



A Report on Trafficking & Various form of
Violence/ exploitation of Girls/Women

Report by
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Note- *Below mentioned data is based on survey conducted by various organizations & individuals. So Bhoomika Vihar is not responsible for any problems or consequences arising from this report. Data is subject to re-verification.*

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"Dedicated to the girls who have been disclaimed and forgotten by the society in the name of being a BURDEN..."

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1.

Preface

Trafficking of girls and women is no longer an unheard subject now for many. Ever since Bhoomika Vihar had come out with its first report “*Bojh*” (The Burden) on trafficking in Bihar, a level of awareness on the subject of trafficking is seen rising among the common and different stake holders. However, grey areas still remain on different aspects of trafficking, lot more is yet to be discovered. There are several social, economical and practical implications of trafficking which still needs to be highlighted with a concerted effort. With this purpose, we took upon ourselves the task to carry out a survey having a wider geographical coverage and a deeper introspection into the issue. We, right from the beginning realized that it was not going to be an easy task because it is a subject still not discussed openly, at least amongst those affected as survivors and their relatives affected by the trafficking nexus.

This survey has been conducted by joint efforts of CACT and *Beti Bachhao Aandolan*, with the help of members of its partner and other social organizations. Volunteers have tried to reach remote corners in villages and towns to trace out cases of human trafficking - especially that of girls and women. It needed immense courage and relentless persuasion on the part of volunteers to finish the survey which is related to such a sensitive issue which people-specially parents would like to avoid. It was due to the diligent efforts of these volunteers which made this survey possible and gives us an insight to what is happening at the grass roots. We are greatly indebted to the volunteers, NGOs, media persons, officials and community group leaders, who have helped us in carrying out this mission. We also like to thank the public representatives, *Panchayat* representatives, intellectuals and academicians who provided us support and encouragement.

However at this juncture we would like to make a humble submission that this report is not a research paper. We are not researchers or *littérateurs*. This report ‘*Swaha*’ does not aim at preparing a research based report. This report is an effort to identify the social reasons which have led to the trafficking of girls. It is aimed to draw the attention to responsible sections of the society towards this problem and act more responsive towards the issue.

We can only hope that our efforts will stimulate responsible sections of the society to make an initiative on the issue and give hope to thousands of girls and women of the region who have become victims of trafficking and also save many more who are going to be next targets of the traffickers. We hope that this effort will lead to a positive initiation to create a safe, protective and emphatic environment and space for our daughters.

Arun Kumar
Convener
Eastern Region
CACT (Campaign against Child Trafficking)
Founder Convener
Beti Bachhao Aandolan

*Even today birth of a boy baby is
greeted with singing `Sohbar`
Has there ever been a song
composed for the birth of a
daughter?*

*Those who have already taken birth
are being thrown, day by day, into
the fire of exploitation and
neglect.....*

SWAHA.....

SWAHA.....

SWAHA.....

2. Introduction:

When Bhoomika Vihar had set in motion to work against trafficking and its related dimensions in the year 2004 they were able to pioneer a movement against it with the help of local community and partner NGOs in Bihar. It took a prolonged and hard effort by Bhoomika Vihar to establish trafficking as a public issue and draw the attention of the society towards it. During this process the organisation realized the importance of the issue and initiated the *`Beti Bachao Andolan* (Protect Daughters Movement). The highlight of this movement was the huge participation of girls and women in this movement in the areas which are vulnerable to trafficking. Perhaps they saw the movement as an opportunity not only to save them from the grave nexus but also exert their rights and dignity in the society.

The movement integrated many folk artists who attached themselves to the issue and enhanced the movement. A lot of teen aged girls picked up songs against trafficking and related issues and in favor of women empowerment during the years and spread its messages. When these songs were composed by a local folk artist-there were a large number of girls who had already been trafficked in the name of marriage, love or for other reasons and there were many girls who were waiting to be trafficked. At that time there were some remote areas in Bihar –especially the flood prone *Kosi-Mahananda* area, which were lucid hunting grounds for the traffickers to operate. Trafficking went on unhindered. Due to ignorance or knowingly, people were handing over their daughters and their future in the hands of strangers. The people in this process felt relieved to get rid of their burdens. The community and different stake holders of the society remained silent on the issue. This was because of lack of awareness on the issue and also because girls and women and their social status were none issues in these areas.

One of the girls' favorite songs...

*"Beti Chal Gayili Baap Ke Nadani Mein;
Lorwa Poochheli Apan Sirhani Mein...."*

*"Aapan Piya Sang Chale lee Sajaniya
Waha ja ke Banle Wo Sakhe Dhulhaniya"*

*Meaning the daughter is doomed due to
father's simplicity and now she weeps on
pillow.*

When the movement was initiated against trafficking and its multiple dimensions, at the start the community refused to respond, they resisted in few places and in some places the organization was ridiculed. However, it was surprising that girls and women willingly participated in the campaign. The

enlightened section of the society and administration who understood the issue also extended support. The campaign was initiated in areas vulnerable to trafficking and it was overwhelmingly adopted by women and girls. The Protect the Daughters Movement took its roots hence

During the last two decades Bihar and adjoining states such as West Bengal and Jharkhad has witnessed trafficking of girls and women. Bihar, northern part of West Bengal and Jharkhand has emerged as a source area for girls and women for traffickers. Bihar and West Bengal has also emerged as corridors for cross border trafficking.

The ground level situation is that a large number of girls are being taken away from their homes in the name of marriages/jobs/love affairs/bright future and so many other excuses. Superfluously these incidents do not appear to be abnormal. However, if one goes deep into the matter the situation is not only abnormal but also explosive. Why have not the girls taken out of their homes had not returned back to their home towns? Where have they vanished to? The probability of something untoward happening to these girls cannot be ignored. Since they have never surfaced back at their homes indicates that they may be facing problems. However, nobody appears to be concerned about these missing girls. We cannot rule out the possibility of these girls being made victims of all sorts of physical and mental exploitation.

The trend of girls being taken out of their homes towards unknown destinations continues. Many parents and guardians do not even know where they have sent their daughters to or in what state of affairs are their daughters living. The parents and guardians are feeling relieved after getting rid of their burdens. They feel that they are free of any responsibility towards their daughters after getting rid of them.

Activists are speaking about those girls who may be facing various forms of exploitation after being taken away from their homes in the name of marriage, jobs, love and bright future. Our concern is about girls who are victims of trafficking in one form and another and are destined to face exploitation. . We are not speaking about girls who have married and living happily with their husbands or the girls who have gone out to gain meaningful employment outside their homes. We are alarmed about girls who are victims of trafficking and exploitation. If this is not stopped, than thousands of more girls will be condemned to burn in this furnace

Traffickers are having a field day in targeting victims in this region. They take the help of local touts. They come with different faces-as a prospective groom, well wisher of the family, lovers, providers of jobs, giving hope for bright futures and sellers of dreams. The tragedy has been that the society has mainly remained

mute spectators. In all these events the role of local agents is vital. The local agent is a person who enjoys the trust of the parents and guardians. The local touts persuade the parents and guardians that they are helping in removing the burden. It is a breach of trust.

It is a shocking fact that the missing girls who are facing all sorts of exploitation are victims of their own parents and guardians and the society they grew in. If giving birth to children is our right, their upbringing is our responsibility.

Is unloading of a 'burden' desired in this manner by the persons who are responsible of bringing her to this world? In the Sati system, the women were burnt to ash and Sati was a slur to our civilization. A victim of trafficking burns every moment for the rest of her life. She is not allowed to even die at her own wish. But this seems to be no ones concern at all.

The question arises that if a large number of girls are disappearing to unknown destinations and facing exploitation, who is responsible? Can we analyze this situation and claim its responsibilities?

The social status of girls in any society is an indicator of the society's moral values, especially the moral values of the dominant males in the society who set norms. The decline in the status of girls is directly linked with demand. The demand is made by males and therefore the males are responsible for the present scenario directly or indirectly.

The disappeared girls do not or cannot contact their parents and guardians. The guardians and parents also do not bother to contact their missing girls. The girls are forced to live a life of exploitation, humiliation and are stripped of their dignity.

It is a life, which has been put in a furnace to burn endlessly. That is this why this report has been called Swaha..... ha ...!

3 . The past and the present.....

In the 1950s and 1960s a drama was presented by a famous folk artist group. The drama was called 'Beti-Bechawa' (Seller of daughters). At that time, the thought that the theme can be a social reality in the near future was unperceivable. People dismissed the drama as an artist's created theme and forgot the issue. An elderly person who had seen the drama at that time reacted. "When I saw the drama I thought this was not possible. No father can stoop down to a level where he can sell off his daughter. How can the society allow it and remain a mute spectator to it? I thought that it was just a creative imagination of an artist. However, today I realize that the drama was just not merely an imagination of a great artist. It has become a social reality today", he remarked.

The drama may have at that time been an imagination of a dramatist. Artists are supposed to be imaginative and creative. The creativity and imagination of great writers and artists are not just unrealistic stories and dreams. They reflect the past and future of the society. The imaginative theme of the dramatist in the 50s and 60s has now become a bitter social reality. One has to just pick up the newspaper to understand how social values had crashed. It is not just cases of trafficking of girls increasing. The trafficking of girls in most cases has not only the consent of parents but even active participation.

The trafficking of girls and role parents in the activity is a reflection of the traditional attitude, behavior and practices towards daughters. Daughters are perceived as burdens even before birth. The process of trying to do away with this burden begins right from birth. The issue is multi-dimensional and not just confined to ethics and morality. Trafficking or sale of daughters is an indicator of crumbling social values in the age of development and IT. It is an indicator that the youth is deviating from its social responsibilities. It also engulfs danger of HIV/AIDS. But most of all it mocks us for remaining immune to the cries of thousands of daughters condemned to live in a furnace of all sorts of exploitation.

Background:

Historically and topographically Bihar remains one of the most important states of India. This state is mythologically a symbol of women empowerment. The birth place of Goddess Seeta of Ramayana is in Bihar and so is it the birth place of Goddess Parwati. Ancient Bihar also saw high respect and glorification of women in matters of state affairs. It was here that Amrapali, a courtesan of Vaishali (the present district of the same name) in the kingdom of the Lichhavis, attained and wielded enormous power.

It is also the land of enlightenment where the religions of Buddhism and Jainism took place. The second most holy shrine of Sikh religion is located in Patna-the birth place of Guru Govind Singh. It also has been a politically volatile state both during pre and post independence era. Mahatma Gandhi initiated his Satyagarha agitation from Bihar. After independence it has been the cradle of many social movements including the JP-led agitation of the 1970s.

However, presently it is riddled with contradictions. The state has one of the most fertile agricultural lands in India and yet it is a regular victim of natural calamity-floods and droughts. It consists of a work force which includes professionally educated youths right down to hard working laborers and yet it is plagued by massive migration of both the educated and illiterate in search of jobs-because of the lack of opportunities.

Geographic location of Bihar:

Geographically locked between UP, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Nepal Bihar's total area is around 69,000 square km with the Ganga River dividing North Bihar from South Bihar. While rivers emerging from Nepal run like veins in North Bihar, South Bihar-despite having better irrigation facilities faces frequent drought like situations. Since the rivers of North Bihar emerge from the Himalayas floods occur even when rainfall is inadequate. South Bihar has hilly areas like Kaimur and Jamui districts-having forest coverage and being Naxal hit. There are 38 districts in Bihar with Patna being the state capital.

Economy & Literacy status of Bihar:

Bihar-despite impressive economic gains made by India in the last one decade remains an underdeveloped state. It still remains at the very bottom of the table for almost all state level indicators of growth and development. The per capita income of Bihar at Rs 5,772 is the lowest in the country. Its current poverty ratio is as high as 41.4 per cent. It also has one of the lowest literacy rates at 47.53 per cent.

Vulnerability of Bihar due to Flood & Disaster:

The geographical location of the state lies in the worst flood prone basins of the country and is ravaged by floods year after year. Around 73 per cent of its land is flood prone. Bihar has recorded the largest number of floods in the last 30 years. Floods of high magnitude have been witnessed in Bihar in the years 1978, 1987, 1998, 2004, 2007 and 2008.

The destruction to life and property due to floods has been massive. In 2004 a vast area of 23,490 square kms were badly hit by floods of Bagmati, Kamala and

Adhwara groups of rivers. In the period of last 11 years –there have been five floods and the official death record due to floods is over 3000. The regular natural calamity has also adversely hit agriculture. In the Kosi deluge alone in 2008 crops of around 4 lakh hectares were completely washed out and large chunks of land remain either water logged or made sterile due to sand. A population of more than 3 million was hit by the Kosi deluge-directly and indirectly. People were forced to stay out of their homes for months as it was submerged in flood water. The worst effected were women and girls. They came with just the clothes they were wearing and had to live in insecure and unhygienic conditions for months. The children had to remain out of schools for a long period. This has triggered off a fresh round of massive migration from this region.

914 deaths in the last count by the disaster management department of the government of Bihar in floods of 2007 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 had 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. The rivers of North Bihar runs through the territory like veins. The catchments area of these rivers is in Nepal.

Emerging trends:

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.

In the aftermath of floods even as water starts recede, there is no work in the agriculture left and it has already started to trigger off a massive migration of labor 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.

Earlier people had their own flood coping methods to minimize their losses. However, after the flood control system was introduced, the people have become dependent on the system which has led to large scale loss of lives and cattle stocks and property. They even have had to change their cropping pattern due to prolonged water logging, situation in the fields and flash floods. While North Bihar copes with floods, people of south Bihar is heavily dependent for irrigation on rain water and the mercy of other states to release water.

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

While North Bihar faces recurring floods, South Bihar is often falls victim to repeated droughts. Agricultural production tends to get in districts like Aurgangbad, Gaya, Jehanabad, Ara and surrounding areas due to inadequate rainfall. The poor irrigation infrastructure only compounds the problem of the people and the state government has to rely on other states like UP to release water for irrigation. Mega irrigational projects like the Durgawati reservoir have remained pending for a long period.

Repeated natural calamity in the region has resulted into changing pattern of livelihood. The agriculture laborers find it difficult to get employment round the year as most of the agriculture fields follow one crop pattern; this has triggered off massive migration from the region in search of jobs. Traditional jobs of the carpenters, weavers and iron smiths have also vanished with markets flooded with finished goods brought from outside the state. In Kosi Mahanada area Jute once used to provide employment to a large population-in the fields, industrial units and trade. However with the collapse of international market of Jute, the entire sector has been rendered defunct leading to massive unemployment. The Sugar industry was once a vibrant mode of livelihood for farmers and laborers in Bihar. However, since the last two decades as many as 15 sugar mills in Bihar have closed down closing the doors of jobs for the local population

Agriculture is the key to the overall development of the State economy. Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy 81% of workforce and generating nearly 42% of the State Domestic Product. The percentage of population employed in agriculture production system in Bihar is estimated to 81%, which is much higher than the national average. Nearly 42 per cent of GDP

of the state (2004-05) has been from agriculture sector (including forestry and fishing). The state has attained self sufficiency in food grains production. Barring maize and pulses productivity of various farm produce in Bihar is much below the national average. Though the area under cultivation is shrinking, there is tremendous scope for income generation, by improving productivity. Adverse climatic condition, like draught and floods, do play a role in decreasing products. But these adverse conditions can be overcome to some extent by irrigation, flood control and drainage schemes. The agriculture production can only be increased to some extent through enhanced cropping intensity, change in cropping pattern, improvement in seeds of high yielding varieties, cultivation practices and with the availability of better post harvest technology etc.

The gross and net sown area in the State is estimated at 80.26 lakh hectares and 56.38 lakh hectares, respectively. The intensity of cropping is 1.42%. The principal crops are paddy, wheat, pulses, maize, potato, sugarcane, oil seeds, tobacco and jute. Rice, wheat and maize are the major crops. The average yields of rice and wheat are 1.45 and 2.19 t/ha, respectively, as against the production potential (experimental yields at research farm as well as realized in frontline demonstration) of 4.5-5.0 t/ha. Similar, the average of maize yields of the State is about 2.38 t/ha as against its yield potential of 5 t/ha. State is rich in soil and water resources, its average yields of Rice, Wheat, Maize in the state are only about 32,44 and 40 percents of the potential yields, respectively.

Even though the first land survey conducted in India was in Bihar-land reforms has never taken off-leading to disparity in land holdings. This has led to social tensions and even violence. The first massacre in independent India was *Rupaspur* in Purnea district was because of land dispute. Jehanabad, Aurangabad and other South Bihar districts has witnessed large-scale massacres due to land disputes. Even the land distributed by the government to the landless is under litigation and in most cases the beneficiaries have not been given possession of the land. The main objective of Bihar Land Ceiling Act, 1962 was to fix the land holding and declare the rest land as surplus-which was to be distributed among the landless. However, landlords used various means to save their land. The landless who tried to get possession of their land were resisted with violence and with false cases. It is impossible for the landless to get possession of his land. As an example in Purnea at a point of time, there were 16 big landlords (Estates) and just 51 families controlled 31 per cent of the land in the area. In order to give land for building homes to the landless, the state government brought in Bihar Homestead Tenancy Act, 1970 & 1973. However, a large population of landless remain without *Baskit Purchas* (Documents giving them right to land on which they live). How many landless red card/Bhoodani

card/Barkit Purcha card/Sikmi Bataiydari Card holders have actually got possession of their land is subject to a research.

In Bihar child marriage and verbal divorce is a common phenomena in rural and urban slum areas. In such a social set-up, the legal land documents do not have the names of women of the family in rural areas. In such a condition verbal divorce leads to women being thrown out of their homes. In rural Bihar widowed women are often branded as Dayins (Witches) and tortured under a planned conspiracy to take over her house or property.

In present scenario the issue of land reforms has been suppressed. Thousands of landless people having legal land documents may not have been given procession of their land. But they face cases at different levels in different courts. The poor and downtrodden sections of the society are in no position to understand the complexities of the land problem nor do they have the financial resources to fight the case in the court.

Land disputes have multiple social dimensions. It has led to migration of the agricultural laborers and marginal farmers to other states. It also led to problems related to shelter, food security and low wages.

United Bihar had a forest cover of over 23 per cent. However, bifurcated Bihar has a forest cover of less than 7 per cent-greatly affecting its bio-diversity. The degradation of the bio-diversity in Bihar can be judged by the fact that the Vultures are near extinct because its nesting trees –the Banyan tree have been cut down. There has been large scale deforestation of whatever trees remained. Illegal saw mills are rampant. However, with the passing of time, the carpenters are finding it difficult to stick to their traditional profession. There was also a rich variety of fishes in the rivers and ponds of Bihar-like *Rehu*, *Katla*, *Mangur*, *Singhi*, *Pothia* and *Tengra*. However, due to pollution and adverse conditions the fishes are getting scarce. Presently fishes from Andhra Pradesh have flooded the market while the local fishing community finds it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. The failure to preserve the biodiversity of the state is showing on communities depending of nature and natural resources for livelihood. Pollution of rivers has killed several species of fishes rendering the fishermen community almost jobless. The younger generations of the community do not take up their family livelihood and only add to the massive migration. Similarly communities known as Gangota are traditional boatmen. This community is also under stress as their boats are in demand only during floods and on rare occasions. Due to lack of m support and very little earning the community finds it very difficult to continue with their profession and is adding up to the massive labor force which is facing unemployment in Bihar.

Bihar in Figures:

- Normal Rainfall: 1205 mm
- Gram Panchayat: 8471
- Revenue villages: 45103
- District: 38
- Police districts: 43
- Total Population: 82878796
- Male Population: 43153964
- 0-6 year age group population: 16234539(absolute)
- Female 0-6 year age group population: 7859007(absolute)
- Girl child percentage: 19.78%
- Literacy rate: 47.53% (absolute)
- Female literacy rate: 33.57%(absolute)
- Sex ratio: 921
- Lowest literacy rate: Kishanganj -31.02%

(As per Census Report 2001)

The sex ratio in Bihar since 1901 had always remained higher than that for the country as a whole till 1981 Census. However, the sex ratio of 911 for the composite state of Bihar and 907 of the leftover Bihar (after separation of Jharkhand) state, recorded in 1991, is much below the national sex ratio of 927. At the Census of India 2001, sex ratio of Bihar at 921 is still lower as compared to the national sex ratio which is 933. States having higher sex ratio than that of Bihar are Kerala (1058), Chhatisgarh (990), Tamilnadu (986), Andhra Pradesh (978), Manipur (978), Meghalaya (975), Orissa (972), Himachal Pradesh, (970), Uttaranchal (964), Karnataka (964), Goa (960), Tripura (950), West Bengal (944), Jharkhand (941), Mizoram (938), Assam (932), Rajasthan (922) and Maharashtra (922). The state of Gujarat has recorded the same sex ratio (921) as has been observed in case of Bihar. Kerala is the only state in the country, which has recorded a favorable sex ratio for females according to the provisional population figures of Census of India 2001.

Lack of employment, flood prone diseases, land problems and other 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. The declining sex ratio in the region is an indicator of the lack of sensibility and negative attitude towards women and girls.

4. Trafficking.....The thriving trade

A new trade is thriving all across the world. In this trade, human beings are the commodities, who are sold and procured. This trade is commonly known as 'Human Trafficking'. Every year millions of people, majority of who are women and children, become victims of such trafficking and inhuman exploitation.

The entire region of South and South-East Asia is notorious for such activities. India, indeed, is one of the major centers for all forms of human trafficking despite the fact that the Constitution of India prohibits such activities in any form. There are special legislations and provisions in the Indian Penal Code against the offenders. One major impediment to effective control of human trafficking in the country is lack of attention and indifference of the administration, police, and, to an extent, the national media regarding trafficking of women and children. In the recent past, however, several leading newspapers and TV news channels have provided good coverage to various incidents of such crime. Nonetheless, still there is a lack of continuity and the focus is not significant enough to create mass awareness.

Trafficking happens both within and across the national border. Traffickers have long outreach. Today, perhaps there is no place left in the country that is out of their reach. Particularly vulnerable are the international border areas, remote places with difficult terrain, natural calamity-prone areas, tourist spots as well as villages. The number of trafficking victims reaches lakhs every year. In most cases, these dismal incidents go unreported to the police or the media.

Along with a few other states, Bihar has become a fertile ground for trafficking of women and children. The entire state, particularly the Kosi-Mahananda region, which borders India and Nepal, has proved to be the favorite hunting ground for the traffickers. Girls and women in the age group of 12 to 30 years are mostly targeted at. There are many factors behind the rising incidence of trafficking. The most vital of them is the flourishing sex trade as well as fast sprouting entertainment groups – dance groups, orchestra parties, etc., which have fairly large number of female participants. Moreover, bars, beauty parlours and massage parlours are blooming even in small towns, let alone cities, where many young girls are employed to attract clients.

To understand various dimensions of the trafficking issue, CACT-Bihar conducted a study that included the victims as well their family members. The study revealed that mostly it is the girls from poverty stricken families who become the targets of traffickers. However, the study also highlighted the fact that poverty is not the only reason behind their plight. Illiteracy, gender disparity, ignorance about their rights, low level of awareness, and, poor record of law enforcements also contribute to their vulnerability.

Dynamics of trafficking:

Trafficking is an organized crime that is carried out by a strong network of groups. There is a nexus not only among local level pimps/touts, but also among top businessmen, influential people, hotels, travel agencies, and, not to mention of brothels. Whenever an incidence of trafficking takes place, it is always conducted by a group of people. In course of the survey, many girls recounted their experiences of being passed around from one place to another by a chain of people. Generally, there are master traffickers. They are assisted by touts, field-level purchasers, transporters, pimps, procurers, brothel owners and brothel managers.

Apart from touts from outsiders, there are village-based touts as well who work for the traffickers in their native villages. Primarily, their job is to arrange housing for touts coming from outside, introducing them to villagers and providing them all the necessary information and supports. Trafficking is broadly defined as an act of taking away human beings from home to other parts of the country or abroad using force or deceit. The end result of trafficking is transportation of human beings from one place to another in the name of marriage, love, jobs, tourism and a bright future. The result may end in slavery, forced labor or sexual and physical exploitation. It is difficult to assess the real scenario of trafficking because of the element of secrecy maintained by the traffickers.

Migration & Trafficking:

Migration and trafficking are different issues having different reasons which cannot be identified superfluously. However there is a strong bond between the two issues. Migration and trading of daughters are symbols of degradation of a society.

Migration is caused by sorrows, fear, and concern for the future livelihood and a dream for a better tomorrow. Migration takes places as per local situations. In the past, people used to migrate to Assam and Kolkata (West Bengal). They used to live and work there for years bringing back money when they visited their homes. Migration has had such a dominant impact on the society that writers and folk artists have included it in their themes like the noted Bhojpuri poet Bikhari Thakur's drama 'Videshia'. Migration is quite old and was present even when the social values had not started to break down. However, the traditional social responsibility and bonds were factors which kept the social values intact despite many deviations and short comings. The social fabric used to resist outside threats and imposed itself a responsibility to keep it out. Earlier, males used to migrate to other places in search of employment-but at that time there was no trading of women and girls.

The changing social and economic scenario has demolished the social fabric and the rate of migration increased rapidly. It opened new areas for migration like Delhi, Mumbai and its surrounding areas. However, this time migration became connected with trade of children and women. Because changing social and economic scenario led to demolition of social values and social security. The social bonds which offered resistance from outside vices weakened. The paradox is that presently girls and children are trafficked to areas which previously used to be destination points for male migrants. Nepal males first migrated to metros of India. Today the females of Nepal are being trafficked to metros. Males of Bihar, Jharkhand and Northern parts of West Bengal used to migrate to Delhi and its surrounding areas. Presently girls of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal are trafficked to the same destination points. Laborers migrated to metro cities. Today the girls have followed them as trafficked victims.

5. Rationale of Study on Trafficking of Girl/women/children:

The study is an effort to understand the situation of girls, Trafficking and other forms of exploitation in Bihar. Some years ago when girls were being taken out of the state in the name marriage, people tended to dismiss the trend as a normal social activity. Nobody understood the consequences of the girls going in the name of marriages, love and jobs. Due to several reasons, the people have come to know about the real picture of this trend. Notwithstanding the fact that a few articles have been published by the print media and there has been some coverage by the electronic media, one does not get a full perspective of the picture. It is small initiative to understand different dimensions of the situation.

In order to highlight the enormity of the problem in Bihar and to draw attention of the law enforcement machineries, the media, general public and the educational institutes, *Beti Bachhao Aandolan* & CACT Bihar has conducted a study on the trafficking of women and children in coordination with member organizations/ Groups/ individuals.

6. Survey design:

Target area:-

The Beti Bachhao Aandolan & CACT study on trafficking of women and children was conducted by a number of its member organizations. A format was developed and the member organizations conducted the survey in their respective operational areas according to the format. While studying the issue, villages and towns of 19 districts were covered. Before the field survey, a series of meetings and training sessions were conducted with the member organizations to frame the strategies, identify focal areas and to develop a questionnaire for the survey.

The survey personnel tried to cover those villages and towns that were identified as prone to trafficking activities. The personnel contacted the victims and their family members in those villages. It was not always possible to speak to the victims directly, mainly for two reasons. First, the issue was very sensitive and discussing their ordeal could hurt their sentiment and further downgrade their already low self-esteem. Secondly, many victims could not be traced as even their parents did not have any clue about their whereabouts. In such situations, details were taken from their family members. In course of the survey, the activists faced some unusual and unexpected situations as well. For example, many families, who could not follow up the case of their missing daughters with the police due to lack of resources, had ultimately taken to witch craft and similar other means to find out their kin. Many such families pleaded with the survey personnel to trace out their children.

Covered districts: - 19

Katihar, Purnea, Kishanganj, Bhagalpur, Khagraia, Begusrai, Saharsa, Patna, Supaul, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Buxar, Nawada, Gaya, Jamui, Sitamarhi, Gopalganj, Purvi Champaram & Samastipur.

Methodology adopted for survey:-

- Data collection from field through survey format
- Discussions with community
- Case study
- Observations.

Respondent composition:

- 1) Girls and boys
- 2) Male and female
- 3) Parents and guardians
- 4) Local allies of outsider traffickers

- 5) Victims(Girls)
- 6) Community

Sample size:

- 🚧 No of covered blocks- 63
- 🚧 No of covered villages: 226
- 🚧 Reach out of the survey: 683 cases.

Survey focus:

- Socio-economic background of families leading to vulnerability;
- Present scenario related to trafficking;
- Challenges and Threats.

7. Findings from Survey:

Few facts in figures:

- Total number of trafficking cases identified: 683;
- No of girls /women trafficking cases identified: 585;
- No of boys/male trafficking cases identified: 98, (14.35%);
- No of trafficked girls/women below 18 years: 281, (48.03%);
- No of trafficked boys below 18 years: 69, (70.40%);
- No of trafficked girls/women above 18 years: 304;
- No of trafficked boys/males above 18: 29;
- No of illiterates: 508 out of 585 girls/women;
- Traceless girls (Parents having no information): 108,
- Traceless boys: 85
- Unmarried girls: 464 out of 585, (about 79 %);
- Allurement in the name of marriage: 497 girls (79.37 %)
- Allurement in the name of love: 24 girls
- Eloping cases: 27 girls and 58 boys
- Allurement in the name of jobs: Boys-40 and girls 35
- Allurement for other reasons: 2
- Girls who have been married and returned to parents for various reasons at the time of survey: - 112
- No of children of married girls who had returned home: - 71 boys and 59 girls.
- Destination states out of Bihar: UP-(Gonda, Lakhimpur, Shahjahanpur, Alipore, Hardoi, Lucknow, Sitapur, Itawa, Moradabad, Agra etec.), Punjab, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Kashmir, Gujarat, Uttaranchal.

8. Key observations from the survey:

While conducting the survey, a total of 683 cases of trafficking came into light. Of these, in 585 cases small girls and women in the age group of below and above 18 years were trafficked. In the remaining 98 cases, it was the small boys; mostly in the age group of below 13 were trafficked. 33 of these boys were below 13(33.67 per cent).

Background of the trafficked victims:

As regards their social background, it was found that most of the cases were from the Scheduled Castes and OBC families, who not only were socially marginalized but also belonged to very poor economic strata. Out of the total 683 victims, 299 were from OBCs, 179 were Muslims, 161 were Scheduled Castes, while 33 and 11 victims belonged to other castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively.

The study established the fact that both girl children (below 18 years) and women (above 18 years) were equally vulnerable. Of the total 585 cases of trafficking, 281 (about 48 per cent) victims were below 18 years of age while the rest of 304 (about 52 per cent) were above 18. All the victims came from poor families with no regular sources of income. Parents of 492 victims were daily wage laborers while 50 families depended on subsistence farming. The rest of 43 families depended on petty sources of income. Families of only 39 victims owned small agricultural land.

Vulnerabilities leading to trafficking of girls:

- Parents having large families and daughters get least importance;
- Divorcee or deserted women have less status in society;
- Girls needing financial help for various reasons.
- Orphan girls or girls having step-fathers or step-mothers are neglected or taken least care. Also girls living with relatives and are viewed as burdens.
- Greedy guardians giving off girl children mainly in marriage or work;
- Beggars –especially on the railway station premises.
- Girls (Literate and illiterate) are unaware of the threats of the outer world and results of trafficking.
- Areas prone to natural calamity and under development having massive migration and children get easily traceless.

Face of Traffickers:-

This crime is demand driven. There is a huge demand for women and small children, especially girl children. They are used by different groups of people in different ways.

Those involved with trafficking activities are powerful enough to evade police and the clutches of law. It is a hierarchical structure. At the top, the crime is managed by people of position. At the bottom, there are local touts who try to get closer to the community members and gain their confidence. Once the victims are trapped by the local touts/agents, they are sent to their destinations through other agents. Despite the enormity of the situation, neither the government nor the police have any data base on the traffickers. Another loophole in campaigns against the traffickers is the fact that the stakeholders are working independently and there is hardly any sharing of information among them. Therefore, it becomes difficult to nab the traffickers and trace the victims.

Dream Weavers:

The traffickers weave dreams and promises for the parents or guardians of the victims with the help of local agents and allies. Sometimes they deal directly themselves and in others they take the help of local brokers to lure the parents. The dialogues delivered are stereo-type. Like- 'Your Daughter will live like a Queen', 'you will be flooded with currency notes', 'your daughter will earn a lot and your days of poverty will end'.

Some dialogues are reserved for the girls who are targeted for trafficking. Like - 'You will live like a Queen', 'I will live and die for you', "I will bring the moon and star to your feet", 'I will keep you happy as long as I live' and many other dialogues taken directly from the mouths of heroes of films of Bollywood. The dreams weavers often attach their dialogues with small gifts either to the parents or girls. In case of parents it could be a token amount of cash, clothes or even tobacco or liquor if the father is a tobacco or liquor addict. In case of girls it may be small gifts such as lipsticks, nail polish and artificial ornaments. The 'wealth' of the prospective groom is flaunted. He or the local broker tells gullible parents and guardians' stories.

"I have a double storied house, four tractors, and 20 acres of land. There are a number of servants in my house. Each family member has one servant. The family members do not even have to get a glass of water for themselves", he boasts before gullible parents and even before the prospective bride. The middle man or local agent advises the parents to 'hurry'. "Your daughter is very fortunate that you have got a proposal of marriage from a family of

Zamindars(Landlords) whose house is full of cars and servants. I am close to you and your well wisher. Therefore the moment I heard about this proposal I brought them to you. Give your consent quickly or else there are scores of parents or other prospective brides who are waiting on the gates of the groom", he stresses.

There is words assurances for the parents also even for after marriage period. "Your Damad is large hearted; He will look after you even after marriage to your daughter. You will never face a financial crunch in your life", the tout declares.

A girl eloped with an outsider hawker who sold cosmetics in villages. He promised the girl that she would see his TV which is colourful like Cinemas. Incidentally, the villagers were in procession of only black and white TVs.

Who are the Traffickers:

- Traffickers can be any person.
- There is co-ordination between outside traffickers with the local touts.
- The outside traffickers are persons who come from outside to take away the girls.
- Local Touts are persons who provide shelter to the outside traffickers and who is a middle man or woman between the traffickers and parents or guardians of the girls. However, it may be possible that the local supporter of the trafficker may be unaware of the evil intensions of the traffickers and its end result.
- Parents and guardians of the girls usually crave for money and are not aware of the dimensions of trafficking and for whom girls are burdens Traffickers take advantage of this vulnerability.
- The owner and organizer of flesh trade centres and his associates are pimps.
- Girls who have themselves been trafficked earlier or married off to traffickers or their associates and relatives turn out to be traffickers later.
- Placement agencies and persons are often involved in the trafficker's network.
- Women or girls who are involved in mobile flesh trade are often acting as their agents.
- Owners of dancing and singing troupes are their agents often.
- Some other persons who may be a party in trafficking process include beggars, hawkers, lovers, local relatives and friends of the targeted family.
- Traffickers frequently come posing as well wishers of the family and the victim girl.

Destination of the Trafficked Women and Children:

The report reveals that it is an organized crime and the traffickers have a wide network. They are capable of targeting girls even in remote villages. In course of

the survey, incidents of trafficking could be discovered in all the 19 districts covered in the study.

Once in the net of traffickers, the victims could be sent to anywhere. The distance between the source point and the destination could be of a few kilometers or could be of several thousand kilometers. They could even be sent to other countries as well. On the other hand, girls engaged were not only brought from Bihar. A considerable number of them were from Nepal, West Bengal, UP, etc. They were being used for different illicit purposes. For a better understanding of the situation, besides meeting the victims and their families, the survey personnel also visited highway hotels, dance bars, roadside shops, etc. and observed the goings-on.

Girls are most in demand in several sectors. Few such areas were visited and observations elaborated below:

Destination Sates :

- Panjab
- Delhi
- Madhya Pradesh
- Rajesthan
- Uttar Pradesh
- Mumbai
- Bengal
- Bihar
- Jharkhand
- Uttranchal
- Gujrat

I. Girls in Dance Groups/Orchestra Parties:

Of late, a new trend has emerged in Bihar. During marriages and other functions, rich and affluent families hire dance groups and orchestra parties as a symbol of their prosperity. These groups mainly consist of young girls, who perform dances to the tunes of film songs. The hiring charges may vary from Rs. 5,000 to Rs.30,000 per night. In the recent period, the craze for dance groups has increased remarkably. In Ara, Buxur, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur and Gopalganj their number has gone up manifold. Even the middle class and lower middle class families have started hiring dance groups for various functions.

The girls joining these groups mostly come from the poor families of Nepal, Bihar, UP and West Bengal. The craze for dance groups is not for appreciating the dancing skill and talent of these girls but for ogling at them performing sensuously and for the provocative attires that these girls generally put on.

In Saharsa district, a big fair known as 'Mahayogini Mela' is organized every year in which the orchestra parties and dance groups are in high demand. There have been a number of incidents where these dance girls were forced to get involved in the sex trade.

Flourishing Dance Groups in Gopalganj District: Gopalganj is a small town. In this small place, there are as many as 23 orchestra or dance groups with 25-26 girls in each of them. During the course of survey, the activists visited orchestra parties and dance groups in Gopalganj to tactfully meet the young girls performing in these groups and get first hand information about their background and the lives they lead.

As the surveyors spoke to the girls, many unanticipated facts came out. They came to know that the owner of the dance groups had touts who visited villages and got in touch with young girls. The touts pretended as if they wanted to help the poor girls. They lured these girls and promised to find them good jobs. Only when they had landed in the orchestra groups that these girls came to realize that they have been cheated. There they were mentally, physically and even sexually exploited and were paid very poorly. They also got addicted to drugs and alcohol. Some of the girls had no contact with their parents. There were many girls who had to get married to the owner of the dance groups. There have been cases where 4-5 girls got married to a single owner.

II. Women in liquor shops and hotels:

In the bordering areas, women are found serving at highway hotels and liquor shops. An NGO, found 17 young girls working at various road side tea stalls and hotels at Supaul district which borders India and Nepal. The activists visited their homes to speak to their parents. Although they were not very open in discussing about their daughters, one could sense that they were not very happy about the state of affairs. Some of them admitted that their daughters were exploited, overworked and were always under the threat of being abused by the owners/visitors.

There are many liquor shops in the bordering areas of Gaya and Aurangabad districts. Some shops are run by women themselves. However, when the activists scrutinized their background, they found that none of them were from the locality. The local residents had no clue about their backgrounds and from where they had come from. The question here is, who brought these women and how did they land here. The obvious apprehension is have they been trafficked?"

III. Girls and women in Red light Areas:

It is estimated that there are not less than 40 big and small red light areas in Bihar. Some of the major red light areas are at Muzaaffarpur, Gaya, Betiya,

Sitamarhi, Lakhminiya, Purniya, Forbesganj, Sighesar (madhepura), Saharsa, Buxur, and Munger.

Earlier, the girls above the age of 20 years used to join red light areas. But now even a girl in her tender age can easily find a place in the brothels. Reason, the age group of clients has expanded at both ends. It has become as low as 16 years at one end and 60-65 years at the other.

Girls at a very young age are in demand to entertain the visitors.

In India, like in other countries, red light areas have been in existence for ages. However, they used to run in an altogether different fashion. They were meant to entertain men from affluent families who used to visit these places and enjoy dance and songs performed by the trained girls here. But now red light areas have become synonymous with flesh trade.

There are some very old red light areas like Chaturbhujsthan in Muzaffarpur. Generations after generations spend their lives in the brothels, living on the income they earn here. Traditionally it has been the mothers who would train their daughters to entertain the clients. But with the number of red light areas and brothels going up, these places can no longer depend solely on the girls born and brought up here. Hence, they need to entrap young girls from outside. Trafficking is one of the means to bring them to the brothels/red light areas.

A Case study:

" A girl, Sunita Koirala (name changed) belonged to Sindhu Pal Chowk district of Nepal. She lived with her elder sister in Kathmandu. Apart from studying, she used to do some odd jobs. She met a boy called Ram Krishna and fell in love. One day, Ram Krishna proposed Sunita to visit Janakpur, which she agreed to. But instead of taking her to Janakpur, he took her to Bihar's Begusrai district where he introduced her to his so-called aunty, Anita Khatun. Krishna stayed there for a day and the next day in the pretext of some urgent work he left, leaving behind Sunita at his aunt's place.

Ram Krishna did not return for one week. One day Anita Khatun suggested to take Sunita to Ballia where Ram Krishna was told to have gone for some urgent work. However, at Ballia there was no trace of Krishna. Sunita was brought to a red light area at Ballia. Here she got to know that she had been sold off by Krishna for Rs 60,000 and if she wanted to return home, she would have to earn that amount..

Shocked, Sunita resisted for a week. She was kept without food. Finally she had to relent to. She was at Ballia, Begusrai and Bhagalpur by different brothel owners. When at Khagaria district, a local businessman came to know about her and informed the police over phone. The Police conducted raids in red light areas and found her.

A local CACT member, informed Bhoomika Vihar about the case. The Katihar office of Bhoomika Vihar informed its Jogbani cross-border anti-trafficking counseling centre. The team from Bhoomika Vihar, consisting of three counselors and one journalist as well as Khagaria police took Sunita to Jogbani. The next day she was handed over to the Nepal police and the NGO Maiti Nepal for her safe repatriation."

These brothels are not always the destination for the trafficked girls. Sometimes they become sources for transit. They are used for sending the girls to other parts of the country or outside the country.

Many a time, in the red light areas, small children are found being brought up by their aunts (mother's sisters) or by their grand mothers. Any enquiry about their mothers elicits vague answers, which raise suspicions whether these children have been trafficked?'

One important point is that although trafficking and prostitution are generally linked with each other, they are not the same. Often they overlap but both these activities have dimensions of their own. There are several cases where girls and women engaged in prostitution have not been trafficked. Either they have followed their mothers' profession or they have chosen this profession voluntarily as they did not find any other option for a livelihood.

IV. Teenagers and Red light Area:

The profile of red light areas has undergone a drastic change. In earlier days, women of red light areas were adults and so were the customers. Today the age group of both the girls and the customers has changed. As per our observations on red light areas about 40 per cent of the girls involved in sex trade are aged 18 or below. Another 45 per cent of the girls/women are aged between 18-22 years. The declining age of girls pushed into the furnace of Sex trade is surprising and a shame! What is the reason for demand for more and more tender aged girls to be brought into brothels? The observation of persons visiting the brothels may provide an answer. It was found that the visitor's age group had also changed. It is apparent and can be seen in any brothel. About 55 to 60 per cent of visitors belong to the age group of 16-23 years. These age groups of visitors are mostly seen during evening after darkness or during the

morning hours. The change in the age group of visitors is perhaps the main reason for brokers and traffickers having to pick-up girls of younger age.

This trend not only speaks about declining moral values. It is also an indication of the growing consumer culture in the younger generation which considers girls as a consumer item.

The growing consumer culture in the younger generation considers girls as consumer item. Just realize- Is it a strong indicator about the future, which is in store for us?

This trend signifies not only the `Swaha' of life of the innocent girls in the furnace of sex trade. It also sends signals that the future of the younger generation of males is not only going to be immoral but also irresponsible. It is a strong indicator about the future which is in store for us?

V. Children of Red Light Areas- Disgraced and Deprived of Childhood:

This is a world completely different from the world that we live in. Here, birth of a girl is celebrated because her birth ensures continuity of good business for the brothel. However, she receives little attention or care from her mother after her birth as the mother remains busy entertaining her customers.

The upbringing of the children of brothels depends upon the money that their mothers earn. The environment they are brought up in and the experience they grow up with lead them to develop a very negative image of women. For them, women can sell themselves off to any stranger to make money. They can never have stable relationship because money defines their relationship with one or more than one persons.

The level of education among children of red light areas is very low. Rarely, one reaches secondary level of education. Even if a child is keen on studying, he / she cannot continue for long. In schools, the children from brothels become victims of discrimination and harassment once their fellow classmates and teachers come to know about their backgrounds. Not only in schools, they received similar treatment everywhere. When they are not able to withstand the mental torture they go through, they start getting addicted to alcohol, drugs and other bad habits.

Those sex workers who want to ensure a decent future for their children have started putting their children at boarding schools without revealing their identity. But this is a viable option only for those who have good earnings. In some cases, as these children grow up, they start small businesses so as to get rid of a life in red light areas.

VI. Mobile sex Trading:

The numbers of girls working in sex trade in brothels can be misleading if one thinks that they are the only victims. There are a larger number of girls involved in sex trade outside the brothels. Maximum numbers of these girls/women are living in normal social surroundings. However, some of them operate as call girls. They can be found near bus stands, railway stations, hotels and Dhabas of national highways searching for customers. Their business is operated in moving trains and even moving trucks. There are also girls working in shady beauty and massage parlours and placement agencies and other sectors. There is no detailed survey about these girls. However, it is presumed that the numbers are quite large. After talking to these girls, it is our observation that most of these girls claim that they have adapted this trade due to domestic problems. Many of these girls/women are bread earners for their families. Many of them are mothers having undertaken the responsibility of paying for the requirements of their children. Many of these women/girls have been deserted by their husbands and are living the life of single woman.

A woman called Sunita (name changed) told us that she had two children and her husband had deserted her after marrying another woman. She said even the doors of her parent's home was shut for her because her father and mother had died and her brother's wife was not willing to accept her. Sunita returned to her in-laws house. However, she

Mobile sex trade is spreading day by day. They are no longer confined big towns and cities but also small towns and remote areas. The manner in which it is spreading is a dangerous indicator for the society already fighting with its backs to the wall against AIDS/HIV and other sexual transmitted diseases.

was not educated and failed to get a meaningful employment. She had to face taunts from men in the neighborhood, as she was a single woman. She said that her children remained hungry and she had no other option but to sell her body to meet the requirements of her children. Now she is involved in mobile sex trade and moving around on NH31-(Purnea to Silliguri (West Bengal)). She requested us not to reveal her name and address to anyone at any cost because she feared that it would expose her before her neighbors –who think that she is working at the clinic of a lady doctor.

VII. Beer bars:

The use of girls in beer bars in Nepal to 'entertain' customers is a rapidly growing phenomena. Viratnagar-the second largest city of Nepal after Kathmandu has around 55-licensed beer bars, which entertain Indian and Nepalese customers. Each of these beer bars engaged 15 to 20 girls. The salaries of these girls depends mostly on cuts they can get through convincing customers to order

liquor and eatables from the bar, There are small dingy rooms in these bars which are furnished with a sofa, table and bed. The beer bars are also centres of flesh trade. While most girls are from the hilly areas of Nepal, beer bars is one place one can find 'reverse trafficking' = some Indian girls-mostly hailing from West Bengal and other places of India working there-made to entertain customers looking for Indian girls. The Indian girls have been brought here by Indians migrating to Nepal. For example if the manager of the beer bar is an Indian, one will find girls from the area he hails from. The beer bars concept is not only confined to urban areas of Nepal but have also spread out in small towns across the country.

VIII. Railway Premises:

Railways and its stations are turning to be big shelters for trafficked girls and children. They are not only used for catching trains and moving towards destination points, but also provide a ground for traffickers to carry out their trade and exploitation of children. In the new system of job outsourcing one will find children being used for cleaning-up bogeys and stations. The station is also a point for traffickers to search for their victims as it is the venue where children fleeing from their homes arrive. Sons and daughters of beggars in railway stations are vulnerable to all sorts of exploitation-physical and sexual. It is a matter of research where these girls and boys living on the stations go when they grow up. It can be safely presumed that 90 per cent of them do not contribute to positive aspects of the society. The laws enforced on child labour do not appear to be in force at railway stations. One can see many boys working as porters. There are indications that traffickers pick the daughters of beggars to be pushed into the sex trade. The railway also provides a venue for customers for girls working in mobile sex trade.

Tricks Traffickers Play- Their Modus Operandi:

Techniques of traffickers for hunting:

- Paying cash money or gift items to guardians and touts.
- Giving fabricated names of themselves and their home address
- Playing with emotional and economical crisis of the family like promising job opportunities and finding a suitable groom for the daughters.
- Taking the help of a known faces for the targeted families and approach the families as a well wisher.
- Making a direct purchase of girls from pimps from red light areas.
- Presenting a suitable boy and luring the girl into a love affair so she elopes with him.
- Fabricating stories about the wealth and caste of the groom.
- Approaching families which are facing financial crunch and are illiterate.

- Using a girl who has already been trafficked and presenting her to the family attired in expensive clothes and ornaments so she can pass off as a 'happily married' girl.
- Selling off girls after exposing them to the flesh trade.
- Identifying girls of the age-group of 6 or 7 and nourishing her till she attains the age in which she can be introduced in the flesh trade.

Although traffickers do not have one specific strategy to net their targets, they have certain common line of approaches to lure the girls and their parents. Following are some of their common approaches:

i. Fake Marriage:

In remote villages, most common way to trap the girls is through fake marriages. The traffickers, in the first place, organize marriage of poor girls and once married, these girls are taken to unknown destinations and sold off. The survey brought forward 497 such incidents. In most of these cases, one element is quite common. The traffickers posing as prospective grooms come to the villages (from Delhi, UP, Haryana, Kashmir, etc.), develop friendship with one or more than one villagers and with their help marries the girls from poor families in the village. They conduct themselves as if they are from very rich families and during negotiations they make promises to provide all comforts to the girls. The whole process is completed in a very short period of time and if the girls' parents express inability to organize the marriage in such a short time, the prospective 'grooms' even provide monetary support to the parents to avoid delay. Another common feature is that these marriages take place either outside the village or are conducted in the wee hours of morning in a simple ceremony without informing other villagers.

A Case Study:

" M N. Khatun, a resident of Kishanganj district, was just 16 years old when a man, called Kayum from an adjoining village, came with a marriage proposal. Kayum was accompanied by a young man whom he introduced as his relative. This young man stayed together with Kayum for about 15 days.

Kayum told MN's father that his relative hailed from Meerut and came from a family of zamindars (landlords). Initially, her father refused to accept the proposal. However, Kayum persuaded a group of villagers to put pressure on her father. (Later, it was learnt that the 'groom' had asked Kayum to get him a good looking girl from a poor family. The so-called groom had deliberately stayed at Kayum's house so that he could be introduced in the village as his relative). MN's

father ultimately succumbed to the pressure and agreed to the marriage. He was told not to invite anyone to the marriage that took place late at night. The next morning, when she reached the local railway station with her father, sister along with her groom, another youth appeared who was introduced as a friend of her husband. Meanwhile, her husband disappeared and the `friend' told her that he had been asked to take her to Delhi.

Once at the New Delhi railway station, this youth also did a disappearing act. The 16 years old was weeping helplessly at the station when a `lady' turned up as a good Samaritan. MN pleaded for help. The lady took her to a red light area. She asked her to stay and make her living there. However, when MN refused to be engaged in prostitution, she was taken to another person's house and locked up there. Although tortured, she did not break under pressure. Ultimately, Kayum was called who told her that he would take her back home. He took her to another place where she saw Kayum counting a bundle of notes. Fortunately, MN could escape from this house. A vegetable vendor from Bihar took mercy on her and arranged for her ticket. She came to Patna by train and later took another train to Kishanganj.

MN was lucky that she could come back to her parents."

ii. Fake Love Affairs:

Trapping young girls in fake love affairs is another trick. They would first win the faith of young girls and then lure them away. The girls, unaware of the game plan, would fall into their trap and finally find themselves in places they have never imagined of. **Twenty-four such cases could be traced during the survey.**

iii. Promises of Employment:

Some girls are tricked into believing that they are being recruited for legitimate employment. Few can ignore this bait of job and agrees to go wherever they are taken by the traffickers. An NGO based in Begusarai, came across a case in which three girls from Katpura block were taken by agents to Meerut, UP. After reaching there, these three girls were separated and got employed at three different small workshops. Later, one of them came back but others are traceless.

A Case Study, which reflects trafficking of girls in the name of employment in remote areas by traffickers. .

"Star Circus was camping in Araria district of Bihar, which is located near the Indo-Nepal border. The owner, Munna, was searching for 'fresh recruits' for his circus with the help of local touts. One of the touts found G. Srestha, a poor man living at Biratnagar of Nepal, just 10 kms from the Indo Nepal border on the other side. G was plagued with various illnesses.

The circus owner gave G a lucrative offer. He told G that he would take his daughters, S (then only 8 years old) and D (then aged 9), and, train them for 'high paying' jobs. Ganesh was offered Rs 200 per month initially which was supposed to be liked to Rs 1,000 per month once his daughters completed their training. He also promised to meet the medical expenses of G.

G accepted the offer and the circus owner took away S and D. G was made to put his thumb impression on a blank piece of paper as an agreement for a five-year contract. As the news got around in the locality, many more parents were ready to hand over their minor daughters. Without any difficulty, three more fresh recruits, S (aged 7), S (aged 8) and N (10 years) were taken in by the circus owner.

After D and S were taken away, their parents never got the promised amount. When their Mother S Sreshtha went to Araria to meet her daughters, she was not only refused access to her daughters but was also abused and driven away. For the next eight years, the parents did not have any idea where their daughters were. When they went to the home of the circus owner in Siliguri, West Bengal, they were driven away.

S Sreshtha ultimately went to Maiti, a Nepal-based NGO, and, narrated her situation. Maiti referred this case to the Counseling Centre of Bhoomika Vihar at Jogbani on May 23, 2007. Bhoomika Vihar succeeded in tracing out Star Circus at Sarwa Block in Deoghar district of Jharkhand with the help of media persons in Deoghar and Jogbani.

Bhoomika Vihar got in touch with the Anti trafficking Consultant of Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar. The department made contacts with IG (Weaker Sections), who talked to ADG (Jharkhand) on the issue. In the meantime, Bhoomika Vihar constituted a team. With the help of the police and local media, they entered the circus, identified the trafficked girls and rescued them. The

Nepali girls were handed over to the Border Police of Nepal, who then handed over the girls to their parents in presence of Maiti, Nepal representatives.

In Patna district alone it was found that many young girls and boys were missing. The touts with the promise of good jobs took them away. One of the girls is believed to have ended up at the red light area of Sitamarhi.

The traffickers would work out very well laid plans to win the villagers' trust and confidence before zeroing in on the girls and their families. For example: Prahari Sansthan, a CACT member, reported that in a village of Gaya district, one person came and stayed there for about 6 months. He started teaching the children there. Meanwhile, he got married to a girl from that village. One day he took the girl outside the village and after that both went missing.

In Mesaur Block of Nawada district, four people came in the guise of doctors and ran a clinic for a year. One day, they took three girls outside the village. As the girls went missing, their parents lodged complaint with the police. Later, the girls were found at Asansol Railway Station."

Characteristic features observed in the trafficking process:

In general, the following aspects are found in cases of trafficking:

- Change of place
- Wrong intentions
- Role of Money
- Involvement of a third party
- Element of false promises
- Use of force

In many cases, some of these aspects may not exist. For example a child girl born or brought-up in a sex trade centre may have joined the trade- does not change places or there is no role money changing hands.

Purposes of Trafficking:

Trafficking continues to keep regular supply of girls and women for flesh trade, in entertainment sectors as dancing bars, for labour purpose and for marriages in areas where female sex ration has gone down drastically.

Routes-

Traffickers generally opt for crowded, busy routes and try fast communication in groups to escape vigilant eyes.

Local supporters or family member of the girls comes to Railway station or bus stand from where they are handed over to touts and traffickers.

Traffickers also exchange hands at village level and escape from villages in early morning & reach station or bus stand to commute to destination.

9. Cross border trafficking:

The relationship between India and Nepal is not just limited to diplomacy and geographical. The relationship between the people of the two countries is historical and deep. The relationship not only runs through culture but also blood. The Indo-Nepal border is said to be 'a border without border'. It is porous and the day-to-day lives of people living in both sides of the border are interwoven. The economic and social status of the people in bordering areas is identical. They share not only culture and history but also natural calamity when the rivers emerging from Nepal begin to overflow.

The ties have been strengthened through the ages by the institution of marriage. Daughters of both sides of the border have been married off to homes across the border-having an exalted position of *Bahus* (Daughters-in-law) who symbolized the prestige and honor of the family she is married in. The numbers of daughters getting married off to homes across the border runs into lakhs. The bonds of relationships between the people of both countries has been in vogue for centuries-eight from the King of Nepal to the common man of the country-there are relations in India built through marriages.

However, changing times has had its effect on this age old relationship. Girls from Nepal are now being trafficked to India for reasons other than marriage. They are pushed into flesh trade and shifted to red lighted areas across India. Since the Indo-Nepal border in a porous one giving unhindered access to each other's land for various activities like visiting relatives, searching for jobs, going to pilgrimages or for trade, the traffickers usually use the crowded paths to take away trafficked girls to their destinations. The girls are trafficked in the name of employment, marriage, love, tourism (Seeing India) and bright future. It's not only men who are traffickers. Some of the most notorious traffickers are women. Some of the girls who have been trafficked are used as baits by traffickers to attract more girls from Nepal. Often the traffickers are friends and relatives of the victim.

The main routes mainly used by traffickers are Panitanki-, Jogbani - Biratnagar, Raxaul—Birganj, Sanhauli-----,

These routes are used by traffickers because of massive mobilization of people from both sides of the border. There is also availability of railway and bus transportation to big cities and destinations of India. For example Raxaul has a railway station from where trains are available for many big cities. From Panitanki Silliguri/NJP railway junction is very near and trains are available for major destinations. Similarly, from Jogbani they can travel to Katihar which has trains for virtually every metro in India. The availability of buses in these routes is also high.

It is an interesting fact that the destinations where men of Nepal came in search of jobs are the same destinations where trafficked women of Nepal reach. The women and girls are taken to metros and big cities where the males are residing and working. For example, Nepali males went to metros like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata for jobs. It is these metros where Nepali girls are mainly trafficked to. Nepal males also went to Gulf countries such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for better and higher paid jobs. Presently many cases have surfaced where Nepali girls were being trafficked to Gulf countries.

Nepali girls are trafficked not only for red light areas but also for beauty parlors, telephone booths, dancing troupes, orchestras and other domestic work. Several placement agencies in India, making tall claims of getting them high paid salaries abroad, are instrumental through their agents in obtaining these girls from Nepal and sending them to their destination. Nepali local agents are used to bring the girls from their homes in Nepal to first destination point.

Crime Has no Boundaries. Trafficking is an organized crime that is spread across a very large canvas. From the source point it passes through various transit places before reaching the final destination. There are several examples which testify that Nepali girls are regularly being tricked, trapped, brought to India and then sent to red light areas, dance bars, massage parlours and various other places through this route.

10. Good Practices

Some case studies which show different dimensions of trafficking and intervention of Bhoomika Vihar with local community and law enforcement agencies joining hands to save the girls from clutches of traffickers or providing psychological counseling and safe repatriations.

I} A Case Study which shows how deceitful tactics of a friend lands a girl into a red light area.

" Aged about 18, P.lamba (name changed), belonged to Katmandu District of Nepal. Married, P lamba got into friendship with Sunita, who managed to win her confidence. One day P lamba agreed to go for a trip to Noragan Ghat of Nepal with Sunita and her brother. Sunita's brother hired a car for the purpose. During the trip, P lamba was given some fruits and cold drinks that made her unconscious. When she woke up, she found herself in Delhi.

Sunita assured P lamba that she had actually wanted to surprise her by taking her to Delhi. After that all of them went to a hotel and again P lamba was given some food which made her unconscious. This time when she woke up, she found herself at a red light area in Agra. She found many Nepali girls there. She was ultimately forced into sex trade. Later, Sunita learnt that she had been sold off for Rs. 3 lakhs 10 thousands. For the next three months she was 'entertaining' one client after another.

One day just as she was on the verge of being taken to Mumbai, Plamba could manage to escape with the help of a Nepalese maid servant. Subsequently, she boarded a train and came to Katihar with the intention of returning to her native village.

On the way she encountered a boy who promised her that he would take her back to home. He took her to Katihar. The Katihar RPF got information that a Nepali girl and an Indian boy were moving on the junction under suspicious circumstances. RPF Jawans took them in custody to question the two. During questioning P Lamba broke down and wept out of fear. She was scared even before meeting the police and now with the police question her she became desperate and broke down. She continued to sob. The RPF Jawans were at their wits end and finally appealed to Bhoomika Vihar for help. The volunteers of Bhoomika went to RPF police station and began to talk with P Lamba and assured her that she was in safe hands. She was given food

according to her wish and also given essential items for daily use. She was then asked what else she needed. She expressed her will to talk to her mother. She provided the telephone number of Kathmandu. Her face showed glitters of hope. She talked to her mother in Kathmandu by telephone arranged by Bhoomika. She again wept on telephone while talking to her mother even as sounds of her mother weeping on the other side of the phone could be heard. The scene moved the people who were present with P Lamba. After speaking to her mother she appeared assured that she was in safe hands. A woman constable of RPF took care of her with the help of Bhoomika Volunteers. P Lamba was sent to Jogbani the next day to be handed over to the Nepal border police and Nepal NGO for repatriation. In Jogbani before being handed to Nepal police, she was taken to Bhoomika's counseling centre."

ii} There are several cases where the CSN has proved to a vibrant watch guard and a shining example of community policing.

" R K Kumari of Jogbani in Araria district was just 14 years old when a local lady trafficker Runa Khatun promised her poor parents that they would be given Rs 5000 if they married off their daughter to 35 years old Radhe Shyam Singh, a resident of Bareilly district in UP .She said that the daughter would lead a prosperous life and that their economic needs will also be taken care of.

Khatun also weaved a dream to her parents about the life of riches their daughter would have after marriage. However, after marriage the parents were not given the money. This triggered off a row between the parents and Khatun. The local CSN members came to know about the incident and informed the police. Both the lady trafficker and the groom were arrested and a FIR was lodged under section 366 A, 370, 373 and 34 of the IPC. The culprits are in jail and R K Kumari was saved due to the intervention of CSN. She is under watch and regular counseling for social protection.

The girl was saved from trafficking because the Village had a CSN which was active and aware that R K Kumari was a trafficking case. The CSN here holds regular meets and the level of awareness about trafficking is high. It is a case which proves that formation of a CSN means participation of the masses against trafficking and traffickers."

iii} " The counselors of Bhoomika Vihar were informed by rickshaw pullers that some girls in the Jogbani market were talking about going to Delhi. However, by the time the counselors arrived at the market, the girls had disappeared. On making enquiries about the whereabouts of the girls from the local people, it was found that the girls had taken a jeep to Forbesganj.

The counselors telephoned Araria SP Mr. Vinod Kumar and informed him about this case. The DSP of Gorbesganj Jitendra Kumar Mishra led a police force, which sealed the entrance road to Forbesganj at Subhash Chowk. A jeep was stopped and five Nepali girls and two boys were caught by the police force. After questioning the girls, the police came to know that the main trafficker Lal Babu Bhagat-who was taking them away to Kuwait, was at Forbesganj railway station and had already boarded a train. Bhagal was caught by the police and counselors.

All of them were brought to Forbesganj police station. When the bag of **Lal Babu Bhagat** was searched, the passports of the girls were recovered. The girls said that their families faced financial hardship and were going to Kuwait for employment as domestic help. As per the plans chalked out by them, Lal Babu Bhagat was to reach Katihar by train, while the girls were to reach the same destiny by jeep. From Katihar they would have taken a train to Delhi. From Delhi the girls would have been dispatched to Kuwait by plane.

Am FIR was lodged(Case number 341/07) under sections 366(A), 372 , 373 and I. T.P.A under section 5 making Lal Babu Bhagat, Chakra Dhimaray and Ashsih Pariyar as accused. The three were sent to Araria jail. The five girls were handed over to Nepal border police for repatriation to their families."

iv} Joint intervention of Bhoomika Vihar and law enforcement agencies
"Most Wanted' Lady Trafficker nabbed"

" The Counselors of Bhoomika Vihar were moving around in Jogbani in connection with their work, when they suddenly saw a stoutly built Nepali lady carrying a bag crossing the border. The lady, after seeing them rushed away from them. The lady's act aroused suspicion and the counselors began to trail her. They finally caught her and began to question her and ask her why she was running away. The lady refused to answer and remained silent, However, the vendors and passersby, who had witnessed the scene, told the counselors that the lady had made enquiries about the whereabouts of Bhoomika Vihar counselors and had began to flee the moment she spotted the counselors.

With suspicion further strengthened, the counselors telephoned the local G.R.P police station. A constable came and they along with the lady went to the G.R.P police station. The officer-in-charge suggested that the counselors should take the lady to their counseling centre and question her.

The lady was taken to the counseling centre and again questioned. This time the lady revealed that her name was Anjana Rai. The counselors recalled that she was the same lady whom they had caught in two previous occasions trafficking Nepali girls and on both occasions she was handed over to the Nepal police.

On the previous occasion last year, Anjana Rai was caught with two Nepali girls at the railway station. She was immediately handed over to Nepal's women police. This time the lady was alone. After a prolonged interrogation, she revealed that she had come with two more Nepali girls and kept them at a restaurant near the bus stand to have snacks. She admitted that she had come to make enquiries about the counselors.

Rai also revealed that this time she was taking the girls to New Delhi and from there they would be dispatched to Kuwait. On the information provided by Rai, the police searched the restaurants near the bus stand and located the two Nepali girls. A passport with the Visa stamped was located from the bag of one of the girls. The travel documents of the other girl were scheduled to be procured in Delhi.

A police jeep was called and the 'most wanted' lady trafficker was taken to Jogbani police station. A case was lodged (case no 115/07) and Anjana Rai was booked under section 366(A), 372, 373 of the ITPA. She is currently behind bars in Araria jail. The two girls were handed over to Nepal police who later handed them over to Maiti Nepal a companion NGO of Bhoomika Vihar working against Trafficking."

V} A joint intervention of ATU{ An trafficking units, Panchayat members, Community safety nets and local communities.

a) " B. Kumari . aged 15 of , Katihar district is daughter of Ram Chandar Bhagat. Three traffickers including one woman came to her house. They told her father and mother that it must be a matter of concern for the parents to see their daughter unmarried despite her achieving the age of 15. The traffickers offered to help Ram Chandar Bhagat by offering a 'suitable groom' who was ready to be

married without dowry. They also showed the parents jewellery which was supposed to be given to the bride. They said that the entire cost of the marriage will be taken care of by them and their daughter will be married into a prosperous family. "There will be a separate servant who will be at the call of your daughter", they promised asserting that Beshekha will live like a 'Queen'.

The innocent parents of the girl got enticed by the promises made by the traffickers and gave their consent to get their daughter married. This development came to be known by the Panchayat Bhawan Kheria ATU secretary. She immediately called a meeting of members of the unit in the local Panchayat Bhawan. The members of the Unit went to Ram Chandar Bhagat's house and made him aware about the dimensions of trafficking and persuaded him not to marry off his daughter at the behest of strangers. They also found out the background of the traffickers and ensured punishment for them. In this way the girl was saved from being trafficked."

b) " K. Kumari aged 16 of Katihar district is the daughter of Baglu Rishi. A woman trafficker by the name of Surti Devi, who has a track record of getting many girls of the area trafficked, came to Baglu Rishi's house with a 'groom' of Uttar Pradesh. Surti Devi gave a proposal of marriage of the daughter of Rishi with the groom.

Because the area fell in the intensive intervention area of Bhoomika Vihar and was having CSNs and ATU formed, people were aware of these sorts of marriage proposal and were not gullible to the sweet talks of the traffickers.

Baglu Rishi asked Surti Devi and the groom to sit for a while at his house. He rushed to the local ATU's secretary Manju Devi and informed her about the development. He told her about Surti Devi coming with a groom and wanting to get his daughter married. He also told Manju Devi that the traffickers had told him that he would not have to spend a single paisa on the marriage and all the cost will be born by them. "They have also told me that I will get regular money after the marriage through money order from UP", Rishi said,

Manju Devi immediately contacted the president of ATU Rajendar Paswan and said that action should be taken. All the ATU members reached the house of Rishi . Surti Devi panicked seeing all the ATU members and pleaded that she had just come for a social visit and not for marriage. The ATU members warned her that

she should mend her ways or she would be sent to jail. Thus K. Kumari was saved from being trafficked. "

c} "The secretary of Bhatwara ATU namely Pradip Kumar{ Sarpanch} had rescued 2 girls from the clutches of the traffickers.

Both of the girls , age about 17 and 15 years, were belonging from Bhatwara. The traffickers had come from U.P and with the support of local allies had made contact with the parents of A and K. The parents were ready to handover their daughters to that UP boy. But as per the local information the Bhatwara ATU intervened and reached the houses of Anita and Kiran. The traffickers were caught and brought to the Panchayat Bhawan. Emergency Panchayst meeting was called. Both of the traffickers were punished at community level and later on handed over to the Chowkedar of local P.S.

The ATU had decided to arrange their marriage at local level after door- to door-level collection among the villagers."

d} " The ATU committee of Mahespur Panchayat had rescued Babita kumari, age about 16, to be a victim of trafficking. Babita daughter of Kailu Rishi belonging from Balthi Mahespur , Katihar. Kailu was a agricultural labor . Due to Poor economical condition he agreed to handover her daughter to unknown boy who came from UP with a marriage proposal. The President of Mahespur Panchayat, Raju Razak , got information from the groom through local villagers. He with other ATU members reached to the house of B and asked that groom for Identity Card. Even the groom was not able to exactly disclose his address. He was brought to the Panchayat Bhawan and was punished at community level. Later on he was handed over to Chowkedar of Local P.S. "

e} "This story reveals the activities of a woman broker and how she manages to lure in innocent families. Kalapna Devi, a resident of Purnea district, was a frequent visitor at the residence of Lukhri Devi and was even distantly related to her. She told Lukhri Devi that her brother is waiting for her at the gate of Katihar jail. Lukhri Devi was a simple woman who had never gone to Katihar town. She accepted the version of Kalpana Devi and went to Katihar with her two minor daughters-R. Kumari and J. Kumari.

However, instead of taking her to Katihar, Kalpana Devi took her to Delhi. On May 4 a telephone call was made to Kursela saying that Lukhri Devi had died and

asked his father to come and take away the children or they also would be killed. Her husband Kailash Mandal apprised the senior volunteer of Bhoomika Vihar about the situation. Mandal was urged to give an application to the local police station urging his to search for his wife. An application was submitted accordingly.

Bhoomika Vihar volunteers had regular interaction with police. As a result the Katihar police contacted their Delhi counterparts and asked them to make an investigation through the Delhi phone number 09971369739 and 09931512542-the two phone numbers through which Kailash Mandal was threatened.

When Delhi police mounted pressure on the culprits, the two girls of Kailash Mandal was left at Kursela chowk. A rickshaw puller spotted the two girls and informed Bhoomika Vihar volunteers. The volunteers took the two girls and identified them by questioning the eldest daughter. Vijay Mandal saw then and the first question he asked was the whereabouts their mother. The eldest daughter broke down and told a horrifying story. She told them that her mother Lukhri Devi was admitted in a hospital and both her kidneys were taken out-due to which she died,

If Bhoomika Vihar volunteers had not reacted in time, perhaps Kailash Mandal would have lost both of his daughters also. When the episode came to the notice of a senior volunteer of Bhoomika Vihar, a case was filed in the local police station and Katihar SP was petitioned for a thorough probe and action against the guilty."

F]. . " M. Kuamri, aged 16 of Katihar district and daughter of Lalo Mandal got a marriage proposal from her elder sister's husband. He urged his father-in-law to let M go with him and he would get her married to a suitable groom. M was taken by her brother-in-law to his home Bhatwara Panchayat in the same village. He introduced a 40 years old man Chandra Pal Rai, who hailed from Unna district. Because Bhoomka Vihar has worked in the area , reports about traffickers coming to the village reach immediately to our members. Our local senior volunteer Chamak Lal got the information and he informed Pradeep Kumar-the Sarpanch of Phatwaha Panchayst and also chief of the local ATU unit. They reached the house where the girl was kept and saw that an arrangement for the marriage was in full swing. They asked Chandra Pal Singh to produce an identification document. Singh said that he did not have an identification proof but he said that he could produce one later. The ATU members asked him to first produce an identification document and

assured him that they would get him married to the same girl one week later. They also pointed out that the girl was minor and they could land up in jail if they forcefully went ahead with the marriage. The brother-in-law of the girl cancelled the marriage and M was taken away home by her parents. In this way the trafficker had to leave the village."

VI} A mother was able to see her daughter after an interval of 8 long years " On January 16, 2008 a Kolkata based organization informed Bhoomkia Vihar about a missing girl LX who hailed from Kishanganj district of Bihar state. LX along with a few of her friends on January 6, 2003 left her home and virtually 'roamed into' Kolkata. The local police of Krishnanagar, Kolkata found her and sent her to the remand home. She was living in the remand home, when a local based organization of Kolkata came to know of her case. That organization informed Bhoomika Vihar for identification of her home address and her parents. The local workers of Bhoomika Mrs. Ellis Hansda and Md. Mudassin were able to trace out LX home after great efforts and problems..

The Social Welfare department of West Bengal handed over Laxmi to that local organization. A volunteer Ms. Rekha of that organization came with LX to Kishanganj. The local police in Galguila was informed by the Bhoomika team about the development. The Volunteer and Bhoomika Vihar team went to Galguila police station. The police officer investigated the case. He gave the volunteers a police constable who hailed from Siyalmuni-the native village of LX. After reaching the village-a pre arranged meeting of the Panchayat was held where LX was handed over to her parents in the presence of the Panchayat. Under a strategy the meeting was organized with the local villagers to repatriate the LX or to develop a positive environment for her.

The parents of LX did not hesitate in taking her back. Her parents had given-up hope of seeing LX again. After making a search for her near the adjoining places of their home they had given up and thought that she had died. It was an emotional reunion of LX and her parents after a gap of five years."

VI} BETRAYAL IN LOVE AFFAIRS JOSTLED A GIRL TO THE DARK STREETS OF BROTHELS.

" Khagria police informed the C.A.C.T member of Khagaria that a Nepali girl had been trafficked by a tout and had been sold to a woman for flesh trade, The girl S. Koirala had been sold to the brothel owner for a sum of Rs 60,000. She had been lured away from her home by a tout in the name of love.

According to Khagria police-the case of S. Koirala was reported to the DSP by one of her customers. On the basis of this information the police conducted a raid and recovered the Nepali girl. The woman and house owner were also arrested in this raid. Because the trafficked victim hailed from Nepal, the police entrusted on Bhoomika Vihar the job to safe passage back to her home.

Bhoomika Vihar formed a four member team consisting of three councilors and a journalist. The team went to Khagaria and met the DSP. The team was taken to Khagaria hospital where the girl had been admitted for Medical check-up. After talking with the victim, the team found that S. Koirala was a Nepali citizen. Apart from her father and mother, there were five sisters and one brother. The brother is the eldest of the six children and is working in a foreign country.

Two of S.K sister were married. SK lived with her elder sister in Kathmandu. Apart from studying SK used to do odd jobs for extra money. In this connection she met a boy called Ram Krishna. Friendship with Krishna turned into love as the boy vowed eternal love for her and even showed her with gifts.

Ram Krishna, one day proposed that they visit Janakpur-the mythical birthplace of Ramayana's Sita. She agreed, but instead of taking her to Janakpur Ram Krishna took her to Bihar's Begusrai district where he introduced her to his so called Auntie Anita Khatun. Ram Krishna promised to SK before his `Auntie' that he would marry her. Krishna stayed there for one day. The next day, he left her with his `Auntie' on the pretext of some urgent work.

Ram Krishna did not return for one week. SK kept on asking Anita Khatun where Krishna was. Khatun told the Nepali girl that her lover had gone to Ballia for some urgent work. The `Auntie' offered SK to take her to Ballia to her lover. In Ballia, there was no trace of Krishna and she was kept in a Red light area. It was here the Nepali girl was told the truth that she had been sold for Rs 60,000 by Krishna and that if she wanted to return home, she will have to earn the same amount,

She was left shocked and speechless about the betrayal. SK resisted for one week. However, after one week she was left penniless and without food to keep body and soul together. She finally agreed to join the flesh trade. She was even tortured for not willing to sleep with particular customers. She was kept in rented rooms in Ballia, Begusrai and Bhagalpur by the brothel owners.

In this connection she was shifted to a red light in Khagaria district. In Khagaria- a local businessman of the town came to know about the plight of the Nepali girl and informed the DSP about her case on phone. It was through the police that members of CACT came to know about SK case. The Police reacted and conducted raids in red light areas and recovered her.

After the recovery of the victim, the local CACT khagaria member Rajiv Kumar informed Bhoomika Vihar, Katihar about the case. Bhoomika Vihar, Katihar office informed its Jogbani cross-border anti-trafficking counseling centre.

The team of Bhoomika Vihar and Khagaria police took the victim to Jogbani, after she was released from Khagaria court. The next day, she was handed over to Nepal police and Maiti Nepal- for safe repatriation back to her home.

Vi} Repatriation of a girls who had been victim of deceit several times.

" Lack of proper awareness made M. Mandal an easy prey of trafficking and sexual exploitation again and again. The lack of humanity has extorted her in such way that she is suffering from mental misbalance. She gets nervous by seeing an unknown and even fears to talk to them

Aged about 16 years, M. Mandal belongs to dist- Uttar Chawbis Pargana(Nadia), Indo-Bangladesh border.

M was married of to Muhrul Mandal for three years before. After marriage of few months, Mehrul went to Delhi to earn money and left M alone. This step taken by her husband made M a victim. After being left alone by her husband, the life of M turned in a pathetic way. She became vexed by continuous torture and abusing by in laws members. Such an adverse situation for help she has seen is the support of her parents. She decided to leave her in laws place.

But she was wrong, as her parents had treated as burden in the same manners and time and again she had been suppressed to leave parents housie and take shelter at in laws place or anywhere else.

The life of M had to endure yet. She came to meet an unknown boy who promised her to marry but after physical extortion, the boy left her to suffer more. Having these kind of false promises made by several persons, M entrapped in sexual abuse. M wanted to go back to her home but she was unknown of the route. She in search of her address of her home route had to move from one place to another. While these, she came to *Bastaul* (Katihar) on dated 7-1-2005. At that place also she came in the wicked eyes of some guy. They wanted to abuse that helpless girls. She cried and recently a local Chowkidar(village guard) was passing

through that route heard her voice and taken her into safe custody. After that the villagers provide information to Bhoomika office regarding M.

Bhoomika team recently had taken its step and informs the local media. Media involvement and Bhoomika counseling accelerate the police to think about a helpless girl. There is no better option regarding providing shelter instead of community.

So M had been provided safe shelter at the house of Md. Salim at Jonia village nearer to *Bastaul*. She had gotten the community support, care and sympathy.

While this process, Bhoomika team had to made regular contact and interaction with local police for the repatriation of M. As the wake, the administrative system had to understand the sensitiveness of M situation and ordered for a female and a male constable for repatriation. But while the departing, M denied to go without Md. Salim, who had given her shelter. So the decision had been taken to depart M with the presence of Md. Salim, two constables of Bihar Police (one male and one female) and a volunteer of Bhoomika. While these process, Bhoomika had taken help from the N.G.Os of Kolkata and T.D.H (Delhi) for identification of M proper home address and suggestion for her case follow up and repatriation. The local police of West Bengal (Bagda Police station) also provided support to repatriate M to her mother home.

And in this way, the strategies of Bhoomika had provided a helpless girl care/sympathy/support by community and police until her reunification.

Under this strategy, Bhoomika is trying to save the victims to not be a part of any shelter home but rehabilitation to their own social boundary with community care and sympathy for which CSN (community safety net) is active in out target area.

11. Conclusions:

Girls are at High Risk:

When records pertaining to human trafficking are analyzed, the number of women and girl children is always found to be far larger than men/young boys. There is an ever increasing demand for women and young girls. To add, circumstances or adverse situations as social marginalization of girls and widespread gender discrimination increases the vulnerability of trafficking.

Demand factors:

In recent years, sex trade has expanded manifold all over the world. Nowadays, sex trade is no longer confined to the red light areas or brothels. There are hotels, massage parlours, orchestra parties, petty commercial establishments along the highway that run sex trade under the façade of their legitimate business. Expansion of sex trade has generated greater demand for girls.

Women in the pretext of marriage are being trafficked and sent to UP, Delhi, Haryana and other states where female population is highly skewed. Due to shortage of women, these states have become fertile ground for the traffickers. They trap girls from faraway states like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal only to push them into prostitution and other exploitative situations. The activists came across a few respondents who could manage to escape. Some of them were forced into physical relations not only with their so called husband but also with his brothers, father and other male members of the family. They had traumatic experiences of being forced into sex trade run by their husbands/family members. Some of these girls were even were sold away or were under the process of getting sold by their husbands. There have also been instances where trafficked women were used as domestic servants.

Situational factors:

Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, natural calamity, remoteness of the village, coupled with poor public awareness, lack of awareness about individual rights and absence of law enforcement increases the vulnerability of people in general. This in turn further increases the vulnerability of women as far as trafficking is concerned. Particularly, when poverty and lack of awareness join hands, it becomes the most advantageous and favorable situation for the traffickers. In such cases, with very little effort, the agents/traffickers can lure the poor parents with the bait of a prosperous future for their daughters.

In Bihar, where employment opportunities are few, people at the lower economic strata opt for seasonal migration and go to other states in search of

employment. They usually work in brick kilns, construction sites, agricultural lands, etc. and stay at temporary shelters near the work site. Often the traffickers take advantage of these insecure living conditions of the migrant labourers. There have been a few instances of young girls and boys being trafficked during migration. Their parents had lodged FIR but it did not bear any result as it was difficult for them to follow up with the police. Swablambi Sansthan, an NGO based in Saharsa district, found many young boys missing particularly from Lohta Village. It was discovered that agents had taken them away along with a group of labourers. Often, when male members in villages leave during the period of seasonal migration, women and children left behind become targets of the local agents and touts.

Natural calamity is another phenomenon that not only results in loss of livelihood but also disintegrates social fabrics of the marginalized communities. People in search of survival easily fall into the hands of the traffickers. This is one of the major reasons behind Kosi-Mahananda region, a highly flood-prone area, becoming fertile ground for the traffickers.

The marginal sections of the society are the most badly hit by trafficking. Class and caste are still interwoven.

Over 90 per cent of the population effected by trafficking belongs to the dalit, extremely backward castes and Muslims.

These sections are generally agriculture laborers, marginalized farmers and workers of unorganized sectors of trade and business. The level of literacy among the marginalized sections of society is still low. Even earlier women/girls belonging to the marginalized sections were the most exploited within the four walls of homes. Even in the present age they continue to be soft targets of modern form of exploitation-trafficcking.

The process of girls being trafficked to outside their home land started almost two decades ago. Most of the trafficking was done in the name of marriage. The community remained silent because they thought that the daughters were being married off to good homes and prosperous grooms. There was no attention towards to the possibility of their daughters being exploited in the name of marriage. The community remained mute spectators.

It is a period which saw social upheavals and movements in Bihar like social and political empowerment of the marginalized sections of the society. During the last 15-to 20 years all marginalized castes have given a call for getting their rights. However, during the same period traffickers were able to hunt girls belonging to marginalized sections of society from these regions. It is clear from this fact that statuses of girls/women are not an issue even within these sections. Even after getting reservation in local bodies – the issue of girls/women was not in focus. The representatives of local bodies generally do not consider it an issue.

One of the main reasons for increase in trafficking is the reluctance of the community to accept status of girls/women as an issue. One of the reasons is the age old traditions, attitude, behaviour and practices towards daughters.

However, presently the region where trafficking took place first in Bihar-Katihar, Purnea, Araria and adjoining areas is the same region where traffickers are finding their work extremely difficult. The reason behind this is that the local community, media, and local law enforcing agencies have become aware on the dimensions of trafficking, results of such types of marriages and have come forward to resist traffickers and trafficking. The awareness campaign launched by various social organizations and media has laid the foundation for bringing about this change. The result of this change has not only been the dramatic decline in the number of cases of trafficking, but also led to arrest of traffickers and recovery of victims by local police. It is still a matter of study how many traffickers have been arrested and put behind bars and how many victims have been recovered and rescued by the police in Bihar.

Due to the resistance faced by the traffickers from the local community and other stake holders, the traffickers have changed their area of operation and style.

The change in the attitude of the community and other stake holders only goes to prove that an honest and consistent effort made by social organizations in building up an issue pays rich dividends.

Gender based discrimination:

Gender plays an important role in the whole issue of trafficking. Absolute negligence of health and educational requirements of the girl children, forcing young girls into employment, early marriage, mismatch marriage and selling them off to agents by family members are some aspects of discrimination faced by girls and women. Lack of awareness about their rights increases their vulnerability and force these girls / women into accepting the exploitative situation.

In our community goat rearing and cattle breeding are one of the sources of income. People breed goats. The buyer of goats comes to the houses and bargains the price of goats with the owner. He then buys the goats on the agreed price and takes them away. After taking the money and handing over the rope which ties the goat to the butcher the breeder loses his right over the goat. The breeder is not even entitled to ask the butcher the treatment to be given to his goat. The buyer of the goat has the right to decide the fate of the goat.

Like goats, daughters are also being purchased. The buyers come from outside and take away the daughters after giving so many enticements to the parents-money can also play a major role in this sale. Parents, like the goat breeders, feel relieved after handing over their daughters to outsiders. They do not even bother to find out the treatment meted out to their daughters by the persons they have handed over their daughters. Perhaps the parents feel that they are not entitled to ask that question. It is on the buyer what he will do with the burden.

A song on gender discrimination reflecting a question being asked by a daughter to her mother.

" Jehe Kokhe Beta Janme, Wohe Khoke Betiya, .

Tab Kahe Kaila Ho Babujee Durange Nitia."

"Beta Ke padhawe Khatir Bhejla Scholiya, Hamaro Belia Kahe Supanee Mauneya."

(It is the same mother who gives birth to a daughter and son,

Than why is the son sent to school and daughter left at home to do the house) work

There are several examples testifying the interrelation between gender-based discrimination and trafficking of girls/women. The survey in Khagaria district was carried out by two NGOs, Mahila Sangathan and Upwan. They came to know about three such cases. Reena (name changed) was sold off to an agent by her step brother. She was sent to Gorakhpur. Later she was brought back by her mother. Another girl was sold off by her maternal uncle. In Sunhauli panchayat of Khagaria district, a girl of 14 years old was married off to a person from UP. As her husband was planning to sell her off, she could sense his intention and managed to escape from his house at an opportune time.

Another phenomenon which increases their vulnerability and the risk factor is desertion of women by their husbands. The deserted women are neither looked after by their in-laws nor are they accepted from heart by their parents. They are considered to be burden of the family. Often these deserted women fall prey into the hands of agents who promise them a better life. Once in the net of the traffickers, they are forced to a life of all-round exploitation.

A mother, who has been victim of gender discrimination all her life, singing a song cursing the birth of a daughter)

" Kahe Janamle Ge bete, Hammar To khokheya,

Khokheya Ke Kaile Badnam Ke"

Deya To Bhuj gale Ho Rama, Chael Andheriya,

Yehe Andheriya Ke beti Tohar Kismat,

Phutal Bhag Hammar Ge."

"Why did you take birth from my womb?

You have defamed me by taking birth.

Hopes for the family's name in the future has been diminished by your birth,

This darkness is your future)

Their children also become victims of trafficking.

Daughters are disappearing-

The population of females compared to males is consistently showing a downward trend and we claim that we are moving rapidly towards development. In the race to development, the female population is decreasing. Perhaps in the run to development we are considering daughters as increasing burdens. The way the population of females is decreasing if we do not become alert the continuity of human population will be under threat. Daughters are murdered and killed through feticide even before birth. After birth she dies due to negligence. If she survives these and grows she is sold off to a 'market'. However, in one hand the increasing demand of girls is a threat to their survival, on the other it is also a threat on the existence of their customers. We are rapidly increasing to developments and our economists are giving out statistics to show the rapid strides we are making. One lady economist in a meeting was presenting a picture of the future developments. When asked about the position of life stocks used for agriculture such as cows and ox and the position of women involved in agriculture, the lady became uneasy and ducked the question. Perhaps she did not consider the 'foolish question' worthy of an answer.

The lady economist is among the few are lucky daughters who have been given a healthy environment and higher education to grow and blossom. Parents of daughters like the lady economist are praiseworthy for giving their daughters an environment to enable them to grow. However, there are lakhs of daughters denied even hair oil regularly and even combs. There are a large numbers of women and girls who are victims of various kinds of physical exploitation both inside their homes and also outside. In this race for development money plays the key role to everything and other issues are becoming irrelevant. We are perhaps chasing a mirage in this race for development. Old social values have broken down. They have not been replaced by new constructive values. In this vacuum finance and consumerism have taken over our life styles. It has led to social disorders. The girls and women are bound to be the worst sufferers of these social disorders. In folklores and mythologies we hear that women were taken away by the use of force with the aim of 'enjoyment of female flesh'. It led to battles between various tribes. We call the society at that period as uncivilized. Today we are living in a society which claims to be civilized. Today women and girls cannot be taken away by force by tribes. However, in this scientific age there is a market and trading of women and girls is in vogue. Even today the trade of women and girls is also 'enjoyment of female flesh'. The truth is that the demand for women and girls has increased not by force but by the influence of wealth. Even today males are dominant. The only change is that instead of force the power of money and social hypocrisy is used to take away the females. This women consumer culture is a reflection of the downfall moral

of males. The degradation of females is not due their own reasons. The degradation of females is caused by males. Thousands of daughters are burning in the furnace of various forms of fresh trade. The trend is increasing due to increasing demand of girls. The males are directly responsible for this increasing demand for women. It is a matter of concern that the demand for teen aged girls has increased rapidly. The reasons for this are because the age of customers is also decreasing. This is a big threat to the society and the future. Traditional red light areas are merely symbols of flesh trade. Now days a large number of different types of flesh trade are flourishing in various forms. The lives of thousands of girls are forced live a life of hell. Thousands of young males are wasting their lives in this culture of `enjoyment of female flesh'. What will be the impact of the increasing demand for girls?

It is subject of research why the maximum numbers of girls taken way in the name of marriage from Bihar are going to UP. There are also indications in the survey of new trends-girls being taken

A traditional song " SOHAR" when a son is born

*"Dhan Dhan Bhagya Shugan Ke,
Ke Lalna Janam Lei Ho,
Ke Lalna Lal Hoehe Kulwa Ke Deepak,
Aagna Me Jyot Jagal Ho."*

The song `Sohar' says that the mother is blessed that a son is born and the fortune of the family and home has awoken due to the birth of a son.

away in the name of marriage to Kashmir. There is a need to understand this new trend as culturally and feature wise the people of Kashmir and Bihar are poles apart.

Abuse of Human Rights:

Victims of trafficking become subject to human rights abuses of all kinds. Besides, sexual assaults, they have to go through tremendous psychological and physical hardships as well. For the traffickers or their clients, the victims become a mere object that can be used and abused, however and how long they want to. There are cases where the girls, following their fake marriage, had to work as agricultural laborers during the day and after the day's hard work, they were sent to clients as call girls. Some victims were treated as domestic servants by their in-laws. Some even were sexually abused by their fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law and other male members of the family.

Those ending up at brothels faced even greater hardships and abuses. They were paid very little and had to work for long stretches. They did not even have the freedom to move around freely.

A few trafficked victims get rescued with the help of police, NGOs and other support groups. Some of them manage to escape. But their ordeal does not end there. In most occasions even if they go back to their families, they get little sympathy from their family members. Their reintegration with the community becomes difficult as they and their children are socially ostracized. Consequently, they become more and more marginalized. This kind of situation prepares ground for re-trafficking of the victims.

Risk of HIV/AIDS:

Data on prevalence of HIV among victims of trafficking are limited but there is definitely a correlation between trafficking and HIV/AIDS. The trafficked victims are prone to HIV infection as they are exposed to frequent physical contact with a number of people through sex trade. One does not need to mention that the situation worsens once a victim gets infected with HIV virus. While their health deteriorates, it becomes difficult for them to meet the medical expenditure. Furthermore, the victims' prospects of returning to their families become more difficult if their family members come to know about the infection.

There has hardly been any study on the exposure of trafficked victims to HIV infection. The extent of the infection through sex trade can only be estimated. HIV/AIDS is only one of the health-related risks faced by the victims. Moreover, although HIV/AIDS get maximum coverage, the victims are constantly exposed to other health hazards as well which do not get much attention. For instance, long working hours, unhealthy and unhygienic environment, malnutrition, regular physical and mental torture, etc. take heavy toll on the victims.

There are more than 45 small & big traditional red light areas in Bihar (May be more). About more than 3500 girls/women are involved directly with sex trade. There are many others involved in mobile sex trade. If on an average six customers visits one girl a day for sex than on a single day more than 21000 persons make contact with girls/ women in sex trade in Bihar. In one month $21000 \times 30 = 630000$ people are exposed to unsafe sex. It will be anybody's guess how many persons are exposed to unsafe sex in a year. How many girls of red light area suffering from sexual transmitted diseases or even HIV/AIDs? Who has an answer of this question? Whereas in one hand the lives of many young girls is being sacrificed in the furnace of sex trade on the other many youths are finishing their constructive years of life in the same furnace. It is a matter of concern that these sections of youths live in a normal society and are carriers of sexually transmitted disease to other women –including their wives. The way

flesh trade is being openly run in Bihar there is a danger of sexually transacted diseases like AIDS\HIV and other diseases taking the form of an epidemic. If the situation arises we will have no other alternative than to fight the issue as an epidemic.

12. Suggested measures to combat trafficking:

Synchronized Efforts Needed to Check Human Trafficking:

The notoriety of Bihar as far as human trafficking is concerned lies in the fact that on the one hand trafficking takes place within the state, on the other hand, it is a corridor for trafficking women and children from Nepal and from the neighboring states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and UP. Despite the grim situation, the state government, police, media, people's representatives and other stakeholders are yet to give this issue the priority it deserves. Public awareness is also lacking. However, there are a few NGOs and individuals who are active and taking initiatives for generating awareness and battling the menace. Some of them have undertaken rescue operations and are involved in advocacy so as to highlight the issue. They have been able to create pressure on the government and bring the issue on the national agenda. Because of their initiatives, many state governments and the Centre have taken steps to bring legislations and brace up police to address the issue sensitively.

Although there is a growing understanding on the issue of human trafficking, it is often mixed up with sex trade / prostitution as both have some common characteristics. Most of the studies and researches to address the issue refer to sex trade only. As a result, no authoritative data is available which can project the national level scenario on the trafficking issue.

The number of people trafficked every year is merely an estimate made on the basis of local-level information gathered by NGOs, individuals, media, police cases and so on. Although the primary responsibility to check the crime lies with the government, it cannot address the issue on its own in an effective manner if other stakeholders do not participate in the mission. There has to be a coordination among various NGOs, government departments, police, media, corporate houses, educational institutions, and, community bodies. In the context of Bihar, it is important that all these stakeholders also work in coordination with the border police and NGOs of Nepal. In absence of strong coordination among different stakeholders, it becomes difficult to control the long borderline between Bihar and Nepal. The traffickers take advantage of this situation and they continuously change their routes and entry points.

Plight of survivors and victims needs to be improved:

Survivors are generally kept in Shelter homes because the society and their family refuse to accept them back. But the question remains who are the culprits, who are responsible for trafficking of the girl, the society or parents? Why

should the girl be treated like a culprit when she is actually a victim? There is a need to change the rehabilitation policy and the society should be made responsible for the rehabilitation of the victims. The rehabilitation should be under the same social environment the victim is familiar with and not isolating her from the rest of the society. The victims should be entitled to rights which a normal citizen is. Even the children of the victims should be provided with care and support by local Panchayat members, local body members and government agencies. Many of the victims do not want to take care of their own babies because they perceive the babies as a reminder of their bitter and shattering past. Victims tend to lose their desire to live on. It is the responsibility of stake holders of the society to take care and nurture both the victims and their children. It is often seen that the community and family members are directly or indirectly responsible for the present plight of the victims. It is a universal truth that girls and women alone are not responsible for being victims of trafficking. The persons responsible for the plight of the victim are members of the community and even her own family. Why should not the community and her family members be made responsible for the social rehabilitation of the victims?

Implementation of legal instruments to combat trafficking:

There are so many laws available against trafficking. However, there is a need to create awareness among the law enforcing agencies and the people about them. There are many cases where the traffickers have been allowed to go Scot free. There is a social situation which leads to the victims being branded as the culprits by the society. It was due to the efforts of volunteers of Bhoomika Vihar that traffickers in the Kosi region were for the first time put behind bars. However, since traffickers come from outside the district and the state it is difficult to pursue a case against them in court or the police station and even by the law enforcing agencies. Trafficking cannot be termed just as a crime. It has its roots in social disparities. Therefore there is a need for taking action on both sides.

Improve status of women in our society:

Any civilized society cannot permit trade of daughters and female flesh. There is a need for a major intervention for making the lives of girls grow in a normal and healthy atmosphere. The status of women is vital for the growth of any society or nation. How can we talk about a harmonious and civilized society by just growing in one aspect (economic)? We have to accept social responsibilities along with economic development to build a civilized and harmonious society. In this run for development, we cannot afford to leave behind daughters who cannot afford even hair oil in their hairs and then talk about a civilized society. How can we leave behind thousands of youths who have neglected their social responsibilities and deviated to morally degrading acts? The time has come for us to discuss and debate the need to meet our social responsibilities along with

economic development. We have to take an initiative to establish healthy constructive social values to replace the crumbling old social values. The new values must include daughters as a central issue. She should not be left behind to be just considered an object of lust and consumerism. We must ensure that daughters are given an opportunity to blossom and develop in a level playing field and they can contribute to the development of their community and nation.

The modern commercial life has made the society focus on the present and it gives little time and effort for the future. The past and present and future are always interlinked. The past casts its shadow on the present and the present will have a say on our future. The plight of daughters and their exploitation will influence our future generations and it is time we act to protect them and save our own future.

(We are so much engrossed in our present that we do not think about our future, We do not think what we are giving for our future generations.

Join Struggle in Border Areas to Fight Traffickers:

Some NGOs are active in the border areas of Bihar and they are working in coordination with police and local administration to check the incidence of human trafficking. They have been instrumental in creating public awareness about trafficking of women and children. With the community support and with the help of police and administration, they have been successful in totally stopping the menace of human trafficking in some of the village in the border areas. But their resources fall short against that of the traffickers who are far more organized and stronger. Apart from the NGOs, the administration and the police are also working to check the traffickers. But there is a lack of coordination among various stakeholders as far as sharing of intelligence, maintenance of database and appropriate actions are concerned. Otherwise, it is difficult to control the traffickers. Taking advantage of the situation, the traffickers keep on changing their routes and use different entry points. Women committees formed in the both sides of the border have proved very effective in curbing trafficking and also other issues related to women. It is a unique experience that women belonging to two different countries sit together and discuss issues related to trafficking and other problems and take joint action against them.

Others:

Through synchronized effort, effective action should be taken in the following areas:

- ⇒ Promoting a new constructive social movement against declining social values and for constructive replacement of traditional social system;
- ⇒ Collection of state-level and district-wise data engaging NGOs, research and educational institutions to understand the actual trafficking situation in the state;
- ⇒ Generation of mass awareness involving media, NGOs, community organizations, schools, colleges, etc. on the issue;
- ⇒ Sharing of intelligence and information among NGOs, police and the government to tackle the menace;
- ⇒ Capacity building of NGOs, police and government officials and media for handling victims of trafficking with a rights based approach;
- ⇒ Creation of Community safety nets at village level in the vulnerable districts of Bihar to check trafficking right at the grass roots level and also to ensure community based restoration of survivors of trafficking;
- ⇒ Keeping check on the bordering areas involving police and NGOs of India and Nepal;
- ⇒ Strengthen AHTU;
- ⇒ Ensure effective Rescue, rehabilitation and restoration process of victims;
- ⇒ Promotion of social Rehabilitation of the victims & their children;
- ⇒ Prosecution of offenders;
- ⇒ Strict enforcement of laws and legislations;
- ⇒ Fixing responsibility at the local level like *Chaukidars* and *Panchayat* members to prevent trafficking;
- ⇒ Making mandatory in the village level to register birth, marriage and migration of residents of the village;
- ⇒ Creating an environment for changing the negative attitude of the community towards daughters;
- ⇒ It is also important that situations that create conditions of trafficking are addressed properly. For this, the government, NGOs and the community should ensure that development efforts in areas such as, health, education, employment, communication, etc., are adequately in place.
- ⇒ It is essential that in flood prone areas, the girls and women are interlinked with livelihood activities and also create awareness against traffickers and trafficking among the vulnerable groups. For creating livelihood in high risk zones, for women and girls some programs can be taken up. They are –provide them agricultural support like seeds, cattle, promote kitchen gardening, Fishery, and equipments and other skills training based on local environment.
- ⇒ Orientation on disaster management;
- ⇒ Creating awareness on trafficking and its prevention;
- ⇒ Monitoring the trafficking movement with help of community and local law enforcing systems.

13. Paper Clipping

THE TIMES OF INDIA, PATNA-RANCHI NATIONAL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

NGOs to fight trafficking:

Around 60 NGOs from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, UP and other states decided to join hands for fighting trafficking of women and girls. The decision was taken on the conclusion of a two-day workshop organized by Bhoomika Vihar on Tuesday. The NGOs decided to share information and follow up cases on trafficking and co-ordinate in taking action against traffickers. The director of Vihar said that political leaders like Kiran Ghai of BJP and Dr Ram Vachchan Rai of RJD also addressed the participants to explain their party's stand on the issue.

NGOs meet to fight trafficking

**OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT**

Siliguri, Feb. 19: About five years ago, 28 young men from Bajbindol village in the Bindolgram panchayat area, 25km from Raiganj in North Dinajpur, were lured away to Delhi with the promise of jobs. Each returned a few months later, minus a kidney.

Two of the youths, aged between 18 and 21 at that time, have since died from complications arising from the surgeries. A trafficker named Rajjak was arrested but later released on bail.

The incident, which was referred to at an anti-trafficking consultation held here today, could be linked to the Amit Kumar-led kidney scam

because the day he was arrested in Nepal, Rajjak and his wife went underground, said Kaushik Chaudhury, the project co-ordinator of the Raiganj-based Shripur Mohila-o-khadi Unnayan Samiti.

The samiti has been spearheading various social movements, including anti-trafficking drives, for the past 15 years. Along with Hill Social Welfare Society, Kalimpong, the samiti was one of the co-organisers of today's consultation.

The meet was attended by 41 organisations from the six north Bengal districts.

"None of the 28 young men knew what would happen to them. They were kept in separate quarters, drugged one by one and taken to an operation

theatre where a kidney was removed," Chaudhury said.

"The youths were then told that they were not physically fit for the job and sent back. Each was given Rs 10,000 as compensation," he added.

Cases of trafficking, with girls and children as targets, have also become frequent, said the NGOs. "On June 21 last year, as many as 22 girls were rescued with police help from the outskirts of their village in Sahidpur just as they were about to be transported to major cities through Dalkhola and Kishanganj," said Jaba Bhattacharjee, the samiti's secretary.

The rising number of trafficking cases in the region had prompted a national seminar in Patna in September where a

Beti Bachao Andolan was launched.

"Today's consultation is a follow-up to that meeting as the six districts of north Bengal are highly prone to the unlawful movement of human beings," Bhattacharjee said.

The government has suggested ways of saving the girl child. They include awareness drives, identifying trafficking agents at the local level and catching them red-handed, assisting distressed young girls so that they do not fall prey to traffickers, and changing attitudes towards girls, said Arun Singh of Bhumika, a Patna-based NGO, which is at the helm of the drive.

Today's consultation decided on compilation of consolidated data on the status of

trafficking in north Bengal districts, where each participating NGO was given a set format for inputs.

"This is required as there is no concrete data anywhere, mainly because incidents of trafficking are usually registered with the police as kidnapping cases or missing person's diary. The compilation would be published by May/June," Singh said.

Current NGO initiatives were also reviewed, and a recommendation was adopted to include trafficking and gender issues in all their programmes.

Another consultation will be held in Calcutta on March 27, in which organisations from all over the state will take part.

यौन शोषण के खिलाफ अभियान छेड़ने की जरूरत

ट्रेफिकिंग पर कार्यशाला आयोजित

पूर्णिया (नि.सं.)। सीमांचल से हो रहे बालिकाओं की ट्रेफिकिंग एवं यौन शोषण के विरुद्ध विस्तृत अभियान छेड़ने की जरूरत है और इसमें हपुलिस की भूमिका सबसे अहम है। उक्त बातें सोमवार को पूर्णिया के को-आपरेटिव भवन में भूमिका बिहार द्वारा आयोजित कार्यशाला में भूमिका के निदेशक अरूण कुमार बोल रहे थे। इस कार्यशाला में पूरे जिले की पुलिस को बुलाया गया था। श्री कुमार ने कहा कि यह कार्यशाला पुलिस का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करने के लिए रखा गया है। पुलिस सिर्फ पुलिस ही नहीं पहले सामाजिक व्यक्ति हैं। इसलिए उनका बालिकाओं के ट्रेफिकिंग को रोकने के लिए भूमिका काफी महत्वपूर्ण है। उन्होंने कहा कि पूर्णिया जिले के बायसी डगरूआ और पूर्णिया पूर्व प्रखंडों में यह शिकायत अधिक हैं। एसपी सुधांशु कुमार ने भी सभी थानाध्यक्षों को इस मुतल्लिक चेतना और इस पेशे से जुड़े



कार्यशाला में शिरकत करते पुलिस पदाधिकारी

दलालों को चिह्नित करने का निर्देश दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र की लड़कियों के विवाह पर भी कड़ी नजर रखें। शादी के बाद नाम पर लड़कियों को यूपी एवं एमपी भेजा जा रहा है जो निश्चित रूप से कहीं न कहीं ट्रेफिकिंग का मामला हो सकता

है। इसकी भी छानबीन जरूरी है। उन्होंने थानाध्यक्षों को विशेष निर्देश दिया। इस मौके पर भूमिका की ओर से तारकेश्वर सिंह एवं सुमित्रा थीं। नगर आरक्षी उपाध्यक्ष एसएस ठाकुर एवं एसपी आफिस के सभी पुलिसकर्मी भी मौजूद थे।

भागलपुर, 1 फरवरी, 2008

अररिया आसपास

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गर्ल्स ट्रैफिकिंग की रोकथाम को लेकर सम्मेलन

अररिया, संवाद सूत्र: सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र से लड़कियों के ट्रैफिकिंग के विरुद्ध काम करने वाली संस्था भूमिका बिहार द्वारा गुरुवार को स्थानीय सुभाष स्टेडियम में बेटी बचाओ सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ मुख्य अतिथि नप अध्यक्ष अंजनी जायसवाल ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर किया। उन्होंने महिलाओं से इस कुरीतियों को दूर भगाने में भागीदारी निभायें की अपील की। नप अध्यक्ष ने कहा क्षेत्र में आये दलालों की जानकारी शीघ्र ही प्रशासन तक पहुंचाये।

संस्था की सक्रिय महिला कार्यकर्ता जोगबनी की सुमित्रा राय ने महिलाओं से समाज में फैले कुरीति को जड़ से मिटाने के लिए एकत्र होने की अपील की। सुमित्रा राय ने कहा कि हमारे बिहार की लड़कियों को स्थानीय दलालों से मिलकर खाड़ी मुल्कों व उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा, पंजाब में बेच दिया जाता है। साथ ही इसके बदले गरीब माता पिता को रुपये भी दी जाती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि बाहर के दलाल अन्य प्रदेशों में मादा जननी संख्या कमी होने की बात कहकर

बहलाते हैं। वहीं किशनगंज के मो. मोदसीर ने भी लड़कियों के ट्रैफिकिंग रोकने की अपील की। इस अवसर पर मोहन जायसवाल, नप पार्षद उमेश राय, रामो पासवान, शंकर यादव, नीरज निक्कू, आशुतोष

कुमार सहित कई लोग मंचासीन थे।

वहीं सम्मेलन को सफल बनाने में सुधीर यादव, बुचनी देवी, सुमित्रा राय, अरविंद यादव, महेश, फणीन्द्र मिश्रा जुटे थे। मंच संचालन अखिलेश झा ने किया।



‘सामाजिक व आर्थिक विकृतियां की देन ट्रैफिकिंग’

अररिया: गर्ल्स ट्रैफिकिंग एक विकृति है जो समाज में धीरे, धीरे अपनी गहरी पैठ जमाती जा रही है। जिसके शिकार निर्दोष एवं भोली भाली बच्चियां/बच्चे हो रहे हैं। यह बातें गुरुवार को बेटी बचाओ सम्मेलन में आयोजक भूमिका बिहार के संयोजक अरुण कुमार सिंह ने कही। उन्होंने उपस्थित लोगों को कहा कि ट्रैफिकिंग के शिकार लड़के और लड़कियां विशेषकर बालिकाएं औरतें व वयस्क श्रमिक हैं। श्री सिंह ने कहा कि ट्रैफिकिंग के बहुत कारण हो सकते हैं। ट्रैफिकिंग तो सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक विकृतियों की एक देन है। साथ ही सीमावर्ती इलाका होने के कारण इस व्यवसाय के लिए यह क्षेत्र उर्वरक के रूप में साबित हो रहा है।

पीड़ितों को मसाला नहीं बनाये मीडिया

ट्रैफिकिंग पर केन्द्रित कार्यशाला में समाजसेवियों ने की अपील

मुजफ्फरपुर, हसं : ट्रैफिकिंग की शिकार महिलाओं, लड़कियों और बच्चों की तस्वीरें छापना, नाम व पते प्रकाशित करना उनके साथ ज्यादती है। इससे पीड़ितों की पीड़ा घटने के बजाय और बढ़ जाती है। इसी तरह पुलिस को भी ट्रैफिकिंग पीड़ितों के साथ सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए। पुलिस को यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि उनके मानवाधिकारों का उल्लंघन नहीं हो।

उक्त बातें गुरुवार को भूमिका विहार और डेमोक्रेटिक पीपुल्स आर्गनाइजेशन द्वारा आयोजित कार्यशाला में वक्ताओं ने कही। कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन समाजसेवी डा. आरजे ठाकुर, वार्ड पार्षद वर्षा सिंह, भूमिका विहार की शिल्पी और पत्रकार एम. अखलाक ने किया। पीड़िताओं की सुरक्षा के न्यूनतम मापदंड विषयक इस कार्यशाला की अध्यक्षता समाजसेवी प्रो. रामजनम ठाकुर ने की। उन्होंने कहा कि ट्रैफिकिंग की समस्या काफी गंभीर है। इसके अलावा परिवार में भी महिलाएं घरेलू हिंसा की शिकार होती हैं। इसकी रोकथाम के लिए गांव स्तर पर महिला सुरक्षा दल का गठन किया जाना चाहिए। श्री ठाकुर ने कहा कि महिलाएं ही महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ बेहतर आंदोलन चला सकती हैं। उनके अस काम में पुरुष भी उनके साथ होंगे।

पत्रकार एम. अखलाक ने कहा कि अक्सर ऐसे मामलों को मीडिया मसाले के रूप में परोस कर टीआरपी व प्रसार बढ़ाने की कोशिश करता है। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। पीड़ितों को सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करना, उनके



कार्यशाला का शुभारंभ करती वार्ड पार्षद वर्षा सिंह व समाजसेवी आर जे ठाकुर

जागरण

अधिकारों का हनन रोकना मीडिया की भी जवाबदेही है। उन्होंने मीडिया से पीड़ितों की तस्वीरें नहीं छापने-दिखाने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि ट्रैफिकिंग संगठित अपराध है। इसकी रोकथाम के लिए अलग से कानून बनाने की जरूरत है।

कार्यशाला को अधिवक्ता संजय ठाकुर, महेन्द्र सिंह और सुनील श्रीवास्तव ने भी संबोधित किया। वकीलों ने महिलाओं से संबंधित कानूनों की जानकारी दी। कार्यशाला का संचालन अरविन्द पांडेय व धन्यवाद ज्ञापन

नंदन किशोर अरुण ने किया। इस मौके पर समाजसेवी किरण देवी ने स्त्री विमर्श पर केन्द्रित गीत की प्रस्तुति की। उपस्थित लोगों ने इस गीत की जमकर सराहना की। इससे पूर्व कई पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों व अधिवक्ताओं ने गांव स्तर पर महिलाओं की समिति और जिला स्तर पर कानूनी परामर्श केन्द्र बनाने की अपील की। कार्यशाला में चतुर्भुज स्थान की कई लड़कियों ने भूमिका विहार द्वारा शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उठाये गये कदमों की जानकारी प्रस्तुत की।

कोसी क्षेत्र पुनर्निर्माण सम्मेलन सम्पन्न

सहरसा, संवाद सूत्र : बेटी बचाओ आन्दोलन के सौजन्य से बुधवार को जिला परिषद सभागार में सम्पन्न कोसी क्षेत्रीय पुनर्निर्माण सम्मेलन में वक्ताओं ने कोसी इलाके में आनेवाली सामाजिक चुनौतियों पर गहन चर्चा की, तथा इसके मुकाबले के लिए सामूहिक प्रयास करने की बात कही।

जिप अध्यक्ष सुरेन्द्र कुमार यादव की अध्यक्षता व सुबोध कुमार के मंच संचालन में सम्पन्न इस सम्मेलन को भूमिका बिहार के निदेशक अरूण कुमार, प्रजापति ब्रह्मकुमारी की बी.बी. मुकुरमणि व दीदी श्रेहा, जिप उपाध्यक्ष नीलम भगत व बचपन बचाओ आन्दोलन के प्रदेश

पुनर्वास संयोजक धुरण महतो ने संबोधित किया। वक्ताओं ने कहा कि कोसी की नदियों को लेकर बहस पुरानी हो गई है, परन्तु कोसी समस्या के बहस में

सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक पक्ष सिरे से गौण हो जाती है। जरूरत इस बात की है कि इस सामाजिक चुनौतियों पर विचार कर इसका मुकाबला किया जाय।



समारोह में उपस्थित जिप अध्यक्ष व अन्य

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आज्ञा

राष्ट्रीय संहार, पटना, शुक्रवार, 4 अप्रैल 2008

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बेटियों के प्रति सोच को बदलना होगा : डीएम

आगरा, 3 अप्रैल (एसएनबी)। बेटे ववाओ कार्याशाला का आयोजन, पहले एवं भूमिका के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में विद्या भवन सभागार में, सम्पन्न हुई। समारोह की अध्यक्षता जिला परिषद अध्यक्ष मीना देवी ने की।

कार्याशाला का उद्घाटन करते हुए जिलाधिकारी डा. सश्रीना ए एन ने कहा कि बेटियों के प्रति समाज को अपनी मानसिक सोच को बदलना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि पूजा हत्या पर रोक लगाना होगा और इस सुझावों मिलकर समूह में हर पहलू पर विचार करना होगा, तभी महिला सशक्तिकरण का अर्थव्यवस्था साधक होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि देश

में महिला सशक्तिकरण के मामले में बिहार ऐसे भी पीछे है, जो हमारी सामाजिक सोच को उजागर करता है। इसलिए हमें अपनी सामाजिक सोच बदलनी होगी। इस अवसर

बेटी ववाओ कार्याशाला आयोजित

पर उप विकास आयुक्त बिरेंद्र प्रसाद ने कहा कि समाज में लड़के और लड़कियों के प्रति सबों की सोच समाप्त होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रत्येक एक हजार लड़कों पर 9 सौ एक लड़कियां हैं। जो भविष्य के लिए

अच्छे संकेत नहीं हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि पूजा हत्या पर रोक लगाने के साथ-साथ इसमें लिल डोंकटों पर ही कानूनी कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए। अध्यक्षता करते हुए जिला परिषद अध्यक्ष मीना देवी ने कहा कि हमलों को दहेज और पूजा हत्या जैसे समस्याओं को उखाड़ फेंकने के लिए एकजुट होना पड़ेगा। कार्याशाला दो सत्रों में चली जिसमें जिला पार्षद उषा देवी, करुणा कुमारी, कमला जी आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। शानति शर्मा तथा इन्द्र देवी ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन किया। इस अवसर पर कैबिनेट जी, शिवशंकर शर्मा, आशुतोष कुमार, सौरव कुमार एवं राजीव कुमार आदि उपस्थित थे।



जिलाधिकारी सश्रीना एएन ने लाइन में खड़ी महिलाओं की फरियाद प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सुनी। इस दरम्यान बेलाउर के शिक्षा मित्रों की बहलती में कथित शोचनी को लेकर उग्रविद्या मुखिया एवं पंचायत सेवक को निर्देश दिया कि तत्काल इन्हें नियुक्ति प्रमाणपत्र दें। इसी दरम्यान, वर्षों से अवैध शराब के लिए बदनाम जमीरा के ग्रामीणों का एक शिष्ट मंडल ने जिलाधिकारी से मिलकर देशी शराब की बन्दोबस्ती रद्द करने की गहार लगायी।



बेटी ववाओ कार्याशाला में उपस्थित वक्तागण।

फोटो : एसएनबी

बच्चों का यौन शोषण रोकने के लिए सम्मिलित प्रयास की जरूरत

पटना (वि.सं.)। बिहार में बच्चे-बच्चियों का ट्रैफिकिंग (व्यापार) एवं उनका यौन शोषण एक गंभीर मुद्दा है और इसे रोकने के लिए सामाजिक क्षेत्र से जुड़े तमाम संगठनों को एक जुट होकर सम्मिलित प्रयास करना होगा। रविवार को 'भूमिका विहार' नामक संस्था की ओर से बेटी बचाओं कार्यशाला में विभिन्न वक्ताओं ने अपना विचार व्यक्त किया। वक्ताओं ने कहा कि बालिकाओं का व्यापार बड़े पैमाने पर किया जा रहा है लेकिन मौजूदा उपलब्ध कानूनों का इस्तेमाल कठोरता से नहीं किया जाता। कार्यशाला में बिहार के अलावा उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, झारखंड तथा महाराष्ट्र की विभिन्न सामाजिक संस्थाओं से जुड़े डेलीगेटों ने भी भाग लिया। उनका मानना है कि ट्रैफिकिंग

एक माध्यम है जिसके द्वारा देश में या देश से बाहर धोखे से बल प्रयोग द्वारा एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर किसी प्रकार के कार्य का प्रलोभन देकर ले जाया जाता है। बाद में उन लड़कियों या तो बेच दिया जाता है या फिर उनका दैहिक शोषण किया जाता है। कार्यशाला में ट्रैफिकिंग के कारणों, उसे रोकने के उपाय पुर्नवास सहित मीडिया की भूमिका पर भी विस्तार से विचार विमर्श हुआ। प्रारंभ में डा. शिव नारायण ने आगत अतिथियों का स्वागत किया। अरुण कुमार सिंह ने कार्यशाला के आयोजन पर प्रकाश डाला। डा. गायत्री शर्मा, गंगा प्रसाद, दिल्ली स्थित राष्ट्रीय प्रतिष्ठान की देवजानी घोष, युनिसेफ की सुचित्रा चित्रकार सहित अनेक पत्रकार वक्ताओं ने भी कार्यशाला में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

Child trafficking: Two NGOs' — Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT) and Bhoomika Bihar — would jointly undertake a study to assess the condition of the children who earn their livelihood as dancing boys, popularly known in common parlance as “nat-uas”, according to a CACT release issued on Wednesday. The two NGOs would also launch “Beti Bachao” campaign in Kishanganj, Supaul, Saharsa, Purnea, Katihar, Muzaffarpur, Buxar, Gaya, Jehanabad, Arwal, West Champaran Bettiah, Rohtas, Bhagalpur and Khagaria districts. These decisions were taken at a joint meeting of the two NGOs held on Wednesday at CACT state headquarters.