

Ceaseless Issues of Vulnerability

Human Trafficking



Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking has become a major problem in this globalized world. India being surrounded by the neighboring countries such as Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal has become the major breeding ground of traffickers. The trafficking cases are increasing at a large rate in India.

Various Possible Reasons for Human Trafficking

- Lack of education and awareness
- Abject poverty
- Natural disaster/displacement
- Communal clashes/ displacement
- Lack of political, social and economical stability
- Lack of reasonable and realistic prospects
- Situations of armed conflict and oppression
- Domestic violence and disintegration of the family structure
- Gender discrimination/ witch hunting
- Demand of domestic helps in metros
- Lack of job opportunities in rural areas.

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children defines

“trafficking in persons” as “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 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. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Global Scenario

- ❖ Human Trafficking - second largest criminal industry in the world and the fastest growing.
- ❖ More than \$32 billion in profits annually.
- ❖ 12.3 million - 27 million (2007-2012) men, women and children around the world reported to be living in Bondage.
- ❖ 2.4 million People across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one time.
- ❖ 80 percent of them are being exploited as sexual slaves.
- ❖ 17 percent are trafficked to perform forced labor, including in homes and sweat shops.
- ❖ 80% are women and 60% are children.
- ❖ Every minute two children become victims of human trafficking.
- ❖ Only one out of 100 victims of trafficking is ever rescued.

Asia Scenario

- ❖ Within Asia, an estimated 300,000 to 450,000 people are trafficked each year.
- ❖ Prevalence of trafficking in Asia and the Pacific region - 3 per 1000 population vs. Global Prevalence of 1.8 per 1000 population.
- ❖ Southeast Asia, where an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 people are trafficked each year.
- ❖ World's largest number of sex slaves trafficked from the Southeast Asia region to the brothels in Japan, China, Australia, Europe, and the United States.

Indian Scenario

Destination

- ❖ Nepal and Bangladesh – CSE, forced labour, DW.
- ❖ Growing destination for sex tourists from Europe, the United States, and other Western countries.
- ❖ Over 60 percent adolescent girls (12-16 years)

Transit: Bangladesh – Pakistan & Middle East.

Origin: Middle East – Fake/contract marriages/European countries (CSE).

Internal: Rural-Urban areas – CSE, Labour, fake marriages, preference for male children and marriages (as an outcome of declining sex ratio)

North-East India Scenario

- ❖ Crime in India 2012, the highest rate of violent crimes was reported from Assam (54.2 per cent), followed by Manipur (44.6 per cent), Kerala (42.7 per cent) and Delhi (34.7 per cent) (National Crime Record Bureau's latest report).
- ❖ Total of 2,109 cases of abduction of women were registered in Assam during 2012, of which 1,398 were rescued from various places. At least 894 women, mostly in the age group 15-30, were rescued from outside the state (State Home Department Records Assam).
- ❖ The largest markets for trafficked NE women are metros like Delhi, Pune, Bagalore and Mumbai, and states like West Bengal, Goa, Kerala and even Arunachal Pradesh. According to official records, 117 Assamese women were rescued in Maharashtra, 173 in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh and 13 in Delhi between January and December 2012.
- ❖ 12 years girl was rescued in trans-border between Assam and Dimapur district of Nagaland.
- ❖ Since 2005, 3,993 complaints of female adults going missing have been reported. Similarly, 4,843 cases of missing children were reported across the state between 2005 and April 2010 (CID Report).

Human Trafficking in Assam or say the entire North East is alarming. It has been in existence since the early days but with the passing of the day, trafficking rate is increasing at a large rate. Assam is being ranked as one of the eight Indian states with regard to the Child Trafficking (UNODC, REPORT 2013). This news is very alarming and an important component to be handled as early as possible by following a major step to abolish it from the society. Abolism or Amelioration of Human Trafficking should now be an important component of the society and each single individual. Thousands of innocent lives become a victim of Human Trafficking in an

around the globe. It has been observed that Human Trafficking has turned out for some people as huge industry.

It has been observed that the reason of trafficking in Assam has mainly been poverty, unemployment, Forced migration, insurgency, communal clashes and natural disasters related displacement. The trafficking rate is also high in Assam due to the false promises made with regard to marriage in Haryana. Of the four BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Council) districts of Assam three districts namely Kokrajhar, Baksa and Chirang also have the large trafficking cases today. Some areas from Kokrajhar, Baksa and Chirang districts have a large number of trafficking cases as those two districts have remote areas which situates in the border of Bhutan. The Indo Bhutan Cross Border Human Trafficking is high in the respective places. Also these two areas have many trafficking cases within the country but out of North East India.

The conflict situations in the BTAD areas served an advantage for the traffickers to manipulate vulnerable who are in crisis. The crisis situations hamper the people severely. People turn to be dependent on the other. The dependency of the people is the target for the traffickers. The question here arise “Is it really necessary to traffick people? Can’t one live better life rather than exploiting the vulnerable?” World does not start by exploiting others rather it begins with the help provided to them.

Trafficking in Person Direct Intervention by NEDAN FOUNDATION (NEDAN)

Year	Total Rescued	Minor	Adult
2004	200	73	127
2005	6		6
2006	70	25	45
2007	68	13	55
2008	49	3	46
2009	42	10	32
2010	11	4	7
2011	18	1	17
2012	19	2	17
2013	15	15	0
Total	498	146	352

Rescued figures from other NE states 2011-2012:

Nagaland 56, Manipur 66 and Mizoram 52 (source: social welfare department govt. of Maharashtra and Goa)

School Children Actively Taking Part in Stop Human Trafficking Campaign



Grim Situation of Missing Children Reported in 27 districts of Assam

Young male and female children go missing each and every day. The young lives who are interested in playing and enjoyment are always focused by the evils of our society. The innocent lives that are not aware of good and bad are always targeted in the society in every field. They have not committed any crime than why does evil effects take place with regard to them? Children are considered as the maker of the world but instead of giving them proper education and good training, they face vagaries in life.



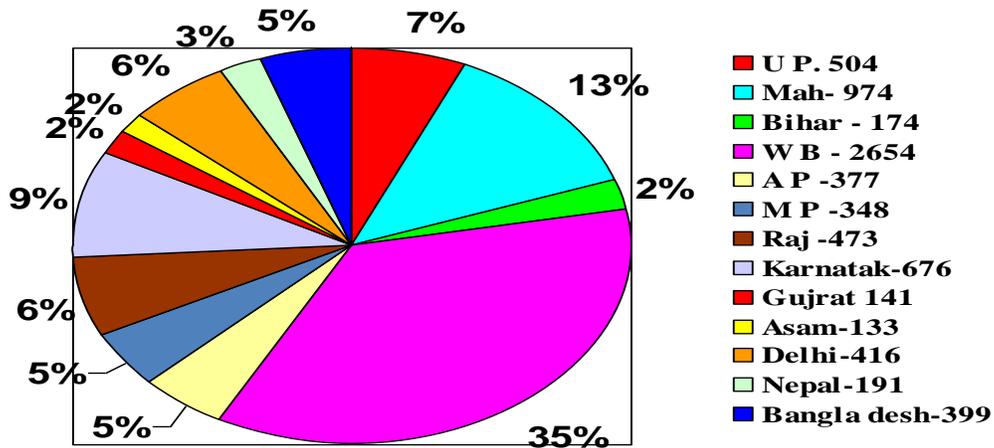
The data given below shows the number of missing children reported from 27 districts from the year 2002 to 2011:

Data Collected from 27 districts of Assam, North East, India										
Heads	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Missing Male Child	297	315	323	254	470	302	341	338	292	709
Missing Female Child	382	369	349	319	419	386	499	475	488	1416
Total Children Missing	679	684	672	573	889	688	840	813	780	2125
Traced Male Child	56	101	99	151	177	28	41	130	155	366
Traced Female Child	60	125	118	129	134	41	67	180	245	830
Total Traced Children	125	226	217	280	311	69	108	310	400	1196



From 2006-2011 Rescued Figures by Maharashtra Government

Major State of origin admitted in the Maharashtra state home in last 6 years



Scenario of Child Marriage in Assam

Child Marriage which was practiced in earlier days seemed to in existence even in this globalized world. Individual expect developmental changes by hearing the term ‘globalization’ but it took the other way. Change is taking place in the society but these changes are not the developmental change but the change with regard to the increase of Child Marriage. Human Trafficking has also lead to the increase in Child Marriage. Young girls are manipulated by the evils of the society with false promise of marriage and settling down in the metropolitan cities. But they being unaware of the intentions start trusting blindly.



Child Marriage has also given chance to the Domestic Violence to mount. Young lives who are at the peak of enjoyment is given a sudden responsibility of supporting family which than develop distress within self as well as others.

The districts with the highest rate of Child Marriage arranged in order:

Districts	Percentage	Trafficking Source Districts
Barpeta	53.6	Source district
Kokrajhar	50.6	Source district
Dhubri	48.8	Source district
Karbi Anglong	46.3	Source district
Karimganj	45.3	Source district
Dhemaji	44.2	Source district
Baksa	44.1	Source district
Nagaon	43.4	
Udalguri	43.1	Source district
Lakhimpur	42.4	
Golaghat	42.3	
Hailakandi	40.8	Source district
Tinsukia	40.4	
Kamrup Rural	39.4	Source district
Bongaigaon	37.4	Source district
Morigaon	37.3	
Sonitpur	37.1	
Golpara	35.9	Source district
Dibrugarh	35.2	
Darrang	34.5	Source district
Cachar	34.1	
Jorhat	34	
Chirang	33.5	Source district
Sibsagar	32.4	
Kamrup	31.7	
Nalbari	31.0	Source district
North Cachar Hills	24.3	Source district

Source: Law Research Institute, Guwahati, Assam

Successful Stories of the Trafficking Intervention by NEDAN

Case 1: Ms. Neena (name changed) is basically a permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh but she is born and brought up in Guwahati and now currently resides in Guwahati with her whole family. Her father is Bihari from Uttar Pradesh and mother is Bengali from Assam. Her father passed away in the year 2008 due to sickness. Neena has three (3) siblings. All the siblings are girls and younger to her.

She was trafficked from Guwahati to Mumbai in the year 2010 when she was just 16 years old. She was working in Guwahati in the Beauty Parlour. Her colleague knows the trafficker who is a lady. But her colleague was not aware what was in the lady's mind. Her colleague as she was asked to do she told to Neena about the opportunity of better job in Mumbai to be provided by the lady. Neena was informed that the lady would indulge her and also her colleague in the expensive Beauty Parlour where they will be paid good amount of money. Neena was taken away by this news. She was ready to go with the lady as being the eldest she needs to look after her three (3) younger sisters. Since the day her father passed away she became the source to run the family. There was poverty in the house so earning good amount was her dream to make the family live happily. Her colleague could take her in her confidence and was successful in taking her away from home.

Neena's mother tried to stop her from going to Mumbai when she came to know about it, but unfortunately could not. Neena started believing and listening whatever her colleague say. Now for her, her colleague was like her idol or the change agent. She started arguing with her mother in simple things. And one fine day she left home and started to live with her colleague. Than few days later, the lady took them to Guwahati Railway Station and headed towards Mumbai. There after reaching the lady sold off both of them to other persons (one man and one lady). Those persons brought both of them to different area and kept them inside the house for a week. After a week when those two persons with a plan to sell her off to another person on the way unfortunately they met the police. When caught by the police Neena started to cry and then the truth was revealed and both the persons were arrested. Her case was than produced in the court.

Neena was then brought back to home (Guwahati) in the year 2011. After coming back to Guwahati to feed her stomach and also of her family member's she began working in a company (Car Perfume making company) in Guwahati. On working there she found her job very difficult and tiresome and need lots of physical force so she left the job and decided to come to NEDAN Foundation, Kokrajhar, Assam and be an office helper. She is now the office helper at NEDAN Foundation and the staffs of NEDAN Foundation have decided to provide her with other different vocational courses so that she can stand on her own feet and be an independent person in her life without any fear and who can raise the voice against any violation in the society. She is the example for many young girls of the society that how the innocence and poverty causes a

girl to indulge in prostitution. Through this we can make aware to the young girls of our society that no matter what problem arises in life find the other way to fight against those problems rather than choosing the wrong path (prostitution).

Case 2: Ms. Moni (name changed) is an Adivasi (Santhali) girl from Kokrajhar District who was lured by the agent from relief camp in the year 1998. She lost their native place during the ethnic conflict in 1998. Since then whole family has been living in the camp. She was taken by the agent with the promise of providing her a domestic work in Siliguri. As per the information provided by her guardians, within few months she was taken from Siliguri to Kolkata owner. During her father's funeral, Tina's brother called up to inform her but owner did not allow her to speak. Since then she has not been allowed to come home.

On 2nd February 2005, her mother came to NEDAN and narrated the whole story of Moni and asked for a help to rescue her daughter. NEDAN informed Srirampur information booth centre and called up to Kolkata to and asked to talk with Moni, but still the owner refused to let Moni speak to her mother.

Moni was in their custody for two years. She was rescued in the year 2005. She is now an independent young lady who is earning by her own hard work. She has also joined NEDAN as an Assistant Coordinator child protection project working in the post conflict displaced areas. She is no more dependent on others. She has now the abilities to perform and fight back for the justice of oneself or for others. She has developed an aptitude to make her voice reach to the nation in any situations.

Parents Appeal to the Authority for their Trafficked Daughters

The hot debate was raised in the Indian Parliament with regard to the trafficking of the young girls from Assam. It was reported in the debate that 400 young girls from Lakhimpur district of Assam are being trafficked. The parents have not received any information of the whereabouts of their daughters. The parents in sorrow and despair appealed to the authority with the pictures of their daughters in their hands to rescue them from the hands of the evil.

According to NGO records, about 143 women are missing from Lakhimpur. The OC of the Lakhimpur district talking to The Assam Tribune said that, some 12 cases have been reported to

the police stations across Lakhimpur district over the years. He said that 12 missing girls were rescued by Lakhimpur police from Delhi in 2012 and two more have been rescued from Arunachal Pradesh so far this year.

The young girls are lured with the purpose of getting married, entry into the fashion industry etc in the metro cities. The remote areas are being targeted by the traffickers. The people of the tea gardens where the daily wages are less and poverty is common made the young girls of the area get attracted to the luxury life which they see or hear each and every day. The meager wages made those young girls of the tea pluckers to disappear without any trace. A young girl named Elaina Kujur now 20, inhabitant of tea garden area under the Lakhimpur district was trafficked to Delhi when she was 14 by a man named Sreenivas saying that he can take her to Delhi where she can make more money. An illiterate and jobless parent believed him and sends her along with the trafficker. In Delhi she was kept as domestic worker without any payment and was also raped by the trafficker.

Another case from the same district states that, Maina who is 17 years old hailing from Lakhimpur district is trafficked from Assam two years ago and was sold to a man in Sonipat in Delhi as a domestic help for Rs 22,000. Her employer forced her to have sex with a vegetable vendor in return for free vegetables. Over this period, Maina was raped several times. Stephan, the trafficker who abducted Maina, is well-known in her village. Stephen alone has trafficked around 453 women from Assam in the last few years.

A recent study conducted by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) state that Delhi is a market and a transit point for trafficked women and children. Many of these trafficked women and children are brought from Nepal, Bangladesh, North-East India, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

If this is the case in own homeland than which is the safe place for the young girls. The question arises here, why are the poor daily wage earners of a small place is targeted? They have no property, they are dependent on their daily wages, and still their life is at stake. It has become crucial for every single citizen in and around the globe to see the problems faced by the people of the tea garden areas of Assam.



Source: The National by Gethin Chamberlain (<http://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/the-indian-teenage-girls-being-trafficked-into-delhis-middle-class-households#full>)

Creating Alternative Livelihood for Vulnerable Women and Girls

Weaving Destination: NEDAN established Weaving Destination centre for the vulnerable indigenous women for the economic empowerment. The trafficking survivor's returnee's domestic workers and also the HIV positive women and girls are given training at the Weaving Destination. It is a step to show them the way to have an earning source for livelihood which will protect them from being trafficked, social exclusion and impoverishment. Weaving Destination is known as global symbol of women economic empowerment a award conferred to Weaving Destination in 2012, having online and offline sales office in Melting Pot Social Innovation, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Mentoring for Social Enterprise amongst Vulnerable Women and Girls: NEDAN has also aimed at mentoring social enterprise amongst the potential vulnerable girls, rescued women and girls. It is to endeavor to develop entrepreneurship development skills amongst vulnerable women and girls in the international border districts of Bodoland with Bhutan and Bodoland with Bangladesh.

Reach Out Programme with children and adolescents on Child Trafficking

- 1. Schools Talk Program:** The Schools Talk Program of NEDAN has reach out approximately 10000 students till date. The program snap shots



Talk on Child Trafficking with School Children

- 2. University/College Talk Program:** The University/College Talk Program was organized with a plan to make the young generation aware and make a note about the serious issue of human trafficking in our society and remain alert and make the other individuals alert as well. These are the few snaps of the program.



Human Trafficking program with the University and College Students

3. Reach out to Internally Displaced Population on Human Trafficking: The western districts of Assam consisting of 11 districts including four districts of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) have highest number displaced population. NEDAN Anti-Human Trafficking program focuses in those displaced areas particularly vulnerable children and adolescents. NEDAN has formed and strengthened adolescents clubs in many part of the displaced population living in the camps. Some of activities' snap shots are highlighted



Discussion on Human Trafficking with the adolescent girls of various Relief Camps of Kokrajhar



Psycho Social Initiative at Relief Camps

Exposure Visit of the Children



Children from the remote areas under Kokrajhar district were given an opportunity for a visit to the Bodoland Secretariat, Gaurang Park and the Kokrajhar town. Its a pace to give them a chance to explore the world from the small mode in the journey of the life.

Collective Voices on Violence against Women and Girls

In the Indian society many cases of violence against women is being reported. Based on a survey conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation India is the fourth most dangerous



country in the world for women. A study conducted by India's Central Statistical Organization, found that nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, are "missing" in 2011. According to police records, a woman is raped in India every 20 minutes. But even the most violent crimes committed against women are rarely reported and perpetrators are often unpunished. A total of 2,

28,650 incidents of crimes against women were reported in the country during 2011. The north eastern city of Tripura recorded the highest rate of crimes against women at 37 percent, compared to the national crime rate of 18.9 percent

(ALJAZEERA). It has turned a serious issue to look at and find a solution for it. Many young women who were or were not the victims of the violence have started feeling the need to resolve the issue. Realization has developed in every individual's mind. It's the time to



unite together and raise the voice and fight for the justice

of any individuals or one self. Huge crowd were gathered at the programme "1 Billion Rising" which was organized at Guwahati on 14th February, 2013 with the aim to abolish or ameliorate Violence against Women from the society, Young school going children actively participated in the programme. This indicates the desire that the individuals have felt towards abolishing or ameliorating the issue.

North East Survivors Network Forum

Since the inception of the NEDAN FOUNDATION it was strong felt need to set up a forum for the Trafficking survivor's network to decentralize campaign activities and networking to raise the voice by the group in the region for their entitlement rights. The survivors themselves who have witnessed and went through the difficulties can raise their voice and work to support the

STOP



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