



# Flame

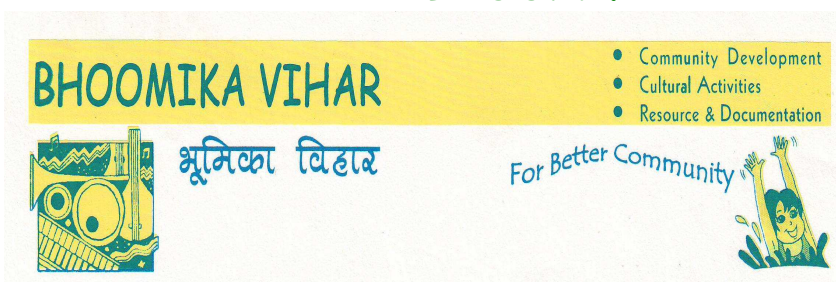
## A REPORT ON TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ESPECIAL FOCUS WITH GIRLS.

**“Developing a Right based approach on anti trafficking actions in  
South Asia”.**  
**(DDH/2004/089-105)**

**Co- Funded by:**



**Report By-  
BHOOMIKA VIHAR**



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## Preface

A meeting was organized jointly by Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT) and *Beti Bachao Andolan* (Save Daughters Movement) at Muzaffarpur. A large number of girls/women from various sections of the community-from villages to brothels, participated in this meeting which was held to draw the attention for various stake holders of the society towards exploitation and discrimination against the children - especially girls.

During the meeting a few girls sang a song in the local dialect-

*"Jaihi Kokhey Beta Janamey, Wahi Kokhey Betiya,  
Phir Kahe Kilah Ho Babuji Dow Rangi Nitiya.....  
Beta Ke Parhawey Khatir Bhejla Schooliya,  
Kahey Chuha Phookwela Hamar Beriya"*

(The same womb which gives birth to sons and daughters.

O Father then why did you have two policies?

In the case of the son you sent him to school to study

In our (daughter's) case, you pushed us to the Kitchen)

This song sung by the girls in Muzaffarpur, while one hand reflects the frustration of facing discrimination by parents, also reflects the yearning to go to school- Alas, all children should have been given the opportunity to go to school.

The negative attitude of the society and family towards daughters is being exploited by traffickers and exploiters. On the other hand, children are being considered a source of income rather than a responsibility. It is due to these perceptions that thousands of children-both boys and girls are being trafficked from Bihar and condemned to live a life in hell-their childhood snatched away from them even before they can attain an age to bloom and develop mentally and physically.

Though there have been ritualistic alarm noises by the media and the government agencies, we feel that the matter needs to be looked into with a proper prospective.

The issue goes beyond law enforcing agencies and rules against trafficking. It involves a social attitude by the community, society and family towards children of the downtrodden classes.

The survey we carried was not aimed to be developed as a research paper-merely for academic purpose. We carried out the survey to reveal the multiple social dimensions of trafficking so that various stake holders of the society understand the gravity of the situation. As social workers we have tried to bring out the human elements-both external and internal, the pathos and tragedy of the situation.

We have tried to sketch out the ground realities about trafficking and different forms of exploitations faced by the children-especially girls. This effort can be considered successful only if this report can be useful in saving the lives and future of these children-even if it is to a small extent. We are very grateful to people and organizations who have provided the input by traveling long distances to collect information. We are also grateful to persons who have helped us to develop this report.

The project was co-funded by European Commission and Terre des Hommes, as part of activity for the Project "Developing rights based approach for Anti-trafficking actions in South Asia". We are grateful to the funding agencies without which the study could not have been undertaken. It is indeed a privilege for Bhoomika Vihar to prepare such a field based study on the sensitive issue of trafficking in Bihar.

Last but not the least, we sincerely acknowledge all the victims, their parents, and community members for showing tremendous cooperation, support and assistance in providing valuable information.

With Regards  
Arun kumar Singh  
For- Bhoomika Vihar & Team

## **Declaration on the study work**

"This study report is prepared with financial support from Terre des Hommes, and European Commission's joint support to the south Asian networking project against trafficking, titled " Developing a Right based approach on anti trafficking actions in South Asia".

*Any views expressed in it do not necessarily  
Reflect their position".*

## - Our words-

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## Chapter 2

### -Introduction-

#### 2.1. Nature of Problem:

Bihar and neighbouring areas are emerging not only a source area for trafficking. It has also emerged transit, route and destination points for children and girls traffickers. Most districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and even neighbouring Nepal are witness to large scale trafficking of children and girls. We cannot ignore Bhutan, Sikkim and North Eastern states from this menace as the same route is used. It is very difficult to estimate as to how many boys and girls have become victims of trafficking in this region. How many have lost their lives?

The lack of proper action against traffickers has resulted into increase in trafficking cases and emergence of trafficking as an organized crime. Within the span of 10 to 15 years the business of trafficking of children-especially girls has flourished.

The biggest question is that where are the boys and girls who have been trafficked? Many of them have never returned home. Where have they gone? Who can give a reply to these questions? Who are the persons responsible for this crime?

Does not the trafficking of boys and girls and them going missing come under the preview of crime? A large number of boys and girls have gone missing and we have remained mute spectators. Is it not an indication of our declining human and moral values?

There are some boys who have been trafficked in the name of a bright future and a high paying job have returned back home. However, a large number of girls trafficked on various pretext have vanished into thin air. Very few who have been lucky enough to return have stories of torture, sexual and physical exploitation.

Even when the trafficked girls have managed to return home, their mental and physical agony continues. Often the parents are insistent that she returns to her `in-law' home -no matter how much atrocities she has faced. The parents plead that



their `honour' would be eroded if the girl stays on! If she continues to stay on against the wishes of her family she lives a life of an outcast-by her family and her community.

Most of the girls who are victims of trafficking not only belong to the socially and economically depressed sections of the society. They are totally illiterate, unaware and unexposed to the harsh realities. They do not know even basic alphabets and in most cases unable to locate the place where they have been trafficked to. In such a case rehabilitation of these victims-if there are any such initiatives-becomes a delicate and time taking process.

It will not be out of place to mention that the area we work in has as many as 24 brothels. Through the years the size of these brothels have grown larger and the age of the sex workers younger. The trend does show what unchecked trafficking is doing at the social level. Years ago there was a hue and cry over a Sati committed in Rajasthan. Sati is frightening and deplorable. .While Sati ensures the death of a girl in a few minutes, a trafficked girl has to face death every day to her life. Equally bewildering is the willingness of the parents to handover girls to strangers.

It is true that the police have started reacting when pressure is put on them by movements and grass root organizations. However, the actions taken are disjointed and too little. While there are no boundaries and restrictions imposed on traffickers, the law enforcing agencies and mass organizations are fighting the issue with too many restrictions.

It is not enough to blame the situation on gender discrimination. There has to be a fight against age old attitudes and practices and in a more coordinated manner.

## 2.2 Context:

Human trafficking refers to transportation of persons for forced labour, sexual exploitation or other illicit activities. It is estimated that more than 1 million people are trafficked annually around the world; some experts say it could be double that.

According to the United Nation's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nation's Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime, trafficking is defined 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 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, servitude or the removal of organs'*.

Human trafficking not only continues but also appears to be on the rise worldwide. Many country are touched by it in some way, serving as source, transit and destination countries where human beings are procured, transported and enslaved through forced labour or forced sexual exploitation. Though there are many other forms of human trafficking such as domestic work, forced labour, begging, fake marriages and adoption, the most visible and widespread is the trafficking in women and girls for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Commercial exploitation of these vulnerabilities has become a massive organised crime and a lucrative business enterprise with relatively low risk of prosecution. Traffickers exploit the aspirations of those living in poverty and those seeking better lives.

The victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are subjected to the worst form of human right abuse. Child Prostitution involves "Children without childhood and implies the ultimate denial of the rights of the child and dignity". It is a matter of shame on any civilized society and blots our collective consciousness. In South Asian Region globalization is intensified in equalities and has increased poverty and unemployment leading to increasing exploitation of women and children in rural and backward areas.

### 2.3. Global Scenario:-

Trafficking for CSE is one of the fastest developing businesses run by the Criminal Syndicate through the world. It is said that the global trafficking enterprise generates up to US \$7 billion every year (UNIFEM, SARO). Nearly seven lakhs persons mainly women are trafficked within and across international borders. (US victims of trafficking and violence protection Act 2000) Nearly two million children are abused and trafficked throughout the world every year. In India nearly 15% of the victim of CSE are children below the age of 15 and another 25% are children below the age of 18 i.e. 40% of the women in prostitution are children below the age of 18 (CSWB, 1991). It is said that 5% of women and girls engaged in prostitution in India are from Nepal and Bangladesh (Situation Report, India). It is also reported that of the 9 lakh estimated numbers of prostitutes in India, 30% are children, numbering between 2, 70,000 to 4, and 00,000 (CCCL, 1998). Looking into the economics of prostitutions and the business of trafficking, studies done by Prof. K. K. Mukherjee of Delhi School of Social Work and Joseph Gathia, Social Activist, the situation seems to be very serious. According to Joseph Gathia, some 9, 00,000 prostitutes are responsible for a transaction of Rs. 37,000 crore in one year and it is roughly estimated that about 30% of the total number of prostitutes are minor girls between the ages of nine years to sixteen years.

Although trafficking of men and young boys is evident within and from the region, evidence from major Government and NGO sources indicates that the incidence of trafficking in women and girl children over the past decade has escalated considerably. The majority of trafficking in the South Asian Region, both trans-border and in country happen for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, and over 60% of them are adolescent girls in the age group of 12 to 16 years.

According to "Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India", a report prepared by the Institute of Social Sciences for the National Human Rights Commission (2002-03) the girls are sold and re-sold with prices ranging from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,00,000 depending on various factors. Young girls are more in demand. The report, which covered 12 States, places Andhra Pradesh at the top, followed by Karnataka and West Bengal in terms of abduction and sexual exploitation of children.

In cross border trafficking, India is a sending, receiving and transit nation. Receiving children from Bangladesh and Nepal and sending women and children to Middle Eastern nations is a daily occurrence.

#### **2.4. National Scenario:**

In India, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, North east, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu are considered "high supply zones" for girls/women as well as boys for different form of exploitation.

In Bombay, children as young as 9 are bought for up to Rs. 60,000 at auctions where Arabs bid against Indian men who believe sleeping with a virgin cures gonorrhoea and syphilis. (Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption Are Leading to An AIDS Catastrophe," *The Nation*, 8 April 1996). 160,000 Nepalese women are held in India's brothels. They come via Bihar Nepal borders and there are some who are Nepalese but reside in Bihar and West Bengal near the borders with Nepal. Approximately 50,000, or half of the women in prostitution in Bombay, are trafficked from Nepal. (Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption Are Leading to An AIDS Catastrophe," *The Nation*, 8 April 1996). The brothels of India hold between 100,000 and 160,000 Nepalese women and girls, 35 percent were taken on the false pretext of marriage or a good job. (Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Report on Violence Against Women, Gustavo Capdevila, IPS, 2 April 1997). About 5,000-7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked to India every day [Asia Watch 1990]. 100,000-160,000 Nepalese girls are prostituted in brothels in India. About 45,000 Nepalese girls are in the brothels of Bombay and 40,000 in Calcutta. (Women's groups in Nepal, 'Trafficking in Women and Children: The Cases of Bangladesh, pp.8 & 9, UBINIG, 1995).

Bhoomika vihar works in Bihar from Katihar to Joghani, which is the border of Bihar and Nepal. This area is famous for Cross Border trafficking of mainly girl children from Nepal. But we have to also mention that the borders of Nepal and Bihar also has many families in Bihar with Mongoloid features who are trafficked as girls from Nepal who are on demand for their fair skin and soft and docile nature in the brothels of Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. It needs to be mentioned that there is lot of trafficking within the state and also from the state of Bihar to other States in India like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Maharashtra and mainly to the metros like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

## 2.5 Salient Features of Trafficking:

Salient findings of various trafficking including cross-border trafficking are mentioned below:

- # Prostitution is widespread, with an estimated 2.3 million prostitutes in the country, some 575,000 of who are children. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- # Bihar and Jharkhand sends many girls for domestic jobs and as agricultural labourers to West Bengal, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.[NHRC - ISS study 2002-03.
- # Recent studies indicate that of the estimated 9,000,000 prostitutes working in India, some 30% or 2,700,000 are children. A further 10% reported that they had started their 'career' in prostitution before they were 18 years of age. A large number of these children are trafficked from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. (ECPAT International, A Step Forward, 1999)
- # 15% of prostitutes in India are under the age of 18 years. ("Innocence Sacrificed on Tourism Altar", ECPAT Bulletin, October 1996)
- # A NGO states that the number of children in flesh trade is increasing by 8-10% every year ("The Young and the Damned", The Week, 4 August 1996, reprinted in ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)
- # Women's rights organizations and NGOs estimate that more than 12,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighbouring states for the sex trade. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- # 200,000 Nepalese girls under 16 years are in prostitution in India. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)
- # Every year between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked into the red-light districts in Indian cities. Many of the girls are barely 9 or 10 years old. 200,000 to over 250,000 Nepalese women and girls are already in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For sale childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- # Of the 5,000-7,000 Nepalese girls trafficked into India yearly, the average age over the past decade has fallen from 14-16-year old to 10-14-year olds. (CATW-Asia Pacific, Trafficking in Women and Prostitution in the Asia Pacific, 1996)

- ✚ Over the last decade, 200,000 Bangladeshi girls were lured under false circumstances and sold into the sex industry in nations including Pakistan, India and the Middle East. (CATW Fact Book, citing Tabibul Islam, "Rape of Minors Worry Parents", IPS, 8 April 1998)
- ✚ Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Pakistani women are trafficked to India, and through India they are trafficked to Eastern Europe and Saudi Arabia. (CATW Fact Book, citing Meena Oudel, Oxfam Nepal, 18 March 1998)
- ✚ 20% of the child prostitutes in India come from Bangladesh and Nepal. (BNWLA, Salma Ali, Country Report on Trafficking in Children and Their Exploitation in Prostitution, October 1998, citing a research publication by Dr. K.K. Mukherjee of India)
- ✚ More than 9,000 girls are trafficked each year from Nepal and Bangladesh into bondage in India and Pakistan, often with the acquiescence or cooperation of state officials. (CATW Fact Book, citing Amnesty International press release, 22 April 1998)
- ✚ Between 2,000 and 5,000 children are sent across the border to India for prostitution every year. (Kota Neelima, "Young sex workers are costly commodity", ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)

## 2.6. Issues & Concerns:

- a) The above features amply prove the intensity of trafficking of girls for child prostitution and flesh trade. The trafficking happens (a) within a State like Bihar, (b) interstate trafficking like from Bihar to Mumbai, (c) international trafficking i.e. from Nepal to India or Bangladesh to India, or India to other countries, (e) India is transit point to Middle East or Eastern Europe countries like Bangladesh via India to Saudi Arabia
- b) The victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are subjected to the worst form of human right abuse. Child Prostitution involves children without childhood and implies the ultimate denial of the rights of the child and dignity.
- c) Trafficking is by and large a "gendered phenomenon". Although trafficking of men and young boys is evident within and from the region, evidence from major Government and NGO sources indicates that the incidence of

trafficking in women and girl children over the past decade has escalated considerably.

- d) Trafficking is an "organized crime". Commercial exploitation of these vulnerabilities has become a massive organised crime and a lucrative business enterprise with relatively low risk of prosecution.
- e) The general trend is to lure families with job offers for the girl child. UP, Haryana, West Bengal and Delhi take girls for cheap domestic labour. Majority of them are sexually abused and exploited by the employers and their family members. The girls are from families who have no or little land holding and no jobs. Most of them work on other's fields as daily wage labours and the family size is generally large with at least seven children on an average, particularly from the Muslim and Scheduled caste communities.
- f) Another major trend is to lure young girls with offers of marriage. The institution of marriage plays a very important role in the lives of these young girls as marriage is seen and believed as the main success in a girls' life. Hence, it is much easier to bring out a girl from the family in the name of marriage. These girls too are from poor families who have no or little land holding and no jobs.
- g) Trafficking almost always happens with the support or knowledge of the family of the girl and this makes the girl to feel that this is a social practice and they will have to abide by it. The gender inequality also discriminates the girls in the poor families.
- h) The trafficking happens all the time with the blessings and protection of organized criminals, political party leaders, lack of political will, government apathy (lack of proper policies or non-implementation of the existing ones) and long drawn legal / judicial procedures for justice.
- i) There is lack of legal and government support and organized infrastructure for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking.

j) *All these situations have led to....."I don't know whom to trust. Sometimes I don't even trust myself."*- Adolescent girl, trafficking survivor



## Chapter- 3

### -Situation analysis in Bihar-

#### 3.1. Topography:

Bihar is situated in the northern part of the country, bound by west Bengal in the east, Jharkand in the south, Uttar Pradesh in the West and bordering Nepal in the North. It occupies a total area of 94,163 sq. kms. As per the 2001 census, the total population in Bihar is 82,878,796, out of which 43, 153,964 are males and 39,724,832 are females. The density of population is 880 persons per sq.km. In Bihar, the sex ration was 921 in 2001, which has increased compared to 1991, when it was 907. But the child sex ration has decreased over the same period of the time. The child sex ration was 953 in 1991, but came down to 938 in the year 2001. The literacy rate is 47.53 per cent, which is much lower than the all- India rate. Again, the female literacy rate, at 33.57 is much less than the male literacy rate of 60.32. The number of illiterates has increased from 31, 986,516 to 34, 968,650{ a difference of 2,982,134}, negatively contributing by 9.33 per cent to the kitty of illiterates{ Census of India , 2001} . The school dropout rate is also quite high, with these children getting absorbed into the workforce. Bihar remains backward with respect to the economy. The gross state domestic product has gone down from 4.7 during 1980- 90 to 4.2 in 1993- 99. It is one of the poorest states among the major states in India, with 42.60 percent of the population still living below the poverty line.

#### **Salutation of rivers:**

The area, in which rivers run across like veins in a heart, has always been known to be flood prone. However, there is a difference from earlier floods and the floods occurring in the present age. After embankments were made to contain the rivers, it was thought that the population had got rid of the yearly feature of floods. However due to salutation of rivers, the bed of the rivers have risen and embankments are no longer effective as earlier times. The result has been that the floods are getting more devastating and frequent

Unlike the earlier occasions, the floods came and subsided within a short period. Presently the floods come and water remains for a prolonged period. The land is water logged for months leaving no scope for agricultural activities and livelihood for the toiling masses.

### **Disaster as issue**

914 deaths in the last count by the disaster management department of the government of Bihar tell only half the story of the tragedy which is unfolding in the current spate of floods and its aftermath. The devastation goes much deeper. A population of over 2.3 crore-almost one third of the population of the state has been effected by the floods-taking into its grip over 11,000 villages in 22 of the 38 districts of Bihar. Over 3.28 lakh houses have been either completely or partially damaged and farmers have lost crops over Rs 1289 crore.. Over one million people have been forced to leave their homes and reside on the roads, embankments and or near the railway track.

However, statistics of devastation are not able to tell the story about the problems faced by the women. The figures of death and population effected by floods do not have the figures of how many females are affected because we treat men and women in equal footing. Both are flood victims getting equal compensation and help. However, most flood experts agreed that some important factors have to be considered while giving flood relief. Like the problems of women and children face while being forced to live under the open skies, he added.

Bihar is often called the '**Land of floods**'. The intensity of floods may vary from year to year. But floods are a permanent feature for the state. Year after year, the floods take its toll on human lives, cattle, roads, houses and other infrastructure.

In 2003, the state faced an equally devastating flood in which over 1000 persons lost their lives. .

The rivers of North Bihar runs through the territory like veins. The catchments area of these rivers fall in Nepal. Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi, Mahananda, Adhwara group of rivers and others all emerge from Nepal. Even if it does not rain in Bihar

there are floods in North Bihar. "The existing embankment system is over 40 years old. Due to salutation of rivers they are not as effective as they use to be. Our embankment systems were ready to absorb 200 mm rain fall within a span of 15 days. This year in July itself it rained over 600 mm", remarked the water resources commissioner A K Singh in an interview given to Times of India, recently.

Even as the state is still reeling under floods in the month of October, one of the most successful ventures of Bihar-Milk Federation-brand named Sudha is feeling the crunch of floods. Sudha collects milk from over 3 lakh families. From the month of July, they found that their collection of milk has dropped from 7 lakh liters per day down to 5 lakh liters per day as collection centres have been cut-off due to floods and the productivity of milk of cows and buffaloes has decreased due to lack of availability of green fodder.

Despite a network of embankments, Khagaria from 1987 to 2007 has been flooded 8 times-with flood water entering the town, schools and hospitals with even the official houses of top officials not spared. Life comes to a virtual standstill. The current spate of floods in the longest and there people have drowned trying to cross flood water A population of over is hit by floods in one single district. In the year of 2007, all seven blocks of Khagaria are hit by floods. Like Khagaria, other districts also are severely affected by floods. They include Samastipur(18 blocks), Sitamarhi(17 blocks), Katihar(16 blocks), Madhubani(20 blocks), Vaishali(15 blocks), Purnea(4 blocks). Saharsa(6 block), Supaul(6 block), Begusrai(8 block), West Champaran(16 blocks), East Champaran(27 blocks), Darbhanga(18 blocks), Seohar(5 blocks), Gopalganj(8 blocks) and Araria(one block).

In the aftermath of floods even as water has started to recede, there is no work in the agriculture left and it has already started to trigger off a massive migration of labour force from flood hit areas of the state. Males and young teen aged boys have started to move towards Delhi, Punjab, Mumbai, Banglore, Kolkata and other places across India in search of livelihood. Women and young girls get left behind to fend for themselves in these situations.

These women and girls, engaged as agricultural laborers find themselves unemployed because the agricultural fields remain water logged. Because of the prolonged rainy

season, the situation is unlikely to improve in the near future. With the males going out of the state in search of livelihood and acute shortage of employment at local level, continued water logging and health hazards, the females are bound to face serious problem of survival both for themselves and their children. In low lying areas, flood water remains in residential areas forcing them to reside besides roads and on embankments and other high areas. They often have to face a starvation situation.

Lack of employment, hunger, flood prone diseases and local situations makes them helpless and vulnerable to various forms of exploitations. The situation is ideal for traffickers and sexual exploiters to take advantage of. Flood prone north Bihar is already a happy hunting ground for traffickers and exploiters. After floods, the situation becomes even more risky. The threat of trafficking of girls from these areas after floods is real. There is an acknowledged view that migration and trafficking are interlinked. Massive migration of males results into larger trafficking of girls.

### **3.2. Livelihood:**

The degeneration of bio-diversity in the area has directly hit livelihood in the area. Once known for the rich variety of fishes available in the rivers of the ponds of this area, the quantity and array of fishes have nose dived as rivers and ponds get more and more polluted every year. The large community of fishermen living in the area are finding it extremely difficult to cope with the changed circumstances. Since there has been no scientific training for growth of fishery in the area, the younger generation of the community find their traditional livelihood unfruitful and unattractive and as a result there is a large exodus from this community to other states.

The community known as Gangots-traditional boatmen also are under stress as their boats are in demand only during floods and very rare occasions. Due to lack of economical support and very little earnings, it has not been possible for them to modernise the boats or for that sake ensure proper maintenance. It is one possible reason for a large number of boat accidents taking place in the area in which the boat owners and boatmen are being targeted by the administration for prosecution. The boats are fast losing their charm as a livelihood.

Once this area was known as a Jute producing area and had several jute processing factories. However, since the early 1970s since jute has given way to fibre for making of gunny bags, the international demand of Jute has collapsed. Alternative use of jute for producing floor mats, clothes and other items are existing. However, they lack the proper marketing and modern techniques for finer finishes and attractive packaging to compete in the market. The decline of the Jute in the area has left a large population consisting of artisans, industrial labourers, farmers, traders and agriculture labourers reeling under financial hardship due to vanishing avenues of livelihood.

The variety of plantation, flora and fauna are also fast demising. There was once sizeable population relying on carpentry as a livelihood. With trees being cut down and stricter laws against them and also the fact that modern fabricated alternatives are now available in the market-the breed of carpenters and allied business like saw mills are against fading away.

Adding to diminishing bio-diversity is the annual flood and devastation. Again, since the trees along the rivers emerging from Nepal have been felled, the floods leave behind not more fertile land -but sand making it impossible for the farmer to make his fields yield crops for years.

### **3.3. Migration:**

The younger generation of the community finds their traditional livelihood unfruitful and unattractive and as a result there is a large exodus from this community to other states. Adding to diminishing bio-diversity is the annual floods and prolonged water logging thus results into devastated homes, diseases, starvation and lastly unemployment for the toiling masses.

The males go outside the state in search of jobs-leaving behind women and children. Under these circumstances, the women and children face problem of food and security. They become highly vulnerable to physical and social exploitation. Sometimes, along with the adult migrant the male children are also taken and are employed as domestic helps, serving boys in small hotels and helpers to mechanics working in garages and other hazardous sections. Along this, some unscrupulous elements lure them posing as well wishers. In case of young boys, they are taken away in the name of giving them employment. In case of girl children, they are taken

away in the name of either education or marriage. The situation is so grim that even young women get trafficked by such elements. It is difficult to estimate the types and intensity of mental, physical and economical exploitation such families have to face. Such families are being misled by such elements. The girls and even females are sexually exploited and sold off to brothels several times.

Due to lack of awareness on safe mobility a large number of children going outside the state are economically, emotionally and physically exploited. Quite a few disappear and remain untraced by their parents.

## Chapter-4 --Survey Design--

### 4.1. Reach out:-

Survey Area- Bihar

Number of districts covered-8

Number of villages / *Mohallas* covered - 195

Number of persons covered- 688

Number of boys covered-124

Number of girls/women covered- 564

Technique used for survey- Random survey

### 4.2. Surveyors-

Local volunteers and local community

### 4.3. Respondents -

Children, girls, women and local community

### 4.4. Steps:-

- a) Development of the format
- b) Holding a meeting of volunteers to discuss modalities to be

adopted for survey

- c) Gather information by filling format on random basis.
- d) Discussion with the local community.
- e) Interview with persons having information and knowledge on the issue
- f) Preparation of the case study.
- g) Meeting with local community as per need.
- h) Manual tabulation of the survey chart.
- i) Discussions with volunteers involved in the survey.
- j) Collection of secondary data.
- k) Preparation of report



## Chapter- 5

### -Key Findings-

#### 5.1. High lights of the survey:-

- ❖ Araria district of Bihar is badly affected by trafficking of children. We surveyed 10 villages of Araria block. We found as many as 98 cases of trafficking of children out of which 26 cases were boys and the rest 72 cases were girls/women. All the 26 boys were aged below 18. In the case of girls/women, 22 were below 18. All the 26 boys were found to be traceless and never returned home. In case of girls/women as many as 14 were found to be traceless. In a survey was conducted at a macro-level in the entire Araria districts, there is a strong possibility of the number of missing boy children going into thousands. In the case of girls, the numbers would be equally amazing.
- ❖ The survey reveals that the entrance of traffickers, the disappearance of boy children and girls/women, no resistance faced by the culprits and no police case lodged in these cases -are accepted as normal events by the local community and responsible stake holders of the society. Because there is no FIR lodged regarding missing/disappearance of boy children- despite the numbers of trafficking being large.
- ❖ The free and unhindered movement of traffickers and their local agents, their ability to pick up victims at their choice and very little or no response of the local community against this trend are indications of decreasing social and moral responsibility of the stake holders.
- ❖ The most painful and unfortunate part of trafficking is that it is being done in the name of the sacred institution of marriage and love-considered the most reliable and emotional relationship between men and women. The trafficked girls and women are being handed over to strangers by their own parents-who have the responsibility of protecting the and securing the future of their daughters.

- ❖ The manner in which parents and guardians have handed over their children to strangers/traffickers for financial lust are indicative of the fact that there is a growing perception of children being viewed as a source for income. 'More children, more hands and more income' appears to be the philosophy of the community.
- ❖ The easy hunting down of girl victims by traffickers and their exploitation in various forms and the silence of individuals, groups and local community on the issue are indicative towards the social morass and disintegration of human values in the society.
- ❖ While kidnapping of children draws social attention and media glare because the effected children hail largely from affluent and influential sections of the society, trafficking of children do not draw the same level of social attention and outcry because the effected victims hail from socially and economically depressed sections of the society.
- ❖ (Women may be shared, but land should not be distributed at any cost). This is a growing perception in the areas where the women/girls are being trafficked to because of the sharp falling gender ratio. Marriage outside the state or local area is legal and socially acceptable. However, the area in which the women/girls are being trafficked to is the place where there are reports of physical and sexual exploitation. The girls/women are married to one male of a family. But there are reports of them having to meet the physical and sexual needs of all the male members of the family.
- ❖ Bihar is not only the source area for trafficking. It is also developing as a destination point for the girls - for dance (Dancing girls) and in brothels.

*"Aurat Bate to Bate, Zameen Na Bate"* a proverb used commonly to reflect women can be suppressed.....

## Chapter- 6 -Data Analysis-

**Flame:** Flesh trade is a perverted form of sex -an indication of degrading human values and social moral fabric. Every year thousands of girl children are pushed into this blast furnace-stripped of human dignity, right to equality and opportunity to develop into a responsible citizen of the country. They continue to burn in the flame of different forms of trafficking-in red light areas and outside-facing physical and mental torture every day. It is very difficult to say how many boys and girls have become victims and are burning their lives in this flame-often resulting into a painful life where death comes slowly. We are just trying to give some facts and figures from our survey to understand the situation and analyze it, Ours analysis is confined to our survey. We cannot make claim that our analysis is the final words on the issue. It is an effort to make some observations on the issue. The ground reality can be much harsher.

### 6.1. Target area and groups:

195 villages/Mohallas in which we have covered 688 boys, girls and women and their families (In case the children are traceless).

The number of girls/women covered is 564 and the boys number 124,

### 6.2. Age group of the boys/girls/women interviewed:

83 boy children were below the age of 18 which amounts to 66.93 per cent out of 124 cases of boys. Rest of the 41 was above 18 years old. In case of girls/women

out of 564 as many as 255 were below 18 years (45.21 per cent) and 309 were aged above 18(54.78 percent). It is apparent that traffickers have been able to target minor girls and boys in large numbers. During the survey we found that many boys had fled from their house and had not returned till the survey was completed. They had fled from home in search of jobs in distant states like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and other places motivated by migrant laborers or labor agents.

The data also shows that the traffickers prefer minor girls due to increasing demand. The maximum number of these minor girls had been trafficked out in the name of marriages. It also gives an insight about the implementation of the Child marriage prevention act. Despite the act, a large number of minor girls are being married off.

### 6.3. Crossing the entry door of homes:

- In the name of marriage: 500(88.65 per cent). 34 cases are related to various forms of exploitation in the name of marriages at local level.
- In the name of love: 5(0.88 per cent).
- Fled from homes (males): 55(44.35 per cent the highest number was 16 in a single place in Purnea district).
- Fled from homes (females): 35(6.20 per cent).
- In the name of jobs: males: 69(55.64 per cent)  
Females: 24(4.25 per cent)

### 6.4. In the case of martial status:

**438 girls(77.65 per cent) were unmarried and 126(22.34 per cent) were married,**

Traffickers appear to target unmarried girls who are easier to lure in. However, because oral divorce is prevalent in the society-divorced or women left by their husbands are readily accepted by the traffickers because the parents conceive these women as burdens on the family. Even at the local level many girls flee from their husband's or in-law's home because of repression and exploitation and go back to their parent's home. They are easy targets for traffickers; The ground reality is that despite many laws, matters related to family dispute still remain outside the

clutches of law. In Panchayats, there is a committee to look into these matters. However, the focus of the Panchayats is on developmental projects. Very little or no attention is given to family disputes and efforts to find a solution. There is a complete lack of awareness among law enforcing agencies and other civil organizations about laws on family disputes. The involved girls are mentally immature. Bringing family disputes to public is still considered a social stigma. The disputes between two brothers are a matter of social and judicial battles. However, the conflict between husbands and wives is still considered an 'in-house' affair. In cases where the wife is vocal she is quickly branded as a bad character.

### **6.5. Hesitate to disclose real situation:**

During survey in Muzaffarpur in Chaturbujsthan-one of the oldest red light areas of Eastern India, the surveyor was able to reach out to only 20 victims involved in various forms of flesh trade, dancing and singing. Out of the 20 as many as 19 were unable to disclose their identity out of fear and social stigma. Out of 20 as many as 19 were aged about 18 or below. 18 of them were illiterate. 19 of them were residing in the homes of their patrons and did not want to disclose the address and background of their parents.

### **6.6. Badly Affected areas:**

During the survey we found eastern part of Bihar -districts like Kishanganj, Araria, Purnea and Katihar were badly affected by trafficking. The traffickers were able to pick out girls of their choice without having to face any resistance. In the case of girls trafficking, we found 288 cases of Trafficking in Kishanganj, 85 in Purnea, 72 in Araria and 74 in Kaithar.

In Kishanganj alone 272 cases of trafficking in the name marriage of girls was reported. Out of the 272 girls married off 237 were married to grooms residing outside the state. Parents of 70 of these girls did not know where their daughter had been married off to or her present status. Around 59 of these girls were lucky enough to return back home after suffering physical and mental torture. These 59 girls returned with 36 babies. They became burdens to their parents along with

their babies. Perhaps their parents are waiting for another `groom' to turn up at their door steps so that they can get rid of their burden.

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### **6.7. In case of males:**

We only found 41 cases who were aged above 18, the rest 83 were minors. All 124 of them were traceless. Their parents were unable to speak about their sons' whereabouts. In Araria district alone we found 26 cases of minor boys. All of them were traceless.

### **6.8 Literacy rate:**

Out of 688 of girls/boys/women a vast majority-621 to be precise-accounting for 90.26 per cent of call cases, had never seen either school or were able to recognize basic alphabets. Although even in government census, the literacy rates of these districts-Kishanganj, Araria, Purnea and Katihar are low compared to other districts, But even then this figure indicates that the level of literacy in rural areas of these districts may be far lower than the official figures. The community which is out of the mainstream is the worst sufferer of trafficking. Low literacy is directly related to low level of awareness regarding surrounding and outer world environment and realities. The level of literacy among girl children is even more pathetic. Illiterate parents and girls easily accept the golden picture weaved out by the traffickers.. These illiterate girls and boys after becoming victims of trafficking are unable to communicate their status to their parents and well-wishers, they are totally unaware of the routes which will take them back home and they are unable to register their protests against extortion and repression in front of the civil society or law enforcing agencies.

Three years ago a girl of Katihar district who had been trafficked to Western UP had to face suffering and extortion managed to flee from her captivity and landed in Delhi. However, in an effort to return to Katihar she reached Mumbai junction. The Mumbai police handed her over to a shelter home of a local organization. The organization contacted Bhoomika Vihar and provided her safe mobility to Katihar. The girl was safely handed over to her family.

## **6.9. Traceless:**

It will not be out of context to mention that out of the 564 girls 140 were traceless. Their parents did not have any address of their daughter's. The traffickers came from outside selling off dreams to their parents -displaying an eligible bachelor and weaving stories about the riches the groom and their family had. The parents were only too happy to handover their daughters to strangers. They did not find it important to check out the claims of the traffickers. Even after their daughters have become traceless there is no effort to find out their whereabouts. When the surveyors asked them about their handing over their daughter's to unknown grooms, all the parents expressed their helplessness on the pretext of poverty, lack of information and their compulsions.

There were many marriages to grooms residing outside Bihar. Some of these girls came back their families -one or two times. But after that they never returned back. The traffickers used these girls as role models before the villagers and were attired in expensive clothes and jeweleries. These girls were used as baits for trafficking other girls in the locality. Once the motive of the traffickers was met, the girls went back never to return. The parents also did not make any effort to trace them out.

During the survey, when we were asking the parents if they wanted to search their boy children, most of the fathers appeared eager to get their sons back home and even were ready to shell out money for the purpose. However, in case of daughters, the parents did not show any interest. They only uttered blessings for their daughters stressing that she would be happy in whichever corner of the earth she was residing in.

## **6.10. Father eager desire only towards sons and searching eyes of mothers for daughters:**

During the survey, fathers were only too happy to give information about their missing sons. However, they remained mum about their missing daughters -almost as if she did not exist in the family. Several times it was the mothers of the missing

daughters who used to meet the surveyor in secret and give information about their daughters. The mothers eyes shone in hope as they related the stories about their girls-breaking into tears several times -giving expression to a love, compulsion and feelings which had been suppressed in the male dominated society. The gender bias is startling. The daughters who remain in the family are considered burdens. Those who have been `married off' are no better than the dead.

### 6.11. Background of the parents:

Out of the 688 cases the parents or guardians of 601(87.35 per cent) were laborers. Most of them are agricultural laborers. Only parents of 41 victims were marginal farmers and the rest 46 were working in other sectors.

#### **Social Situation-**

Sc- 112  
St-3  
OBC- 142  
Minority- 366  
Others- 65-

Out of 688, the parents of 112(16.27 per cent) belonged to the scheduled caste. The parents of 142 belonged to the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) amounting to 20.63 per cent. However, the major chunk of parents belonged to the minority community- 366(53.19 per cent). The sizable Muslim population is because districts like Kishanganj is a minority dominated one and the maximum number of survey forms (322 out of 688) were received from this district.

In Purnia district out of the 115 cases-56 cases were related to minority community, 44 were from the OBC and 10 were from the Schedule Caste(SC). Only two were from tribal and 3 were from other sections of the society.

In Katihar district out of 94 cases 46 were from OBC, 22 were from SC and 20 were from the minority community. There was 1 case from tribal and 5 from other sections.



In Buxar district out of 24 cases, 1 hailed from the minority community, 2 from SC and 11 from OBC. There were 10 cases from other sections.

In Araria district out of 98 cases the SC amounted for 48, OBC for 20 and minority community 19 and others contributed for 11 cases.

These figures show that all depressed sections of the society are vulnerable to trafficking. The traffickers have managed to target numerically dominant disadvantaged sectors at different areas. One a girl of a particular caste or community is a victim of trafficking. It triggers off a chain reaction and girls of the same caste or community get trafficked more frequently. The labor sector is most vulnerable to trafficking.

An interesting point is the fact that among the girls who have fled from home - it is largely contributed by girls of other sectors. The labor sector contributes the most when it comes to boy children fleeing from their homes. In both cases, girls and boys fled from their homes to seek better avenues and alternatives of life away from home.

**A local folk story in the area where the girls are trafficked to is that a newly wed daughter-in-law asked her mother-in-law who is my husband. The mother-in-law replied that I have been in the family for over 30 years and even I do not know who my husband is. This may appear to be a joke-but the difference between jokes and reality is getting blurred. A recent media report told the story of a girl from North eastern state being trafficked to Haryana state for marriage. When the police caught the culprit-they confessed that girls are being trafficked from this corner of India because there is an acute shortage of availability of brides in Haryana. There is a strong possibility of girls trafficked from Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and other areas forced to live a life of hell due to the above mentioned reasons-being trafficked away from their homes in the name of marriages.!**

## 6.12. Routes used by Traffickers:

The traffickers always use crowded routes having fast mobility for the trafficking of girls. The railways is one of the most preferable mode of mobility for the traffickers along with the trafficked girls/women/children: The following railway stations are frequently used by traffickers to travel to their destination:

- Katihar Rly Junction
- Baroni,Rly Junction
- Muzaffurpur Rly Junction
- Patna Rly Junction
- Gaya Rly Junction
- Kishanganj Rly station.

Traffickers generally prefer to travel along with the targeted girls/women/children during the wee hours in the morning to avoid attention of the local residents. It is only when the mother of the `bride' indulges in the ritualistic weeping over the departure of her daughter along with her `husband', the neighboring people become aware that the `marriage' has taken place during the previous night. The traffickers prefer to avoid the main roads and take by lanes to reach the railway station or the bus stand.

After reaching the bus stand or the railway station, they try to get the fastest train or bus towards their destination.

On the other hand, the traffickers of boy children prefer to travel during the night hours. They usually catch the train or the bus during the night hours. In the above mentioned railway stations, one can see groups of boys children-each one of them carrying a small bag-huddled together. Only one adult male -the trafficker- is there to take them to their destination. The boy children are crammed into the general compartment. In the whole process, the protection forces like GRP and RPF generally ignore the activities and show little inclination to make queries from the trafficker or the children. The main traffickers usually do not accompany the boy children and they are generally accompanied by an agent of the trafficker. The children are tutored to give answers to any inquisitive person if they are asked where they are going. The children are taught to say that they are going to school or Madarsa or a relative's home. The agent accompanying the children also declares that he is going to get the children admitted to school and will treat them like sons.

### 6.13. Destination Area:

U.p., Maharastra, Bihar, West Begal, Gujrat, Delhi Hariyan and gulf Country are the major destination point.

### 6.14. Some Major Purposes of trafficking:

- For girls/women the main motive of traffickers is sexual and physical exploitation-either within the boundaries of a house or outside. On the other hand, boy children are trafficked for physical exploitation.
- Sexual exploitation by one or many males' members of the family in the name marriage.
- Forcing them into sex trade wither in a Red light area or even outside as call girls.
- Involving them as massage parlour girls, dance girls, orchestra or for making blue films.
- For domestic work.
- Used as beggars.
- Forced laborer in highly hazardous sectors.
- Used as assistants or followers of hermits and priests.

**Some fake dialogues uses by the outsiders to cheat the parents of girls-**

" Bahat Kismat Wali hai Apke Beti, Jo Itna Acha Damad Mil Raha Rai."

" Apke Beti Ko Raz Karege, Order Chalaege Nauker Chakar Per."

" Mamme jee Ham To Apke Bete Jaise Hai Na ."

### 6.15. Techniques used for hunting victims:

USING MARRIAGE AS A FRONT:-

The trade of girls has been thriving in the Kosi region of Bihar for the last 15 years. It has taken its roots and is flourishing with multi-dimensional effects and under

different banners. The traffickers are so astute that before they go in for the kill, they make a survey of the localities where the girls can be targeted. In this process, a local link person played an important role. The local link can be a man or woman. Sometimes in the name of marriage, sometimes in the name of giving jobs and sometimes in the name of friendship the traffickers manage to fool the villagers and the parents and achieve their goal of trafficking away the girls. The local link person introduces the outsider trafficker to the local community as an eligible bachelor belonging to an affluent family which he or she knows. The local link person plays a vital role during this phase because being a local makes his or her statements about the 'eligible bachelor' credible for the gullible community. The 'eligible bachelor' also shows signs of affluence in his dress code and spending. The 'eligible bachelor' is often accompanied by 'relatives'. These 'relatives' are mostly hired persons who play their role before the local community and parents of the girls well. A 'situation' or 'scene' is enacted by the 'eligible bachelor', his 'relatives' and the local link person with such perfection that the local community and the girl's parents and guardians start to believe it as a reality. The group gives an assurance of financial support to the parents and guardians and presents them with a 'golden opportunity' to get rid of their burden (daughter). The parents and guardians fall into this trap and get their daughter married off in haste in a bid to get them relieved from the burden of their daughters. There is no noise or celebrations in these marriages and are held silently. The groups of traffickers are able to convince the parents that the neighbors and the villagers are wicked by nature and will create hurdles in the marriage of their daughters due to envy. The neighbors and the villagers know about the marriage only after they see the mother of the girl going through the ritual of crying after her daughter has left with her husband for her in-law's home. Majority of the parents do not even bother to find out how their daughters are living with their husbands. They do not give a thought to the consequences their daughter may be facing because she has been married off to an unknown stranger. They are only happy of getting rid of their daughter without having to pay dowry.

### Married girls as baits.....

Another variation of this technique of targeting victims is that girls, who have been 'married-off' previously, play a vital role in targeting new girls from her native village. It is difficult to explain why they participate in this work. Either these former victims do it for money or are forced to participate by the traffickers.

These married girls arrive in her village-attired in jewellery and fine clothes. She presents herself in a glittering life style of the rich and prosperous. She deliberately creates an impression upon the villagers who think that she has been married into a prosperous and happy family. She feeds the villagers with stories about her in-law's kindness, riches and generosity. The local link person (He or She) present these married girls as a role model before the villagers and particularly before the parents of girls who have been targeted for trafficking. These married girls are often accompanied by several `eligible bachelors'. The girl introduces them to the villagers as relatives or friends of her in-laws. The parents of daughter are only too willing to get their wards married off to eligible bachelors who have accompanied the married girl to their home. The parents believe on the stories fed by the married girls. They think that their daughters will be as `happy and prosperous' as the married girl presented as the role model. The parents do not even bother to make enquires about the groom or his family background. In such a situation these `role models' are successful in taking away the girls from the village in the name of giving them jobs or good salaries.

#### THE LOVER AND THE LIFE MAKER.....

The third important aspect is that the outside traffickers enter the village disguised as a peddler or businessman and take accommodation in a rented house in the village. Once they are inside the village they extend their hands of friendship to the villagers and spend lavishly in order to gain the confidence of the villagers. They are friendly particularly to the family whose daughters have been targeted. They try to make friendship with every member of the family -particularly the daughter and even give small financial support to the family in the hour of need. They get involved in the day-to-day affairs of the family and manage to strengthen their friendship with the family and daughter. The sole reason of these activities is to start a love affair with the daughter they have targeted. When the trafficker feels that he has won the full faith of the girl, he proposes marriage to her secretly and asks her to elope with him. The trafficker assures her that she will live a happy married life. The girl is naive enough to believe him and agrees to elope with him.

#### THE PARASITE GROOMS.....

Fourthly, the new trend which is emerging lately is that the trafficker comes to the village and gets acquainted with villagers and families. He gets married to the

daughter of a local family. Even after marriage, the groom continues to live with the daughter's family-eating at the cost of the family. After a period of about six months, when the girl becomes pregnant or the family insists that he should take the girl to his own house and family, the groom suddenly disappears-never to return.

#### IN QUEST OF RICHES.....

The fifth technique is that when the family's economic situation is bad, the girl often flees from home. In the outside world she is an easy prey for traffickers who show initial sympathy for her and give false promises for help. In such cases, the girls are not only untraceable, it cannot be determined if she has left home alone or eloped with some person who has shown sympathy for her.

#### **6.16. Happy Haunting Ground For traffickers:**

- The localities where the literacy rate is very low and negligible.
- The localities where the level of awareness of the local population is low and they are unable to differentiate between the right and the wrong.
- The localities where the population of male migration is very high.
- The locality where parents and guardians do not tend to take responsibility for their children and wards.
- The locality where flood and water logging is a perpetual problem.
- The locality where the aftermath of flood is being felt by the local population which is in need of support to overcome it.
- The localities where people are superstitious and at the same time have an orthodox approach to life.
- The localities which have large populations and are unaware of family planning.

#### **6.17. Demand side:**

There is a substantial increase in demand for girls for various sorts of exploitation-within the four walls of a house or outside the boundaries of a house for physical and mental exploitation. Even though Prostitution and trafficking are not synonyms-it is an acknowledged truth that maximum number of trafficking is aimed at fulfilling the demands for flesh trade and other physical purposes. Brothels or destinations for sex tourism are destination points for trafficked girl victims. The numbers of

girls and women being pushed into the sex trade varies from report to report-eight from one lakh to over one million in India. During the last one decade sex trade has expanded from the boundaries of red light areas and entered in the form of massage and beauty parlours in the name of herbal treatment, beer bars, call centers, mobile girls, orchestras, vulgar dance, junior artists of films and TV serials. Some of the beer bars proudly proclaim to have Punjabi, Mongolian, South Indian....`girls' playing host to customers. It is being estimated that the increasing demand for the number of girls working outside the red lighted areas is far more than the numbers working in brothels.

There are more than 30 small and big red light areas exists in different parts of Urban and rural areas of Bihar. In Kosi-Mahanadna region consisting of districts Katihar, Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Saharsa and Madhepura and Begusrai, alone there are about 19 brothels. As an estimate Kathar has two, Purnea has seven(including old and historical Gulabhbag) , Araria has three, Kishanganj has three. Saharsa one, Madhepura has one and Begusrai has two. Some of these red light areas are also known for Muzras-dancing and singing. In the eastern side of this region is northern part of West Bengal -where there is a similar spread of red-light areas. In this region of West Bengal there are estimated to be more than 10 small and big red lighted areas.

These red light areas located in Bihar and West Bengal have developed as a demand center for the girls. They are also source, transit. destination and trading points for the targeted girls. It is estimated that more than 2,500 girls and women are involved in this trade in the brothels existing in Kosi-Mahanada region of Bihar and Northern side of West Bengal. These brothels operate like clubs having network with each other. The girls and women are outsourced to other parts of the country, in sourcing of new girls and transfer of girls from one brothel to another. Several of these brothel owners take care of girl children for the sole purpose of pushing them in sex trade. There has been no detailed survey on these brothels and the number of girls and women involved in them. However, in an over view we found 40 per cent of this girls in these brothels are aged 18 or below. Around 30 per cent are aged between 18 to 22 and rest are above 22. After talks with people having knowledge about these brothel activities, we learnt that the number of minor girls inside brothels is increasing rapidly due to demands by the visitors. An old man living inside the brothel told us that during the 1960s and 1079s, the visitors were middle aged and their time of coming was after sun set. There used to be demand for women

aged between 20 to 30. However, the old man said, times have changed and now the customers run to the brothels day or night-unbothered about social stigma. The age of the customer has grown younger. He said that around 60 per cent of the customers are aged between 18 to 25. Therefore there is an increasing demand for younger girls to meet the demands for the customers. He said that even middle aged customers preferred younger girls.

The demand for teen -aged girls in brothels is not the only reason for concern. The changing profile of the customers-young even teen aged youths and boys drawn to the brothels towards perverted sex is also indication of degradation of social morality and poses a threat to the future generation. The spread of blue films, pornography, shady massage and beauty centers are a manifestation of the degradation of the moral fabric of the society. The consumer culture, tendency of 'enjoyment' at tender age and trying to ape the western world has made teen aged girls an object of consumer demand which is rapidly increasing.

#### **6.18. Changing Pattern:**

- Children being trafficked mostly belong from the socially and economically depressed classes.
- Children of large families-especially daughters are easy targets for traffickers.
- Deserted and divorced girls/women.
- Girls or women residing in red light areas.
- Greedy guardians willing to sell off their daughters and children for money.
- Children of beggars.
- Urchins residing on Railway Platforms



## Chapter- 7

### -Perception Analysis-

#### 7.1. Local Community and other stake holders:-

Trafficking of children and girls still remains a none-issue for the local community and stake holders-except for areas where some initiatives have been taken against trafficking. Generally the local community does not react or prefer to ignore the issue. It is being accepted as fate and very few police cases are registered at the initiative of the local community. The traffickers come to the area move around freely with a local agent. Pick-up their victims and select them and even negotiate the prices. Despite this there are very few FIRs filed against the culprits. Although the traffickers try to keep the matter a secret, it is not possible that the local community is totally unaware of the happenings taking place around them and in their neighborhoods. The trafficking of boys also takes in the same manner. The traffickers come from outside and stay with the community and even in villages. They hold negotiations with the parents and quote prices for the children often giving them a rosy picture of the future of the boy children. They are allowed to take away the children-huddled together like cattle to their destination. With the local community failing to react on the issue, the local stake holders-the administration, police and other agencies also do not feel the pressure to take initiatives on the issue. They also tend to ignore the crime inflicted on girls/boys and women. It is only in some places where initiatives have been taken, the administration and the police has started to take some action. However, the action initiated is because there has been an awareness campaign at grass root level and advocacy at upper level on the issue. In these limited areas there has been some positive changes in the attitude and practices towards trafficking of boys/girls and women.

## 7.2. Social Traditional negative practices towards the daughters-

- ✚ Child marriage.
- ✚ High infant mortality rate due to ignorance.
- ✚ Infanticide.
- ✚ Gender base behavior.
- ✚ Burden.
- ✚ Wealth of other people.
- ✚ Commodity

## 7.3. Gender Bias:

The general perception gaining acceptance among the masses is that more children mean more income to the family-making the government's family planning program causality. Children, who should have been groomed by their parents for the future, have now, become income sources for their parents. Education, health the freedom to play and other rights of these children are being ignored by the society and the parents. Not surprisingly, the female literacy rates in districts like Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, Purnea and Khagria is very lowest.

The families of migrant are easy prey for unscrupulous elements and fall to the trap laid out to them. Girl children are taken away in the name of marriage or getting her a job. The social attitude towards girl children is negative based on traditional perception.

For most of the families girls are a burden and proper upbringing of girls is a none-issue both for the family and the society. Health, education, alimentation or proper food-if they are related to daughters-they are always ignored. The female of any caste or community remains at the lowest priority level

Gender bias is very pronounced in the area and the girl children are the most deprived sections. In these circumstances, the parents are only relieved to give away their girl children to strangers and do not even bother to find out the background or identification of the person they have given their daughters to. These types of marriages are always held sacredly-even the neighbors are unaware of it. There have been cases which are a slur to humanity. In one case a father who had sold-off his daughter, repeated his feat by selling off his grad daughter due to the lust of

money. The compassion which should have been shown to daughters towards their parents appears to have dried down.

There is a folk song stating that as the daughter grows, "*Bhojwa to kaise lagi par ?*" {How can we get over this burden} asks the parents. And lastly the parents found out the ways to put off their burden to get rid of the system of dowry.

Our findings reveal that many of the married girls become victims of physical and sexual exploitation. They are forced into flesh trade by their so called 'husbands' and his family.

The parents of the girls do not care to find out the plight of their daughters. When some of these unfortunate girl children have managed to return home, they receive a very cold reception from their parents and family members. They are most of the time urged to return back to their in-laws place. These girls have no source of income and fail to evoke sympathy from their family and society. Nor is the girl literate, empowered or able to find a livelihood on their own or their babies {if any}. They become easy victims of re-trafficking or extortion.

A series of survey has been conducted to know the status of the daughter on our region. And the results are really very shocking. Survey found that numerous girls' child / children are being trafficked or misguided or deported to several extortion points- red light district, domestic walls, theater, dancing troops, etc.

Such data are enough to sketch the cruel mentality of people towards daughters and to shake the pillars of humanity. The data reveals the prevailed situation of child marriage, illiteracy, migration and gender bias ignorance and fear of dowry.

Feticide, neglect after birth leading to death, marriage at a tender age, becoming a mother during adolescence, becoming victims of traffickers and being thrown into the inhuman world of sex trade- all these are becoming the destiny of a large number of daughters of our society.

Overall conclusion is that- The reason for deprivation of rights of children is the traditional orthodox based negative attitude/behavior/ practice towards daughters of the society-the gender biasness of the parents towards girls, the complete lack of understanding towards the need for children, viewing children-boys and girls -as a source of income. The solution of any social problem lies in the society itself. A constructive movement from within the society has to be created to ensure that girl children get their dues and are able to blossom as responsible citizens of these

society-getting same participation equal rights and opportunity to education and livelihood.

#### **7.4. Changing social and cultural values:**

It is extremely difficult to identify the exact period in which trade of children (boys and girls) or their trafficking actually began. The aspects and the dimensions related to this issue are all important and have grave consequences.

The children especially the girl children, we are talking about belong to the deprived and depressed sections of the society, who are not fortunate or privileged enough to draw the attention of the society and its responsible citizens. Their trafficking hardly creates a ripple in the society. Trafficking and various sorts of exploitation have become the destiny of these children. There are a very few fortunate ones- especially among the boys-whose kidnapping(a form of trafficking) creates waves in the society and hits the media headlines. In these cases there are protests, rallies and shops and business establishments are closed and it continues to be in the main news -among electronic and print media for days. The government, the police and the administration becomes alert and a special task force is constituted for the recovery of the child.

Kidnapping of children is surely a criminal act-both in the eyes of law and the society. No words can be strong enough to condemn it. However, there is also a different aspect to the issue which many people may disagree or find it painful. We would like to apologies for the pain and anguish our views may cause. The trafficking of girls is far more rampant than kidnapping of boys. However, kidnapping of girls hardly create any ripple in the society. They do not generate protests, bandhs, rallies or media headlines. This is because of that the worst hit population of trafficking is girls-those girls who hail from the deprived and depressed sections of the society. The boys who are kidnapped generally belong to the privileged class- perhaps the sons of influential and prosperous persons.

As we have already said-trafficking and kidnapping-are both social and legal crimes - crimes against the humanity. There are laws for preventing both the crimes. However, despite the laws -kidnappings become a social issue. Trafficking does not become an issue at all. The answer to this paradox should be searched.

Trafficking is on the rise and is flourishing because it has been ignored by various stake holders of the society. Traffickers coming from outside the area in connivance with local touts find easy targets as their victims. The situation is that this social ill is expanding and flourishing without facing any resistance. A large number of boys and girls are missing. There is no trace of them and nobody bothers to search them out. Whether they are alive or dead-nobody has the answer. To evaluate the actual numbers of boys and girls missing is an extremely difficult task. There are no lists available at the village level which has the names of villagers and their children listed in it. The absence of availability of any list at the village level works in advantage for persons and forces engaged in trafficking.,

There is a complete absence of any system which can identify how many boys and girls have left the village and for what reason. There are many questions which remain unanswered. How many girls of the village have got married and where and who have they been married to? How many girls have been victims of unnatural death or how many of them have been married in their childhood? How many children are there in the village? How many have died due to illness? How many have been taken away by labor agents to outside the area? How many have returned back and how many are missing? There are no answers for any of these questions. Nobody, not even the government agencies are in a position to give factual answers to these questions.

After analyzing the situation it appears that there is a need for maintaining a citizens' register in the village. The register should list the persons migrating outside the village and also unknown persons entering the village. The absence of this system is resulting into the children of the village having to face all sorts of exploitations. Who is responsible for this lack of system? There is nobody to take the responsibility. We are so engaged and engrossed in our `important' work that we do not find time for this small and unimportant work.

After all, it is necessary to ask who is responsible for the trafficking and exploitation of these children, if the question is asked to everyone perhaps, every person will say that they are not responsible for it. After everybody has failed to own responsibility, we have no other alternative other than accept that these children are responsible for their own trafficking and exploitation. However, will any impartial person be ready to accept this argument?

This question is for every one of us and all of us will have to find an answer to this question. Let's join hands to find the answer of this question. First let us start with ourselves.

Old traditions, values and practices are getting weaker by the day. However, they are not being replaced by new constructive approach. As a result several perversions are taking place in the society and in homes-disguised as a new fashion or style of life. The Pardah system is vanishing. The women and girls are coming out of their homes and venturing outside. There is a rush to come outside their homes. The faster they are coming outside, the more they are exposed to the new styles, fashions and practices and they want to follow it. In this rush, they tend to forget that the outside world has many dangers are ready to welcome them= disguised in many forms.

If the old traditions, values and practices are weakening and caving in-it should surely be welcomed. However, there should be an initiate that they are replaced by constructive social values. Due to lack of wide scale constructive social movements there appears to be a vacuum in social leadership. Today the society has opened up and every individual wants to live a life of freedom. Perhaps, the word `family' will fade away after some time. The market is packed with consumer items and every human being wants to live prosperously. In a bid to live that prosperous life, individuals do not hesitate in breaking any barrier of morality. It appears that the minds that give birth to constructive and positive views have rusted. Everybody wants to earn money and are ready to adopt short-cuts and easy ways for the purpose to enjoy the life to its full. In a bid to enjoy life, several social perversions are taking roots in the society. The roots are being given water and fertilizers by us. However, we should not forget that we will have to face the consequences of its ill effects.

Today the definitions of relationships are changing. Nobody wants to take responsibility or is willing to transfer the responsibility to any other person. Children, instead of being seen as objects of care, love and passion and giving them an environment to grow and develop, are now being seen as a source of income. `More the children, more the hands and more the income' has become a slogan. Girls are being sold-off like commodities or cattle and they are being sold-off by their own parents or guardians. In the name of marriage and presenting a `fake groom' the

trade of selling girls is on. The increase of distance of relationship between daughters and parents or adverse family situation arising in homes gives unscrupulous elements the opportunity to attract girls through their false and sweet words and convince the girls to leave their homes. Ultimately, the same 'lovers' sell off the girls to the touts. Once the girls fall into the hands of touts, they are forced to live in hellish conditions-inflicted by all sorts of exploitations. The factors in her own family in some way-knowingly or unknowingly- are responsible for the condition of the victimized girls. However, the shortcomings of every section of the society and the family have to be faced by the victimized girl-as long as she lives. Sometimes, a situation comes when fed-up with her living conditions or due to failure to identify or fight against her conditions; she takes steps without any thought. The result is that her condition deteriorates even further and she reaches a condition where she cannot revert back -even if she wants to. When she realizes this it is too late to come out.

*Aurat Batey Tow Batey, Zamin Nahi Betay*(the land should not be distributed as any cost-even if it means sharing the woman)- the women are being victimized due to this thought prevailing in some parts of the country. A girl married to one groom is forced to have sexual relationship with other male members of the groom's family. Who has given birth to this tradition cannot be said. However, the ill-effects of this tradition have been forced on the woman.

We are happy when we hear the tall claims by the stake holders that our society is developing and we are technically advanced in many fields. However, the technology developed by humans is becoming the reason for falling sex ratio and destruction of humanity. This technique has become so advanced that it stops the birth of children -for paying a low cost. This advanced technique is being used by the section of the society which calls itself most civilized and cultured. Even before birth-daughters are being killed-female feticide is on full bloom.

Another aspect of this issue is that the society which cannot use this modern technique, has developed another way to get rid of their daughters. This section allowed the daughters to take birth. But after birth, these daughters' life becomes like death every day. To get rid of the burden of their daughters the society used marriages. A large number of girls are becoming victims of unnatural death. If we just talk about the census we will find that since 1901 the sex ratio has reduced drastically.

## Chapter-8

### -Case Studies-

**Some situations and case studies which reveal the graveness of the ground realities----**

1) A man hailing from Kochadhaman block under Kishanganj district who was father to six daughters and four sons, managed to get one of his daughter married off to Bareilly district in UP through a local trafficker. The marriage took place in the year 2006. The father and the local broker took girl to Bareilly and got her married there to a 45 years old groom. However, despite the fact that the father knows his son-in-laws home, it was found out that the girl had disappeared.

2) A of Buxar district was studying in class X, His father wanted him to get married at the age of 17. A resisted the marriage and finally fled from home. His father is still searching for his son in the hope that A will resurface some day.

3) A girl hailing from Nawada district, now aged 23, was married off to Sukhawabad in UP to a family. She hailed from a family having four brothers and two sisters. The parents married her off after listening to the glittering promises made by the groom and his friends. The groom enjoyed marital life with the girl for some time. However, she was tortured by her husband and in-laws after some time. One day her husband married another girl and this Nawada girl was virtually thrown out of her in-laws house. The girl was forced to return to her parents in Nawada.

4) Leela(name changed) from Gaya district was married to a local groom. For some time everything went off smoothly. However, after some time, her husband's behavior towards her changed. Her husband asked Leela to establish an illicit relationship with his friends. A reluctant Leela complied. One day her husband came with five persons. They consumed liquor. After that Leela was mass raped. Leela complained to her husband's elder brother about the demands made by her husband. Instead of showing sympathy, Leela's brother-in-law drove her and her husband out of the house after the incident. Her husband took her to a person's house on the



pretext of getting her a job. He told her that she was to serve here, while he searched a job outside. Later, Leela learnt that she had been sold off by her husband. She was sexually exploited even as she waited for her husband to come back.

5) 11 years old Su of Ismayalpur in Gaya district had six brothers and sisters. A person of the same district, approached his father and told him that he worked in Surat in Gujarat and claimed that he owned a factory there. He said that many persons of Gaya worked in his factory. He told the father to trust him and send his son with the person. For some months the father received Rs 1000 per month for his son. However, after some time, the person sold off his local house and land and disappeared from Gaya. The father has been unable to trace out either his son or the person who took away Su to Surat. The father has not filed an FIR against the person fearing that if he did so Su would be killed.

6) R of Sitamarhi.....

The family of R of *Asoghi* village in Sitamarhi district of Bihar was so large that it was difficult for them to ensure two square meals a day for all the family members. Her father, Md Ismile belongs to the Nut caste and is a laborer suffering from tuberculosis. He was incapable of supporting his family and daily expenditure. The family was facing dire financial stress and R also had to work as a laborer. Despite R work, the financial strain of the family did not improve.

Under these circumstances, a sister of a distant relative of Ismile came and advised them to get R sent off with her, She said that the financial condition of the family will improve if R goes with her. She assured the family that she would get R a well paying job so that R will be able to send back money to the family on a regular basis. The relative also advised the family that if any person of the village asks about the whereabouts of R, they should tell them that R has been married off. Ismile was given Rs 5000 and R went away with the lady. At that time the age of R was just 18.

The lady took her to Muzaffarpur and sold her off in a red light area. First R cried. However, later she accepted her fate and got involved in the flesh trade. R sent messages to her father about her plight several times. However, nobody from her family came to save her. Some months later, her father Md Ismile came. Instead of

asking about the plight of his daughter, R father took away the money earned by R in the flesh trade. He never returned again. R was left to live in the same situation.

7) K of Kishanganj: During this incident K was just 15 years old. Hailing from an orthodox Muslim family, K was not allowed to venture outside her home or go out to any place. The few times she ventured outside her home was with her own mother-who worked as a maid and domestic help. Her father was an agriculture laborer. The family faced financial hardship. At times when K mother fell ill, she had to do all the work-both inside home and the place where her mother worked as a maid. During this period she developed friendship with a boy hailing from an adjoining village. The boy gave financial support to K and was able to gain her confidence. K was illiterate and she began to think that she was about to get a new life from her new friend. Her father and mother did not intervene with her friendship with the boy as the family was receiving financial help from the boy. The boy's name was Abdul Hakim.

One day Abdul Hakim eloped with K during the night time in 1990. Till date there is no trace of either Abdul Hkim or K. The villagers are unaware about their whereabouts. It is being argued that had K been mentally and physically stable, she would have atleast informed her parents about her where about.

8) S Khatun of Kishanganj: S Khatun is a member of a large family having 11 brothers and sisters. During the time of this occurrence she was only 14 years old. She had never gone to school and was totally illiterate. She used to roam around her locality and beg for food from the local residents. Her father Maqbul Hussain is an agriculture laborer who found it hard to support his large family from his own earnings. The family belonged to a sect calling themselves Shershahwadi Muslims. According to neighbours the family's financial mysteries was so depressing that a frustrated Maqbul Hussain used to beat-up his children out of sheer desperation.

One day out of frustration, depression and hunger, S ran away from home. She fled from home in the year 2006. Till date there is no trace of her.

9) M Khatun of Kishanganj: During the time of occurrence, M was 22 years old. She was a member of a family having 8 brothers and sisters. Her family hailed from a Muslim sect calling themselves Suryapuri Islam. A boy residing in an adjoining village worked as a tailor in the village of M. The boy started to become friendly with the family of M. He was targeting M and took advantage of the economic crisis faced by

her family. He also gave some financial support to M father and established himself as a well wisher of the family.

The boy gave the proposal of marrying M to her father. The proposal was accepted and he got married to M. The groom started to live inside the house of M. After some time, M got pregnant. The boy after learning about the development disappeared one day without telling any one about his departure. Till date M husband is traceless and she continues to wait with her two children. However, it appears that her husband is engaged in ruining the lives of other women.

10) N Khatun of Kishanganj: N Khatun belonged to a large family having nine brothers and sisters. The family belongs to the Shershawadi sect of Muslims. N father Md Mansoor Rehman supports his family through agriculture. During the time of occurrence N was only 16 years old. Naseema was semi-literate and had knowledge of words. She had gone to school.

During going to school she met a lady named P Khatun who hailed from the nearby Khagra village. P Khatun lured N with her sweet talks and promises. She told N that she could get her married to prosperous boy living in the town. "If you remain here your father will get you married to a village boy", P Khatun told N. N believed P Khatun. One day she ran-way from home with P Khatun. Her family members began to search her out even as P Khatun kept her hidden in the same village for about one month. After one month, P Khatun took N to Gorakhpur in UP and sold her to another man for Rs 40,000. She told Na that her future husband lives in Mumbai and would be coming soon to marry her. "Wait here for a few more days", she told N.

N was able to phone from Gorakhpur to her native village and was able to send a message to her family members about the plight she is in. She told her family that she does not know the where about of P Khatun and that she (N) were forced to live with another man. N father went to Gorakhpur to fetch his daughter. But he was beaten-up there by goons and told to bring Rs 10,000 to get back his daughter. N father returned from Gorakhpur and N continues to face exploitation of all kinds in Gorakhpur.

11) N of Muzaffarpur: N belongs to a family having six brothers and sisters and was only 17 years old when the incident occurred. During takjs with N refused to tell the name of her neither parents nor did she want to talk anything related to her

identification or her past. N is a resident of UP and is a victim of circumstances forcing her to be a sex worker in the red light area of Muzaffarpur. She just manages to survive. She said that her worst day in her life was when she left her native place trusting the assurance given to her by a person who promised to ensure a prosperous and happy life after marriage.

Her story is that after eloping with the boy, the boy kept her in a house of his friend for some days. After some time, the boy sold her to a brothel owner called Tara Devi. The boy disappeared after selling off N to the brothel owner. During those days N found it extremely difficult to adjust with the environment prevailing in the brothel. Slowly she accepted the circumstances of life as her fate. Even when she got the opportunities to flee from the brothel N stayed on. She said that she stayed on because she feared that her family and her society would not accept her if she returned home.

## Chapter-9

### -Challenges Faced-

#### Challenges faced during survey:

Surveyors say that it was extremely difficult to conduct a survey on the issue of women and girls facing various kinds of exploitation. They pointed out that the villagers were extremely reluctant to talk about their daughters and used to tell the surveyor to mind his own business. "Where we marry off our daughters is not your concern", the parents told the surveyors. Several parents asked the surveyors why they were asking the address of the in-laws or husband's of their daughters. "Will you bring back our daughters back here?", asked the worried parents. They were not concerned about the plight and situation their daughter was living in. They were worried that if their daughters return they would have to take responsibility for the burden (daughters) again. The surveyors convinced the parents that they were not interested in bringing back their daughters and were only interested in knowing about how many daughters of Bihar were marrying outside the state. The parents accepted this plea and then told them about their daughters.

The surveyors felt that families where the male members were either dead or had migrated, or were facing abject poverty, where family members were suffering from various kinds of diseases. families having no land even to make their own homes or whose property was taken over by money lenders because of their inability to pay back loans or were facing acute financial restraints-are some of the major reasons behind parents marrying off their daughters to far flung places. Some parents said that they got their daughters married off to far flung places so that she may not return back home. The surveyors met parents who got their daughters married off to strangers from far away places because it was an opportunity to get rid of the burden without having to pay dowry. They also said that their daughters had so many qualities that the grooms were ready to marry them without taking dowry. These kinds of guardians felt proud in saying that they did not have to pay dowry to their sons-in-law and instead their sons-in-law gave those Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.

Some parents were asked if they wanted to know about the plight of their daughters. They replied in negative and said that their daughters were in *Sarura* (in-law's home). "Everybody faces some problem at *Sasura*", the parents said and insisted their their daughters were better off in *Sasura*. The surveyors were sad to find out that there were very few parents who were genuinely concerned about the plight of their daughters. Some parents, who had got ridden of their elder daughters in the same manner, were ready to give away their younger daughters in the same manner. In the end the surveyors concluded that willing or unwillingly the mistakes made by parents and the society -the consequences are being faced by the daughters.

## Chapter-10 -Conclusion-

*" Aur Badaltey Samay Key Sath Shoshshan Ka  
Aayam Tow Badaltey Chala Gaya, Lekin Sikar Kal  
Abi Aurat Thi Aur Aaj Bhi Aurat Hai,  
Badla Agar Kuch Hai  
To Wo Hai  
SOSHAN KE TAREKE AUR CHEHRE. "*

*(With the changing times, the dimensions of exploitation also changed, but the victim yesterday was a woman. today also the victim is a woman. Only the difference is- Aspects and Dimensions of exploitation & violence has changed).*

In a traditional society the woman was considered a commodity. The situation today remains unchanged. In the old times feudal and landlords victimized the daughters and daughter-in-laws of the downtrodden sections of the society and sexually exploited them and used them as mistresses. Today the social order has changed, but even in the changed scenario women are still used considered as a commodity and an object of entertainment and lust.

As we have already said that dimensions of exploitation has changed and in the changed dimension trade of women has started. Even today the daughters of deprived and distressed sections of the society are being targeted for physical exploitation. The only difference is that the exploiters and the ways have changed, but the victims remain the same -women of deprived sections.

Previously, it was the rural landlords who exploited the women and the downtrodden classes were forced to accept it as a fate. There was no help coming from any quarter or no other option but to tolerate the exploitation inflicted upon them. Today, even in an age which is called modern and advanced, the situation has further declined. The parents and guardians of girl children have themselves become exploiters and sell off their daughter's like cattle stocks. The daughters are married off to strangers hailing from far flung places, so that even if the daughters want to run-away from the pain and agony faced by them in the hand of unknown persons, they are unable to do so due to long distance to their parent's homes. Sadly, the sacred institution of marriage is being used as a front for carrying on and increasing trade of human flesh-daughters.

The situation is that any girl wanting to improve her economical position and develop herself, there are thousands waiting outside her house ready to misguide and exploit her. In this situation there are girls being exploited in the name of giving job opportunities. Some dialogues and assurances like *'we are giving you a golden opportunity', and 'you will become financially well off and can even support your family', 'The days are coming when poverty and hunger will be unknown to your family members' and so on are used to lure the girls in this trap.'*

Overall, situation reveals that either the matter is concerned to a son or daughter; both of them are treated as "SOURCE OF INCOME". Parents, willingly or unwillingly had adopted a concept "MORE CHILDREN- MORE HANDS- MORE INCOME."

On the first hands, the people, closing their eyes, do not hesitate to hand over their offspring's in the name of job, at the other hands, the parents do not think for a moment while arranging their daughters marriages to unknown hands like a goat that are handed over to butcher.



The hand over process is fertilizing as a lucrative occupation for mostly people. Thing is that this is being continued even in the presence of so many systems and laws. There are few cases that have been reported regarding trafficking. No one can answer regarding the data of traceless children or their exact situation---- **dead or alive?** No one is ready to take responsibility towards such children.

Then who is responsible for that ?

If there is no imperative action taken to check the trade of children, it is possible; the social morals would be burnt in the flame of the trafficking of children/girls.

## Recommendations:

- 1) Carrying out a campaign to create mass awareness.
- 2) Fixing a social responsibility at the village level for ensuring that children are not trafficked.
- 3) Making maintenance of a birth and marriage register mandatory at the village level.
- 4) Strengthening of implantation of existing laws against trafficking at the ground level.
- 5) Promotion of Social rehabilitation of victims.
- 6) Rehabilitation of victims and developing them as role models to carry out anti-trafficking activities.
- 7) Creation of a special task force for rescuing victims who have been trafficked outside the state
- 8) Sensitization and training of law enforcement agencies.
- 9) Development and enforcement of a minimum standard of victim protection protocol .
- 10) A special campaign -socially and legally-against child marriage.
- 11) A trafficking prevention strategy for vulnerable sections of the society.
- 12) A media sensitization program for covering cases of trafficking and the victims.
- 13) An initiative for changing the traditional attitude and practices towards girls.
- 14) Bringing the issue to the forefront in the agenda of social stakeholder.

