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Annexure I

Interview Schedule

Interview with the Non Governmental Organizations:

I. Name of the Organization:

Year of Establishment:

Registration number:

Nature of work:

Area of work/location:

Name of the Interviewee/Designation:

Financial Position:

SL. No.	Name of the NGO	Year of Establishment	Registration Number	Location	Name of the Interviewee and His/Her Designation
1					
2					
3					

1. What can be the causes of Human Trafficking?

2. How do you act (methods/techniques implemented) especially if you know that girls are being trafficked?

3. How do you get information about the victims?

4. What type of difficulties do you face while rescuing the victims? Can you explain the major difficulties faced?

5. After rescuing where are the girls kept?

6. Are the girls accepted into the society or not?

7. What type of counseling is given to the victim and by whom?
8. If not, how do you provide relief to the rescued victims?
9. Which ethnicity or which category of women are mostly trafficked? reasons.
10. From which sub-division have you rescued most of the victims?
11. Is there any panchayat who helps your Organization-like the religious committees, taxi drivers union, from different samaj's etc
12. How often do you organise outreach/ awareness programs and where?
13. How willing are the police to join hands at the time of rescue? Is there any joint action undertaken along with the police?
14. Is there any financial aid given from the Government while rescuing the trafficked victims?
15. Is there any Political pressure in the working of the organization?
16. What are your future plans for finding out better ways to prevent trafficking cases?

Year	No. of Cases Handled	No of Victims Rescued	Category (ST/SC/O BC)	Age Group	Reasons For being trafficked (Social /Economic/Political)	Response from Society	No. of Victims put in Protection Homes
2011-2012							
2012-2013							
2013-2014							
2014-2015							
2015-2016							
2016-2017							

Interview Schedule

Interview with the Police Administrations:

II. Name of the Police official:

Designation:

Age:

Sex:

Area of Duty/ PS:

1. What according to you are the major causes of Human Trafficking?
2. What type of case gets registered?
3. In case if a missing report is filed, how do you handle it? Immediately or wait for some time?
4. Can you specify the areas which have Human Trafficking as an acute social problem?
5. Which ethnic community is mostly targetted by the traffickers and why?
6. What actions have you taken against the Traffickers?(Laws?)
7. Can you give the appropriate number of victims that are trafficked every year?
8. What according to you are the means through which the trafficker gains access to the victims?
9. If any case has been registered against trafficking how promptly does the police take action?
10. At times, are the Police influenced by the political leaders? Yes/No/Reasons:
11. Has it happened in any case that the officer in charge has been transferred?
12. How willing are the police to take up the cases coming from the NGOs?
13. Is there any type of pressure coming from the higher authority, to give up on a case or else transference to a remote zone?
14. How do you get information about the whereabouts of the trafficked victims?

15. What type of difficulty do you face while rescuing the victims? Can you specify the nature of difficulty faced?

16. Is there any specific amount of fund allotted for combating Human Trafficking?

17. Do you organise outreach programmes, if yes can you specify how often do you organize these outreach programs to spread awareness?

18. What type of link do you develop with the city police as well as other NGOs?

Year	Name of the Police	Number of cases registered	Number of victims rescued	Category/Ethnicity ST/SC/OBC/Others	Age group	Traffickers convicted	Reintegrated or not
2011-2012							
2012-2013							
2013-2014							
2014-2015							
2015-2016							

Interview with the Railway Police (RPF and GRPF)

III. Name of the P.S:

Designation:

Sex:

Area of Duty/Location:

1. According to you what can be the causes of Human Trafficking?
2. How do you act (methods/techniques implemented)especially if you know that girls are being trafficked in the trains, or are accompanied by traffickers on the platforms?
3. From where do you derive information about trafficking?
4. At times, do you seek help from city police as well as other NGOs?
5. So far, how many cases have been rescued by the railway police from (2011-2016)

1. From which state/country/ethnic community is the highest rate of victims trafficked?
2. After rescuing what is your next step?
3. If rescued, are the girls sent back to their states and how?
4. If suppose, the girls are from another country and cannot communicate in the regional language what do you do?
5. In case you doubt a trafficking case, but on questioning the trafficker answers saying they are married on mutual consent what do you do?

Year	Name of the Police	No of cases registered	No of victims rescued	Category ST/SC/OBC (ethnicity)	Age	Reasons For being trafficked	Action taken against traffickers	Response from society	Role Of Authority
2011-2012									
2012-2013									
2013-2014									
2014-2015									
2015-2016									

Interview Schedule (Family Survey Schedule of the Trafficked Victims)

IV. Demographic characteristics

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Age: Less than 20years/21-25 years/26-30 years/31-35 years/36-40years/41-45years/above 46years
4. Sex: Female
5. Marital status: married /unmarried /widow /widower /divorcee
6. Ethnic Group: Nepali / Bhutia / Lepcha /Others

7. Caste: General /OBC /SC /ST /Others

8. Religion: Hinduism /Islam /Christianity /Buddhism /Others

9. Educational Qualification: Illiterate / Literate /Primary 1-IV /Lower middle V-VIII / Upper Middle IX-X /Secondary Pass /Higher Secondary /Graduation/Post Graduation /Others

10. Occupation Income /month / Yearly:

11. Housing Conditions:

i) Structure of House: Building /Made of wood /Made of soil

ii) Form of Housing: Rented /Owned house / allotted house

12. Total Family Members in the house including the H.O.F:

Respondents Family Members	Age	Educational Qualification	Occupation	Income
H.O.F				

Economic condition:

13. Assets: Land / Property (Movable/ Immovable):

i) Savings: Yes / No, If Yes then type of saving: Bank/ Post Office/ L.I.C etc

If no, then why? Reasons:

ii) Are you sufficient on your income? Yes / No: If yes how? If no how?

14. Household Commodities: T.V. /Fridge /Washing machine /Desktop /Any other

15. Mode of Cooking: Firewood /Cooking gas /Electricity /Kerosene /Any other

16. What type of expenses do you make the most: Medical /Food / Lifestyle /Education/ Ceremonies/Festivals etc.

17. Is there any financial aid from the Government for your family?

Government /NGO'S / any other

18. Monthly expenditure:

Less than Rs1000 /Rs 1001-Rs 3000 /Rs 3001-Rs 5000 /Rs 5001-Rs 7000 /Rs 7001- Rs 9000/Rs 9001-Rs11000 /RS11001-Rs13000 /Rs 13001--Rs15000 /Rs 15001-Rs17000 /Rs 17001-Rs 20000 /Rs 20001 and more

Social Conditions:

19. Type of Family: Joint / Nuclear /Extended /Broken /Others
20. Is staying out at night at friend's place allowed: Yes /No /Never
21. Is Marriage allowed on (Inter caste/Inter Ethnic /Inter Linguistic/ Inter Religious/ Widow Remarriage):
22. During Marriage is Dowry or any kind of bride price demanded,
if yes, to what extent: cash / kind /Any other
23. Is there any kind of Gender Discrimination in the Family?
(Yes/No)If Yes then reasons:
24. What is the probable age of marriage in the family: Male- years/Female- years
25. Is Education considered important in the family? Yes /No
26. Do you prefer to go to school? Yes /No / Reasons
27. To whom does the family prefer to educate: Son /Daughter/ Both, Reasons:
28. Do you think female education is important? Yes /No/ Reasons:
29. Do you support Family Planning? Yes /No/ Reasons:
30. Which community do you live with? Hindu /Muslim /Christian /Buddhist /Others
31. Do you share a harmonious relationship with other communities: Good /Bad /Moderate
32. Do you read newspapers? Statesmen /Telegraph /Himalaya Darpan /Others

Cultural conditions:

33. What type of culture practice do you follow?
34. Do you celebrate cultural festivals of other communities? Yes /No / Reasons
35. What type of impact has culture made on you? (values)
36. Has cultural impact influenced your economic condition? Yes /No /Reasons

Health condition:

37. How is your health condition? Good / Bad / Average
38. Are you easily prone to diseases? Yes /No / Reasons
39. Is there any type of health issues in the family? Yes /No /Reasons
40. Place for treatment: Government Hospital /Private Hospital /Ojha /Others
41. Hospital facilities: Availability of Doctors /Nurses /Operation Facilities:
- 42 . Is there any Public Health Centre nearby?
If yes, -Nature of visit- (Frequent /Occasional /Never):
43. Form of treatment:

Homeopathic /Allopathic /Ayurvedic /Ethno medicine /Others
44. Are you aware of Family Planning? Yes / No
45. Sources of Drinking water: Pond / River /Stream (dhara) /PHE water supply /Others
46. Do you have toilet facility? Yes / No / Reasons
47. If Yes, type of laterine: Kacha /Pacca / Semi Pucca / Sanitary Laterine / Others

Questions (Nature of Trafficking)

1. At what age were you trafficked?
2. How were you trafficked?
3. Where did they take you?
4. How long were you kept there?
5. What relation did you have with the trafficker?
6. Once taken, were you able to contact home, friends at any time?
7. Who rescued you and how?
8. After rescuing were you brought home directly?
9. Are you working? presently?
10. What plans do you have for tomorrow?

Women Trafficking In Darjeeling Hills: Factors and Solutions

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Abstract

Human trade or trafficking of humans is an illegal activity where the fundamental motive is to create wealth at the cost of trading humans. Darjeeling Hills, situated in the northern part of West Bengal state and northern side of Eastern India is a region embracing diversity of nature, culture, wildlife and adventure. The district of Darjeeling has international boundaries with Bhutan in the east, Bangladesh in the south and Nepal in the west. The district covers an area of 3149 sq.km and inhabits a population of more than 18 lakhs. The district has a blend of ethno-linguistic groups comprising of the Nepalese, Bhutia's and the Lepchas constituting a major chunk of the population followed by Biharis, Bengalese, Marwaris, Bhutanese and Chinese. Darjeeling is well-known for the three T's i.e. Tea, Timber and Tourism, but in spite of the recognition and demand for its tea in the international market it has not been able to accelerate the tempo of economic growth and development. This has resulted in paving the way for youngsters to seek employment opportunities elsewhere in other towns, cities and abroad. The strategic location of Darjeeling Hills and the surrounding nations provides ample opportunities to the traffickers as it has been an easy passage for migration of women and girls for decades. The present study is an attempt to identify the factors leading to women trafficking and finding way out to address this social pernicious.

Keywords: Darjeeling, Trafficking, Women, NGOs, Bengal, Prostitution.

Introduction

Human trade or trafficking of humans is an illegal activity where the fundamental motive is to create wealth at the cost of trading humans mostly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour, begging, drug peddling, forced marriages, pornography or commercial sexual exploitation along with the extraction and trade of organs/tissues, forced surrogacy, political instability, natural calamities and disasters, some are also used as combatants by some terrorist and insurgent groups along with violation of human rights. It is an age old trade dating back to human history.

According to the oxford dictionary, the word 'traffic' means 'barter', 'illegal trade' and 'traffickers' means the 'illegal traders'. Human Trafficking is recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person by the use of force, fraud or coercion for the subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. It is an illegal commercial trade of human beings, where they are exploited and treated like commodities for profit. Both men and women may be victims of trafficking, but the primary victims worldwide are mostly women and girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Trafficking can occur anywhere, an urban area or a rural area, within a country or outside, where there is illegal migration. Trafficking affects all regions and majority of the countries in the world.

The United Nations estimates that trafficking in person generated approximately \$7 billion in 2002 and the amount has risen to about \$32 billion in 2010 (Bright 2011).

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (also referred to as the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking), which entered into force in 2002 (the Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime), defines trafficking thus:

Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of the abuse of power or of the vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (Nair 2011)

Article 23 of the Constitution of India, guarantees right against exploitation, prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour, and makes their practice punishable under the law. The ITPA Act, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 renamed after amending the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956) This Special legislation deals with trafficking. The Act defines the terms "child", "prostitution", "public place", "special police officer", and "trafficking officer". The objective of the Act is to inhibit/abolish traffic in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution as an organized means of living. Offences specified under this Act are punishment for keeping a brothel or allowing the premises to be used as a brothel.

- a) Punishment for living on the earnings of prostitution
- b) Procuring, inducing or taking persons for the sake of prostitution
- c) Detaining a person in premises where prostitution is carried on
- d) Prostitution in or the vicinity of public places
- e) Seducing or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
- f) Seduction of a person in custody.

The law confers wide powers on the concerned authorities in matters of rescue and rehabilitation of victims and survivors and provides for stringent action against the exploiters including closure of brothels, surveillance, exterrment, as well as aggravated punishment when the offences are committed on children. (Sen and Ahuja 2009)

Human Trafficking is a modern-day slavery, a grave human rights abuse, it promotes breakdown of families and communities, fuels organized crime, deprives countries of human capital, undermines public health, creates opportunities for extortion and subversion among government.

Trafficking in human beings takes place for the purpose of exploitation which in general could be categorized as a) Sex-based and b) Non-Sex based. Sex-based includes trafficking for prostitution, commercial sexual abuse, pedophilia, pornography, cyber sex, and different types of disguised sexual exploitation that takes place in some of the massage parlor, beauty parlors, bars and other manifestations like call girls racket, friends clubs etc. Non sex based trafficking could be for different types of servitude, like domestic labour, industrial labour, adoption, organ transplant, camel racing, marriage related rackets etc. The growing traffic in women is principally for the purpose of prostitution is an international problem which can be found in both developing and industrialized nations. (Roy 2010).

A trafficker is a person who either lures a minor or a major with false promises, high hopes, and expectations or by force, coercion or abduction with the intention of exploitation and making maximum profit by selling off the individual. A victim is a person who has been subjected to betrayal, exploited sexually and mentally, economically deprived, threatened, instilled fear, violation against the dignity and sold from one hand to the other (amongst the agents/pimps or the Dalals) into the brothels.

West Bengal: A Profile

West Bengal is a state in eastern India, between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal with over 91 million

inhabitants (As of 2011 census), it is India's fourth-most populous state. Apart from the ethno-linguistic it shares its borders with Bangladesh in the east, Nepal and Bhutan in the north. It also borders the Indian states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Assam. Bengal has been marked as the state with the highest number of victims of Human Trafficking.

The Union Government has presented a report on Human Trafficking in India at the Rajya Sabha and West Bengal tops the list. A steep rise of more than 70% is observed in the data of the number of women and children trafficked from Bengal in the last couple of years. The data showed that 3,856 women and children have been trafficked from West Bengal in 2015 and the number has increased to 6,672 in 2016. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) which prepared and compiled the data of the report says that at a time several cases of child trafficking have been registered in West Bengal from Baduria in the South to Jalpaiguri in the North. However, the actual members of trafficking cases might be higher than the NCRB figures as several incidents go unreported. In 2014, the State, according to the NCRB (National Crime Record Bureau) it was reported that the highest number of missing children 14,671, was from West Bengal. Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India (The Telegraph, March 10, 2017, Calcutta)

Trafficking in Women: Theoretical Discussion

The theory which is being incorporated for the existing study is the 'The Theory of Gender and Sexuality' which has been used since the early 1970s to denote culturally constructed femininity and masculinity as opposed to biological sex differences. The 'female sex' is usually subordinated in comparison to the 'male sex'. Theories of gender oppression describes women's situation as the consequences of a direct power relationship between men and women in which men have fundamental and concrete interest in controlling and dominating women as they are the weaker sex and this leads to exploitation like trafficking in women. Patriarchy can be seen as a system of society or government in which the father or the eldest male is the head of the family and descent is reckoned through the male line. Women and children are subjected to the male dominance.

Theory of Globalisation is very pertinent in determining the trafficking issue in society. As there is widespread awareness which is stretched beyond our conventional boundaries 'Global consciousness'- a consciousness that not only drives our life but also at an empirical level, is a source of socio-cultural change. Globalisation refers to those processes which tend to create and consolidate a unified world economy. The globalisation discourse in

India has set from the 1990s. During this decade the mantra of liberalisation, privatisation and Globalisation (LPG) was set into motion by the Indian state. Globalisation is also characterised by greater mobility of goods and people on a rapid pace. Remote parts of the world are now integrated into the global economy. Globalisation gives way to migration of women and children from one country to another which can also make them the servants of globalisation where they become easy targets for trafficking.

There are two ways in which Globalization has influenced the internationalization of trafficking in persons. Firstly, it can be said that the victims of trafficking in persons are more often and more easily moved from one place to another place and from one country to another. The organisation of the trafficking has become easier through the use of modern communication techniques and the various forms of transportation that can be used to transport victims from one place to another. With the use of these techniques, the traffickers are for instance more able to serve the specific demands of the sex market. Secondly, it is widely observed that poverty and unemployment affect women more often than men. Consequently, the effects of globalization affect women disproportionately, making them vulnerable to trafficking practices. It is widely recognized that poverty and underdevelopment is one of the main reasons for the existence of trafficking in persons. Therefore, trafficking mainly takes place from poor, underdeveloped countries to rich. (Rijken 2003)

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the present study are as under:

- To identify the factors leading to Women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills
- To understand the preventive measures to combat women trafficking
- To offer meaningful solutions to the prevailing issues concerning women trafficking

Research Methodology

Study Area:

The area of study has been Darjeeling Hills; Darjeeling district is situated in the northern part of West Bengal state, due to the porous nature of the area, which has allowed the movement of people and commodities, there has been lot many cases of trafficking. Darjeeling has been used only for recreational purpose but the rampant occurrence of the societal issues like trafficking in women and children have not been highlighted much. Over the years many children, young men and women were found to be missing from Darjeeling and its surrounding sub-divisions, yet the public did not have any clear information or news as to the identity of their abductors and the causes for their abduction. These incidents be-

came a sensation for the moment and then it was forgotten. However, the families which suffered the loss of their members due to human trafficking were left with an unforgettable memory and a scar which would never fade away.

Data collection:

The study has focused on quantitative and qualitative methods. Both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data was collected by interviewing the NGOs and Police in and around Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri. Secondary data was collected from secondary sources: books, journals, articles and Internet.

Factors leading to women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills:

Trafficking in women and children is thus one of the worst forms of violence of human rights. This is because it gradually results in the total destruction of the victim's personal identity and his/her right to live as a free human being in the so-called civilized society. Being subjected to continuous violence and humiliation, it also violates several other human rights (Sen and Ahuja 2009).

There are various factors leading to trafficking of women and girls.

- Demonstration effect/Easy Money:** Girls go to the cities to work and earn huge money, their entire outlook is changed where they come in wearing gold chains, good outfits, expensive mobile phones and when they return to their villages they lure other simple village girls who are forced by their parent to join them without even inquiring as to what type of work is provided to them in the cities.
- Alcohol (A socially accepted drug in the hills):** In the hills there is the practice of exchanging alcohol in any function be it marriage or any type of celebrations, (eg Dasain, Tihar Puja time, parents also allow children to sit together and drink). Alcohol leads to early death of the husband due to too excess intake of alcohol, leaving behind the wife and children, who in turn goes to work in beauty parlours and meets the same fate of trafficking. According to Sister Sangeeta Rai, from Kalimpong Hospital, she stated that alcoholism is a very bad practice in the hills, where out of five homes we find three or even four houses which have alcoholics. Miss Margret Horo from Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre said that tribals in the tea gardens are so addicted to alcohol that they cannot stay without consuming. Local Liquor is a regular drink for them which is made of rice, millet which leaves them intoxicated throughout the day. Some are ready to give away their daughters for domestic work purposes in exchange with alcohol.

- c) **Fake Marriages/ Extra Marital Affair:** The traffickers give false promises of marriage to young girls but in actual they are taken to cities and sold off at a large sum of money. The notion of "Chor ko Shor" in the hills is a very common practice as more of elopement and love marriages take place in comparison to arranged marriages. In the case of a missing girl, the family instead of reporting the matter to the Police, keep waiting for three days thinking the girl has eloped and would be brought back after the third day but within that time period, i.e.. Three days they are either taken to cities or flown abroad.

In 2014, 14-18 girls were missing, major girls who were missing were recovered as cases of elopement and few minor cases were there which was handed over to Bal Suraksha who after counselling helped them reintegrate with their families this was reported by SI Dawa Sherpa, from Kalimpong Police Station.

- d) **Early marriages:** Though child marriage is not a cultural practice in the hill communities but early marriage among the adolescents is taking place due to their age, feelings, and the environment so they get into the hands of the traffickers. Mr Govind Pradhan from Hill Social Welfare Society, Kalimpong cited an incident which had taken place from Bhalukhop in Kalimpong where the trafficker had sold off the girl (a minor), under the pre text of marrying her.
- e) **Technology (Use of Mobiles):** The traffickers study about the details of the victims, they have all the information as to what can attract the victim as well as what can be the soft target of temptation for them. Mr Nirnay John Chettri from MARG, Darjeeling gave an example of how a trafficker from Bangalore was totally aware of the whereabouts of a girl studying in class 8, details were known to him as well as the house and even the colour of roof of her house through the Google earth. He further stated that through face book, (a social networking site) youngsters share their personal life, phone numbers with strangers and also update their whereabouts to the world like for eg a status updated as 'i am lonely...i am on my way to Siliguri', and sometimes posting good comments in their pictures will leave them impressed, these are the information's easily tracked down by the traffickers.

Miss calls are yet another means of starting a relation which can again be turned into trafficking. Many cases have taken place starting with a miss call there has been a direct interaction between the

trafficker and the victims leading to friendship and then getting trafficked.

- f) **Advertisements/Agencies:** There was an advertisement on escort services in the local newspaper but no one opposed. Mr Nimay Chettri himself had called to find out but they refused to speak so when a female volunteer spoke over the phone they invited to come to Siliguri as well as if she brought in more girls she would also be given commission but not to tell anyone so Mr Chettri asked the police. Mr Jagmohan who raided within one week and found out that it was being operated from Uttarayan in Siliguri, where a class ten student named Rocky was operating through Siliguri call girls.com. There has been many other instances where women and girls have been trafficked by these employment providing agencies. In 2010 (case study), Reena from Kalimpong, was promised a job in Kuwait by an agency at Bagdhara, and also promised a handsome salary, some amount was charged from her, she was then sent to Kathmandu, Nepal where from a Nepali agent she could collect her passport which was a fake/ jalee passport where she got a pseudo name and a marital status. She was a married woman with a kid, she flew to Kuwait, where she was sold from the Nepali agent to a Filipino agent, who snatched away her passport and her phone, on reaching Kuwait and then auctioned her to an Arab Sheikh, and she had to work at his place, the amount promised to her was never given. After escaping from that house she was taken into Police custody for more than a month as she did not possess a passport. So, finally after much struggle and hardship she returned home.
- g) **Physical Appearance:** In sex industry there is more demand for fair complexioned, slim figure of women and girls. Mr Rishi Kant Director of 'Shakti Vahini' an organisation working to combat Human Trafficking was the resource person for the National Seminar on Trafficking in Person: Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation organized by the Department of Law, University of North Bengal on 26th and 27th of November 2016. He stated that there has been more demand for the girls from the hills, as they get high price for them because of their fair complexion, and they are very submissive which becomes an advantage for the traffickers, pimps and the madams. It also becomes very easy to trade them not only nationally but internationally as well in South East Asia.
- h) **Beauty Parlors:** Beauty parlours or massage parlours hire young girls with good salaries to entertain the clients physically. eg a Thai spa was raided in Salugara, Siliguri (2014) and minor girls of 14-

15 years were into prostitution serving almost 40 customers a day, were rescued from there. As far as North Bengal is concerned there are many dance bars which have come up in Siliguri after the metropolitan cities.

- i) **Simple/Emotional People:** People from the hills are more emotional they do not think, they blindly trust people (strangers) who take full advantage of their situation. Hill people become soft targets for the traffickers. According to Sub Inspector Rohita Lama, Darjeeling PS, she stated, that the society is much liberal in the sense once they trust they do not even question as to where are they heading to? Who all are going? Where are they going? When will they be returning? Parents hardly pose such questions to the traffickers, whereas in other communities there is a lot of questioning and in case things are unclear, parents too accompany them. Lady traffickers also are very good at convincing the parents because a woman trusts a woman more than a male and even allow their children to accompany them. Women as much as they are victims, are also facilitators of this human trade. Women exploit other women and young girls in servitude.
- j) **A sweet pledge:** According to Sister Subeshna Thapa, from Bal Suraksha Abhiyan, Kalimpong. Trafficker makes a pledge (convincing truth which is very sweet) between them and the parents of the children by offering them some gifts or deeds, as according to their requirement, due to their poor living conditions, the traffickers never open up the truth, that they are going to sell their daughters in the brothels, they give false promises to the parents that their children would be provided with good education or a good job with a handsome salary would be provided so they convince the parents to give their children in their hands.
- k) **Childhood abuses:** Childhood abuses can leave a negative impact on the child. It leaves a scar which becomes very difficult to erase. Sister Sangeeta Rai referred to a case which she had dealt in Kalimpong Hospital, Molestation of a minor in the tender years (10 years old) within the family, where the step father, uncle (mama, kaka) had taken advantage of the girl. Family molestations: The family background was not very strong, due to the physical abuses within the household, the child was left in a traumatic condition, and she felt she was unwanted. This has also been a factor which later pushes these children into illegal activities or some are sold by their own family members to the traffickers.

- l) **Poverty:** Poverty is the root cause of trafficking taking place around. Families from poor background are easily convinced by offering some monetary assistance as well as other requirements by the traffickers who are shrewd and well versed in changing the mindset of the poor parents. Poverty can be monitored only by creating employment so that the migration too decreases. In other words, Parents are easily targeted on commercial lies and bribed with money.
- m) **Closed Tea Gardens:** Tribals too are easy to convince since they are simple and the closing of tea gardens give easy passage to the traffickers to pave their way into their habitats and lure their children away with false hopes and a few financial assistance.
- n) **Taking Food offered by Strangers/known:** In many cases girls were offered sweets and cold drinks, tea which made them unconscious, one incident was when the girl accompanying her friend to the railway station was offered cold drinks after meeting a person thereafter she was trafficked.
- o) **Unemployment:** Many youngsters are school dropouts, some are socio- economically backward, and Employment opportunities are very few as a result people from the hills have to migrate to other towns and cities. Mr Nirnay John Chettri from MARG, stated that flesh trade is on the rise mainly due to unemployment, resulting from political unrest and the porous borders in Darjeeling. Unsafe migration takes place due to the ignorance of the people. There is a strong link between poverty and unemployment which pushes women and girls out from their places in search of better job opportunities.

These are the major factors leading to trafficking in women and girls especially in Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri area.

Preventions

- a) **Awareness Campaigns :** Trafficking can be prevented by putting up 'Awareness Campaigns' in schools and colleges, rural and urban areas, about the false promises made by traffickers in luring the children from their villages and families. Programmes could be either through street plays, documentaries. Seminars, skits, rallies and by distributing pamphlets and brochures. Awareness programmes should be conducted amongst the parents, among the drivers, hoteliers, rickshaw pullers and so on. It is notable that two youngsters named Tejasweeta Pradhan (18 years) and Shivani Gond (17 years) members of the 'Students Against Traf-

ficking Clubs' (SATC) of Darjeeling were awarded by the West Bengal Commission for protection of Child Rights' (WBCPCR) on 21st November, 2016 in Kolkata. They had helped in exposing an international sex racket at Munirka in New Delhi, Gurgaon and Haryana. They saved several girls from Darjeeling, Doars, Sikkim and Nepal from the traffickers. So awareness programmes are a must. (The Asian Age, 17th January 2017)

- b) **Skill Development Training Programmes:** NGO's are trying their level best to do the follow ups for the rescued victims so that they do not return to the same profession and also providing them some opportunities like trainings in beauty parlor, sewing and Skill Development Programmes which can help them to sustain on their livelihood.
- c) **Corruption/Bribery:** Strict vigilance should be conducted at the grass root levels, so that taking bribery is stopped. Police in the grass root level takes bribes and seems corrupt which brings disgrace to the profession.
- d) **Women Empowerment Programmes:** If more women empowerment programmes are held it will help in building stronger, much more confident and independent women. These programmes should be held in the rural areas as well.
- e) **Technological Awareness** through the mediums like IEC (Information, Education and Communication) includes materials, Information and ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) like radios, mobile phones; internet could be another important means to prevent trafficking. Implementation of the IEC system by distributing pamphlets, leaflets to the youngsters so they could spread awareness. There was a case of a 16 year old school going girl who helped MARG and Darjeeling Police in saving another girl from being trafficked and arresting four traffickers from Darjeeling and Siliguri. It was with the help of IEC materials that the organisation was called in for rescuing (as stated by Mr Chettri from MARG).

Solutions

Based on the above analysis, the researcher has made an attempt to offer meaningful way out to address this social pernicious:

- a) **Change in the Educational System-** Education is the most powerful catalyst for social change. Educational system, can transform society for the better, as according to Mrs. Kylie Duncan, from CROSSROADS, Kalimpong, an organization working for prevention of trafficking, she stated that students should be given the liberty to make their own assessments,(evaluations) and not just accept what is written in the texts, it would help them become more creative and judgmental.
- b) **Provision of a shelter home-Lack of shelter homes** for rescued victims in the Hills and in Siliguri. There is 'CINI 'an organization, which keeps only minor girls and boys even after rescuing the major girls are let off, who are again re-trafficked. There is one 'KORAK' home in Jalpaiguri, so girls from Siliguri and Darjeeling Hills have to be kept either in Jalpaiguri or in Coochbehar. It would be better if a home was set up by the Government either in Siliguri or in the Hills.
- c) **Professional counsellors to be provided:** NGO's lack good professional counselors especially to motivate parents to lodge FIR's against the trafficker. Proper guidance and counselling is the need of the hour.
- d) **Police to be sensitized and more essential requirements to be provided to handle Women trafficking.** As according to the Police, there is no fund allotted for handling human trafficking cases. Government should take it up as a serious matter and provide some funds.
- e) **Police should also be given the advanced equipments like technology to track down and investigate the traffickers and also provision of enough vehicles so they could rush on time to nab the traffickers before they escape.**
- f) **According to the police there is not much cooperation seen from the public when it comes to giving out information, could be out of fear and also avoiding the long ongoing court cases which becomes difficult for the Police to act. So, an approachable and public friendly environment could be created between the Public and the Police.**
- g) **There should be a stricter vigilance at the transit points and the cross border migration of people by the Police authorities. Understanding the interlink between migration and trafficking will help to identify the key factor of trafficking and also proper care should be taken to protect the freedom of people migrating.**
- h) **NGOs have to form a nexus and work collectively, since NGOs are working individually according to their major focuses. Ms Hasina Kharbhih, Managing director of IMPULSE, an NGO working against trafficking stated that NGOs have to form a nexus**

in order to work against trafficking. Since North Bengal is the corridor to the North East, IMPULSE is focusing to make all NGOs pro active for combating trafficking and facilitating a chain of robust of umbrellas so that they could function more properly and effectively. She also said that some NGO's are keeping the rescued victims in shelter homes for months but according to the law she says that a shelter home can keep an individual just for three months after that she has to be reintegrated with her family. Sometimes NGO's refuse to give updates/follow-ups about their rescued victims which in actual has to be provided so that the victim does not go back in the same track. The neighbouring nations too should be given their own space where and how they can handle along with their implementation of rules and laws but she said that there are some NGO's who are encroaching on the other nations privacy and making things difficult for them to handle. There should be a very good understanding between the neighbouring countries so together illegal activities could be checked and controlled.

- i) A Fast Track Court is required so that immediate action could be taken and victims could be given justice. Other times, there is much delaying in giving the statement by the court. It happens that a trafficker is released on bail and by the time justice is meted out, a long duration of time has already collapsed.
- j) Certain National schemes like the Ujjawala which was launched in West Bengal in 2007 which was being implemented by the NGOs and Swahadar scheme had 18 shelter homes in West Bengal, providing shelter to women in distress. According to Mr Chettri from MARG, he stated that these schemes have to be relooked upon so a new scheme could be prepared by the panel constituted by the Supreme Court.

Conclusions

Trafficking in Women in Darjeeling Hills has been a serious concern, where NGOs, Police, parents and the Public have to work hand in hand together. Parents need to monitor the whereabouts of their wards as well as the duty lies in every parent to create a strong bond and create awareness so that they do not fall in the hands of the traffickers. The higher authorities need to attend the cases with utmost priority. The Government should relook and reframe certain schemes which have been outdated. NGOs need to counsel the victims and help them reintegrate with their families. Human trafficking is a serious crime and grave violation of human rights. Time has

come for all to join hands to fight against this gruesome practice so to build a better place to live in.

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Role of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Combating Women Trafficking in Darjeeling Hills

Dr. Ujjwal Bhui and Persis Mukhia¹

Abstract

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) perform a variety of humanitarian services. Different NGOs cater solutions to different kinds of social issues and their focuses are on a wide range scale ranging from human rights to improving health, providing education to the underprivileged, spreading awareness on environment, upliftment of women and children, combating human trafficking and so on. Several NGOs in Darjeeling Hills are working to combat women and girl trafficking. The existing article aims to analyze empirically the roles play by these NGOs to prevent and control the trafficking of women.

Keywords: gender, sexuality, bondage, Shakti Vahini, prostitution.

Human Trafficking: A Brief Introduction

Human Trafficking is a grievous crime in human society. It is the inhuman act where the main aim is to make profit at the cost of trading humans mostly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour, begging, drug peddling, forced marriages, pornography or commercial sexual exploitation along with extraction and trade of organs, forced surrogacy and some are also used as combatants by some terrorist and insurgent groups, a grave violation of human rights. Trafficking can occur anywhere,

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in an urban or rural area, within a country or outside country where there is illegal migration. Both men and women may be victims of trafficking but the primary victims worldwide are mostly women and girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Article 3, Paragraph (a) of the United Nation's Trafficking Protocol is related to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. The Protocol declares "Trafficking in Persons" as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. *The Global Alliance against Trafficking* defines 'women Trafficking' as: All acts involved in the recruitment and/or transportation of a woman within and across national border for work or services by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt bondage, deception or other forms of coercion. Every minute of a day, the most vulnerable women and children are raped for profit and pushed into the flesh trade. According to the *SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002*, 'trafficking' means moving, selling or buying women and children for Prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking (Nair, P.M. 2011: 11).

Trafficking in human beings takes place for the purpose of exploitation which is general and could be categorized as (a) Sex based and (b) non sex based. The former category includes trafficking for prostitution, commercial sexual abuse, pedophilia, pornography, cyber sex, and different types of disguised sexual exploitation that takes place in some of the massage parlours, beauty parlors, bars and other

manifestations like call girls racket, friends clubs etc. Non sex based trafficking could be for different types of servitude, like domestic labour, industrial labour, adoption, organ transplant, camel racing, marriage related rackets etc (Roy, Rekha 2010: 2). But the growing trafficking in women is principally for the purpose of prostitution, an international problem found in developing as well as in industrialized nations.

Trafficking in Women: Theoretical Discussion

Theories provide a concrete basis to a particular subject of discussion. For the existing study which deals with women trafficking, the "Theory of Gender and Sexuality" is being incorporated in view of the fact that it has been used since the early 1970s to indicate culturally constructed femininity and masculinity as opposed to biological sex differences. The 'female sex' is generally considered subordinated in comparison to the 'male sex'. Theories of gender oppression portrays women's position as the outcome of a direct power relationship between men and women in which men have primary and material interest in controlling and dominating women as they are the weaker sex and this leads to their exploitation. Trafficking in women is such a social and power relation issue among men and women wherein men dominate on females' body and mind.

Trafficking in women is local issue but it is obviously a global issue. It unlocks the national and international boundaries. The 'Theory of Globalization' is specifically relevant to throw light on the gloomy issue of women trafficking in our society. Since there is an extensive awareness which is expanded beyond our conventional boundaries, the 'Global Consciousness' - a consciousness that not only drives our life but also, at an empirical or practical level, is a source of socio-cultural change in societies throughout the world. As well as globalization refers to those practices

which tend to build and strengthen a unified world economy. The process of globalization as a discourse as well as an economic program has been laid down in India since the 1990s. Throughout the decade and subsequently the agenda of liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG) was set into action by India. Globalization as a process encourages even insists migration of people from one region to other regions within a country or one country to other countries. Globalization gives way to migration of women and children from one country to other countries which can also make them the drudges/slaves of globalization where they befall as easy targets as victims for the traffickers.

Objectives of the Study

The existing research work primarily is based on these theories which provide necessary direction to the work to obtain an empirical base. Considering the factors or the causes which have led to the uprising of trafficking of women in Darjeeling hills, it has been observed that several NGOs are working to combat this social evil out from the society. Those NGOs have taken up a well spirited team effort to organize outreach programmes, creating and spreading awareness in rural areas as well as in schools and colleges. Street plays are organized so that each and every age category of individuals become conscious as to preventing them from falling prey in the hands of traffickers. There are several NGOs in Darjeeling hills which play important roles to combat trafficking of women. The present paper mainly focuses on this aspect of NGOs like MARG, (Mankind in Action for Rural Growth), Hill Social Welfare Society, Cross Roads, Bal Suraksha Abhiyan, CINI, Tiny Hands, Kanchanjunga Udhar Kendra Welfare Society, and Mary Hill Ward Society which provide their every effort for preventing and controlling women trafficking in and around Darjeeling Hills. Following are the objectives of this study:

- (i) To study the nature of women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills
- (ii) To know the roles played by the NGOs to combat women trafficking
- (iii) To understand the ways and methods applied for preventing women trafficking

Research Methodology

The whole study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected by direct interviewing the NGO members. Purposing sampling technique has been applied to select the NGO members as informants from whom relevant information have been collected. Pilot survey was done before framing a semi-structured interview schedule used for collection of primary data. Primary data collected from different NGO members have been presented as case studies. Secondary data have been collected through books, newspapers and internet.

Women Trafficking in Darjeeling Hills: Some Aspects

Shri Rishi Kant, the Director of *Shakti Vahini*, an NGO working against trafficking stated in a National Seminar on "Trafficking in Person: Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation on 26th and 27th of November 2016, organized by the Law Department of N.B.U., stated that many girls from Darjeeling Hills were trafficked to Kashmir, North India and many other places. He also mentioned that North Bengal particularly Darjeeling Hills has been a very easy target for trafficking in women as it shares porous boundaries with other nations. It also has a prolonged history of movement of people, goods and commodities.

Darjeeling district is the northern part of West Bengal which shares its boundaries with Nepal to the west, Sikkim to the north, and Bhutan to the east. Irrespective of having potentialities for a better development, it still has low pace of development and economic growth paving the way for youngsters to seek employment opportunities elsewhere in other towns, cities and other countries. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, closed tea gardens and many other factors have given advantage to the traffickers to lay their firm grip on the innocence and simple minded people from Darjeeling hills. We can also say that this porous nature of the area allows and gives ample opportunity to the traffickers, who are also known by the term 'Dallas' or 'Dalalis' who could be either neighbours, relatives, lovers, people who have been trafficked before, or sometimes even the parents. The recruiters pick the victims from bus stops, railway stations, airports, streets, beauty parlours or even from their homes. The 'Dallas' or 'Dalalis' move to the potential sites for victims especially poverty stricken areas where there has been no proper rehabilitation. The traffickers are very calculative as to from where and when they can pick up their victims. They have a very large scale networking, spreading all across, and are using modern methods to track their victims. Regions which have been hit by earthquakes, floods, cyclones, drought or any natural calamity can be their softer targets. Poverty and hunger makes women and children belonging to the poorer sections of the society highly vulnerable to human trafficking. As per our observation in the region besides the factors like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, natural disaster etc one unique feature exists there that even if the girls go missing hardly there is any missing complaint filed in the police station by the family members due to the fear of social disgrace. They also do not file complaint as they are with the hope that the girl would return after three days. This unique cultural practice in the hills is term as "*Chor ko Shor*" when family members assume that the girl has eloped and would come home

after tying the knot with the boy but within that period of time *i.e.* three days they are either taken to different cities or flown abroad. Over the years many women and children went missing but there was no initiative to trace their abductors or to realize the cause of their abduction. These incidents became a sensation only for the moment and soon forgotten.

Role of the NGOs

The Darjeeling Hills facilitate many Non Governmental Organizations or NGOs to work actively to combat women and children trafficking. They have been spreading awareness among people consequently people are also becoming active to prevent trafficking of women and children. Officials from some of the NGOs were interviewed in the course of the study. These NGOs are the Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG), Hill Social Welfare Society (HSWS), CROSSROADS, Bal Suraksha Abhiyan, Tiny Hands, Mary Hill Ward Society, IMPULSE etc. The following table shows the activities of some of the selected NGOs which they acknowledged during their face-to-face interview with the researcher:

Table No 3: Activities of the NGOs

Questions	MARG	HSWS	TINY HANDS	CROSSROADS
1. What are the causes of Human Trafficking?	Unemployment, alcoholism, fake marriage, Socio-cultural practice of "chor ko shor"	Unsafe Migration, easy money, unemployment, fake marriage, School dropouts.	Lack of job opportunities, intra country migration, deception by lover or spouse	Poverty, politics, family problems, sex abuses, no proper implementations of legislation
2. How do you	Police is	Asking the	Regular	Organization

act, if girls /women are being trafficked?	mobilized immediately & information gathered about the victim.	parents & relatives to file a missing complain & then organization takes up the case.	monitoring are done along with inquiry	directs people to child line in case of minor & assists people to report the case.
3. How do you get information of the victims?	From parents, police, & Sansthas (Committees)	Parents, relatives, friends	Staffs & SSB (Seema, Sashtra Bal)	It is through awareness programmes people come & share
4. What are the difficulties faced during rescuing?	Victims consider NGOs & police as outsiders	Non-cooperation from the police, as without the assistance of the police they cannot functions	Victims at time do not accept that they are being trafficked as they are brain washed & hence they retaliate with the staffs.	Organization does not rescue but assists people to report cases, do not face much difficulty
5. After rescuing where are the girls/women kept?	Shelter homes / protection homes in Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar	Kept in shelter homes or reintegrated with their families	Minors are kept at CINI, majors are reintegrated with their families	Organization refers to other organization/s which work in the nearby areas
6. Are the victims accepted by the society or	Not easily accepted by the society	Not easily accepted	Pre-trafficked rescuing leads to easy acceptance by	Not easily accepted but more awareness programmes in

not?			the society.	this regard are required
7. What type of counseling is given to the victim and by whom?	Professional counselors	Since professional counselors are not there, so seniors of the organization do the counseling	All the staffs counsel the victims & handover them to the shelter homes	Organization does not have trained counselors so senior members counsel the victims
8. If not, how do you provide relief to the rescued victims?	Organization does not provide relief, it only rescues	Organization does not provide relief, but provide training courses & encourages them	Organization does not provide relief, but ensures home safety	Organization does not provide relief, but assists in reporting the cases
9. Women/girls are mostly trafficked from which ethnic group?	From all categories - General / ST / SC / Others	Mostly scheduled tribes as compared to others	Nepalese from Nepal in big groups and in most of the time Adivasi (ST) girls in small groups or as individual	All categories are vulnerable to trafficking but ST and Nepalis are more vulnerable
10. From which subdivision / district / country you have rescued the most?	All Sub divisions	Kalimpong	Nepal, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling	Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Doars

11. Any help from NGOs / Religious communities or any Union / Samajs?	Yes, DAT (Drivers Against Trafficking) clubs are formed who provide help	Yes, the organization has received help from the Panchayats, Sansthas & also from GDNS (Gorkha Dukh Niwarak Samelan)	Yes, other organizations, churches, taxi drivers, travel agencies provide help	Yes, the organization has received help from the locals and Panchayats
12. How often do you organize outreach programmes and where?	Awareness programmes are held in every month in schools, colleges, hotels, samajs etc	Once in two months especially in rural areas	Once in a month with Christian communities in Malbazar, Panitanki along with distribution of pamphlets	Regularly, sometimes 6 to 8 times in a month on drug addiction, domestic violence, trafficking issues etc
13. How willing are the police to join hands at the time of rescue?	Police forces are very cooperative	Police forces is much required at the time of rescue, though the cases are not taken seriously	Police are casual, they stop the traffickers only when order comes from higher authority	Very cooperative and help to prevent trafficking
14. Is there any financial aid given by the Government	Yes, but it is a very long process	No financial aid is provided but funds are collected through	There is no fund at present as the organization has to prove	No fund but organization is supported by providing donations

while rescuing?		donations and membership fees	itself independent at least for a year	
15. Is there any political pressure in the functioning of the organization?	No	Yes	No	No
16. What are your future plans?	More focus on prevention of trafficking	Control and prevention of trafficking	Organization is willing to work more for the society	By listening and welcoming new ways and strategies

Case Studies of Some Well-Known NGOs in Darjeeling Hills

1. **MARG:** It was established in Darjeeling on 8th September 2006. It focuses on issues relating to women and children. It provides basic education to the underprivileged women, children, marginalized sections and rescued trafficked victims. The General Secretary of MARG, Nirnay John Chettri stated that flesh trade is on the rise in Darjeeling hills mainly due to unemployment resulting from political unrest, and porous borders in Darjeeling Hills. He also informed that 420 girls were found missing in 2010 which rose to 923 in 2012 as per the survey conducted by the NGO in the district. MARG has been organizing outreach programmes regularly, conducting awareness programmes in schools and colleges. They have formed clubs in schools /colleges and presently there are 7 numbers of clubs in Darjeeling and 4 numbers of clubs in Kalimpong. They also held awareness camps among the Local Samaj, Drivers Samaj, and also with the

Police forces. The NGO has rescued 43 victims since 2011-2012 from various age groups. 5 traffickers were convicted for 2 to 4 years of imprisonment. 150 victims have been recovered and they were kept in the Coochbehar Rehabilitation Centre as they lack a home to keep the rescued victims. Most of the victims were minors.

2. **Kanchanjunga Uddhar Kendra Welfare Society (KUK)** is a very old NGO of Siliguri which was established on 15th December 2004. It focuses on prevention of trafficking, child protection, issues related with any type of violence against women. Its focused areas are Siliguri, Darjeeling hills and Dooars. It has built a good rapport with Police administration, schools, and other organizations which inform them about missing cases. They have been rescuing women and girls from trafficking as they receive help from "DECOIR CUSTOMER" meaning to say some known staff acts as a customer and make their search for missing individual. Just after information of the missing person, they immediately report the police. They have been playing a big role in providing training to the members like teachers, advocates etc coming from the nearby villages. They have formed the *Village Protection Committees* which alert people in the villages regarding trafficking. They have staffs for counseling the trafficked victims. Shri Prabhat Pathak, a member of the organization stated that trafficking has two types: CSW (Commercial Sex Worker) - when girls, women are trafficked for commercial sexual purpose and the other one is LRW (Labour Related Work) - when children especially boys are trafficked for labour purposes for camel jockeying and other uses. Awareness campaigns like workshops are held. Many Christian missionaries and institutions have come forward to help the organization. They also get information from travel

agencies which also help them in their endeavors in combating trafficking. He stated that the main reason behind trafficking in North Bengal is due to the limitation of jobs in the region. Being a tea garden belt where thousands of labourers were employed few years ago are now unemployed particularly due to the use of machines in tea factories. Consequently, requirement of labour power is less, so supply of jobs goes down and people are forced to migrate out of the region. In 2016, three batches of girls were taken to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar for organizing orchestra songs where Bollywood item songs were played and the abducted girls were forced to dance. And later, these girls were sold one by one to the people who attended the orchestra event. Eight girls were rescued in Raxaul (Bihar) out of which 5 girls were trafficked from Nepal, 2 girls from Dooars and 1 girl was abducted from Assam. During the period 2004-2008, approximately more than hundred cases of trafficking mostly girls from Nepal who were running away to escape the Maoist threat and fear were handled and solved. Five numbers of traffickers were convicted in 2013.

- 3. Hill Social Welfare Society, Kalimpong:** The NGO was established on 23rd November, 2000. It mainly focuses on the upliftment of women, children and other marginalized groups. They organize health checkups, monitor nutrition intake and provide training to the youths. It also focuses on agriculture (multi-crop farming, square feet farming, and animal husbandry). They also have started the Self Help Group or Neel Kamal Group scheme to empower rural women. They watch over areas like Kalimpong, Algarah, Gorubathan, Rangli-Rangliot blocks and the tea gardens found in these regions. The main role of HSWS is to provide a platform for training to young girls and women as beauticians, handloom and weaving workers. They

are trained in cutting and tailoring. They make khadas, shawls, incense sticks etc. Horticulture is also practiced like mushroom cultivation so that they can sustain their livelihood. HSWS also conducts awareness programmes in rural areas, tea gardens to educate them so to prevent forced migration. They have rescued 42 victims since 2011-2016 who belonged to the age group of 21-35 years. Some of the rescued were sent to missionary homes, one victim who was trafficked from Nepal sent to Maiti in Nepal. Others also were reintegrated. Shri Govind Pradhan stated that those who were rescued from brothels were not accepted by their respective society whereas those victims who were rescued before pushing to the brothels were accepted by their society.

4. **Tiny Hands, Siliguri:** This NGO is one of the recently established NGOs set up on 1st June 2016, but has taken a major role in transit monitoring, preventing of trafficking by conducting awareness programmes at bus stops, junctions, railway stations etc. They have also conducted many awareness camps with the stakeholders, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers and travel agencies. They also have established Monitoring Cell in Panitanki situated in the Indo-Nepal border. The Organization has handled 52 cases in Siliguri, New Jalpaiguri Railway Station, Siliguri Junction, and bus stations etc where two traffickers were caught out of which one trafficker was convicted and sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment as per appropriate the law of Nepal. In India, the punishment is only for 5 to 7 years and occasionally it is of 10 years. Three cases were found from Malbazaar, Jalpaiguri in which no traffickers were arrested as the victims failed to give their statements. Most of the girls are tribals from the tea garden areas of Terai and Dooars (sub-Himalayan regions).

5. **Mary Ward Social Centre, Siliguri:** This NGO was established in 2016 in Champasari situated in the outskirts of Siliguri. It is run by the Loreto Sisters. The main role played by the NGO is to monitoring the nearby tea gardens like Mohargaon, Gulmarg, Sukna, New Chumta, Putin Bari, Nischaritapur tea garden so that trafficking cases should not happened. Margret Horo is an active member who has been organizing special awareness camps in these tea gardens. She herself rescued three minor girls from Bagdogra. She said that the rescued minor girls are handed over to CINI, and the rescued adult girls/women are reintegrated with their families. She has been keeping a strict vigilance on the tea gardens as the tribals are very much vulnerable for trafficking.
6. **Bal Suraksha Abhiyan (BSA), Kalimpong:** It has been looking after children and rescuing them from being trafficked. At the present they have 96 children who were rescued from different districts of West Bengal. Sister Subeshna says that children used to clope and generally they are falling in the wrong hands. She handled a case when two minors were being taken to Haryana but with the help of Child Line in Delhi they could bring them back home in Kalimpong.
7. **CROSSROADS, Kalimpong:** it is an another organization which has been helping to prevent trafficking by registering cases of missing girls and children as most of the time cases go unregistered as parents are hesitant and out of fear they do not file cases. Sometimes, the traffickers are residents in the same village who keep pressurizing the parents that their children would be back and not to file a complaint. CROSSROADS helps the parents to register complaints and hands it over to other organizations working on it. It

also holds awareness camps on domestic violence, drug addiction and on trafficking. The organization has rescued three girls from Darjeeling, and two girls from Sikkim.

Observations and Opinions

Observations have been made here taking into consideration the roles played by the NGOs. Above mentioned NGOs in Darjeeling Hills (District) are actively working and rescuing victims of trafficking of women but the problems which are being observed by them are many which are as follows:

- **Lack of Shelter Homes for Rescued Victims:** There is an organization named 'CINI' which keeps only minor girls and boys even after rescuing the major girls are let off who are again re-trafficked. There is one shelter home named 'KORAK' in Jalpaiguri, so girls from Siliguri and Darjeeling Hills have to be kept either in Jalpaiguri or in Coochbehar. It would be better if a home is set up by the Government either in Siliguri or in Darjeeling.
- **Fewer Co-operations from the Police:** On occasions, the NGOs do not get sufficient as well as timely co-operation from the Police administration and the delay in their arrival creates a lot of instability which provides chance to the traffickers to escape never to be traced again.
- **Change in the Statement by the Victims:** Sometimes, victims do not accept that they are being trafficked and they tend to change their statement due to the fear of threat and prolonged court hearings. NGOs have to be very vigilant and need to counsel them appropriately.

- **Lack of Good Professional Counselors:** Majority of the NGOs lack good professional counselors especially to motivate parents to lodge FIRs against the trafficker/s. According to a member of 'Hariyo Kharka' meaning 'Green Pasture' a Christian Organization in Kalimpong which provides counseling to the youths and empowers women by organizing awareness programmes. Ms. Saru Koirala stated that even after the rescuing, the girls are kept in shelter homes provided by the Government in inhuman conditions. These shelter homes are crowded resulting in several inmates fleeing back to the brothels.
- **Organization of Additional Awareness Campaigns:** More awareness campaigns through awareness programmes, skits, distribution of pamphlets and sensitization on the grass roots of different sections of people like in different clubs, hotels, drivers, teachers, students, and shopkeepers could help prevent trafficking from rural and urban areas.
- NGOs are trying their level best to do the follow ups for the rescued victims so that they do not return to the same profession and also providing them some opportunities like trainings in beauty parlour, sewing and other types of skill development related trainings which can help them to sustain on their livelihood.

Though, in Darjeeling hills, NGOs are working individually. According to Ms. Hasina Kharbhih, Managing Director of IMPULSE, an NGO working against trafficking stated that NGOs have to form a nexus in order to work against trafficking. Since North Bengal specifically Darjeeling district is the corridor to the North East. Therefore, the focus of IMPULSE is to make all NGOs pro active for combating trafficking and facilitating chain of robust undergone umbrella so that they could function more properly and effectively.

Concluding Remarks

Women Trafficking in Darjeeling hills can be controlled and prevented only when people from different walks of life irrespective of their differences, join hands together to fight for uplifting women in society and helping them to acquire a position of respect, also teaching the young ones the revival of values which has now been disappearing from our society. Then only can our society be a better place for humankind – free from all kind of domination and bondage. NGOs are playing a significant role in this respect in Darjeeling hills.

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Darjeeling woman rescued from Oman

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DARJEELING, 25 APRIL

A social organisation has successfully rescued a Darjeeling woman in her late thirties from Oman and brought her back home.

The woman had recently had gone to the Gulf country after she was promised a housemaid's job. However, she was physically tortured in the house she used to work, and after we learnt of the case, we did our bit to rescue her and bring her back here," Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) general secretary, Nirnay John Chettri, said.

He added that there are many people from the Hills that go to the Middle East for work, but without proper verification of the agency that is taking them, which is a must. The woman had gone

to Oman on 19 November last year, through an agency based there. The victim maintained that she stayed in Dubai for 12 days, after which, the agency made her work in a house in Oman, but as she failed to speak either the local language or English, she was physically tortured and returned to the agency after six days, where she was tortured further.

"She was then sent to work in another house where she worked for about three months, and where she underwent a similar ordeal. She returned to the agency again, while her pleas to return home fell on deaf ears," sources said.

"Meanwhile, she was in constant touch with one woman from her village, who learnt of her miseries and took up the matter with one social worker who got in

touch with the Darjeeling NGO, the Indian Embassy in Oman, the district administration here, and Darjeeling MP SS Ahluwalia," they added.

The woman was finally rescued on 11 April and she reached Delhi last Friday, it is learnt.

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E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/ Engg./17 of 2018 dt. 20-04-2018.
E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the works: **Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work:** Construction of unmanned L.C. Gate No. NC-44 by providing diversion road to L.C. Gate No. NC-45 between Akubani Road- Mangarjan. **Tender Value:** ₹70,52,716.31. **Earnest Money:** ₹. 41,860.00. **Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work:** At Sitgaj Jh. Outsourcing of Housekeeping & cleaning of GRH & SRH including landscaping and providing security round the clock (12 Months). **Tender Value:** ₹5,85,105.35. **Earnest Money:** ₹11,710.00. **Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work:** At Sitgaj Jh.

Nepal's missing girl turns out to be trafficker, gives cops the slip

ANAND KUMAR

anandk@rediffmail.com

SEARCHING FOR A GIRL WHO WAS REPORTED MISSING LAST MONTH IN NEPAL, THE POLICE OFFICERS IN THE HILLTOP TOWN OF DHARAN WERE DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THAT SHE WAS ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY.

The 21-year-old girl, who was reported missing in Nepal in January, was found in the hilltop town of Dharan in the state of Bihar in India. She was found in a house in the town, where she was working as a housemaid. She was found in a house in the town, where she was working as a housemaid.

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—Gagan Verma, husband of the girl, who was arrested by cops in Calcutta on Saturday. (PTI)

Flesh trade: Delhi not just transit point but emerging source area

Around 10% of girls rescued from flesh trade in Goa are from Delhi

ANAND KUMAR

PANAJI The national capital Delhi is slowly emerging as a source area for human traffickers who are sending girls to Goa for prostitution.

A data compiled by NGO Anand Kishor Dandekar (AKD) reveals that vulnerable girls from Delhi are being sent to Goa in the name of better employment opportunities and are commercial sex workers.

As per the data available since last two and half years, around 200 girls have been rescued in Goa of which 20 are from Delhi. The number of victims is gradually rising," says AKD director Anand Pandey referring to the figures of previous five years (2013-2017) when a total of 1,000 girls were rescued.

TRICKED INTO PROSTITUTION

A lot of 200-300 girls rescued in Goa in the last two and half years, 20 are from Delhi. Girls mostly lured with the promise of better opportunities in Goa. All the girls trafficked from Delhi to Goa travel by flight. Tickets are booked by the traffickers and the details are relayed to Goa.



—Unhappy victims, who had to travel 1,000 km to Goa. They were lured with the promise of better opportunities in Goa.

Foreigners also trafficked via Delhi

PANAJI Delhi is also known to be a transit point for foreign nationals as well as victims from other Indian states who are trafficked to Goa for prostitution. The foreign nationals include Bangladeshis, Indians, Ukrainians, Nigerians, Turkmenistanis, etc. whereas from Indian states it includes Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand, informed Pandey.

"Victims from foreign countries as well as other Indian states are first trafficked to Delhi and then to Goa," said Pandey. Figures suggest that since 2011, around 15

girls were reported to be trafficked from Delhi to Goa. In other states from which girls are trafficked from Delhi, the percentage of the total girls rescued in Goa. In cases of girls from Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, etc. it has been found that as soon as these girls reach Delhi their passport visa is taken away from them. It is then that they are taken to the place where they will remain in the name of a housemaid. When the passport is taken the traffickers

organised racket between Delhi and Goa for trafficking of girls for prostitution," informed Pandey. AKD is under NCR of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHU) of the Goa police. A senior police officer who was part of various raids confirmed that Delhi is one of the major areas from where traffickers op-

—continued on Pg 12

—continued on Pg 12

www.economictimes.com | Study rings Bengal trafficking alarm

Study rings Bengal trafficking alarm

COCHIN A study by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) has revealed that around 100 girls from Bengal are being trafficked to Cochin for prostitution. The study was conducted over a period of six months. The report also states that the girls are being trafficked from various parts of Bengal, including Kolkata, and are being sold to brothels in Cochin. The study also highlights the role of middlemen in the trafficking process.

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TAKEN FOR A HIDE

Highlights of the report on reported victims of commercial sex work in Cochin, 2014-2017. Total girls rescued: 100. Top states of origin: West Bengal (30%), Karnataka (25%), Maharashtra (15%), Gujarat (10%), etc.

Top states of origin	Percentage
West Bengal	30%
Karnataka	25%
Maharashtra	15%
Gujarat	10%
Uttar Pradesh	8%
Other states	12%

A Free Zone in the Heart of Dubai

Darjeeling kids receive bravery awards for busting international sex racket

BY ANAND KUMAR

SILIGUDA, Feb 23—Two youngsters from the Darjeeling hills were awarded bravery awards by the West Bengal Government for their role in busting an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. Last year, the two boys, who were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014, were awarded for their role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014.

from the girls, the Karnataka police and MANCIP intervened on international sex racket leading to the arrest of Gagan Kumar, the 18-year-old boy from Darjeeling, and a woman from West Bengal in Nepal, who was initially reported missing from Karnataka. Gagan Kumar, who was arrested on the charges of international sex racket, was arrested on the charges of international sex racket. He was arrested on the charges of international sex racket. He was arrested on the charges of international sex racket.

Darjeeling girls shun fear and reveal identity Brave faces unveiled

BY ANAND KUMAR



Four girls who revealed their identities to the police in Darjeeling, West Bengal.

SILIGUDA, Feb 23—Four girls from Darjeeling hills were awarded bravery awards by the West Bengal Government for their role in busting an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014.

The girls, who were initially shy and fearful, eventually revealed their identities to the police. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014.

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BY ANAND KUMAR



SILIGUDA, Feb 23—Two youngsters from the Darjeeling hills were awarded bravery awards by the West Bengal Government for their role in busting an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014. They were awarded for playing a crucial role in exposing an international sex racket in Kolkata in November 2014.

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WB keen on signing MoU with Delhi govt on human trafficking

ARMY BUREAU

NEW DELHI, 23 February

In a bid to combat human trafficking, West Bengal government wants to join hands through memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Delhi Government. Sources claimed that the West Bengal government wants to initiate a dialogue with Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka and Goa by signing MoU for Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) of trafficked children and women.

NGOs, Bengal govt officials discussed the importance of MoU with different states. In recent times both Delhi government and West Bengal government had shown the interest in helping trafficked victims where once they helped a victim who was brutally assaulted and Delhi government took the responsibility of her treatment at CTS hospital. According to the victim, she was sold to Asham for Rs 3000 who forced her into prostitution. When she refused, she was beaten up badly. She was assaulted by at least 10 men of different age groups in a day for one year. The trafficker used to send her to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Manipal for 15-30 days with the clients where people used

to rape her. On Monday a team of NGO Shaikwahini, took her with them in a flight to West Bengal where the girl was handed over to WB government officials and now the state government will take care of her. Sources claimed that West Bengal has emerged as a source area for inter-country trafficking in India. In cities like Delhi, a number of illegal placement agencies have cropped up. These agencies take advantage of legal loopholes to traffick innocent girls in the name of providing employment but instead they are forced to work in extreme conditions. Rishi, Kant of Shaik Wahini said, "It is a positive step by the West Bengal government and other states should replicate it".



Mrs. Yuden Bhutia

मानव तस्करी बाल शोषणबारे रिम्बीकमा जनचेतना कार्यक्रम



रिम्बीक, २२ दिसम्बर (विश्व) : मानव तस्करी तथा बाल शोषणबारे सचेत गराउँदै दुईम पार्सिलसम्म पुगेर जनचेतना कार्यक्रम गरिएको मार्ग विकासकारी संस्थाले बुधवार रिम्बीक बजारमा जनचेतना कार्यक्रम गरेको। रिम्बीक नगरिक अधिका सुधा समिति (महिला सशक्त) टोपनसहित मार्ग अनि लोपोन्मुख पुलिस प्रशासनको संयुक्त कार्यक्रममा मार्ग एनजीओको महासचिव निर्मल जोन छेत्री, हाथी राई अनि कर्म

विभिन्न संस्था उपस्थित थिए। कार्यक्रममा मार्गका सदस्यहरूले वर्तमानमा बढ्दै गइरहेको मानव तस्करी अनि बाल शोषणले समाजलाई कसै जसै परिरहेको साथै यस मुलभुत बुझाको रोकथाम गर्नलाई मार्ग विकासकारी संस्थाले गाउँ गाउँ पुगेर जनचेतना कार्यक्रम महत्त्वपूर्ण रहेको बताए। उनीहरूले यस अभियानको रोकथामको निम्ति जनसाधारणहरू पनि सचेत रहनुपर्ने बताउँदै संकाजनक निम्ति

देखिने पुलिस प्रशासन एवं संस्थालाई छत्र पाँटिने उद्देश्य गरे। कार्यक्रममा लोपोन्मुख बजारका सम्वन्धकारहरू बीबी सङ्गले मानव तस्करीमा के कसरी फाट्न हुन्छ त्यसमा आगेपीलाई बस्ती सञ्चालन दिन सकिन्छ भन्ने कुरा प्रकाश पार्दै घरमा कुनै संकाजनक व्यक्तिहरू संलग्न रहेको बताए पार समुप्य विचार सहित पुलिस प्रशासनलाई छत्र गरे पुलिस प्रशासनले संचालीय टोम कटम उठाउने बताए।



Miss Margret from DMWSC

मानव तस्करीबारे सचेतना कार्यक्रम



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Trafficking check

Youth Against Trafficking Club (YATC) was formed on September 12 at Darjeeling Government College by Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG), ARZ Goa and ECPAT Luxembourg. The event was coordinated by Shrawan Bhatia, assistant professor of the college. Students were handed badges by officer in charge (OIC) of the women's cell, Meena Rai Bhatia is also the YATC coordinator of the college. Hiray Jais Chhetri, general secretary, MARG,

held an orientation for the students and stressed that the youths had the capacity to change the world. On September 5, YATC was also formed at North Bengal St. Xavier's College in Rajpur block of Jalpaiguri. The event was coordinated by Purnima Mukhia of the women's cell. Radha Khawas from MARG held an orientation event for the students at St. Xavier's. The students pledged to work towards stopping this social evil.



The MARG event in Darjeeling

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Mr Prabhat Pathak (KUK)



Sister Sangeeta Rai
(Kalimpong District Hospital)



S.I Shiksha Singh (P.S Pradhan Nagar)



Inspector Biplab Majumder (NJP RPF)



Mr Ashim Rai (Tiny Hands)



ASI Dibyendu Chakraborty (NJP GRPF)



S.I Sujit Lama (PS Mirik)



Miss Sharu Koirala (Hariyo Kharka) on-the-right



Mrs Bhim Bahadur (Cross Roads)



Fr Stanley Sj Darjeeling