

Stop Trafficking

Trafficking from ethnic conflict zone of North East Region into other states and elsewhere has been alarming.

Smuggling of women from Lower Assam into other states and elsewhere has shot up at an alarming rate. This year as many as **25 girls has being** rescued from different districts of lower Assam. As many as 109 girls from the relief camps of Srirampur for domestic servant being lured by so called recruitment agents in big cities have been mushrooming in the poverty stricken ethnic villages and in the relief camps /displaced due to the ethnic conflict. Other source areas are Deosri and Datgari INDO-BHUTAN border under Chirang district, where most of the agents goes there and catch hold of local dalal in the pretext of providing better earning in the cities.

NEDAN FOUNDATION, a non- profit organization based in Kokrajhar district of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam working in the trans-border areas on prevention of trafficking women and children and Unsafe Mobility **witness at about 200 women and girls were trafficked to other states within India last year, the number has increased as many as 25 girls within the span of 5 months this year.** "An alarming new trend that NEDAN have been witnessing is the use of already trafficked girls as a traffickers agent as local motivator." No one scrutinizes or checks in the check post closely in the trans-border areas. NEDAN FOUNDATION, meaning "Plenty Space" in Bodo, has been working for 2 years to prevent trafficking in women and children and Unsafe Mobility in the trans-border areas.

Displaced poverty stricken ethnic community living in the **Gossaigaon sub division Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) , Assam in the bordering to Royal Kingdom of Bhutan and Siliguri, West Bengal, where numbers of ethnic women and girls has to live by selling sex to different customer in and around of 31 National Highway the only route connecting to North East from rest of India. With North East India and other south east Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma) and Royal Kingdom of Bhutan sharing an open border, the authorities on all sides find it difficult to control organized groups doing lucrative business in trafficking.** There are 6 border check posts of which trafficking is rampant, especially those leading to Darangi, Datgari in BTC ,Assam to Royal Kingdom of Bhutan and Siliguri in West Bengal state and Dhubri district of lower Assam to Bangladesh.

The never-ending conflict in North East that has killed over thousands of people and displaced twelve of thousands in lower Assam due to flood has also fuelled trafficking. "Lack of security for life makes ethnic people migrate to different places for safety. They need jobs but have no sufficient qualifications and having many barriers such as identity crisis, language problem, feeling isolated from the main stream of larger community in the society. So they easily fall prey in the hand of traffickers in false promised of marriage and lucrative tempting job offers in India and elsewhere.

Though the law IPC has every provision to punish the culprit but most of the traffickers get bail and get free from sever punishment. It is the victim who pays for the crime. There are no short stay home in the districts level and lack of proper counseling facilities along with not having alternative livelihood option to the victim further ostracize the victim and make them stay away from the so call normal society. Even if they are rescued, she is likely to contract HIV/AIDS, so victim of trafficked and carrying HIV/AIDS, one can imagine what kind of mental torture victim has to go through in this so call ultra modern civilized society we are living.

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