD	Community Based Skill Development
CETS	Child Exploitation Tracking System
CIC	Crisis Intervention Center
CI	Confederation of Indian Industries
CSE	Commercial Sexual Exploitation
CSE&T	Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSN	Community Safety Nets
CTLIC	Community Technology Learning Centers
CWC	Child Welfare Committee

### D

D Ed.	Diploma in Education
Dept.	Department
Dist.	District
DWCD	Department of Women and Child Development

HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
HP	Hewlett Packard
HRDS	Human Rights Defenders System
<b>I</b>	
ICF	Indian Circus Federation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IO	Investigating officer
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPC	Indian Penal Code
ISS	Institute of Social Sciences
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Indian Tobacco Company
ITI	Industrial Training Institute
ITM	Institute for Technology and Management
ITPA	Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956
<b>K</b>	
KPTCL	Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
KSRTC	Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
<b>L</b>	
L4r	Leadership for Result
<b>M</b>	
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
MIT	Murshidabad Institute of Technology
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Micro Soft
MSI	Management System International
MSS	Manav Seva Sansthan
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiah Foundation
<b>N</b>	
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NACSET	Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIFD	National Institute of Fashion Design
NIFT	National Institute of Fashion Technology
NNDS	National Network for the Development (of Self-Help Groups)
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
<b>O</b>	
OBCs	Other Backward Castes
<b>P</b>	
PBT	Prayas Bharti Trust
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action

PO	Post Office
PR	Public Relations
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institution
PSAF	Parish Social Apostolate Forum
<b>S</b>	
SCs	Scheduled Castes
SHG	Self-Help Group
SLARTC	Socio-Legal Aid Research and Training Centre
SO	Supporting Officers in the Police Department
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STCI	Save The Children India
STOP	Stop Trafficking, Oppression and Prostitution of Children and Women
<b>T</b>	
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TCS	Tata Consultancy Services
<b>U</b>	
UN	United Nations
UNDP-TAHA	United Nations Development Programme -Trafficking And HIV AIDS
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime
UP-CTSP	Microsoft Unlimited Potential – Community Technology Skills Program
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UT	Union Territory
<b>V</b>	
Vill	Village
VOCSET	Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking

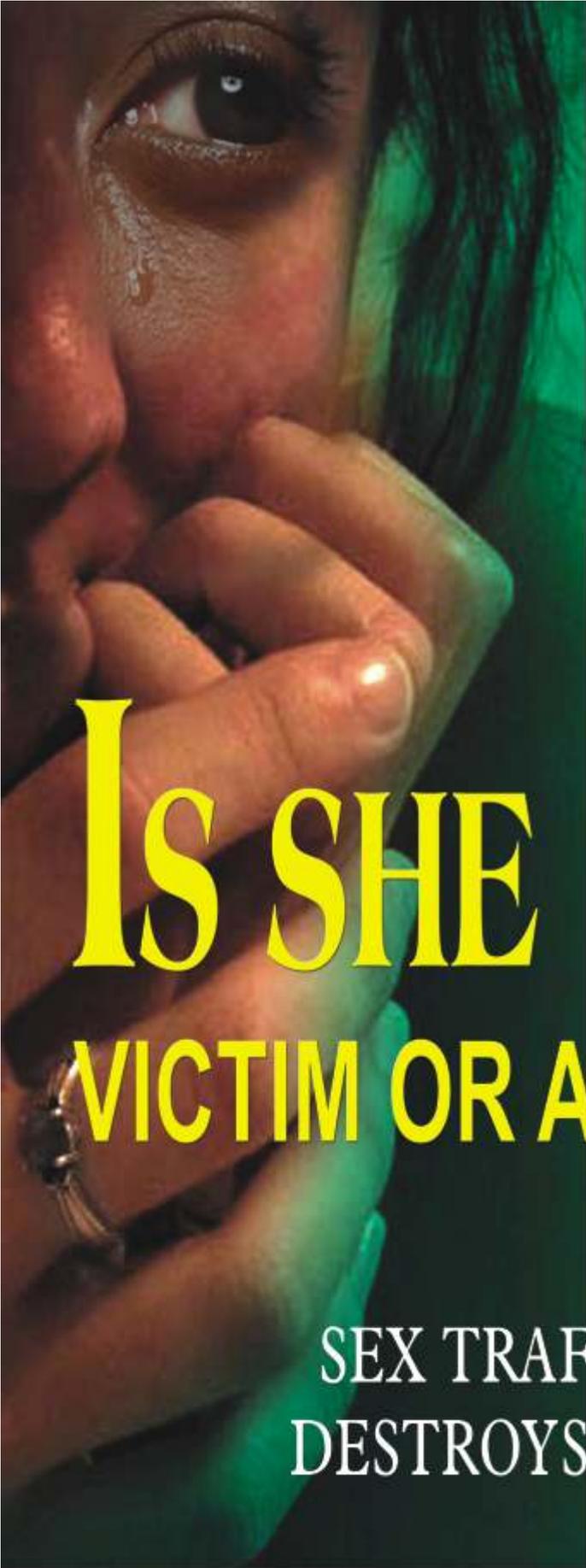
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# IS SHE VICTIM OR ACCUSED

POWERLESS...  
HELPLESS...  
CHOICELESS...  
DEBT BONDED...  
INTIMIDATED...  
THREATENED...  
ENSLAVED...  
RAPED...  
ABUSED...  
EXPLOITED...

SEX TRAFFICKING  
DESTROYS A PERSON



सत्यमेव जयते



UNODC