

Situational Report on Human Trafficking in Jharkhand



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List of Abbreviations

AHTU- Anti Human Trafficking Unit
ATSEC- Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children
BDO- Block Development Officer
BKS- Bharatiya Kisan Sangh
CID- Crime Investigation Department
CPC- Child Protection Committee
CRPF- Central Reserve Police Force
CrPC- Code of Criminal Procedure
CWC- Child Welfare Committee
DSS- Diya Seva Sansthan
FIR- First Information Report
ICPS- Integrated Child Protection Scheme
JHALSA- Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority
JMSS- Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society
JSCPCR- Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
KGBV- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya
MHA- Ministry of Home Affairs
NGO- Non- Governmental Organization
SOP- Standard Operation Procedure
SPO- Special Police Officer
STCI- Save the Children India
UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WP- Writ Petition

Methodology

For the present report data has been collected in the month of February, 2015. The report has relied mainly on secondary data given the paucity of time for field visits. Secondary data has been collected from CID-Jharkhand, Diya Seva Sansthan, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society and Anti Human Trafficking Units in Khunti and Ranchi.

Apart from this primary data was collected through interviews with police officers in Khunti and Ranchi, NGO personnel working from Ranchi, member of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and a member of Child Welfare Committee.

The researcher also visited a Mahila Shikshan Kendra under Mahila Samakhya Society in Khunti which houses mainly minor female survivors of trafficking and also Kishori Niketan run by Bharatiya Kisan Sangh in Bijupada, Chanhua, Ranchi.

Valuable Inputs were also taken from Shri Anurag Gupta, IG ,Jharkhand Police.

1. Introduction:

Jharkhand has today emerged as a major source area for intra-country trafficking in India. Most of the trafficking from Jharkhand is of tribals for domestic labour to metropolitan cities where there is a demand for such work. In cities like Delhi, a number of illegal placement agencies have cropped up. These agencies take advantage of legal loopholes to traffic mostly innocent girls in the name of providing employment but instead are put into extreme conditions of forced labour. 12-14 hours of work every day is a routine practice for these girls. Many of those rescued also report physical and sexual abuse. Several cases of Sexual slavery have also been reported from the victims rescued in Delhi. Some of the victims are trafficked to Haryana and Punjab for the purpose of Bonded Labour and Forced marriage.

Recent news reports also point to the emergence of trafficking of women from Jharkhand for surrogacy, deliver babies who are then sold off.¹

Jharkhand is not only a source but also a destination for the victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. There are Red Light areas existing in the districts of Dhanbad, Bokaro and Hazaribag. The trafficking affected districts include Gumla, Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Ranchi, Palamu, Hazaribag, Dhanbad, Bokara, Girdih, Kodarma and Lohardagga. Most of the women trafficked from Jharkhand belong to Oraon, Munda, Santhal (including endangered Pahariya) and Gond tribes, out of which, maximum are from Oraon and Munda. The Palamau and Garhwa districts are highly prone to trafficking for child labour in the carpet industry in Uttar Pradesh. Jharkhand is also a transit for the traffickers trafficking girls from Chattisgarh. The traffickers or the placement agents of the tribal states like Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal are working in close network.

Trafficking of children from Jharkhand mostly takes place through the well organized placement agency rackets in Delhi. These placement agencies supply tribal children to the homes of National Capital Region consisting of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida. These agencies mostly target the children of age group 11-16 who remain tight lipped even after exploitation. The trafficked victims are kept in congested rooms, fed barely enough for survival till they are placed somewhere. The luckier ones land in a 'kothi' as a domestic help. The others are sold in marriage or to a brothel where they suffer never-ending abuse in all forms. These victims of trafficking have to go through series of exploitation starting from the source-traffickers, placement agents and employers.

¹ Roy Sourav, (2015, February 25), Trafficked tribal girls forced to conceive, deliver babies for sale, *Hindustan Times*, Lohardaga/ Gumla. Retrieved from <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tribal-girls-forced-to-conceive-deliver-babies-for-sale/article1-1320239.aspx> on 26th February, 2015.

The traffickers in the source areas of Jharkhand and in the destination areas of North India work as network and are very organised. The Shakurpur area under Punjabi Bagh Police station in Delhi is flooded with Placement agents either belonging to Jharkhand or having links with Jharkhand.

This trafficking from Jharkhand, as some of the recent rescues reveal, is fairly organized. Illiteracy, lack of sustainable employment, poor irrigation facilities for agriculture, single crop patterns, lack of awareness, political instability are some reasons that make people vulnerable to trafficking. Traffickers take advantage of these situations that make people vulnerable to agreeing to unsafe migration who then end up as victims of trafficking. There is a network of well organized routes and trains that get frequently used by traffickers for this. The Traffickers mostly use the Jharkhand Sampark Kranti Express, Muri Express and Swarna Jayanti Express to take the children.

Reports state that thousands of girls have gone missing from Jharkhand's Tribal hinterlands, however the state has no record. The tribal districts of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal are most vulnerable to trafficking. In Jharkhand thousands of girls and boys are missing. It is also noticed that school going girls and boys are equally vulnerable to the risk of trafficking.

Jharkhand faces a huge problem of child labour. The state has been running the National Child Labour Project in Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Gumla, Palamu, Hazaribagh and Ranchi.

Placement Agency: A menace

As a part of the Public Interest Litigation in the matter of Gopinath Ghosh Vs State of Jharkhand and others the Jharkhand based NGO Diya Sewa Sansthan has submitted a list of 240 placement agents and their agencies. The High Court then directed the police to investigate the role of all these agencies. The Trafficking kingpin Panna Lall, his wife Sunita and Bamdeb were listed there also. The Anti Human Trafficking Unit Jharkhand investigated the same in partnership with NGO Shakti Vahini and busted the major rackets. The team also rescued more than hundred victims of human Trafficking in the case. The agents places a victim is placed in one house for 11 months and every month the placement agencies take their wages which never reaches the victims or their families. Once a victim completes her 11 months in house, she is further placed into another house and the exploitation continues. These placement agencies keep on changing their addresses, name and contact details to escape from law.

To add to this, the state machinery has a long way to go to effectively protect trafficking victims, prosecute traffickers, or prevent trafficking. The rehabilitation set up is almost non-existent and probably needs the most work. Political will is also lacking to effectively tackle human trafficking plaguing the state. Extensive work is also required in tracing the missing children of Jharkhand especially after Sen and Nair (2005) made the link between missing children and trafficking clear.

2. Overview of Jharkhand

Jharkhand is a state in the eastern part of India. It was carved out of Bihar on 15th November, 2000. The state is made up of 24 districts. It consists of the Chotanagpur plateau and extends to Santhal Parganas. It also has huge forest reserves. 29.61% of the geographical area of the state is covered by forests.

Jharkhand's eight districts of Garhwa, Giridih, Gumla, Khunti, Latehar, Palamu, Jharkhand's eight districts of Garhwa, Giridih, Gumla, Khunti, Latehar, Palamu,



Simdega and West Singhbhum are considered badly affected by Left Wing Extremism².

² PTI, (2013, April 12), 26 districts highly naxal-hit in the country: govt. *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi. Retrieved from <http://www.hindustantimes.com/newdelhi/26-districts-highly-naxal-hit-in-country-govt/article1-1043453.aspx> on 26th February 2015.

According to the 2011 census the population of Jharkhand is 32,988,134 (Male- 16,930,315 and Female- 16,057,819). The sex ratio is 948 (National Average- 943). The literacy rate is 66.40% (National Average- 72.99) but there is a significant difference in the rate for males (76.84%, National Average- 80.89) and that for females (52.04%, National Average- 64.64). Female literacy rate of Jharkhand is fairly lower than the national average.

Jharkhand is a state with a fairly large tribal population. While the national average of Scheduled Tribes is 10.4% of the total population, the tribal population of Jharkhand accounts for 26.21 per cent of its total population. According to the Society for Regional Research and Analysis (2010), about 91.7% of this population is based in rural and forest area. In some districts like Khunti (73.3%), Simdega (70.8%), Gumla (68.9%), West Singhbhum (67.3%), Lohardaga (56.9%) the population of tribals is more than 50% of the total population. Districts that have 25% to 50% of tribal population are Latehar (45.5%), Dumka (43.2%), Pakur (43.1%), Ranchi (35.8%), Debagarh (35.3%), Saraikela- Kharsawan (35.2%), East Singhbhum (28.5%), Sahibganj (26.8%) (Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India, 2013). Some of these districts are also the ones that record high incidences of trafficking. There are 30 different tribal groups, representing Negrito, Proto-Australoid, Mongoloid, Mediterranean and Nordic races. The Hos, Santhals, Oraons and Mundas together constitute almost four-fifths of the total tribal population of the state. (Jharkhand Tribal Development Programme, 2008). These tribes are mainly agriculturist-cum-gatherers (Kelkar and Nathan, 1991) The Society for Regional Research and Analysis (2010) found that education in the interior tribal areas is still a major problem in spite of the ongoing national mission programme of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. More than 60% of the surveyed families in Jharkhand state were found to be illiterate and more than one-fourth of the tribal families in M.P and Jharkhand were also found to be illiterate. According to the Census of India (2011) the literacy rate in Jharkhand for tribal males is 68.2% and that for tribal females is 46.2% which is significantly lower than the national averages.

Jharkhand is a mineral rich state with a variety of minerals ranging from Iron ore (Singhbhum district), Copper ore (East Singhbhum), Coal (Dhanbad, Bokaro, Hazaribagh, Chatra, Sahibganj), Mica, Bauxite, Fire clay, Graphite (Palamu), Kyanite, Sillimanite, Lime Stone (Palamu, Hazaribagh, Singhbhum, Ranchi), Uranium and other minerals. Jharkhand is one of the leading producer of mineral wealth in the country. But unfortunately the fruits of mining and industrialization in Jharkhand have failed to reach the tribals in the state.

3. Trafficking in Jharkhand

According to UNODC's (2013) India Country Assessment Report: Current Status of Victim Service Providers and Criminal Justice Actors on Anti Human Trafficking, red light areas exist in the districts of Dhanbad, Bokaro and Hazaribagh. The trafficking affected districts include Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Ranchi, Palamu, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad,

Bokara, Girdih, Kodarma and Lohardaga. Most of the women trafficked from Jharkhand belong to Oraon, Munda, Santhal (including endangered Pahariya) and Gond tribes, out of which, maximum are from Oraon and Munda.

3.1 Magnitude of the problem

In the absence of data on missing children and rampant trafficking of victims being reported from Jharkhand, it is very difficult to assess the real situation of trafficking of children and women.

Table 3.1.1: Number of human trafficking cases recorded by police, Jharkhand

Sr. No.	District	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Ranchi	2	2	5	9	11	14	22	10	16
2	Lohardaga	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	6	9
3	Gumla	2	2	1	9	3	8	13	20	42
4	Simdega	2	0	1	0	0	2	11	12	11
5	Khunti	0	0	1	4	1	4	2	13	23
6	Chaibasa	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	8	13
7	Saraikela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
8	Jamshedpur	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
9	Palamu	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
10	Garhwa	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
11	Latehar	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	5
12	Hazirabag	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
13	Koderma	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
14	Giridih	0	0	0	1	2	2	7	4	1
15	Chatra	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
16	Ramgarh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
17	Bokaro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Dhanbad	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
19	Dumka	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	7
20	Godda	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
21	Sahebganj	1	1	2	0	2	0	6	5	2
22	Pakur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
23	Deogarh	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
24	Jamtarah	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
25	Rail Dhanbad	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	3	0
26	Rail Jamshedpur	0	0	0	2	2	6	1	0	1
Total		7	10	11	26	25	44	83	96	147

Source: CID, Jharkhand

These figures can only be said to be a tip of the iceberg. While authentic statistics of number of incidences are not available but NGO estimates there are about 42,000 domestic workers in India who have migrated from Jharkhand (ATSEC, 2010). Many of these trafficked. Estimates of trafficking for other purposes are unavailable. The same ATSEC report goes on to reveal that 12 to

15 years is the most preferred age group for employment in domestic labour. 80% of these are females and minors. They are not paid well, rarely have any contact with the family and are made to work for 12 to 14 hours (UNODC, 2013).

According to the Census of India the number of children between the age group of 5 to 14 years working in Jharkhand is 90,996 in 2011³ In such a situation it would be important to draw attention to missing women and children. In a landmark study of trafficking in India, Sen and Nair (2005) revealed a link between missing women and children and trafficking. Records of rescued revealed that they had been reported missing in their native places. Hence, it becomes pertinent to also look at data on missing children in the context of Jharkhand.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan (2012) then attempted to consolidate data on missing children using various sources. It received data from 12 of the 24 districts of Jharkhand. According to this report Jharkhand reported 320 missing children between 2008 and 2010. Of these 45% were not traced. The district wise details of missing children between 2008 and 2010 are given below.

Table 3.1.2: Number of children missing in Jharkhand, January 2008 to January 2010

Sr. No.	District	Reported	Traced	Untraced
1	Ranchi			
2	Lohardaga			
3	Gumla	40	12	28
4	Simdega	9	3	6
5	Khunti			
6	Chaibasa			
7	Saraikela			
8	Jamshedpur	150	76	74
9	Palamu			
10	Garhwa			
11	Latehar			
12	Hazirabag			
13	Koderma			
14	Giridih	21	9	12
15	Chatra			
16	Ramgarh			
17	Bokaro	82	71	11
18	Dhanbad			
19	Dumka	6	4	2
20	Godda	3	2	1
21	Sahebganj			

³ (Source- <http://labour.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Divisions/childlabour/Census-2001%262011.pdf> Accessed on 11th February, 2015).

22	Pakur	9	1	8
23	Deogarh			
24	Jamtarah			
Total		320	178	142

Source: Banchpan Bacha Andolan (2012)

Following this better data has been retrieved from CID, Jharkhand for the years 2011-2013.

Table 3.1.3: Number of missing children in Jharkhand, 2011-2013

Sr. No.	District	2011				2012				2013			
		R	T	Ut	FIR	R	T	Ut	FIR	R	T	Ut	FIR
1	Ranchi	35	2	33	0	60	0	60	0	110	24	86	23
2	Lohardaga	14	13	1	14	12	8	4	6	3	2	1	3
3	Gumla	2	0	2	2	16	15	1	1	45	38	7	4
4	Simdega	3	2	1	1	6	6	0	0	5	1	4	4
5	Khunti	7	6	1	0	12	11	1	1	53	20	33	4
6	Chaibasa	34	31	3	2	27	20	7	2	13	8	5	5
7	Saraikela	26	23	3	0	17	17	0	0	15	14	1	1
8	Jamshedpur	26	24	2	2	50	48	2	2	37	32	5	6
9	Palamu	29	26	3	3	16	14	2	2	21	20	1	1
10	Garhwa	13	13	0	-	24	3	21	-	18	3	15	-
11	Latehar	6	6	0	0	11	11	0	2	13	13	0	0
12	Hazirabag	6	6	0	0	37	33	4	4	51	45	6	1
13	Koderma	18	16	2	0	10	7	3	0	22	16	6	0
14	Giridih	44	42	2	0	56	47	9	4	40	36	4	4
15	Chatra	8	5	3	0	15	4	11	0	20	14	6	0
16	Ramgarh	15	11	4	0	14	8	6	0	28	14	14	2
17	Bokaro	41	40	1	1	35	32	3	3	36	32	4	4
18	Dhanbad	79	78	1	1	69	68	1	1	43	43	0	0
19	Dumka	5	5	0	-	2	1	1	-	0	0	0	0
20	Godda	14	14	0	0	15	13	2	2	11	8	3	3
21	Sahebganj	7	5	2	0	32	22	10	1	11	6	5	0
22	Pakur	4	4	0	0	6	6	0	0	9	3	6	1
23	Deogarh	32	32	0	0	42	42	0	0	34	34	0	0
24	Jamtarah	11	6	5	-	16	5	11	-	5	1	4	-
25	Rail Dhanbad	4	0	4	-	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
26	Rail Jamshedpur	3	2	1	0	4	3	1	0	2	1	1	0
Total		486	412	74	26	605	444	161	31	645	428	217	66

R- Number of Children Reported Missing

T- Number of Children Traced

Ut- Number of Children Untraced

FIR- Number of First Information Reports Filed

Source: CID, Jharkhand

From the above data a total number of 1736 children were reported missing of which 452 remained untraced. Attention needs to be given to the fact that only

123 FIRs were filed, which is less than even 10% of the cases. These missing children could be exploited for forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation, adoption rackets, armed conflict, organ trade, or could be used by adults to commit crimes.

As per data submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Lok Sabha the details of the missing children of Jharkhand are as follows:

	2012	2013	2014
Male	298	Not reported	Not reported
Female	675	Not reported	Not reported

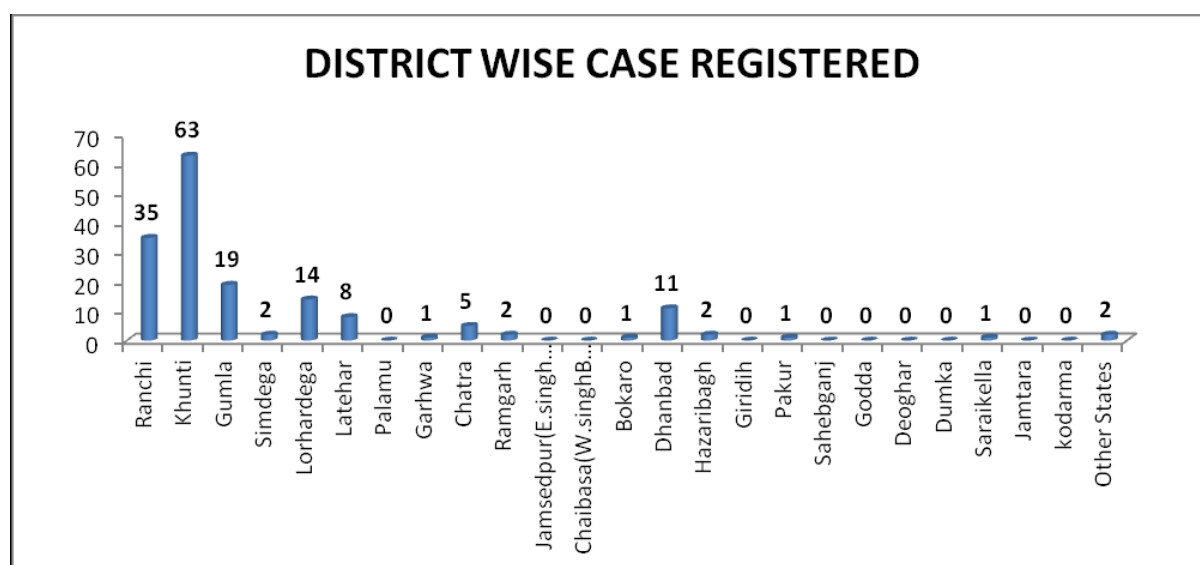
Table 3.1.4: Data on Missing Children from Districts of Jharkhand accessed through Right to Information

Information of Missing Children of various Districts of Jharkhand collected through RTI Application reveals the following data from 2009-2013.

District	No. of Missing	Number of Traced	FIR Registered
Seraikela-Kharsawan	62	55	5
Garhwa	78	55	10
Gumla	77	26	0
Singbhum	246	115	0
Pakur	30	14	0
Simdega	17	8	10
Godda	12	9	12
Palamu	182	100	82
Dhanbad	543	400	23
Koderma	40	22	1
Ramgarh	118	94	19
Jamtara	22	19	6
Chatra	35	33	1
Sahebganj	84	50	8

In order to tackle the problem of missing children the CID, Jharkhand started a missing children helpline with an organization named Diya Seva Sansthan since October 2013. This helpline alone recorded 2298 calls in the year 2014. Out of these 168 cases were registered by them and 79 FIRs were filed with the police. This resulted in the recovery of 112 children.

Figure 3.1.1: District wise cases registered of missing children.



Source: A Brief Report on Missing Children Helpline (2014), Diya Seva Sansthan.

Recently another helpline was launched since October 2014 by Save the Children, India and UNICEF which is attached to the State Resource Centre, Government of Jharkhand. It remains to be seen if these recent initiatives will be effective in tracing Jharkhand's missing children.

3.2 Sectors of Exploitation:

Tribal women and girls account for the most of the trafficking victims and survivors of trafficking. They are mainly exploited for domestic labour, marriage and to brick kilns.

Migration of the tribal population from Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has been taking place since the last three centuries and more. During the period 1950 and 1980, tribal people migrated to the rural areas of Bihar, West Bengal mainly to work as agricultural labour, but from 1980 onwards, they started migrating to bigger cities like Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai (Society for Regional Research and Analysis (2010)). Also, migration of single women has increased.

These migrating women and girls are vulnerable to trafficking through placement agencies whose agents are spread across Jharkhand.

3.2.1 Domestic Labour through Placement agencies:

This is the most common sector where trafficked victims from Jharkhand are exploited. Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru are the most common destinations.

A number of placement agencies have come up in Jharkhand and Delhi that supply women and girls as domestic servants. While all this does not sound illegitimate, the situation on the ground is not as simple. Very often the trafficked women and girls end up working in conditions they may not have agreed to in the beginning. Cases of sexual abuse by the placement agency have been recorded by police. The agencies do not pay them and ensure that the employers pay the agencies instead of the employed person. Some even experience sexual abuse at the hands of the employers apart from physical abuse. Most of the trafficked are minors and are forced to work 12-14 hours a day. ATSEC (2010) also found that a mere one fourth of the trafficked were in contact with their families.

3.2.2 Bride Trafficking

Apart from the flourishing business of placement agencies in Delhi, women and girls from Jharkhand are also getting trafficked for marriage to Haryana and Punjab. Given the low sex ratio in these regions, trafficking women and girls from poverty stricken tribal villages of Jharkhand is turning out to be profitable for traffickers.

Minor girl sold for Rs 1 lakh to a man thrice her age for marriage in Punjab

15 years old Shanti (name changed) was rescued in a joint rescue operation of Jharkhand Police, Punjab Police and NGO Shakti Vahini in January, 2015 from Karoda village, Sangrur district in Punjab. The girl was allegedly trafficked from her village in Khunti for the purpose of forced marriage and was sold off for Rupees 1 lakh in the Karoda Village which is the land of Bhakra Nangal Dam. She was subjected to all kinds of slavery. Police arrested two source traffickers and two destination traffickers in the case. After a registration of an FIR at the AHTU Police Station, Khunti, the Police could apprehend the source traffickers and could learn that the child was sold off to a person in Karnal for rupees 80,000 along with two other girls. Accordingly, Shakti Vahini and Jharkhand Police planned out a rescue operation of the minor girl and after struggling for two days the team could rescue the child and also arrest two more traffickers who were involved in the case. The girl was sold off by one Mahima and her husband, a native of the same village to one Surrender in Kurukshetra who then further sold her off to one Ranvir Singh @ Nannu aged around 50 years for rupees 1 lakh. Police succeeded in arresting Surrender by letting Pradeep as a decoy customer who was asked to call the former for a deal.

Eight persons arrested for alleged Human Trafficking case in Jharkhand

Jharkhand Police succeeded in arresting eight persons in a case related to Human trafficking wherein the accused persons who belonged to Rewari district of Haryana came to Jharkhand to take away minor girls for the purpose of marriage. Haryana which is known for its skewed sex ratio, people from the state strive for brides and therefore bring young girls and women from different parts of the country. Traffickers of the state are in good link with the local people in Jharkhand who acts as the mediator in arranging brides for them. In this particular case too, the accused persons were in contact with a local woman in whose house the marriage with a minor girl was supposed to be held. The villagers found it suspicious and informed the police.

3.2.3 Brick Kilns

Cases have been reported of trafficking of men and boys to brick kilns in Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana & Jharkhand.

3.2.4 Sexual Exploitation

Although not recorded in high numbers in brothel based prostitution, women and girls from Jharkhand are forced into prostitution in unorganized and movable brothels (UNODC, 2013). Cases intervened by the Anti Trafficking organizations revealed that the victims of human Trafficking are also being exploited sexually by the placement agents and the employer as well in some of the cases.

3.2.5 Carpet Industry

Majority of the children working in the carpet sector, be it in Uttar Pradesh (UP) or in Jharkhand are migrant child labourers from Palamau and Garwa district in Jharkhand. These districts are the prime catchment area for child labourers, especially Garhwa. In any village in the district there is hardly a home where child labour does not exist. Estimates are that there are 11,000 children in Garhwa alone who are child labourers within the carpet industry (UNODC, 2013).

In one such case an 18 years old girl trafficked from Gumla Jharkhand was raped by the placement agent in Delhi and employed her in a house as domestic help. When the girl realized that she became pregnant the same was told to the employer. When the agent was called he took the girl from the employer's house and admitted the victim in a private hospital and left. In absence of any guardian the hospital authorities contacted the Anti Trafficking NGO, on pursuance of which later a case was registered and the accused was arrested. This is one among the many such cases.

Apart from these, trafficking for illegal adoption rackets and forced surrogacy have been reported recently⁴

3.2.6 Trafficking in the name of Orphanage:

The Godda district of Jharkhand witnessed trafficking of children in the name of Orphanage in Kerala for better education. The children in such cases are being sent by creating fake documents in their name and their ultimate fate is uncertain. In a recent case at least 120 children were trafficked to orphanage in Kerala. The children were among the 466 from West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand taken into protective custody by the Railway Protection Force in Palakkad, soon after they had got off trains enroute to orphanages in Kozhikode and Malappuram. Many of them were found to be returning to the orphanages after the summer vacation, but others, including the 186 above, were new children being brought by agents with the promise of enrolling them at the Mohammed Abdurahiman Memorial Orphanage at Mukkom in Kozhikode and Anwarul Huda Orphanage at Vettathoor in Malappuram. In Godda district, from where 216 children went this year alone to Mukkom. From three children six years ago, there are now more than 300 between 4-15 years of age from Godda at the Mukkom orphanage. Following a directive by the deputy commissioner to profile all such children, the Godda district administration has tracked down 171 of them.⁵

3.3 Push Factors and Pull Factors

Human trafficking is a result of interplay of multiple situational, social and personal factors that make the trafficked vulnerable to being trafficked. Traffickers are always on the lookout for this vulnerable population which is easier to lure into unsafe migration which results in their exploitation. Some of these factors that are specific to the state of Jharkhand are discussed below.

⁴ Roy Sourav, (2015, February 25), Trafficked tribal girls forced to conceive, deliver babies for sale, *Hindustan Times*, Lohardaga/ Gumla. Retrieved from <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tribal-girls-forced-to-conceive-deliver-babies-for-sale/article1-1320239.aspx> on 26th February, 2015.

⁵ Philip Shalu and Deepu Sebastian Edward, (2014, June 9), *Kerala to send children back, but in Jharkhand, few options*, Indian Express, Thiruvanthapuram/ Godda. Retrieved from <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/kerala-to-send-children-back-but-in-jharkhand-few-options/> on 23rd March, 2015.

As mentioned earlier, tribals account for the most of those trafficked. Tribals are also regular migrants. In recent years they have been migrating due to lack of employment, poverty, displacement, natural calamity and from internal conflict areas. These factors also force them to lose their traditional source of livelihood.

One such group of women was interviewed at a *chowk* (crossroad) in Ranchi. These women had to look for daily wage jobs as a *reja* (unskilled job at a construction site) after being displaced by a dam construction project. Some of their neighbours chose to go to bigger cities like Delhi for jobs through agents instead. Many of these end up in exploitative forced labour and domestic labour situations.

The traditional sources of income for tribals include agriculture. But due to lack of irrigation facilities this is not sustainable. Apart from that they gather firewood, work on bamboo items under livelihood programs, make local beer (*haria*). Because these are not sustainable many tribals migrate to cities through agents who exploit them.

Another push factor that came to light from various interviews was the lack of supervision by parents which is one reason minor girls become vulnerable to

trafficking. If parents are daily wage labourers and away from home the children are vulnerable to being approached by agents who may at times be from the same or neighbouring village. Anand (2013) has also found lack of family bonding as common fact in the lives of trafficking victims. This could also be because of the death of a parent.

The presence of Left-wing Extremists also increases vulnerability of mainly tribals to getting trafficked. One obvious reason for this is the difficulty in regular patrolling duties of the police that get hampered due to the presence of

64 minor victims rescued from seven placement agencies

In recent operation sixty four minor girls and boys were rescued in a joint rescue operation of CID Jharkhand headed by DSP, CID, Ranchi Range, Delhi Police, NGO Divya Sewa Sanstha and NGO Shakti Vahini from seven Placement Agencies operating in Delhi. The raid was planned from the tip of a reccee done in 24 placement agencies in Delhi jointly by Jharkhand CID team and Shakti Vahini. CID got the information regarding trafficking of children from Jharkhand by illegally run placement agencies in Delhi. Later the children's custody was given to the Jharkhand Police by the Child Welfare Committee.

extremists. There have also been recent cases of involvement of left-wing extremists in trafficking, by helping known traffickers in trafficking⁶.

Society for Regional Research and Analysis (2010) interviewed tribal women from Simdega and Gumla who had migrated in search of employment. The reasons that force migration often coincide with the causes of trafficking. The main reasons being unemployment, poverty, lack of basic facilities of education, health and hygiene for they being willing to migrate, mostly through agents or neighbours. The tribal families are not able to meet their basic needs out of their meagre income from their occupations and are heavily indebted to the money lenders. They are pledging their fixed assets like land, mahua and tamarind trees and mobile articles for meeting their daily expenses and occasional functions.

On the pull side, a major factor is the demand for domestic labour in metropolitan cities. The demand is also for younger maids who can be made to work as per the whims and fancies of the employers. The fancy lifestyle that is promised by the source traffickers is also attractive to girls who blindly believe their promises.

Poor sex ration in states of Punjab and Haryana is another pull factor for trafficking of women and girls for marriage.

New Routes of Trafficking:

The traffickers in recent times have developed a new trend to traffick children. They now prefer to take children from Chattisgarh's tribal belt to Jharkhand and then to Delhi. The traffickers in Delhi are well connected with the source traffickers of both the states. In recent times the AHTU of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand both were in Delhi on their respective raids. Both the teams were assisted by the Shakti Vahini team. After investigation it was revealed that one Guddu was wanted to both the teams. The traffickers are using the routes from Jashpur to Khunti and then to Delhi. In a recent case children belonging to Chhattisgarh were rescued in Jharkhand. After investigation it was revealed that the children were brought to Khunti and supposed to take more children from Jharkhand and all of them were supposed to be brought to Delhi via Ranchi to a Delhi based placement agency. This case highlights that there is an urgent need of interstate NGO-Police coordination to fight the menace.

⁶ Kislaya Kelly, (2014, August 18), Trafficking kingpin reveals nexus with politicians, PLFI, *Times of India*, Ranchi. Retrieved from <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/Trafficking-kingpin-reveals-nexus-with-politicians-PLFI/articleshow/40376651.cms> on 24th February, 2015.

3.4 Trafficking Routes

Most of the trafficking from Jharkhand happens through the railways. From their villages traffickers get the victims to main railway stations of the district. One of these is Ranchi railway station and the Jharkhand Samrark Kranti Express that originates from here has been dubbed as the 'slavery express'⁷. This train is a popular option for traffickers taking persons from Jharkhand to Delhi. It is preferred as it leaves Ranchi late in the night when vigilance is low. It also goes through various districts of Jharkhand before entering Uttar Pradesh and proceeding towards Delhi. These halts within Jharkhand are all in the night. Another popularly used train that travels extensively through Jharkhand before proceeding further is the Swarn Jayanti Express.

For bride trafficking to Haryana and Punjab, Delhi is being used as the transit point. In most of the cases the girls are being brought and kept in Delhi in the illegally run placement agencies for some days and they are transferred to the destination villages of Haryana and Punjab.

In this section some of these routes and railway stations will be highlighted.

Table 3.4.1: Trafficking routes

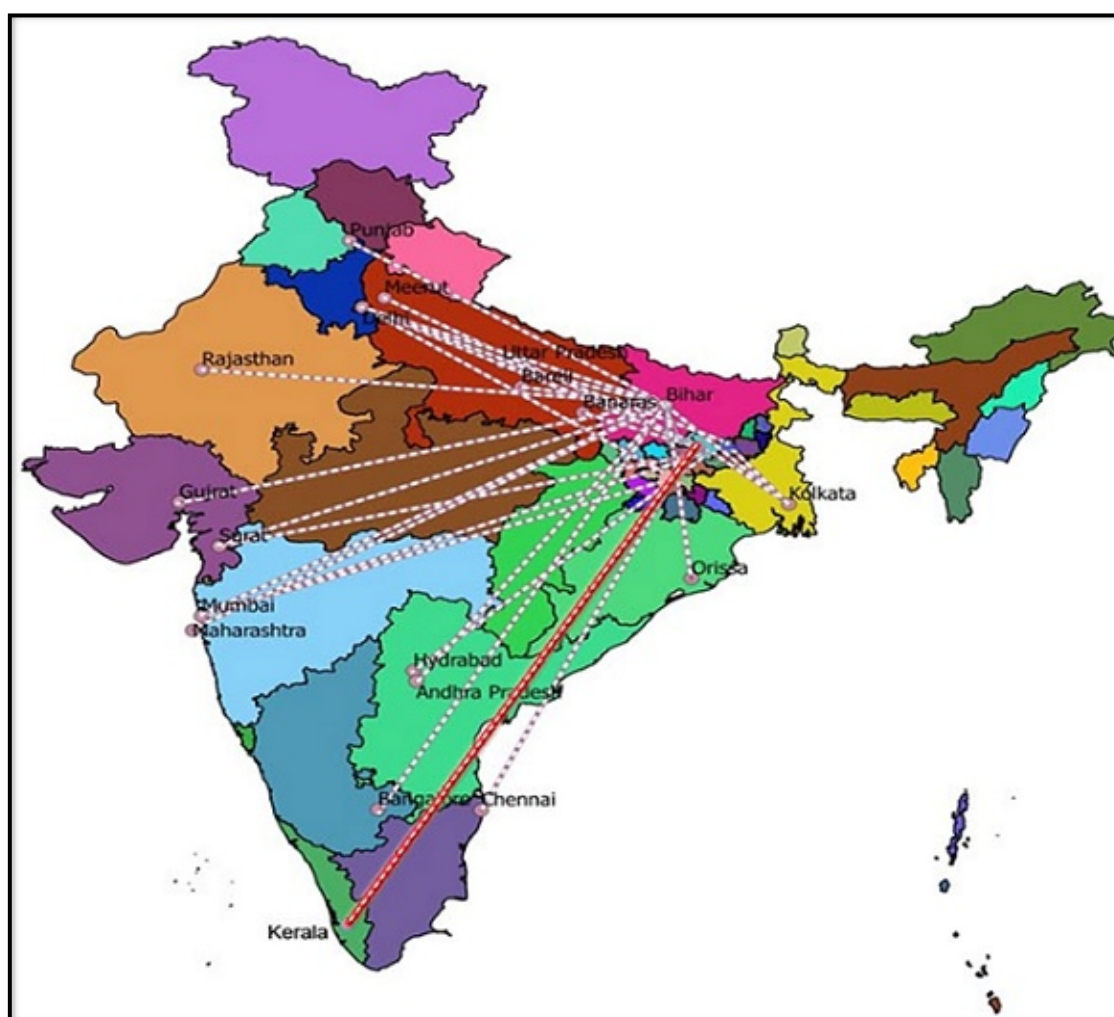
Sr. No.	Source District for Trafficking	Railway Stations used for trafficking (within the district or in the adjoining districts)
1	Palamu	Daltonganj
2	Dumka	Dumka
3	Pakaur	Pakaur, Dhanbad
4	Ranchi	Hatia, Ranchi, Mori, Barkakhana, Bhurkunda, Daltonganj, Latehar
5	Latehar	Latehar, Daltonganj, Ranchi
6	Lohardaga	Ranchi, Hatia, Barkakhana, Latehar, Daltonganj
7	Gumla	Rourkela (Odisha), Bano, Ranchi Hatia, Latehar, Daltonganj
8	Simdega	Rourkela (Odisha), Raipur

⁷ Manish Sai, (2015, January 23), Poor policing lets slave traders off the hook, *Daily News & Analysis*, Ranchi. Retrieved from <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-poor-policing-lets-slave-traders-off-the-hook-2054885> on 5th February, 2015.

		(Chhattisgarh), Hatia, Ranchi
9	Chaibasa	Rourkela (Odisha), Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Chakradharpur
10	Sahibganj	Sahibganj, Bhagalpur (Bihar)
11	Khunti	Bano, Pakra, Karra, Rourkela (Odisha), Ranchi, Hatia, Mori, Barkakhana, Bhurkunda, Latehar, Daltonganj

Source: Interviews with NGO personnel and police officers

Figure 3.4.1: Routes for trafficking from Jharkhand



Source: SN Pradhan, ADG, CID Jharkhand, Presentation on Human Trafficking Scenario, Jharkhand

Depending on the purpose of trafficking the destination sector varies. For domestic labour it is mainly Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru. For forced marriage it is Punjab and Haryana. For trafficking to brick kilns it is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and recently Tripura.

3.5 Modus Operandi

The process of trafficking starts with the source trafficker approaching a potential victim based on the various vulnerabilities. Through interviews with various stakeholders including rescued girls it was clear that weekly *haats* (markets) or *melas* (fairs) were popular locations for traffickers to approach potential victims. Many a times the traffickers lure potential victims to these fairs and markets on the pretext of buying them gifts and then take them to bigger cities⁸. Local buses are another point of contact for traffickers and potential victims.

Another point of contact that has been observed during the course of field work is the *chowks* crossroads in Ranchi where men and women and even girls gather every morning in search of work.

Everyday men and women from in and around Ranchi gather at 8-10 *chowks* (crossroads) in search for work. One of these *chowks* is Lalpur. They are mostly employed in the construction industry in Ranchi. While the men get employed as skilled labour (*mistry/ raj mistry*), the women and girls are unskilled (*reja*). This also makes a difference in their daily wages. While the men earn Rs. 450/- per day, the women earn Rs. 250/- for the same amount of hours of labour put in. Some of these women who stand at the *chowks* for work had returned from Delhi after a stint as domestic helps, some others knew women and girls who had been to Delhi for work, some knew agents who take girls. These *chowks* are also now becoming recruitment centers for agents who lure women and girls to Delhi for work. A lot of these women were from Getalsud whose families have been displaced generations back after a dam was built there to supply water to Ranchi. Their lands lay submerged and can be cultivated only when the water recedes. This forces them to look for jobs elsewhere and makes them vulnerable to trafficking. Recruitment agents take advantage of such situation.

Traffickers also approach girls on their way back from school. Some of the stakeholders interviewed claimed that they have rescued girls at railway stations in their school uniforms.

While there are cases of girls being lured without the knowledge of their family members, at times the family members also willingly send their children with 'agents' to find work in bigger cities. The agents might promise them some

⁸ Pandit Ambika, (2014, July 21), Jharkhand haats, melas hotbeds for traffickers, Times of India, Ranchi. Retrieved from <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Jharkhand-haats-melas-hotbeds-of-traffickers/articleshow/38769452.cms> on 25th February, 2015.

salary but this never reaches the family and the job may end up being worse than what was promised. It is only months later that the families realize that the whereabouts of their children are unknown and neither can the agent be traced.

Image: Women waiting for work at Lalpur Chowk, Ranchi



Investigations of an AHTU also found that once victims reach the placement agency in a metropolitan city the ages and names of the girls are changed. Minors are shown to be majors on their employment documents.

Once the children are taken to the placement agencies in Delhi, the agency owner look for the suitable employer. The agent get the Domestic Servant/Employee verification form signed by the police station of the area where the agency is located irrespective of the police station under which jurisdiction the victim is employed. The placement agent does an agreement of 11 months with the employer with the condition that if the employer wants to continue with the same maid there will be a new contract signed. The agency takes Rs.25000 to Rs30000/- as the commission from the employer along with the advance of two months wage which varies from Rs.2000/- to Rs.3000/-. This amount hardly reaches to the victims' family. In spite of this every month the agent collects the wages of the maid from the employer. In most of the cases the agent take the victim from the employers' house after the completion of the agreement period and employ the same child to another employer and collect the commission again. While collecting money the agents get a voucher signed by the agency owner introducing himself/herself as the relative of the victim. Apart from this the employers are asked not to directly pay to the servant but the agency makes arrangements to collect their salaries every month. This money is rarely, if ever given to the domestic servants. The agents also use this money to blackmailing them to traffic more women and girls from their villages.

4. State Government Initiative

The Jharkhand government has of late taken a lot of initiatives but most of them remain on paper and are poorly implemented. Though the State Advisory Committee on trafficking was set up, the same has not been functioning. The Jharkhand State has formulated a state action plan to combat human trafficking but this has not been implemented so far. This section briefly glances upon some initiatives.

Table 4.1: Some important government notifications in brief

Sr. No	Notification No.	Gist of notification
1	11-43/2011 (5818) Home Department	<p>This notification deals with all aspects of trafficking from prevention to rescue to rehabilitation. This is in pursuance of various Writ petitions filed in the Jharkhand High Court and the orders thus passed. It has segregated the duties of various departments (police, social welfare, women and child development, health, education, labour, rural development) that are expected to work in coordination with each other. These departments have to form a committee in each district headed by a nodal officer to overlook their functioning. The police is expected to take prompt action in cases of human trafficking.</p> <p>With regards to prevention it makes it the responsibility various departments to spread awareness about trafficking through the <i>sarpanch</i> of the village, news papers, street plays. The labour department is to maintain a register of migrating workers and keep an eye on placement agencies. Education officers are to inform about drop outs. Employment opportunities are to be created for unemployed women. With regards to rescue immediate action is expected, FIRs to be filed, perpetrators punished. Rescued are to be carried out even outside the state. All care of lodging and boarding of such a team has to be taken care of by the welfare department. It has to be ensured that the rescued receive proper medical aid, counselling, legal advice from doctors, NGOs and JHALSA respectively. Shelter homes are to be functioning for their welfare. In terms of rehabilitation, education, hostels and scholarships are to be provided. Technical education and loans made available to the survivors of trafficking to start their own businesses. Shelter homes have to house orphans and abandoned and take care of their education</p>
2	1-81/ 2010 (3735) Home	This deals with compensation for various crimes u/s 357A of CrPC. This compensation for women and child victims of human trafficking stands at Rs.

	Department	10,000/-.
3	7-2/ 2009 (917) Home Department	This notifies the setting up of Special Juvenile Police Units in all 24 districts of Jharkhand. The Superintendant of Police of each district is to head this unit.
4	8-2/ 2011 (696) Home Department	This order relates to appointment of officers as Special Police Officers (SPO) u/s 13 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. As per the order all districts of Jharkhand have a SPO.

Table 4.2: Initiatives by Jharkhand State to Combat Human Trafficking

Sr. No.	Initiative	Presence number in of Districts	Names of Districts (if not in all districts)
1	Anti Human Trafficking Units (Police)	Eight	Dumka, Khunti, Simdega, Gumla, West Singhbhum/Chaibasa, Ranchi, Lohardaga, Palamu
2	Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)	All 24	-
3	District Child Protection Units (DCPU) under ICPS	All 24	-
4	CHILDLINE	Five	Ranchi, Chaibasa/ West Singhbhum, Dhanbad, Deogarh, Pakur
5	Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society	Eleven	Garhwa, Chatra, Giridih, Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur, Ranchi, Khunti, West Singhbhum, Saraikela Kharsawan, East Singhbhum
6	Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)	All 24	-
7	Shelter Homes	Under ICPS- 10	Hazaribag, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Gumla, Simdega, Ranchi, Deogarh, West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum, Dumka
		Specialized Adoption Agencies- 3	Bokaro, Ranchi Khunti
		Homes for children with Special Needs-	Bokaro, Dhanbad, Hazaribag (Govt.) Jamtara, Ramgarh, Chaibasa (NGOs)

		Shelter Homes run by NGOs- 7	Jamshedpur, Hazaribag, Jamtara, Khunti, Simdega, Koderma, Palamu
		Swadhar Homes- 1	Bokaro
8	Mahila Thana (All Women Police Station)	All 24	-

While appointments have been made under all these, various units like the women police stations and the AHTUs function without proper infrastructure. Instead of appointing police officers specially for this specific task, officers have to work under AHTU while handling their regular police station level duties. Due to this they cannot completely dedicate themselves to the issue of human trafficking. There is also a need for training of constabulary level staff of AHTUs and women police stations.

Child Protection Systems

Jharkhand has appointed Child Welfare Committee in all districts. Child Protection officers and Child Protection units have also been created. Though the implementation of the ICPS has been slow since 2010 but in the last two years the Government has fast tracked it. Training and Sensitization of Child Protection mechanisms continues to be a area of concern.

Child Welfare Committees were also seen to be working without basic infrastructure. There is a need for proper training of CWC members and also to ensure regular sittings of the CWCs.

It is important to discuss some initiatives in details here. These initiatives mainly deal with prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of survivors.

Inhumane Torture: State Government extends support.

Rosy (name changed), a resident of Sahibganj, Jharkhand was employed as a domestic maid in Delhi since four years from the day she was rescued in a joint intervention of Delhi police, Delhi Commission for Women and Shakti Vahini. At the time of rescue the girl was found in a terrible condition with both her ears swollen, her body bearing deep gashes and several injuries and also a deeply injured scalp. According to the medical report, she was being physically abused by her owner causing multiple injuries by hitting her with sticks, brooms, knives and hot pans. She had to undergo plastic surgery in the Safdar Jung hospital, Delhi. After all the legal procedure she was restored to her family in Jharkhand. The Govt. of Jharkhand admitted the girl in a residential school-cum-rehabilitation facility in Khutti under a central government sponsored Mahila Samakhya Project with a motive to provide a better life to the child. In an interview the girl also put forth her desire to return back to Delhi as a teacher to provide education to children. The case is now under trail in Delhi court.

a) Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society

Mahila Samakhya is an initiative by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. It is presently operating in 10 states. The Jharkhand Chapter started in undivided Bihar but has continued ever since in Jharkhand since the state came into existence in 2000. While it started as 'Education for all' it has expanded to include various programs for empowerment of women and girls. The Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society (JMSS) is responsible for implementing the Mahila Samakhya program in Jharkhand.

The empowerment of women begins with forming a *Sangha* (group) of 15-20 women. Under JMSS at present there are three types of *sanghas*- women *sangha*, *kishori sangha* (girls' group for adolescent girls), *kishore sangha* (boys' group for adolescent boys). These groups play an important role in implementation of programs at the grass root level. These work with local groups to solve issues within the community. These groups help women and girls become aware of their rights, access banks, register children to schools reducing the dropout rate, various health camps. They also encourage participation of women in local governance by participating in various committees.

Jharkhand Bhawan, Delhi: A ray of Hope for the Trafficked Victims and their Family:

The Jharkhand Bhawan in Delhi has been playing a vital role in the fight against human Trafficking. The victims' family living in the far flung villages of Jharkhand are not in a position to afford to come long way to Delhi to get their child rescued. NGO Shakti Vahini has partnered with the Jharkhand Bhawan for cheap and safe accommodation to the victim's family during the rescue and the court trial. There are instances, the district administration in Jharkhand districts has taken proactive role in bearing the travel cost of the victims for court trail. In a recent case the Deputy Commissioner of Sahebganj District took the responsibility in sending a victim to Delhi court by flight and arranged her accommodation in Jharkhand Bhawan. The police team coming for the rescue operation in Delhi now finds it more comfortable to work in the outstation areas. The officials of Jharkhand Bhawan have been helping especially the tribal victims by translating their statement during court deposition. In addition, the Resident Commissioner of Jharkhand Bhawan has also been playing proactive roles by providing vehicle to the victim for local court appearance.

JMSS also has a functional State Gender Resource Centre for documentation, research, capacity building, developing training modules and IEC material.

Apart from this JMSS has initiatives relating to education. One is of Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSK). These are residential bridge schools for women and

girls. These are 11 months courses that enable them to join formal schooling system from class 5. Apart from education they are also given life skills training, self defence and computer education. Most women and girls enrolled in these schools are survivors of domestic violence of trafficking. After achieving a competent level to join formal school, these girls are either transferred to an upgraded MSK till class 8 or to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalayas (KGBV) which are residential formal schools till class 12 run by the government for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and minorities. Along with these Jagjagi Centres are run for non-formal education through the various *sanghas*.

Partnership with National Commission for Scheduled Tribe

In the recent past National Commission for Scheduled Tribe have come out to extend its full support in matter to trafficking cases and violence against the minority groups belonging to various places of the State mainly Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. With a growing partnership with stakeholders in the capital, the Commission has been playing an important role in investigating matters related to trafficking and ostracization of the tribal communities in the city. During the recent times lot of cases have come into for the where young girls and women trafficked from States like Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal a placed as domestic maids at various households in the city and the NCRs were found dead at their employers' houses. In the matter of such cases the Commission has played an active role in directing the Police Department to conduct intensive investigation in such cases. The commission also wrote letters to the Governor of Delhi citing the issue as an major problem.

For economic empowerment of women and to make women self sufficient JMSS encourage women to engage in activities like dairy production, agriculture, tailoring, jute craft etc. JMSS arranges for training for the women through the government or NGOs and then they are facilitated to get bank loans to start collectives for income generation. Under legal awareness JMSS conducts legal camps, *Nari Adalats*.

These initiatives may not target direct victims of trafficking but their general target group is of women and girls who may find themselves in vulnerable situations to trafficking. These initiatives go a long way in reducing this vulnerability. An initiative directly targeting this group is an initiative named 'Voice Against Trafficking'. Under this initiative awareness is spread across villages about illegal placement agencies through use of IEC material, street plays, rallies and meetings.

b) Various Other Livelihood Programme

An exhaustive list of various government livelihood initiatives is beyond the scope of this report. But to name a few are NREGA- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Aajeevika- National Rural Livelihoods Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Mission for Empowerment of Women and National

Skill Development Corporation – which provide technical and/or financial assistance to different Government and non-Government agencies and organisations that further help specific target groups to access livelihoods through training and other means of support. Jharkhand Tribal Development Programme under the Jharkhand Tribal Development Society is one such programme. While evaluating each is also beyond the scope of this research, it is clear from the magnitude of trafficking that more needs to be done, the programmes need to be better implemented.

4.1 Police Intervention

From the statistics discussed earlier, it is clear that the police force in Jharkhand is now a lot more active in curbing human trafficking than it was a few years back. It has been acknowledging human trafficking and filing cases. But these cases only remain the tip of the iceberg. A lot more needs to be done. Jharkhand has a Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act in all of its 24 districts. It has also established Anti Human Trafficking Units in 8 districts.

Table: 4.1.1: Some important orders relating to police interventions in human trafficking cases

Sr. No.	Order/ Notification	Gist of order
1	57/13	This order was passed in furtherance of a landmark judgment regarding the issue of missing children in India, WP 75/2012 Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India. It orders police officers to record FIRs in cases of complaints of missing children treating them as abducted or trafficked. It also requires the police to record and upload all information about the missing child on trackingthemissingchild.gov.in and also circulate it in newspapers and the Missing Persons Bureau. It orders police to not send a child directly to a shelter home before the orders of the CWC.
2	1648/13	This order relates to requirement of police stations to fulfill a 21 point criteria (appointment of Child Welfare Officer, separate room to interview the child in the premises of the police station, etc) to be designated as a child friendly police station.
3	264/14	This pertains to immediate action in human trafficking cases. It orders police to maintain a record of all places in the vicinity where traffickers approach potential victims, maintain a list of agents and placement agencies. It also expects the police to work in coordination with NGOs, local governments, SJPU. It requires quick investigation and charge sheeting in human trafficking cases,

		immediate action in cases of missing children It especially orders the police to ensure care and protection to orphans and abandoned children found in their jurisdiction.
4	274/13	This order, by CID Jharkhand is the same as 11-43/2011 (5818) of the Home Department
5	697/11	This order was in furtherance of a meeting by nodal officers. It stresses on better documentation of complaints of missing children. This order also requires the police to look after victim and witness protection, video conferencing and protect them from re trafficking and thoroughly investigate cases of trafficking and re trafficking.
6	696/11	As per the direction of the Home Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, CID, Jharkhand one Special Police Officer has been deputed in every district under Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956.

To sensitize the police officers the copies of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 and the order of the Supreme Court order in the matter of Bachpan Bachao Andolon Vs Union of India regarding the mandatory registration of FIR in the case of missing children have been distributed.

In the matter of Gopinath Ghosh Vs The State of Jharkhand vide Writ Petition no. 1555 of 2013 in the High Court of Jharkhand, the court has directed the Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Jharkhand to investigate the role of 181 placement agencies allegedly involved in Trafficking of Women and Children.

An important order along with these is the Advisory on Human Trafficking as Organized Crime (15011/27/2011-ATC) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, dated 30th April, 2012. It is a comprehensive advisory. It requires there to be sufficient infrastructure to combat human trafficking- AHTUs, Special Police Officers, Local Intelligence Units, Helplines, SOPs and sensitizations of all the units. It covers all the important procedures to be followed, evidence to be collected as source, transit and destination. It also sheds light on money laundering and confiscation of property under various Indian laws in cases of human trafficking.

Police along with NGOs based mainly in Ranchi regularly rescue minors from railways stations even before they are sent out of the state. Since the amendment in section 370 of IPC which now defines trafficking, filing of FIRs has become easier.

Anti Human Trafficking Units:

Not every AHTU has been as sensitive to the crime of human trafficking due to the lack of training, poor infrastructure and staff shortage among other things. While Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, Jharkhand State Legal Service

Authority and Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights have initiated various steps to combat the issue of human Trafficking a lot more needs to be done given the fact that Jharkhand has now emerged as a main source area for Trafficking of women and children.

Table 4.1.2: Helpline numbers related to women and children in Jharkhand

Name of Helpline	Number
Police Helpline	100
CHILDLINE India	1098
Missing Child Helpline (Jharkhand- CID and DSS)	09471300008
Missing Children Helpline (STCI and UNICEF)	18002002325
Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights	09939372800
Women Helpline (Jharkhand)	09431700003
e-Rahat	1967
Women and Children Cell (Jharkhand)	09771432145
Anti-Human Trafficking (Jharkhand)	18003456531
Jharkhand State Child Protection Society	0651-3059999
Directorate of Social Welfare (Jharkhand)	0651-2400749
Jharkhand State Women Commission	0651-2401849
Jharkhand State Human Rights Commission	0651-2401181

Source: Diya Seva Sansthan, Jharkhand

Jharkhand AHTU Busted Inter-state Trafficking Racket:

The hide and seek of Panna Lal and his wife came to an end on 19th October, 2014 with their arrest by Crime Branch Delhi and Jharkhand Anti-human Trafficking Unit under various charges from Shakurpur area of Delhi. In a week long operation in Delhi by AHTU Khunti and NGO Shakti Vahini the team successfully built the informers' network. On the day Panna Lal was arrested the police was tipped off by one such informer about his whereabouts. The AHTU Khunti team immediately contacted its counterpart in Delhi who arrested the duo from their residence in Shakurpur. Both Panna Lal and his wife were wanted in several cases of Trafficking in Jharkhand. It was reported that they were running more than 200 illegal placement agencies with different names in Delhi whereby they were bringing minor girls from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and used to force them for domestic slavery.

5. NGO Initiatives

To counter a crime like human trafficking only the government's initiatives are not going to be enough. Be it rescues, rehabilitation or prevention NGOs play a major role in tackling human trafficking. This report would be incomplete without highlighting their contribution.

5.1 Bharatiya Kisan Sangh

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh is an organization working in Jharkhand since the last twelve years in the field of Anti Trafficking, Child Rights and Women Rights. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh is also the secretariat organization for ATSEC Jharkhand which has undertaken pioneering work in the field of Human trafficking. The Government of Jharkhand deeply concerned with the exploitation of victims from its state has supported Bharatiya Kisan Sangh to run a women and child helpline based at New Delhi. The helpline reaches out to children rescued in Delhi and repatriates them to Jharkhand (UNODC, 2013).

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh runs a shelter home for girls in Chanhua Village, Ranchi. The shelter home housed 20 women and girls at the time of visit for this research. Of the 20 only 2 were there on orders of the CWC. The rest 18, 17 of whom were adults were there to be trained for three months to become security guards in collaboration with CRPF. These 18 were called there through advertisements in villages affected by left wing extremism through their BDOs. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh also provides training for housekeeping in hotels and through placements their trained women and girls are being absorbed into the hotel industry in Ranchi. Security guards from BKS are seen at their offices, shelter homes, even in KGBVs across Jharkhand and in many hotels in Ranchi. This is a great initiative not only for rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking but also for prevention of trafficking of tribals and re-trafficking of survivors.

5.2 Diya Seva Sansthan

Diya Seva Sansthan has emerged as a strong voice against Human Trafficking that works round the clock for rescue of children from in and around Ranchi. In coordination with the state CID it started a helpline for complaints regarding missing children in October 2013. It has played an active role in the recent arrests of trafficking kingpins. Diya Seva Sansthan has taken great efforts to come up with a list of 240 placement agencies and 35 trafficking kingpins to the state CID. Some recent arrests have been a result of the same. A Writ Petition 1555/2013 in the Jharkhand High Court also pertains to this same list. 14 of these 35 have been arrested to date, the latest being Sunita Tigga who was also trafficking women and girls under the guise of a NGO names Sewa Bharati⁹.

⁹ Mukesh ASRP, (2015, 7th February), Woman trafficker caught with minor girls. *The Telegraph*, Ranchi. Retrieved from http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150207/jsp/jharkhand/story_1908.jsp#.VPcwK_mUeVY on 3rd March, 2015

YUWA- Uses Football To Empower Girls In India

"Let's put every girl's future into her own hands." With an objective of empowering young tribal girls belonging to Jharkhand to combat child marriage and human trafficking through team sport and education, YUWA uses football as a mechanism to empower girls in the poorest of communities in Jharkhand. YUWA believes that Football is simple, safe and inexpensive – an extraordinarily powerful platform to bring girls out of isolation and into a positive team environment. YUWA Football teams comprises of 10-15 players where the girls practice for six days a week, and are coached by senior Yuwa players. In July 18 tribal girls representing YUWA India under-14 brought accolades to the country by participating in two international football tournaments held in Spain. The team won a bronze medal at the Gasteiz Cup, an international tournament for school-age children. Earlier during the Donosti Cup, Spain's biggest football tournament for school-going children, the girls made it to quarter finals from among 36 international teams. The achievement also help them grab the Amazing Indians award, an honor to recognize those people "who have risen out of their ordinary, work-a-day lives, overcome adversities, and achieved the unthinkable..." Among the winners included the founder and Executive Director of Yuwa-India, Franz Gastler, who got the 'Indian at Heart' award for training the tribal girls in football in Jharkhand.

Spreading Awareness through Mass Media:

The role of Mass Media especially in vernacular language has been educating the people on the issue of human Trafficking. Shakti Vahini has been working in partnership with the mass media and doing continuous advocacy with the media houses for creating awareness among the masses. The National Media Coalition is a group of 700 journalists across the country. The right based reporting of the issue in the vernacular media drew the attention of many parents to approach Shakti Vahini with the messages of human trafficking cases. Acting on the new reports of a child labourer rescue operation the Government of Delhi passed an order asking all the placement agencies to register in the local police stations. Similarly Diya Seva Sansthan has also worked in partnership with media in Jharkhand. Due to the sensitive media coverage the menace of human Trafficking is a big concern to discuss in the State Assembly.

6. Judicial Intervention

The Supreme Court as well as the Jharkhand High Court have been playing a very proactive role in ensuring that the state acts on cases of human trafficking. This section discusses some landmark cases of both the courts in brief.

Table 6.1: Some important court cases relating to human trafficking

Sr. No.	Case Number	Court	Case details and important orders in brief
1	WP 75/2012, Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India	Supreme Court of India	This is a landmark case dealing with the problem of missing children in India. On 10 th May, 2013 the Supreme Court ordered the police to file a FIR in every case of a missing child apart from other measures of strengthening the juvenile justice mechanism. The Jharkhand Government as well as the CID have passed orders in pursuance of this order.
2	WP 82/2009, Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India	Supreme Court of India	This petition highlighted the plight of children from various parts of the country trafficked to Delhi, especially through placement agencies for domestic labour. The Supreme Court ordered for the registration and then regulation of placement agencies. In pursuance of this the Delhi Government passed an order on 25 th September, 2014 issuing directions for the regulation of placement agencies in Delhi. This requires a domestic worker to be above the age of 18 years. All placement agencies are to register with the Labour Department under the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act, 1954 and then also apply for a license to run a placement agency. An important provision under this order is of opening bank accounts for the domestic workers where their salary will be deposited.
3	WP 6823/2011, Susanna Kispotta v. State of Jharkhand and Ors. WP 397/2010, Sunil Chandra Modi v. State of Jharkhand and	High Court of Jharkhand	All these four petitions deal with missing children, trafficked children, their recovery not only from Jharkhand but also from other states. In pursuance of the orders in this case the government of Jharkhand has passed orders for prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of trafficking victims. 11-43/2011 (5818) by the Home Department and 274/13 by the CID,

	Ors. WP 6824/ 2011, Baliram Paswan and Ors v. State of Jharkhand and Ors WP 1555/ 2013, Gopinath Ghosh v. State of Jharkhand and Ors.		Jharkhand are the two orders that look into this matter.
4	WP 139/2011, Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. State of Jharkhand and Ors.	High Court of Jharkhand	This petition dealt with the paucity of shelter homes in the state of Jharkhand. The court directed for constitution of Child Welfare Committees, Children's Homes, Shelter Homes, etc. Jharkhand State Action Plan For Elimination Of Child Labour formulated in pursuance of this order.

Jharcraft: An initiative of Govt. of Jharkhand to promote silk textiles and handicraft development. With the mission of "Creating Opportunities and Changing Lives", Jharcraft is viewed as the supporting unit to the state, contributing maximum to its social, economical, and cultural uplift, rise and growth. Recently the Jharcraft plans skill training for victims of human Trafficking, which is a welcome step. The NGO should partner with the Jharcraft to enrol the victims of human Trafficking for skill training.

7. Recommendations

Trafficking from Jharkhand, as has been established affects mostly tribals. Poverty, unemployment, left-wing extremism, displacement are the causes for it. Keeping in mind these factors the following recommendations are give

7.1 Dealing with missing children

From the report it is clear that the court judgments regarding missing children are not being followed. There is an immediate need for change in this regard. The police force needs to be sensitized to realise the alarming situation the state is faced with. Sensitization of police officers has to be a regular and repetitive activity. They also need to be made aware of their obligations with reference to court judgments and government orders.

Family members may not be aware of the criminal justice system and their legal options if a child goes missing. In such circumstances school teachers need to be sensitized to probe every school drop out to rule out trafficking and report the case to the police if required. Teachers can also be of great help in nabbing traffickers who approach girls on their way back from schools.

7.2 Child Protection Committees

These are to be formed under the District Child Protection Units under ICPS. UNICEF has identified best practice for the formation of these committees to organize communities to protect children beginning with awareness . While DCPUs have been established in all districts of Jharkhand they remain ineffective. Hence at this stage it may be helpful to glance at the guideline by UNICEF. To begin with, grass root government mechanisms as well as NGOs need to be identified. Next it is important to survey the situation of children, share the findings, train volunteers, form children's, adolescent girls' groups and youth groups. After this is the step of informing the government officers and forming the Child Protection Committee (CPCs) at the village and the block levels. The CPCs should include school representatives, *anganwadi* workers, people who are directly involved in and concerned about the affairs of the community. The CPC members then need to be trained about child rights, interventions in case of violations. During all this the existing government departments and the CPC have to work in coordination.

7.3 Livelihood Programs

On the prevention side, there is a need to have sustainable livelihood programmes, especially for women and girls who are more vulnerable to trafficking. These will prevent women and girls from putting themselves in vulnerable situations and agreeing to unsafe migration through agents/

traffickers. Training in sustainable agriculture practices is the other need of the hour.

7.4 Coordination between different departments for holistic rehabilitation

Rescue is only the first step to complete rehabilitation which is a much longer process. Various government departments like Women and Child Development, Social Welfare, Labour, Education, Health etc. need to work together to chalk out individualized plans for rehabilitations and then also work together to ensure the proper implementation of the plans. An important aspect of rehabilitation that needs to be tackled with is the paucity of shelter homes in Jharkhand especially when compared to the magnitude of trafficking. There is an overall need to strengthen child protection mechanism within the state which includes police, Child welfare committees, DCPUs etc.

7.5 Awareness

Awareness campaigns cannot only focus of the negative effects of migrating. The awareness campaigns should rather make the target population aware of the legal mechanisms in case they find themselves in trouble. They should be provided with helpline numbers. They and their families should be made aware of the need of maintaining contact.

7.6 Improvement in infrastructure

Many departments in Jharkhand are presently working with poor infrastructure. Lack of space, vehicles and dedicated staff are a problem AHTUs are facing. CWCs also lack basic infrastructure and office equipments.

7.7 Need for a Law to regulate placement agencies

Given the magnitude of trafficking of mainly women and girls through placement agencies and also the freedom with which these agencies operate, there is an urgent need for the state of Jharkhand to pass a law to regulate these agencies. At present they are taking full advantage of this legal lacunae. The Delhi Government passed an order on 25th September, 2014 realising this urgency for the regulation of placement agencies in Delhi. It requires a domestic worker to be above the age of 18 years. All placement agencies are to register with the Labour Department under the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act, 1954 and then also apply for a license to run a placement agency. It also has provisions for opening bank accounts for domestic workers and giving them control of the accounts where their salaries will be deposited.

The state of Chhatisgarh also realising the importance of such law passed one back in 2013 (The Chhatisgarh Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2013). This Act appoints an officer not below Sub-Divisional magistrate as the controlling authority. Placement agencies apart from having to register cannot provide work to anyone below 18 years of age, cannot charge any amount for

providing work. This Act also heavy fines upto Rs. 1 lakh for violation of provisions.

The State of Jharkhand will definitely help from a law on similar lines to ensure that the menace of placement agencies is curbed.

7.8 Training and sensitization of Law Enforcement , Child Protection Personnel

During the course of data collection it became clear that there is no mechanism for regular training of law enforcement and child protection personnel. Although there is an occasional workshop or training session by JHALSA, UNICEF, there is a need to do a lot more. Constabulary of the police is quite often left out of training and sensitization programs. A need was also felt to train and update Child Welfare Committees, AHTUs about latest court judgments and developments. These programs need to be held regularly, to include staff across all levels. Training and sensitization programs for various stakeholders under one roof can also help provide a common platform for the stakeholders to discuss and resolve issues to ensure smooth functioning of the entire protection system.

7.9 Strengthening Track Child Initiative in Jharkhand

The Track Child initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India under ICPS is another initiative in the right direction, but which needs to be strengthened in Jharkhand. Under this initiative a website (<http://www.trackthemissingchild.gov.in/>) has been formed to share information about missing and found children. It also provides for all details of concerned personnel within the child protection mechanism, police, CWCs, DCPUs, shelter homes etc. While this is a great initiative it requires strengthening, regular updating of information and training of personnel to do so. This initiative requires strengthening not only in Jharkhand but across the country to help provide care and protection to children.

7.10 Strengthening systems for safe migration

With there being lack of education, employment and a vulnerable population to trafficking, safe migration practices need to be stressed to prevent trafficking. Apart from a law for regulating placement agencies, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 needs to be implemented to protect workers from any exploitation from contractors and employers, regular payment of at least minimum wages. Apart from this migrating workers need to be made aware of their rights before migrating, the wages they should be demanding. They need to be provided with helpline contacts in case of any need. Police and helpline providers need to be vigilant at transit points like railway stations and bus stops where traffickers lure potential victims.

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Trafficking of Tribal Girls

Case Studies

1. Fifteen Years Old Died in Employers House, Family Compensated by Rs.3.5 Lac by Uttar Pradesh Government

Kumari Lalita (named changed) a resident of Lohardaga Jharkhand was allegedly brought to Delhi by a placement agent named Batti Oraoin @ Satya and placed her in the house of Mr. and Mrs. Ahuja in Kaushambi, Ghaziabad as a domestic maid where later she was found dead. The poor little girl reportedly died under mysterious circumstances in June 2013 in the employer's house itself. The police got the post-mortem done without informing the parents of the girl and handed over the dead body to one Santosh who cremated the body on the same day. Acting on the email received from IG, CID, Jharkhand, Shakti Vahini approached National Commission for Protection of Child Rights which later took cognizance of the matter. Shakti Vahini also brought the matter into light before the National Commission for Schedule Tribes. Later, First Information reports were registered both in Jharkhand and Ghaziabad. After the news of the sudden death of the little child, her entire family came under shock. Since the death of her daughter, the poor mother left no stone unturned in her fight for justice. She even filed a complaint before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights which later investigated the case. With the intervention of the National Commission for Schedule Tribes the Government of Uttar Pradesh awarded a compensation of Rs. 375,000/- in the favor of the deceased's mother.

2. Brother Finds long lost sister in a Mela

Soni and Munni (names changed), two minor girls within the age of 12 years were trafficked to Delhi by Soni's paternal uncle one Durga Lohra from their home in Khunti district of Jharkhand on the pretext of visiting historical places in Delhi. Soni and Munni were neighbours and hence were close friends. Even when both the girls went missing from their houses, the parents of both the girls were unknown about the fact that they were being trafficked to Delhi till then they were contacted from the capital and were informed the rescue of their daughter. In 2014 Durga Lohra trafficked the two girls to Delhi and handed them over to one Ghanshyam, the owner of a placement agency who then placed them at different households as domestic maid. However, in a *Mela organized in the Punjabi Bagh area of Delhi on the occasion of Christmas*, the cousin brother of Munni who had been living in Delhi since a long time identified her in the Mela and approached her curiously to know how she was in Delhi. Seeing her brother, the girl revealed her plight to him who then dialed the Police Emergency Helpline number 100 and informed the matter to the Police. Instantly, Delhi Police intervened and rescued the Munni. After her rescue, Munni also gave the tip-off of Soni's whereabouts and later she was also rescued. Presently, both the girls has returned home and living happily with their family.

3. Minor girl trafficked from Jharkhand, raped and dumped by auto driver in Gurgaon

Fourteen years old Naina (name changed), hailing from Gumla, Jharkhand was rescued from MG Road Metro Station, Gurgaon in a joint operation of Gurgaon

Police, Shakti Vahini and CHILDLINE Gurgaon in August 2014. Acting on a tip-off received from a well-wisher who found the child roaming alone confused and destitute near the metro station, Gurgaon Police informed the matter to Shakti Vahini and Guragon CHILDLINE and were requested for intervention. The minor girl while describing her ordeal said that she was allegedly being brought to Delhi with few more girls by a person for the purpose of providing them work. After reaching Delhi, the person placed all the girls including her in different households as domestic maids. As per the information provided by the minor girl, she was placed in a household in Delhi where she had to do all the household chores including baby-sitting. While working in the house she befriended a person named Sanju living next door to her employer's house who was an auto driver. On Saturday, the boy luring her took her out of the house and allegedly raped her and then abandoned her near the metro station. According to the girl, the boy had also sexually assaulted her many times before. A case under the POCSO Act was registered against the auto driver in Gurgaon. Meantime Shakti Vahini contacted Jharkhand Police and communicated the matter of the child's rescue and later in coordination with the Police traced out the family of the child. Accordingly, the mother of the child arrived at Delhi and later she was given the custody of her daughter.

4. Media advocacy help trafficked victims reach home safe

A year back in February 2014, parents of two young girls, Nikita and Runa (names changed) arrived at Delhi in search of their daughter who were brought to Delhi 5 years back by one Rajkumar and his wife on the pretext of good job. Since then they have not heard from them. Hindustan times reported the matter interviewing the two parents of both the girls under the title "Hoping for a better life, they lost their daughters" It was also reported that Rajkumar threatened them to kill their daughters if they kept on enquiring about them. Earlier too the parents arrived at Delhi in search of the girl as they were informed that both the girls were working at a house in Vasant Vihar, Delhi. But, when they reached at the house the employer informed that the girls were not reporting at the household for work since a long time. Shakti Vahini taking cognizance of the report, contacted the parents of the children. It also facilitated in arranging a meeting of the parents with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the higher officials of the Police Department. Advocacy with the Senior officials and also the close scrutiny of media was creating a lot of pressure amongst the placement agents. A case was also registered at the local Police Station in Delhi against the traffickers. However, after a day or two after the publication of the case in the newspaper, Shakti vahini received information from Gumla district that both the girls had reached the local Police Station and as per them the traffickers left them in Jharkhand and escaped. Later, the girls were brought to Delhi and produced before the Child Welfare Committee and were then sent back to home with their parents.

5. Girl rescued with the help of co-passenger in bus: level of sensitization seems increasing

Purnima (name changed) a resident of Gumla, Jharkhand was rescued from Jaipur, Rajasthan from the clutches of the traffickers *in joint intervention of Jaipur Police and NGO, Suraksha, under the coordination of Shakti Vahini*. The girl was allegedly trafficked by the M.K Service, an placement agency illegally functioning in Delhi. Shakti Vahini was informed about the girl by a co-passenger who was travelling by the same bus and suspected something wrong while conversing with her. The girl had told her that she was made to sit in the bus by a lady in Delhi who told her that someone would come to receive her at Sindhi Camp Bus stop in Jaipur. However, she did not know why she was being sent there. Shakti Vahini then informed the matter to Jaipur Police and also coordinated with an NGO named Suraksha and planned out the rescue operation. She was then rescued from the said bus stop. After the rescue, an FIR was lodged under section 370 at the local Police Station in Jaipur. Later the girl was sent to a rehabilitation centre in Jaipur for her safety and protection.

6. Sensitized Stakeholder help minor girl reach home in Jharkhand

Acting on an information received from a sensitized well wisher, Shakti Vahini produced a twelve years old girl, Meena (name changed) belonging to Gumla district of Jharkhand before the Child Welfare Committee seeking care and protection to her. The girl was accompanied to the Child Welfare Committee by the well-wisher whose maid and her husband had found the child alone within the vicinity of their house in Maidangarhi, Delhi. When the couple enquired about her whereabouts she informed that she was working with a family in Tilak Nagar. After living and working there for sometime as a domestic help she requested the family to send her back to home. Accordingly, the family hired her an auto and sent her to Maidangarhi all alone. Hearing her tale, the couple took her to their home and next day informed the matter to her employer who then contacted Shakti Vahini. Child Welfare Committee provide the girl with shelter in a Children's Home in Delhi. Meantime Shakti vahini contacted the local Police Station in Jharkhand and informed the matter. The family of the girl was traced out and with the assistance of the Superintendent of Police, Gumla, Jharkhand, a police team along with the grandfather of the child arrived at Delhi. Later, the Child Welfare Committee handed her over to her grandfather to take her back to her native place.

7.Wage Recovery of victims of trafficking through Child Welfare Committee

Nisha and Nikita (names changed) who were brought to Delhi from Chatra district of Jharkhand were rescued by CHILDLINE and Delhi Police from child labour from the house of their employers in Delhi. Both of them were trafficked to Delhi on the pretext of good jobs but were later placed at the households as domestic maids. After the rescue, both the children were produced before the Child Welfare Committee which directed both there employers to submit the required amount that the child were supposed to receive as their pending wages during their stay as domestic helps in the respective households in the form of Demand Draft. Accordingly, the employers submitted the Demand Drafts of Rs 1,94,064

and Rs 48516 in the name of both girls respectively. The Child Welfare Committee then directed Shakti Vahini to help the family of both the girls in opening the bank accounts in the name of both the girls in their respective hometowns in Chatra so that the concerned amount of money could be transferred to it. Accordingly, Shakti Vahini wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Chatra District, Jharkhand with a copy to the Bank Manager, Bank of India, Simaria Branch requesting to direct the concerned officers to open the bank accounts. Accordingly, with a close coordination between Shakti vahini and the stakeholders in Jharkhand the accounts of both the girls were opened at the Bank.

8. In a way to save younger sister, elder sister falls under the clutches of placement agents

Shikha (name changed) who in a way to rescue her younger sister landed up under the clutches of the placement agents who exploited her in every possible way. Shikha, 22, was working as a domestic maid at a household in Noida. When she came to know from her family members that they were unknown about the whereabouts of her younger sister, Nisha (name changed), she came out in search of her to the Placement Agency through which her sister was being placed. When she reached their the agents kept her waiting stating that her sister had gone out and would be coming soon. With hope of meeting her sister Shikha kept waiting but to her worst dreams she was raped by the placement agents and threatened her not to disclose it to anybody. She was too kept in confinement. However, she somehow managed to get out of the house and contact the Police by dialing emergency number 100 wherein the Police intervened. A case of rape was also registered at the Police Station. However, one Prabha Muni appeared before the Police claiming to be a Social Worker in an NGO and also asked for her custody. The Police of the local Police Station too without any verification handed her over to the lady. Prabha Muni who was too a trafficking agent took her under her clutches and started torturing her. Her mobile phone was also snatched away. However, one day Shikha managed to call her brother and narrated her ordeal. Her brother then contacted Shakti Vahini and requested for help which then later rescued her. After rescue she was provided shelter in a Shelter Home in Delhi.

9. Employers flies away to a foreign country leaving minor girl locked inside the house

Kuki (name changed), a 13 year old girl was lured on the pretext of a better life in India's capital. She was taken by her so called uncle, who later handed her over to an illegally run placement agency. She came with him as it was difficult for her mother to feed the whole family. But after reaching Delhi she found her life far from what she was promised. She was employed as domestic help in the house of a doctor couple. She was forced to work long hours, never got paid and was not being given proper diet. Her day used to start at 6am and ends at 11pm. She was forced to work all kinds of household chores and also to look after the employer's child of almost her age. She was also forced to clean the employers'

clinic where she was exposed to toxic materials and various hazards chemicals. The child was kept in bonded condition by the doctor couple and not allowed to go outside alone. To her surprise the doctor couple went for a weeklong vacation to a foreign country by locking her inside. On the fourth day the child became starved. She acquired the courage to raise alarm by peeping through the window. The RWA president noticed her alarm and informed Shakti Vahini. The girl was then rescued with the help of a fire brigade team as there was no way to take her down from the second floor. Her education is taken care of the State government of Jharkhand.

Citizens' Initiative: Jharkhand Girl returned Home safe

The Sensitization programmes on Anti Human Trafficking with the Residence Welfare Association being conducted by Shakti Vahini convinced a couple to report about a helpless Jharkhand girl, who was found roaming on the capital's street. Acting on the information Shakti Vahini counselor rushed to the spot and counseled her. According to the girl she was brought to Delhi by one so called *chhacha* and handed her over to an agent. She was then employed in house as domestic help. Her employer used to scold and beat her on minor mistakes. She was never paid. She was even not given proper food. One day, when the girl requested the employer to send her back home. The employer instead of console her scolded and threatened for returning the commission money taken by the agent. After some days the girl again requested the employer for getting her back to the family. The employer beat her and made her sit in an auto rickshaw. Not knowing where to go she started crying. The rickshaw driver left her on the street and escaped. The well wisher informed the matter and she was later rescued and restored.

Trafficked Victim from Chatra Received Pending wage of Rs.1.94Lac

Nisha and Nikita (names changed), native of Chatra district of Jharkhand were trafficked to the capital and employed as domestic help. The girls had to undergo lot of exploitation from the employers. They had to work without any money. Later, as per the information received from their native place the girls were rescued. They were given care and protection by the Child Welfare Committee, Delhi. During the CWC hearing it was revealed the they were not given a single penny by the employer for their work. The Child Welfare Committee, a bench of Magistrate directed the employer to give their pending wages of Rs.1,94,064 and Rs 48,516 to Nisha and Nikita respectively. The Deputy Commissioner of Chatra district facilitated to initiate their bank account in the Bank of India, Simaria branch. Later the girls were restored to their family and the money has been deposited to their respective bank account. Both the girls are now studying the government school in Chatra.

Media Clippings

Minor trafficked, raped by auto driver, dumped in Gurgaon

CRIME 14-year-old trafficked from a Jharkhand village to work as a maid in Delhi

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI/NEW DELHI: A 14-year-old girl, who was allegedly trafficked from a Jharkhand village to Delhi in order to work as a domestic help, was sexually assaulted by an auto driver. The girl was abandoned near MG Road metro station in Gurgaon on Sunday.

The alleged victim is unable to disclose the location of her employer. She told the police that her employer's neighbour, an auto driver, took her to Gurgaon and raped her there.

"The minor victim informed the police that she was brought to Delhi with a few more girls. After reaching the Capital, the trafficker placed all the girls, including her, in different

households as domestic help," said Rishi Kant, an activist with Shakti Vahini NGO, which rescued the girl.

The girl in her statement to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) said that she had to do all the household work, including baby-sitting.

The girl said the driver had sexually assaulted her many times before. She said he took her to a secluded place in Gurgaon,

raped her and later dumped her near a metro station.

Gurgaon ACP (DLF) Dalbir Singh said, "We have registered the case under section 376 of the IPC and the POCSO Act against the accused on Sunday at Sector 29 police station. The victim alleged she had met the person in Delhi and he took her to a park in Gurgaon where he sexually assaulted her. Though she worked in Delhi as a domes-

tic help, she cannot identify the location or recall the name of her employer."

"We are conducting investigations as earlier the victim did not speak up; it was only after the doctor confirmed rape that she narrated the story to us," he added.

After her rescue, the girl was taken to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), where she was medically examined and later sent to a shelter home. The Jharkhand police will be sending a team to Delhi within two days to bring back the minor.

Gumla Superintendent of Police, Bheemsen T said, "We got the information on Monday and a team will be sent by Wednesday to bring the girl back." **(WITH INPUTS FROM HTC, DELHI, GURGAON)**

THE MINOR VICTIM INFORMED THE POLICE THAT SHE WAS BROUGHT TO DELHI WITH A FEW MORE GIRLS. AFTER REACHING THE CAPITAL, THE TRAFFICKER PLACED ALL THE GIRLS IN DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLDS AS DOMESTIC HELP.

RISHI KANT, an activist

Trafficker arrested, lens on Maoist link

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The owner of a fake placement agency involved in human trafficking was arrested from her home in Shakurpur in northwest Delhi, a place considered the hub of such illegally-run, shady units in the capital.

Gayatri (30), notorious trafficker Pannalal's sister-in-law, was involved in sourcing children from Jharkhand to be put to work as domestic helps in the capital through her placement agency, Gayatri Enterprises. Pannalal has been running several sub-units to expand the business of human trafficking in Delhi, police have said.

Joint commissioner (crime) Ravindra Yadav con-



CAUGHT: Thirty-year-old Gayatri was the owner of a fake placement agency

firmed the arrest. Police said that, former Jharkhand minister Yogender Sao, who is accused of having Maoist links

and was arrested a few days ago, was also nabbed from this house which belongs to Pannalal. Pannalal, himself, is at

large. He is said to have been trafficking girls and children in collusion with the minister and another trafficking honcho Baba Bamdev.

This information has been revealed during continuing operations of Delhi crime branch, NGO Shaktivahini and Jharkhand Police. Police are now probing if the money was being diverted into funding Maoist activities.

Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini said, "We received information about a girl from Jharkhand kept in confinement by Pannalal and his wife Sunita. She was rescued. A non-bailable warrant was issued against Pannalal. He is on the run. A search is on to nab him."

Aradhana Singh, in-charge of the anti-human trafficking

Pannalal is said to have been trafficking girls and children in collusion with the former minister, Yogendra Sao, and another trafficking honcho Baba Bamdev

unit in Jharkhand, confirmed Pannalal led a large module of traffickers and placement agencies in Delhi and is wanted in many cases. "He has been bringing in girls from Jharkhand villages," she said.

Gayatri, police said, was paying Rs 12,000 for a girl and employing them for Rs 22,000, making a monthly profit of Rs 10,000 per head. Pannalal and Sunita gave police the slip a few days ago.

Abused domestic help says she is being pressurised

The victim, who was rescued from Vasant Kunj, says she was forced to sign documents

Anumeha Yadav

NEW DELHI: Seven months after Phul Murmu (name changed), who used to work as a domestic help at Vasant Kunj, was rescued with signs of torture and physical abuse, she has complaint to the police of being pressured to sign documents against her will by two men. She made the complaint to the district police at Sahibganj in Jharkhand on Friday, where her family lives.

"On Thursday, two men came to my house at Atgama village. I had left with my mother to help in her work, lifting sand. They forced my sister to bring them to the river bed where we were working and asked me to sign documents, which I could not read. When I refused, they offered me money and then threatened me. They forced me to sign them," Phul Murmu told *The Hindu* over the phone from Sahibganj, where she has been living in a hostel



The victim's family at Atgama village in Sahibganj district, Jharkhand. FILE PHOTO: MANOJ CHOWDHURY

run by NGO Mahila Samakhya. "The girl made a complaint of being forced to sign documents by two men. We are investigating the matter," said Sahibganj's Superintendent of Police A.B. Ram.

NGO Shakti Vahini wrote a letter to Jharkhand's Director General of Police and the

Chief Secretary asking them to take cognisance of the matter. "There have been instances of victims being pressured and coerced to change their statements, and this could be one of them. This must be checked and investigated thoroughly," said Rishi Kant, activist with Shakti Va-

hini in Delhi.

Phul Murmu, a minor at the time of her rescue in September 2013, bore injury marks all over her face. Vandana Dheer, her employer, was then working as the head of corporate communications with French multinational Alstom.

Murmu had stated that during the four months she worked at Dheer's house in posh Vasant Kunj, she had hit her with hot utensils, used a knife to peel her skin, and made her drink urine twice to punish her. Dheer was arrested in October under Sections 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons), 342 (wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code, and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, and got bail two months later.

Dorothy, accused of running a placement agency that trafficked Phul Murmu from Jharkhand, got bail in October 2013. There has been a

spate of incidents over the last year of domestic workers fleeing or being rescued from Delhi's residential colonies and placements agencies after they being beaten, and in several instances sexually assaulted. Murmu's rescue by the Delhi Police and Shakti Vahini was soon followed by a case in November in which Dhananjay Singh, the then Bahujan Samajwadi Party sitting MP from Jaunpur, U.P., and his wife Jagriti Singh were arrested in connection with the death of Rakhi Bhadra, a 35-year old domestic worker, in their house.

These cases have, however, not deterred abuse of domestic workers. On April 27, a tribal girl in her late teens from Singhbhum in Jharkhand working as a domestic worker in Model Town was found dead with injuries.

Her employer businessman Sachin Jindal and his wife Shilpi Jindal were arrested in connection with the death.

Trafficked teen flees employer's house, rescued

Ambika.Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A 13-year-old school dropout from Jharkhand's Maoist-hit Simdega district promised domestic work in Delhi was found at Rajouri Garden Metro station by police on Sunday after she ran away from her employer's house unable to bear the mistreatment. Her story has again brought to spotlight how children from the interiors of the troubled state are finding themselves in the capital's homes.

The rescue of this girl comes a day after wanted trafficker Pannalal Mahto and his

The girl said she was brought to Delhi by one Raju two months ago. Police are probing the involvement of an illegal placement agency

wife Sunita were arrested. Pannalal hails from Jharkhand and is known for his influence among placement agencies. The crime branch of Delhi Police and Jharkhand Police are jointly probing Pannalal's links with Maoists.

The 13-year-old girl at Rajouri Garden Metro station told a surprised police team that she was desperate to return to her family in Simdega where she said she was studying in a school. She says she wants to return to school. She has been put in the care of Nirmal Chhaya children's home in keeping with the orders of

the Child Welfare Committee. Police are now trying to trace her parents.

Police are also investigating the involvement of a member of an illegal placement agency who brought her here with the promise to provide her work. The child, in her statement before the Child Welfare Committee, said she was brought to Delhi by one 'Raju' two months ago. 'Raju' then sent her to a private residence where her employer whom she addressed as 'Aunty' used to scold her every time she did not like her work. The woman even tried to call Raju but every time his phone was unreachable, the girl said. She has told CWC that she had been asked to leave several times.

On October 19, she left the house and managed to reach Rajouri Garden Metro station where she was luckily found by police. In its order on Monday, the Child Welfare Committee has mentioned that the child does not know the address of the house in which she was placed for work. She failed to identify the house when she was taken to the area by police.

Speaking to TOI, Rishikant from Shakti Vahini, which has been "following the case closely", said human traffickers are operating in the guise of placement agents and hence "CWC must call for an interstate investigation into how the child reached Delhi and landed up at the Metro station". The NGO has also contacted the superintendent of police, Simdega, to trace her family.

Khunti cops in Delhi for mission Panna Lal

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi/Ranchi, Oct. 9: A special five-member team from Khunti police arrived in Delhi today to nab alleged human trafficking kingpin Panna Lal Mahto, from whose house in the national capital a joint team of Delhi Police and CID (Jharkhand) arrested former minister Yogendra Sao on October 4, but unaccountably forgot about the host despite four FIRs and an arrest warrant against him.

Sao, who is now jailed in Hazaribagh, might have also wondered why Panna Lal was let off despite being at home at Sakurpur Basti (not Shakarapur as reported earlier), east Delhi, at the time of the raid.

Policemen, who were part of the operation, later admitted that they had neither known about Panna Lal's criminal antecedents nor could they identify him.

However, the Khunti team led by sub-inspector Aradhana Singh, should rectify ma-



Panna Lal Mahto's residence in East Delhi from where Yogendra Sao was arrested on October 4. Picture by

Ramakant Kushwaha

tters. "We are surveying the area to look for an appropriate time for raid," sub-inspector Singh said over the phone.

It is learnt that the state government has also sought help of Delhi Police.

Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini, which sent a written complaint to the Union home ministry today on the police "blunder" of October 4, said

Panna Lal and Baba Bamdev had been prominent names in the list of 240 agents and placement agencies which Jharkhand had submitted to Delhi last year.

"It's astonishing how police let him off when even Delhi crime branch had copies of FIRs submitted against Panna Lal. Policemen even talked to him when they went to his house to arrest Sao, but left him behind," said Rishikant.

"Panna Lal and his wife Sunita have been involved in bringing girls from Jharkhand to Delhi on the pretext of jobs and education. They run an illegal placement agency that pushes Jharkhand girls into domestic slavery, forced marriages and sometimes sex trade," he added.

He alleged that Panna Lal was well-connected and knew several powerful politicians.

"All the politicians involved in his racket should be exposed," said Rishikant.

■ Sao invokes *janta*, Page 4

Cops say campaign spurred more reports

Gumla tops human trafficking table

CHHANDOSREE

Ranchi, March 13: Incidents of human trafficking in Jharkhand have followed a steep incline in the past decade, data compiled by the CID have revealed, triggering a debate whether the state's security apparatus has gathered rust or its concerted campaigns have generated mass awareness and prompted missing reports.

In 2004, the number of registered cases of trafficking was only two, both reported from Ranchi district. Last year, the figure was an upsetting 147 and reports had poured in from all 24 districts of the state. Gumla seemed to have suffered the worst blow of the trafficking scourge with 42 cases. Khunti followed with 23 reports and Ranchi was third with 16.

According to the data compiled by CID, only five districts registered (with police) less than five cases in the past 10 years. While East Singhbhum, Palamau and Garhwa reported four incidents each, Chatra and Jamtara seemed fairly safer for women and children with just two cases each.

The year-wise break-up (see box) also suggests that the number of statewide traffick-

FIGURE ALERT

2014	147
2013	96
2012	83
2011	44
2010	25
2009	26
2008	11
2007	10
2006	7
2005	3
2004	2

ing incidents have sprinted in the past three years.

Baidyanath Kumar, a member of Ranchi-based voluntary organisation Diya Seva Sansthan, claimed a helpline number floated in 2013 had helped generate further awareness and thus more cases were registered. "In 2014, we noticed an increase in number of cases reported from Gumla because we publicised the helpline number 9471300008 in schools and panchayats. In Khunti, we need to focus more," he said.

But, shouldn't Gumla, which has recorded the maximum number of trafficking cases since 2004, be labelled a vulnerable district?

IG (provisions) Anurag Gupta did not think so. "Remember, the figures do not necessarily reflect the actual number of trafficking cases in Gumla or elsewhere. So, they should be read as increased sensitivity among people who are now visiting *thanas* to report missing cases.

The IG, who was earlier with CID, said the launch of the NGO helpline, which was also supported by police, had helped them gather adequate information on particular cases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

Rescued Khunti girl on way home

SUMI SUKANYA

New Delhi, Jan 29: After being locked in a dark, dingy room in a village in Punjab's Sangroor district for 20 days, 14-year-old Rosy was too scared to even look at her mother when she arrived there with a posse of policemen early yesterday morning.

Then, when Rosy — name has been changed to protect her identity — realised it was indeed "Ma", she clung to her and refused to let go.

In a joint operation, Jharkhand, Haryana, and Punjab police rescued Rosy after 20 days of sheer hell. Two persons have been arrested.

The 14-year old was kidnapped and sold off to a peasant in Punjab earlier this month, over 1,500 km from her home in Longa village of Khunti district. In captivity, she had been forced into having sex with adults and not allowed to see anybody she knew.

Police officers said Rosy was lured by relatives Mahi-



Accused Ranveer (from left), Praveen and Surendra near Jharkhand Bhavan in Delhi on Thursday. Telegraph picture

ma and her husband Praveen to visit their home on January 4. She was then taken to Delhi. There, the couple sold her to one Ranveer (50) for Rs 1 lakh.

A puzzled Rosy did not realise the couple's intentions until she found herself abandoned at Ranveer's house at Karauda village in Sangrur days later.

"I kept asking why they had brought me so far from home. I begged them to take me to my mother but they left me alone," she told **The Telegraph** at Jharkhand Bhavan in Delhi before leaving

for Ranchi with her mother.

"An elderly man put vermilion on my head in front of his family and told me that he had bought me. He said that I belonged to him and he could do whatever he wanted with me," she said.

What followed was torture and rape. Day after day.

"I was kept locked in a small room where Ranveer used to force himself on me. I was not allowed to go outside, but somebody brought me food twice a day," she said.

By then, Rosy's mother, a farm labourer in Jharkhand, had approached the police.

"We tracked Rosy's mobile phone, that's how we nabbed Mahima and Praveen. They led us to Surendra in Kurukshetra, Haryana, who brokered the 'sale'. We raided his house," said ASI Philip Kujru, who led a two-member police team from Jharkhand.

Police have arrested Ranveer and Surendra. They are being brought to Khunti for further investigations.

Bill to safeguard helps remains on backburner

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The torture of a help in upscale Vasant Kunj has highlighted the lack of a legal framework governing domestic work. While the demand for a national legislation gets louder, the Delhi government's draft bill limited to placement agencies—put up for objections and suggestions in August 2012—is nowhere close to becoming law.

Various surveys by voluntary organizations show that there are more than 2,000 placement agencies in the capital and nearly half of these engage tribal girls from Jharkhand. The bill was initially delayed by a debate over increasing its scope beyond domestic workers engaged by placement agencies.

Finally, it was agreed to restrict the bill to placement agencies for domestic workers. Based on the objections and suggestions, some changes were made to the final draft. For instance, it was proposed to also register the link person who introduces the domestic worker to a placement agency, to guard against trafficking.

The draft bill had created a flutter among NGOs, with activists claiming it was riddled with loopholes. It came under severe criticism from repre-

HELP AT HAND

Highlights of Draft Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill 2012

➤ Individuals or private placement agencies without licence can't provide domestic workers

➤ Licence to be issued only after verification under new law

➤ Licence to be issued for five years by controlling authority appointed by state

➤ All placement agencies have to register with state within three months of notification

➤ No agency can employ or engage anyone below 18 years as domestic help

➤ Worker must be citizen of India or of any country notified in official gazette by government

➤ Signboards in placement agency office must display licence number

➤ Agencies have to maintain details of domestic workers and their employers which can be crosschecked by labour department

➤ Agencies to maintain details of person (intermediary) who brings women and men for domestic work from villages

All domestic workers to be issued photo IDs; must have bank accounts
Violation of Act can attract a jail term up to 1 year and a fine of ₹20,000

sentatives of around 12 NGOs. Since then the bill has been caught in debates over its provisions, and now, with the code of conduct for the polls expected to come into force soon, the government is unlikely to formalize the final bill.

Rishikant, from the NGO Shakti Vahini, who carried out the rescue operation in Vasant Kunj along with other social workers said, "Just implementing an Act in Delhi will not help as the problem is na-

tional. Domestic workers are being brought from states like West Bengal and Jharkhand. A national plan of action is needed for placement agencies to ensure coordination between states." Social activist Subhash Bhatnagar said the government's focus on regulating agencies is misplaced and monitoring employers who engage domestic workers is critical. NGOs want employers to be mandatorily registered with the state.

Girl to get back eight-month wages; probe into torture on

Court upholds order of Child Welfare Committee

Nirnimesh Kumar

NEW DELHI: An upper middle class family staying in South Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj employed a 12-year-old girl for household chores. But it did not pay her the minimum wages and if it noticed any fault in her work, it would vent its anger on her - at times by even allegedly beating her. The girl tolerated all this silently for a few months. However, when her patience gave up, she shared the insults heaped on her with her father.

The father lodged a complaint and at the instance of the Child Welfare Committee, Lajpat Nagar-II, local police lodged a case against the employer, M.C. Pandey, under the relevant section of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act. The case is still at the investigation stage.

Meanwhile, the committee has ordered the employer to pay minimum wages (Rs. 60,840) for eight months (February 2013 to September 2013) during which the girl was in his employment.

Mr. Pandey was not agreeable to the committee's payment order. He filed an appeal in a Sessions court against it, arguing that the Minimum Wages Act did not apply to this case and the committee did

- Employer's counsel denies beating her upon finding fault in sweeping work
- Claims they treated her like a daughter and she was enjoying all comforts

not have the power to pass any such order under the Act.

Counsel for Mr. Pandey also questioned the girl's age, saying that she was 15-and-half-year-old when she was employed. He also denied that he along with his wife used to beat her whenever they found any fault in her sweeping and wiping work as alleged by the victim's father.

He claimed that they treated her like their daughter and she was enjoying all the comforts.

Despite stating that the Child Welfare Committee constituted under the JJ Act cannot be termed or regarded as a competent authority appointed by the Union or the State Government to deal with issues of minimum wages, Additional Sessions Judge Lokesh Kumar Sharma upheld the committee's order citing a Delhi High Court judgment in another such matter. "... the present appeal, as filed by the appellant, is devoid of merits and same is dismissed...", Mr. Sharma said. As regards the

criminal case, the judge said, "I have no hesitation in holding that the directions for registration of FIR were issued by the Child Welfare Committee only after evaluating and appreciating the statement of the child victim recorded by a Metropolitan Magistrate under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code."

'Didi maarti thi jab mein kehti

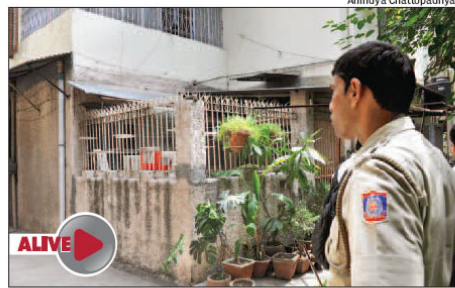
VK Maid Beaten With Stick, Knife, Hot Tawa, Forced To Remain Semi-Naked

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The tortured domestic help rescued from her woman employer's upscale Vasant Kunj residence on Monday is a bundle of nerves, struggling with wounds that could be life-threatening if left unattended. On Tuesday, she told TOI, "*Mujhe gaon jana hai* (I want to go back home)".

The illiterate Santhal tribal girl—said to be 18 years old in her statement to police—told TOI she does not know her age. She came to Delhi from Jharkhand a year ago to work as a domestic help, and says her paternal aunt, who arranged her employment in Delhi, paid her mother Rs 5,000 to send her away.

However, instead of becoming her family's breadwinner, the girl became trapped in a life of bondage and physical and mental



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torture. Her medico-legal report and her statement in the FIR make it clear that she was assaulted with sticks, knives, brooms, a hot *tawa* and bare hands by her employer, Vandana Dhir, since June when she landed the job through her aunt.

Her long hair was allegedly chopped off by Dhir, a se-

nior executive with a multinational, and she was also kept locked up in a room. To prevent her escape, the girl was allegedly kept semi-naked.

The girl, who is illiterate, has told police that her father is no more and her family comprises her mother, a farmhand in Sahibganj dis-

Case on fast track

New Delhi: Taking a strong note of the alleged abuse of a domestic help by her employer, the city government on Tuesday said the case would be heard by a fast-track court to ensure that she gets justice. Calling the incident "horrible and barbaric," minister for women and child development Kiran Walia, said the government would bear the medical expenses of the victim who was rescued on Monday. AGENCIES

trict, and four siblings. "*Didi maarti thi...jab mein kehti thi ke mujhe ghar jana hai ya mummyse baat kara do* (Dhir beat me when I asked her to send me home or let me talk to my mother)," she said.

The girl alleges she was never paid. She was promised a salary of Rs 4,000 a month, and her aunt was to

receive Rs 24,000 at the end of six months.

Kept in the surgical ward of Safdarjung Hospital, she keeps slipping in and out of sleep under the effect of painkillers and antibiotics. She has hundreds of bruises, abrasions, cuts and open wounds. There is swelling on her face, arms and legs and the deep gashes, burn marks from a hot *tawa* (griddle), and infected open wounds indicate the severity of her trauma. A cut on her head is deep, old and infected close to the bone of the skull.

Doctors have cleaned out the maggots and worms but the infection remains. Medical superintendent of the hospital, Dr BD Athani, said she is stable but under observation.

Police say Dhir has provided them contact numbers of the placement agents, and they are being tracked.

Tribal couple seeks rights body help to trace 'missing' daughter

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: A tribal couple on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) seeking information about their daughter who is "missing" for the past five years after being taken to Delhi by a placement agent on the pretext of providing her employment.

The distraught couple — Bheeku Lakra, 40, and his wife Pushpa, 34 — also met the Delhi's joint commissioner of police, law and order, Deepak Mishra at the police headquarters in Delhi seeking help to trace their daughter, who was a minor when she was taken to the national capital.

Shakti Vahini, the NGO involved in the rescue operation of a battered maid from a Vasant Kunj apartment last year, too has intervened and agreed to help the couple. Bheeku Lakra over phone from Delhi that they have been searching for their daughter for the past 45 days after failing to get a "suitable answer" about her whereabouts. The couple named one Rajkumar as the placement agent who had allegedly taken their daughter to the Delhi.



■ Bheeku Lakra and Pushpa Lakra, the parents of a missing minor girl from Jundu village in Gumla district, at the NCPCR office in New Delhi.

HT PHOTO

The family hails from Jundu village in Gumla district in Jharkhand. They decided to pay a visit to the national capital after the agent refused to arrange a telephonic conversation with their daughter despite several pleas.

They claimed that the agent has allegedly threatened to kill their daughter or sell her off for flesh trade if they try to find her again. Interestingly the girl's parents also met the agent in Delhi. He took them to a bungalow in

Vasant Vihar locality and told them that their daughter has been working in the bungalow as a maid. Later, when they enquired with the staff in the bungalow, they said that their daughter hasn't come to work for the past several months.

Rajkumar, the accused, is a resident of the same village and he agreed to meet the girl's parents after they approached his wife. However, Rajkumar and his wife have been absconding for

the past week.

"We want our daughter back. The agent threatened to kill her if we try to find her in Delhi," said Bheeku, a farmer by profession. Not only have they been emotionally tortured but also financially exploited. The couple and their daughter have not received even a penny from the agent for last five years. Bheeku and Pushpa didn't approach the police here in Jharkhand fearing humiliation.

Traffickers target Jharkhand school girls to sell them in Delhi

CRIME Hundreds of girls from Jharkhand and West Bengal are trafficked to metropolitan cities where they are sold to agencies

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: Human traffickers active in Jharkhand are now targeting school girls in the state — several of whom have been eventually rescued from Delhi.

As many as 30 minor girls from the state, who have gone missing from schools in the past six months, have been found in Delhi-NCR, police and NGOs said.

They say the traffickers may have been targeting schools because of the poor security there even as investigations continue to ascertain if school authorities were involved in the racket.

Hundreds of girls from poor villages in Jharkhand and West Bengal are trafficked to metropolitan cities where they are sold to placement agencies that sell them again as domestic helps. Most of these girls are minors and often face harassment and sexual assault — first at the hands of the traffickers and then by their employers.

The 14-year-old girl from Gumla district of Jharkhand, who was trafficked to Delhi, raped and dumped, had gone missing from school. Similarly, six other teenagers from Latehar district rescued and brought back a fortnight ago



■ Baba Bamdev, the alleged trafficking kingpin.

also went missing from school.

Some of the victims told the police that some suspicious people had been loitering around their school and offered them sweets, snacks and even gifts. Some of the girls admitted that they were lured to Delhi by these “friendly” agents.

“They said good food, gifts and better life awaits us in Delhi,” said one of the minors, who was made to work as a domestic help at a posh Delhi locality.

In fact, Baba Bamdev — the kingpin of human trafficking — had been spotted near schools in Khunti and Simdega. Bamdev, who ran more than 400 placement agencies in NCR, was arrested in Khunti last week. Bamdev is suspected to have supplied nearly 5,000 children from eastern states to buy-

ers across the country annually before his arrest. He used to organise fairs in Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, where children from Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal were allegedly sold. In 2011, the Delhi police had also arrested him in connection with a rape case.

“We spotted him around school campuses in Khunti and Simdega at least thrice in the past six months,” said Baijnath Kumar, an anti-human trafficking activist. It was Kumar who led the police to Bamdev.

According to records with the Missing Child Helpline, a joint initiative of the Jharkhand Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Unicef and NGOs, of the total 127 cases of missing children registered in the past six months, 27 went missing from school.

Rishi Kant, an activist from Delhi and founder member of NGO Shakti Vahini, said a majority of Jharkhand minors he had rescued in Delhi went missing from school.

“We need foolproof security at schools in Jharkhand, only then we can curb trafficking from the state,” he said. IG, organized crime, Sampat Mina, however, said she was yet to receive any official complaint.

Raids on placement agencies in Capital

HT Correspondent

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RANCHI: A team of Jharkhand police raided over 50 placement agencies in Shakoorpur, Punjabi Bagh and Sultanpuri areas in New Delhi on Tuesday night and Wednesday in connection with an alleged trafficking racket run by so-called activist Baba Bamdev.

Station house officer of Manika police station in Latehar district of Jharkhand, Ashok Sharma said the police team had taken Baba Bamdev, who has cases registered against him both in Jharkhand and Delhi, along to conduct the raids.

The Delhi police did not participate in the raids but were in constant touch with the Jharkhand police team, said Sharma.

The team found that most agents had forged documents, showing them as residents of Delhi. However, nobody was found to have any links with the banned People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) — an organisation with which Bamdev had extensive links.

Bamdev was arrested in Khunti, a newly-carved district

40 km south of Ranchi, by the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Jharkhand police on August 17. He is being held in Latehar jail.

Aradhna Singh, the person in charge of AHTU's Khunti unit, said Bamdev ran at least 400 placement agencies in Delhi and NCR towns. He allegedly supplied over 5,000 children trafficked from eastern states to these placement agencies.

In the garb of running a tribal welfare NGO, Bamdev used to organise four fairs at his Punjabi Bagh ashram where he would target girls rescued by Delhi Police from the clutches of placement agencies.

The Jharkhand police now believe that Bamdev and his agents were also involved in re-trafficking these girls once they were sent back home after being rescued — most of whom were school children. Bamdev and his gang targeted girls natives to Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

After Bamdev's arrest in Jharkhand, many placement agencies in Punjabi Bagh have shut down and the agents have fled, the police said.

150 illegal placement agencies feeding on trafficking racket

Faizan Haidar

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NEW DELHI: The arrest of Gayatri, a member of a human trafficking ring, on Monday has once again exposed the nexus between the domestic help placement agencies running in the Capital and these gangs.

Gayatri, the sister-in-law of a notorious trafficker from Jharkhand Panna Lal Mahto, was arrested by the Delhi police on Monday. She ran a placement agency in west Delhi's Shakurpur. She told the police that they used to buy minors for ₹12,000 and then charge ₹24,000 for placing them at households to work as domestic help.

They used to take their monthly salary from their employer.

Gayatri's arrest will help the police unearth the racket as they now have a list of over 150 illegal placement agencies operating from Shakurpur. HT has a copy of the list. Police, however, have so far failed to arrest Mahto.

"It has been revealed that Mahto's relatives own several placement agencies in the area. The list submitted by the Jharkhand Police contains names of the wanted trafficker and illegal placement agencies and action is being taken against them," said a senior Delhi Police officer.

A joint team of the Delhi Police, Jharkhand police and NGO Shakti Vahini conducted several raids in the area and managed to arrest Gayatri but Mahto and his wife are still untraceable.

Police said male members of the family stay in Jharkhand and

TRAFFICKING FOR DOMESTIC HELPS IS GROWING AT AN ALARMING RATE AND POLICE MUST TAKE ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PLACEMENT AGENCIES. THE GIRLS DON'T EVEN GET THEIR SALARY.

RISHI KANT, Shakti Vahini

lure minors on the pretext of job in Delhi and send them here through agents working for them. The Delhi police recovered a register from the placement agency that has details of trafficked girls.

The trafficking racket in Delhi is a steadily growing menace with victims — mostly minors and women — brought in from states like Jharkhand and West Bengal. Once in the city, they are pushed into child labour, illegal domestic work or prostitution by unscrupulous placement agencies.

"Trafficking for domestic help is growing at an alarming rate and police must take action against illegal placement agencies. The worse part of the whole racket is those minor girls who have been trafficked to Delhi from various parts of the country don't even get the monthly salary as these agency owners ask the customer to hand over the salary to them," said Rishi Kant, an activist with Shakti Vahini, an NGO.

Month-long search ends in arrest of child trafficking kingpin, wife

JHARKHAND Reveal details of over 10,000 girls they'd placed as domestic helps

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The police finally managed to nab wanted child traffickers Panna Lal Mahto and his wife Sunita Devi on Sunday. The investigators have managed to glean from them the details of more than 10,000 girls the duo had trafficked.

The arrests were made by the joint team of Delhi and Jharkhand Police along with two NGOs—Shakti Vahini and Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

"They were involved in trafficking children from Jharkhand to employ them as domestic helps in Delhi and NCR through their placement agencies. A non-bailable warrant had been issued for them in Jharkhand," said RS Yadav, Joint CP (crime).

Jharkhand Police's search for Mahto began almost a month ago when former state minister



■ Panna Lal Mahto and his wife Sunita (centre) were running several domestic help placement agencies in the Capital. HT PHOTO

Yogendra Sao was arrested from his house in a case of Arms Act. Mahto also allegedly worked as a link between the Left-wing extremists in Jharkhand and Delhi placement agencies.

A Jharkhand police team had been in Delhi for over a month

and had become involved with the Delhi Police and the two NGOs to raid several of Mahto's hideouts in Shakurpur, sources said. Earlier, the agencies had managed to arrest his sister-in-law Gayatri for running a placement agency in Shakurpur

and being involved in trafficking girls from Jharkhand.

Since then, several raids have been conducted at their possible hide-outs and the police managed to nab them from Shakurpur on Sunday. The two had come there to collect their belongings and had planned on fleeing.

Mahto, 31, and his wife Sunita, 37, have been sent to judicial custody and will be taken to Jharkhand on Monday. "He was running several sub-units to expand his human trafficking business in Delhi. His connections with Maoists are also being probed by Jharkhand Police," Yadav added.

Mahto had earlier been arrested by Jharkhand Police in 2006 for human trafficking and had been in jail for around five months. He has huge properties in Delhi, Ranchi and Khunti (Jharkhand), all acquired through his illegal human trafficking business.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Girls forced to conceive, deliver for sale

Saurav Roy

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LOHARDAGA/GUMLA: From the time she was 13, Phulmani (name changed) was forced to act as a surrogate mother and deliver six children by human traffickers from Jharkhand, widely considered a hotbed of modern day slavery.

Phulmani, now 31, was made to breastfeed the children – all born in consecutive years – for about six months before giving them to agents who sold them off.

The resident of Patru village in Gumla district was rescued by rights activists and returned to Jharkhand last year. Her experiences have left her emotionally and physically scarred.

“They treated me like a money minting machine. My will never mattered to them, all they wanted

HARSH REALITY

- Tribal girls lured to the cities with promise of job, better life
- Bachpan Bachao Andolan says it rescued almost 80,000 children across India, of whom 15% to 20% were from Jharkhand and Bihar
- However, police can't act unless FIRs are registered

was me to deliver babies for them,” she said, avoiding eye contact.

Phulmani was lured to Delhi by an agent with the promise of a job. She worked as a domestic help in a posh locality in her first year in Delhi before the inhuman treatment began.

She has no idea who bought

her babies or what became of them. But now she is seeking justice and has filed a complaint with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Gumla.

Rights groups have complained for long that well organised rings have been trafficking girls and young women from Jharkhand. According to civil society groups, about 10,000 children are trafficked from Jharkhand every year to either work as domestic help or sex workers, but trafficking for forced surrogacy has never been heard of before.

The CWC in Gumla came across another case of trafficking for surrogacy from Lotwadugdugi village in Palkot block. The girl was trafficked to Delhi when she was just eight years old. Now 29, she returned to Jharkhand last year and alleged

that she was forced to deliver at least 10 babies, said Alakh Singh, a member of the CWC.

“It is not a regular pattern, but we have come across a few such cases in the past. It is a major concern if such practices are happening in the state,” said additional director general of police (CID) SN Pradhan.

However, police said they could not act unless FIRs were filed about such cases. A majority of the girls did not bother to complain to the police, probably due to fear, villagers said.

NGO Shakti Vahini says it has rescued more than 100 girls from Jharkhand in Delhi. Bachpan Bachao Andolan, the NGO run by Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, says it rescued almost 80,000 children across India, of whom 15% to 20% were from Jharkhand and Bihar.

दिल्ली के घरों में
बरतन धोने से
शुरुआत कर
कैसे पहुंची स्कूल

गुमला की रेशमा आज सुनायेगी आपबीती

संतोष कुमार सिंह ■ नयी दिल्ली

झारखंड से तस्करी के जरिये महिलाओं एवं लड़कियों को लाये जाने का सिलसिला भले ही लगातार चल रहा हो, लेकिन इन सब के बीच अगर किसी स्वयंसेवी संस्था और सरकार के प्रयास से किसी मासूम को रेस्क्यू किया जाता है और सरकार उसे मदद देने को आगे आती है, तो न सिर्फ उस बच्ची का पुनर्वास होता है और उसे नया जीवन मिलता है, बल्कि वह अपने सपनों को नये सिरे से गढ़ कर उसे पूरा करने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ा सकती है। झारखंड के गुमला जिला की रहनेवाली छात्रा रेशमा (परिवर्तित नाम) बुधवार को दिल्ली के विज्ञान भवन में अपने साथ घटित हुई घटना और पिछले एक वर्ष में उसके जीवन में आये बदलाव की कहानी सबके सामने रखेगी। इसे 'जीवित अनुभवों का कथन' नाम दिया गया है। महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में जब रेशमा दिल्ली के घरों में बरतन धोने से लेकर पुनर्वास के जरिये कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालय में पढ़ाई करने और अपने क्लास के मॉनीटर के रूप में प्राप्त अनुभवों की कहानी कह रही होगी, उस

क्या है मामला

यह मामला है गुमला की 13 वर्षीय रेशमा का। 13 वर्षीय रेशमा को एक प्लेसमेंट एजेंसी द्वारा दिल्ली लाया गया। इस गैरकानूनी तरीके से चलाये रहे प्लेसमेंट एजेंसी द्वारा उसे एक कोठी में काम दिला दिया गया। रेशमा भी खुश थी, क्योंकि उसे नियोजित द्वारा दिये जानेवाले तनख्वाह से अपनी मां सहित पूरे परिवार का खर्चा चलाना था। वह तड़के सुबह उठ कर न सिर्फ अपने काम का ध्यान रखती, बल्कि उसे अपने उम्र के बच्चों का भी ख्याल रखना पड़ता। घर में काम के साथ ही उसे अपने मालिक के चिकित्सालय की भी सफाई करनी पड़ती थी। डॉक्टर दंपती जब किसी काम से बाहर जाते, तो उसे घर की रखवाली करने के लिए घर में बंद करके जाते थे। यह मामला मार्च, 2012 में उस वक्त प्रकाश में आया, जब इस दंपती को बैंकाक की यात्रा पर जाना था। बैंकाक जाते समय इन्होंने रेशमा को घर में बंद कर दिया। चार दिनों तक तो रेशमा ने किसी तरह गुजारा किया, लेकिन अब भूख को सहना मुश्किल था। उसने खिड़की से बाहर राहगीर को आवाज लगायी। आरडब्ल्यूए के प्रेसिडेंट ने पुलिस को सूचना देने के साथ ही शक्तिवाहिनी को सूचना दी। शक्तिवाहिनी ने पुलिस की मदद से इस लड़की को छुड़ाया। इस लड़की को 92 हजार रुपये मुआवजा दिया गया और आज यह लड़की झारखंड में भेजी जा चुकी है और कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालय खुटी टोली (चान्हो) में सातवीं कक्षा में पढ़ रही है। इसकी पढ़ाई का खर्च झारखंड सरकार उठा रही है। शक्तिवाहिनी से जुड़े ऋषिकान्त का कहना है कि रेशमा की कहानी यह साबित करती है कि झारखंड से हजारों की संख्या में लाये जा रहे नाबालिग लड़कियों को सही समय पर रेस्क्यू कर पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था की जाये और प्रशासनिक मशीनरी ने जिस तरह से रेशमा के मामले में तत्परता दिखायी, उसी तरह की तत्परता अगर बाकी मामलों में भी हो, तो तत्स्वीर बदल सकती है। जैसा कि रेशमा के मामले में हुआ।

वक्त केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ, राष्ट्रीय बाल कल्याण आयोग के

अध्यक्ष कौशल सिंह, सचिव महिला एवं बाल विकास लक्ष्मी धर मिश्रा भी उपस्थित रहेगे।

“They slapped me every day, shaved my head forcibly”

Anumeha Yadav

NEW DELHI: Three weeks after she reached the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Kashmere Gate from Chandigarh after being dismissed without wages by the household where she had worked, 12-year old Ritika Mundu (name changed) waited at the Jharkhand Bhawan with her father, police personnel, and activists who had reached Delhi from Jharkhand.

Dressed in a red and green lace frock, with her head tonsured, the slightly-built tribal girl spoke softly taking several breaks as she narrated her journey from a village in Jharkhand to Delhi and then Chandigarh, where she worked as a domestic help.

“The aunty lived with her husband and grandson. I woke up at 4 and first cleaned two toilets, and then did the dishes. She would give me roti and dal to eat in the morning and then nothing till night,” said Ritika.

“She would slap me almost every day, even when I tried to do the work well. Then one day she wanted to cut my hair saying there were lice in my hair. I told her this was not true. I tried to stop her but she forced me one day and shaved my head,” narrated the young girl.

The 12-year-old tribal girl narrated that she had completed Class VI last year in her village school in Khunti district’s Murhu block before dropping out of school. Her father worked as a farm labourer. She said she had been brought to Delhi by a

“Instances of trafficking of minors by placement agencies, their mistreatment keep recurring yet neither Central nor State governments have issued guidelines for rehabilitating the children

RISHIKANT
of Shakti Vahini

woman Phaguni Mundu from her village in Khunti in April. Ritika said she, her 10-year old-cousin Uday Mundu, and another boy boarded a bus from the village with Phaguni Mundu on April 5 without informing their families. Phaguni took her to Chandigarh to work as domestic worker and she was not allowed to contact her family.

Her employers had thrown her out of their house on May 4 after which she caught a bus to Delhi.

“Aunty got very angry one evening and asked me to leave the house. It was 5 pm. I still had Rs.100 from when I had first come to her house. I walked a long time searching for the bus stand. Then I got on to a bus to Delhi which reached here next morning,” she recounted, showing tickets of Haryana Roadways buses she had preserved carefully. She had been spotted crying by vendors near ISBT who had alerted the Kashmere Gate police post, who in turn had informed the NGO Shakti Vahini.

“Such instances of trafficking of minors by placement agencies, their mistreatment keep recurring yet neither Central nor State governments have issued guidelines for rehabilitating the children, or to ensure they return to schools to get good quality

education,” said Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini. “PM Narendra Modi made several promises for tribal welfare while visiting Jharkhand before elections. We wait to see what action his government takes now,” he said. The NGO has rescued over 70 children working as domestic workers from Jharkhand alone from January till now, he added.

“Provisions for rescue for trafficked children are done in a piecemeal fashion. Often there is no clarity on even which department will fund the trip or the costs of bringing the children back when we receive notifications on missing children found in another city,” said an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit Inspector that had accompanied the team requesting anonymity.

In 2013, Ranchi-based NGO Birsā had recorded that there were 14 children missing from villages in Murhu block alone – where Ritika’s village lies – in Khunti. In March 2013, Miti Purti (name changed) from the same district as Ritika returned from Delhi with a debilitating skin infection, earning Rs.27,000 after working seven years in Delhi. Mani Dondray, 15, worked in Delhi for seven months but had to return after she contracted TB and became severely underweight.

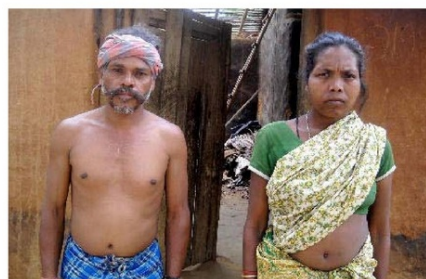
Girl trafficked from Jharkhand rescued in Delhi

She was found crying at Kashmere Gate, was thrown out from her employer's house

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 14-year old adivasi girl from Jharkhand was rescued from Kashmere Gate here on May 5 after she left her employer's house in Chandigarh. This is one of the many cases of minors getting trafficked from rural areas to work as domestic workers in the city. Despite a Supreme Court order last January followed by a Home Ministry directive in July 2013 that complaints of all missing children have to be immediately registered as FIRs, the Jharkhand Police or the Delhi Police are yet to do this.

The girl Ritika Mundu (name changed) told the Child Welfare Committee that she was brought to Delhi by a woman named Phaguni Mundu from her village in Jharkhand last month. She was taken to Chandigarh to work as a domestic worker where she was beaten regularly and not allowed to contact her family. She narrated that her employers threw her



The rescued girl's parents and their hut at Hetgaon village in Jharkhand. PHOTOS: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



out of their house on May 4 after which she caught a bus to Delhi. She was spotted crying and in distress by vendors near ISBT. They alerted the Kashmere Gate police station. The police then informed NGO Shakti Vahini.

Ritika Mundu, who has been sent to a children's shelter home, was carrying an Aadhaar card, which revealed her father's name and her ad-

dress at Hetgaon village in Khunti's Murhu block. Her father works as a farm labourer.

"Usually, the CWC orders registration of an FIR, but they did not specify this time. The child's father has not yet made a formal complaint," said a senior police official in Delhi.

"An FIR should have been registered automatically to

begin an investigation into who brought her here and if any placement agency was involved. Since the family is very poor, we have offered to assist them to meet their child here," said Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini. He added the NGO had rescued over 70 children from Jharkhand this year working as domestic workers. At Murhu block in Jharkhand, the girl's family

member Kunwar Mundu told Jharkhand-based NGO Diya Sewa Sansathan that Ritika and two other boys, including Ritika's 10-year old cousin Uday Mundu, boarded a bus from the village with Phaguni Mundu on April 5 without informing the families.

"She was in my class, but stopped coming to school two years back to help her father. She is a simple child, but very

articulate. If she had continued she would have been in Class VIII now," said Devi Kumari, who teaches at the government middle school in Hetgaon. The village mukhiya, Devnath Mundu, said the village had witnessed similar cases last year too. "Two girls who are 12 and 13 years old are missing, their families cannot trace them. We reported this to the thana, too, but there has been no information so far. Then, last month these three children boarded a bus to Ranchi and maybe a train from there. At least Ritika was found, there is no word on the other two boys who are 10 and 12 years old," the mukhiya told *The Hindu* on the phone from Jharkhand.

"Studies estimate that the number of children trafficked from Jharkhand is between 30,000 and 40,000. But the number of FIRs of missing children is less than 500 – a huge gap," said Baidnath Kumar, who works with Diya Sewa Sansathan in Jharkhand.

Teenage tribal girl travels to Delhi to help lead raid on placement agency

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: An 18-year old tribal girl Sunita Kumari (name changed) helped the Delhi police conduct raids on an illegal placement agency in Taimur Nagar near New Friends Colony (NFC) a year after she had been trafficked from Jharkhand to Delhi to work in the city. Earlier, this week the girl had travelled from Khunti in Jharkhand to Delhi with officials of Anti Human Trafficking Unit of her home district to help identify the personnel running the placement agency Mamta Placement Agency.

"Initially, Mukesh who ran the agency treated me alright and gave me responsibilities of staff at the agency. My work consisted of accompanying the girls and boys – many of them minors – to houses where we had placed them as domestic workers. But a few months later, Mukesh confiscated my mobile phone and broke it. When I said I wanted to leave, he threatened me saying he had all my school documents such as my class X certificates etc. Then I decided to plan an escape and also get my certificates back from him somehow," said Sunita.

She said she had travelled from Delhi to Bihar with the other staff of the placement agency to a village they were visiting in Banke and fled from there to return to her village in Jharkhand. Three months after returning home, she approached the district labour department of the district and made a complaint about the Delhi-based placement agency. The labour department directed her to the district Anti Human Trafficking Unit and she traveled to Delhi with police officials and NGO Diya Sewa Sansathan.

"I had worked briefly as a housekeeper at a hotel in Bangalore and there I had learned that Labour

“When I said I wanted to leave, he(Mukesh) threatened me saying he had all my school documents etc. Then I decided to escape and also get my certificates back

SUNITA KUMARI (NAME CHANGED)

Department is meant to assist workers who feel cheated. I had remembered that and complained at the district level" said Sunita. She said that she had left her home in Torpa in Khunti after she failed to clear class XII examinations in 2013. "When I took the police to the agency's address, I knew they will try to threaten me but I will make sure I get my wage dues back as well," she said.

Sunita Kumari said she had already applied to appear for class XII examinations in her home district again.

Three persons were arrested from the placement agency premises, though the manager Mukesh Kumar was still absconding.

The National Commission for Women had proposed a draft Regulation of Employment Agencies 2007 but it is yet to be accepted and there are no national laws governing the placement agencies at present. Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini who was part of the team that went along with the police for the raid said there was a need for a policy on domestic workers.

"It is commendable that this girl was willing to come all the way from another state to Delhi to give information on her employer and she was so keen to get her school certificates back. We will extend to her all help in getting her wages back as well," said Inspector Aradhana Singh of Anti Human Trafficking Unit.

Trafficked and sold for marriage, 3 girls rescued

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY One victim was sold in Rohtak while two others were sold to be forcibly married off in Greater Noida

**Neelam Pandey
and Abhishek Anand**

■ reporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/GREATER NOIDA: The police in Delhi and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh have rescued three girls, including two minors, who were sold by human traffickers to be forcibly married to different people in Rohtak, Haryana, and Greater Noida's Dadri.

Four people have been arrested in this connection.

In the first case, a 24-year-old woman, who was trafficked about 13 years ago from Assam, managed to escape from Rohtak and reached west Delhi's Rajouri Garden and filed a police complaint there.

"The girl was rescued on Monday night. We have registered a case of rape and human trafficking at the Rajouri Garden police station. Both the victim and accused are from Assam and the accused has not been arrested yet," said Ranveer Singh, additional CP (west). The accused is a wanted human trafficker and had sold the girl for ₹50,000 for being married forcefully to a person in Rohtak.

"She was brought to Delhi when she was 12 years old on the promise of a job. She was handed over to Munna Chaudhary, against whom the FIR has been registered. He sexually assaulted her and allegedly sold her for ₹50,000," said Rishi Kant, an activist with NGO, Shakti Vahini.

TALES OF MISERY

- A 24-year-old woman, who was trafficked from Assam when she was a minor, managed to flee from captivity in Rohtak and reached Delhi to seek police help
- The man she accused of selling her, Munna Chaudhary, is a wanted trafficker and he has cases pending against him in Assam and Delhi.
- Also, two minor girls were rescued from Greater Noida's Dadri, who had been sold by a woman for being married forcefully
- Activists alleged that the skewed sex ratio in western UP has led to the growth of such human traffickers who sell girls to those who can't find brides

She was then taken to a village in Rohtak and was confined inside a house. She was repeatedly assaulted and gave birth to two children during her 13-year captivity. Shakti Vahini has informed the SP, CID, Assam and other senior officials about the rescue.

In a similar case in Greater Noida, the district police rescued two girls and arrested three people, including a woman, from two separate places.

The girls, both minors, are natives of West Bengal. The West Bengal police was involved in the operation.

Police said a woman, identified as Basanti, is a member of an organised gang that lures minor girls from West Bengal and forces them to marry people who pay them.

"The racket was busted after one of the trafficked girls called up her family in West Bengal. They approached an NGO that

came to us on Saturday and gave details of the girl. We launched a rescue operation. The accused, however, managed to flee," said Anurag Singh, circle officer of Dadri.

On Monday, a team of West Bengal police reached Greater Noida with an accused, Akhtar. Based on his information, a joint operation was launched and another girl was rescued with the arrest of one Sanju who had bought her from traffickers. The police also caught one Tinu, who had managed to give them the slip earlier.

Basanti, who hails from West Bengal, used to run the operation in Greater Noida and who used to manage the clientele. "Basanti used to get girls from traffickers and sell them to those looking for brides. She sold the two rescued girls for ₹50,000 and ₹30,000," Singh said. All the accused were taken to West Bengal on transit remand.

Former minister Sao was arrested from house of 'human trafficker'

DEEPU SEBASTIAN
EDMOND

HAZARIBAGH, OCTOBER 6

FORMER Jharkhand Agriculture Minister Yogendra Sao, who was arrested in Delhi on Saturday, was reportedly hiding in the house of an alleged human trafficker who has at least one arrest warrant pending against him.

Sao, a Congress MLA from Barkagaon, was arrested on a non-bailable warrant issued against him by a Hazaribagh court. The warrant was issued after the leader of a banned outfit told the police that the minister had given him money, guns and bikes to begin his group, 'Jharkhand Tiger'. Later, the arrested leader of another group — Jharkhand Bachao Andolan — also told the police that Sao

supported his organisation.

On Saturday, when Jharkhand's CID and the Delhi Police came to arrest Sao in Shakurpur's J J Colony, the alleged human trafficker, Pannalal Mahto, was at home. The police teams reportedly interacted with him, but CID personnel did not arrest him.

The police said the team was not aware of Mahto's antecedents. "The CID team was not aware that this man had one or two warrants out against him. They will go back to arrest him," DGP Rajeev Kumar said, without giving a timeline for the arrest.

Baidnath Kumar of NGO Diya Seva Sansthan, however, contradicted the DGP's claims, saying that the CID had contacted him beforehand for Mahto's details. Ku-

mar's NGO meticulously documents human trafficking cases in the state and has earlier been consulted by the CID for data.

Aradhna Singh, the officer in-charge of Khunti district's anti-human trafficking unit, has confirmed that there are four cases pending against Mahto. "The warrant against him and his wife Sunita Devi was obtained only ahead of (Durga) Puja and we were preparing to conduct a search operation," the sub-inspector said.

"He runs his activities in the name of Pannalal Placement Agency, located opposite Subash Place police station in Delhi. He has always been a major trafficker, but his name would not come up in FIRs because he is well-connected," Singh said.

Victim still in trauma a day after being rescued

NEW DELHI: The young girl, who was rescued on Monday, remained traumatised a day later, so much so that she could not even speak when representatives of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights visited her in hospital.

A member of the commission, Vinod Tikoo, said they have sought a report from the Delhi Police within 10 days. Mr. Tikoo visited the victim at the Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday morning.

"While doctors told us that there was no immediate threat to her life, the nature of injuries, particularly on the scalp, appeared quite severe. There was blood oozing out of her wounds and worms coming out of them," said Mr. Tikoo.

Activists said the abuse of domestic workers (minor or otherwise), mostly women, was rampant in the Capital and the lack of a protective environment and legal framework was primarily responsible for it.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat expressed shock over the incident. She added that there was no nationwide law to pro-

SIMILAR HORRORS

Faridabad, June 6, 2013

A young domestic worker from West Bengal was rescued from a businessman's house in upmarket Sector-15. In the four years she worked there, she was often beaten up over minor mistakes, locked inside the house and not paid for her work



New Delhi, October 7, 2012

A 16-year-old girl was rescued from her employer's Punjabi Bagh residence. The employer, a doctor, had allegedly been sexually assaulting the girl. She was trafficked from Assam in 2009 and sold off to a placement agency

New Delhi, March 30, 2012

A doctor and his wife left a 13-year-old maid locked in their Dwarka house while they vacationed in Thailand. The starving girl was rescued after neighbours saw her crying on the balcony. She said the couple would beat her often

tect the interests of domestic workers. She, however, added that there were specific laws in some States such as Maharashtra, but Delhi is not one of them.

"When girls move out from their villages or towns to big cities like Delhi, no record is maintained of the placement agency. If this is done at the village-level itself, it will be easier to identify the perpetrators if the victims go missing or are held in illegal confinement," said Ms. Karat.

According to NGO Save the Children, statistics for minors in domestic work are difficult to come by. "It is estimated

that an additional 5 million children, who are above the minimum legal age of work in their countries, are involved in paid or unpaid domestic work globally," the NGO said.

Harsh Mander, former member of the National Advisory Council, said: "There is a certain degree of apathy among those who employ these vulnerable children. Poverty is more of an outcome of child labour than its cause. The State, too, has to play a part here and build residential schools where these destitute, and often homeless, children can build their future," he said.

3 Jharkhand, Bengal girls rescued

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi Police, under fire from the Child Welfare Committee for failing to trace trafficked girls, has rescued three girls from different parts of the capital. The girls from Jharkhand and West Bengal were brought to the city after being drugged and locked up inside toilets of express trains. Once in the capital, they were either employed as domestic help or sold off to brothels.

On May 2, a 15-year-old girl from Simdega in Jharkhand was rescued from the house of one Virender Singh in Pitampura by a joint team of Maurya Enclave Po-

lice and Shakti Vahini, an NGO. The girl was allegedly brought to Delhi by one Taleshwar from her village and was employed in Singh's house as a domestic help allegedly by one Ajit Pyari of a placement agency. But she had not been able to contact Pyari for the past two months.

Two other trafficking victims have been rescued from the GB Road area by a joint team of West Bengal Police and Delhi Police. One Jahangir has also been arrested from Manikchar village in Bengal's Joynagar and sent to judicial custody. One of the girls, from South 24 Parganas of West Bengal, was lured by one Bappa Halder with the promise of a bet-

ter job. She was earning Rs 1,000 a month as a help. The trafficker took her to Howrah station but they boarded a train to Delhi. "I asked him where we were going. He said the owner of the hotel where I was supposed to work lived nearby. When I got suspicious, he threatened me, saying he would push me off the train," the girl said.

After reaching Delhi, she was kept in a house at Kofla Mubarakpur in south Delhi. There she met another girl from Bengal. After three days, both girls were taken to GB Road. Following a tip-off, a team of Delhi Police and Shakti Vahini, raided the brothel and rescued them on March 31.

Minor rescued from surgeon's residence

Purna Sodhi | TNN

New Delhi: A senior west Delhi-based cardiologist has been accused of employing a minor at home, and the city's Child Welfare Committee (CWC) has directed the police to register a criminal complaint against him. Police said a group of volunteers and a team from the Kirti Nagar police station rescued the teenage girl from the surgeon's Kirti Nagar residence on Wednesday noon.

"Preliminary investigations were

The minor said she was made to do household chores apart from taking care of the surgeon's two children. Her work hours were from 6am to midnight, and she was not paid

done today. We will talk to the girl again. However, we have asked for an FIR against the employer under Section 23 of the Juvenile Justice Act, relevant sections of Indian Penal Code and the Child Labour Act," CWC chairperson Neera Malik told TOI at the committee's Nirmal Chhaya campus.

Guddi (name changed), a native of West Bengal, was reported missing in January this year. It was later learnt that she had been abducted and sold off to a placement agency in Delhi. Acting on a tip-off from volunteers of an NGO in West Bengal, police and members of the volunteer group Shakti Vahini raided the surgeon's home on Wednesday.

"We had received a tip-off from our partners in West Bengal. They provided us with a number and we asked the police to trace it," said Subir Roy, director programmes and projects at Shakti Vahini. "After the number was traced to an address in Kirti Nagar, we decided to rescue the child."

Roy said the minor was made to do household chores apart from taking care of the surgeon's two children. "The girl says her work hours were from 6am to midnight, and she was not paid," said Roy. "She was given to the family by a placement agency, which bought her from the abductors in January."

When TOI called up the surgeon, he admitted to employing the girl but claimed he was not aware of her age. "The placement agency which gave us the girl said she was 17 years old. Thus we never really thought of complaining," said the surgeon. All attempts to contact the agency failed.

Unwell maid abused for refusing to wash clothes

Prema Sodhi | TNN

New Delhi: In another possible case of a domestic maid being allegedly battered by her employers, a 20-year-old woman was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital with injuries on Monday afternoon. The woman has alleged that she was beaten up by her employers on April 13 after she failed to wash clothes as she was unwell. The help was hired through a placement agency, police said.

Police were recording the statement of the victim on Monday evening and completing the formalities towards registering a case.

Dismissing the allegations, her employers told cops that they were being framed and that they had handed the help over to her relatives as she was unwell. "The employers have told us that they had taken in writing from the woman's brother-in-law, Prem Chand, that she was not well and he was taking her into his custody and that all dues had been cleared," said a senior police officer. Additional commissioner of police (west)

V Renganathan said, "The matter is being investigated."

Hospital sources said the condition of the woman, who is in a neck brace, was stable. Doctors are awaiting results of some reports.

Her brother-in-law said the woman was hit with a

The employers refused the maid's allegations and said they had handed her over to her relatives as she was unwell

wooden object — used to wash clothes — on April 13. "When she refused, the businessman's wife pushed her out of the bathroom and beat her up with a stick. It started to pain severely. Then her husband came and he also hit her. She fell and fainted," Chand said.

"When she was severely injured, her employers took her to a private clinic and got her first aid. But her condition began to deteriorate due to lack of proper treatment. Next day, her employer called

me up and asked me to take her to a hospital. They also made me sign a paper on which something was written in English. In order to take her away safely, I signed whatever they said and left," he said.

The woman, police sources said, came to Delhi five years ago and stayed with her sister and brother-in-law in Kotla in south Delhi. The eldest of seven siblings, she was convinced by her relatives to work to support her family. Using his contacts, Chand, who also runs a placement agency, found her a job as a domestic help a few years ago.

One and a half years ago, she was employed at the businessman's house. Sources said she had completed a year in January and her sister got her contract renewed. Chand said she was hired for Rs 3,000 and her salary was increased to Rs 3,500 in the new contract.

Chand alleged that on April 14, she was refused admission at Safdarjung. "Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and AIIMS also refused her admission. Then I contacted police and she was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital on April 16."

'They stuffed my mouth to muffle my cries'

13-yr-old help tells CWC she was watched through CCTV cameras, beaten if she ate anything but chapatis

SHALINI NARAYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

A DAY after the rescue of a 13-year-old girl who worked as a domestic help and was locked up in the house by a doctor-couple vacationing in Bangkok, neighbours in the Dwarka Sector 6 locality said they were unaware she was being tortured for the last seven months. Police said the girl was confined to the house, which was secured with computerised locks, and was under CCTV surveillance.

"I have seen the child exactly twice — Thursday being the second time, while she was being rescued. She looked frail and expressionless. She was confined to the house. I have never even heard her cry, but yesterday, when she deposed before the NGO and the police officers who rescued her, I found out why. She told them her employers would stuff a piece of cloth in her mouth and then beat her, to ensure no one heard her," said a neighbour.

According to police, the girl, who is from Jharkhand, was brought to Delhi by her uncle. In her statement before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), she said she was brought here on the pretext of being given a good job. "He promised her mother money. She was brought to Delhi



Police said domestic help was confined to house, secured with computerised locks

seven months ago and was handed over to a man named Krishna who gave her to one Mahadev. Mahadev then sent her to one Mukesh who has a placement agency... It was two days later that she was handed over to the couple, Sunita and Sanjay Verma at B 2/6 Hahne-mann Apartments," said the CWC statement.

Another neighbour said, "The girl wore a dupatta around her head, the times when I saw her in the balcony. She never made a sound. My son had seen her being pulled by the hair and beaten by the lady of the house. The couple never spoke to anyone."

Rajkumari, who has been working as a domestic help in the area for 16 years, said, "Yesterday was the first time I saw her. She was crying in the balcony. She said she hadn't eaten much in four days, she had eaten only roti and salt. She yelled '*mujhe bachao ya-han se*'. I was scared she would jump off the balcony."

"The girl told the police and NGO workers that the couple would check footage from the CCTV cameras, and if they found her eating, they would beat her. Scared, she ate only what they left for her," said another domestic help.

Nishikant, who runs Shakti

Vahini, the NGO which aided the rescue, said, "She had bruises all over. She said she wasn't being paid a salary."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) A K Ojha, said, "On directions of CWC, we have registered a case under Sections, 23/26 JJ Act (exploitation of juvenile), Section 16 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 (enforcement of bonded labour), 14/3 Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986, and Sections 342/370/374/323 (wrongful confinement, buying or selling one person or slave, compulsory labour and voluntarily causing hurt) of the IPC."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

She recalls: Hit with ruler, hair pulled out

THE MAIL man, the milk man, the courier deliverer; they would all come. Their doorbells would be answered at each house in each building in the Sector 6 apartment complex. Except B 2/6. Here, at the sound of a doorbell, a frail voice of a child would say from inside, "*Ghar pe koi nahin hai. Baad mein aana*."

Little did they know, this was not a child who had been asked by her parents to refrain from answering the door while they were out. This was a child whose lips were allegedly burnt with hot tongs, her limbs blue from the beating, her body bruised and pricked with nails, and her hair chopped off, leaving behind bald patches.

In her statement before the CWC on Friday, the girl said she would wake up at 6 am and "do all the cleaning and dusting of the doctor's clinic. She would wash the clothes and iron them. She would make chapatis but would not be provided with even two square meals".

She told the CWC, "I would do all the domestic chores, would be rarely given

vegetables, dal, tea and was made to eat chapatis only."

The couple are both doctors. While Sanjay Verma is a diabetologist, his wife Sunita is a gynaecologist.

"She would be beaten by the couple on petty matters. She was pricked with nails, hit with the side of a scale, her hair had been pulled out from some places, half the hair in the head are small as they are cut," reads the statement. "She was not allowed to talk to anyone in the family... She had no contact with her family. She was mentally tortured. She was also burnt," it states.

"The child has been physically abused by being beaten frequently. Now the family has left her for five to six days. They see CCTV footage and beat and harass her. She was without proper food for a week and was starving. She asked for help from the others maids and spoke to them from the balcony. She was rescued thereafter," the statement says.

Neighbours said that the child also deposed before the NGO at the time she was being rescued, that the couple's 11-year-old daughter would also beat her as she watched her parents do the same.

NGO's role in human trafficking being probed

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: Investigations into a recent human trafficking network smashed with the rescue of four minor girls at Old Delhi railway station have indicated involvement of an alleged human trafficker who was apparently an office-bearer of a non-government organisation whose role is also being probed on the direction of a Child Welfare Committee.

Munna Jaiswal alias Munna Choudhry, who is from Udalguri in Assam, is suspected to be involved in several human trafficking cases. He was previously booked and arrested in a joint operation of the Delhi Police and their Assam counterparts last July. The website of an NGO, which is now under police scanner for alleged links with human traffickers, earlier mentioned Munna's name as its vice-president.

"There is a series of serious charges against him. In fact, his name also cropped up in a report submitted to the Delhi Police Crime Branch on people running human trafficking rackets in the garb of NGOs operating in different

parts of the Capital. The report listed about 50 such NGOs and nearly 500 victims," said a police officer. The accused earlier ran one Rajdhani Placement Service in Rajouri Garden.

According to Rishi Kant of NGO Shakti Vahini, the minors who were rescued at the Old Delhi railway station were brought from Jharkhand on board Tata-Muri Express train on the pretext of jobs through an illegally-run agency named Pooja Placement Services in New Friends Colony. "The traffickers, Kar-mi Lokra and Saraswati Devi, claimed themselves to be workers of an NGO. The rescue operation was carried out by the Government Railway Police," he said.

After Shakti Vahini brought these facts before the Kingsway Camp CWC, the Committee directed the Nihal Vihar Station House Officer to probe the role of the NGO in question and submit a report within a week. "Investigations into Munna Choudhry's suspected complicity in other cases may lead the police to unearth several other such rackets," added Mr. Kant.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012

TIMES

Minor raped by placement agency owner

Raj Shekhar | TNN

New Delhi: An 18-year-old girl was allegedly raped by the owner of a placement agency in southeast Delhi, police said. The girl belongs to Jharkhand and was brought to the city by the wife of the agency owner.

The accused, Rajesh, ran the placement agency and had disappeared after raping the girl four months back. Since

then, his associate Raj Kumar ran the agency. The girl was hired by another placement agency in between that was run by one Pancham, police sources said.

Police are now trying to track down Rajesh, Raj Kumar and Pancham, police said. The trio is on the run and teams have been formed to nab them.

Rajesh's wife had got the girl to the city in October last

year after promising her a good life. The girl was kept in a small room along with other girls, trafficked from various other places, police sources said.

Finding her alone in a room, Rajesh raped her one night and disappeared. Months later, the girl complained of severe stomachache on Friday. Raj Kumar suspected it to be a case of pregnancy and gave her some 'pills'.

The girl began to bleed profusely after consuming them. Raj Kumar then took her to a south Delhi clinic but panicked on knowing about her miscarriage and fled on text of arranging money, sources said. The girl has alleged that she was not paid for her work and her salary was taken away by her 'owners'. An FIR has been registered at the Sarita Vihar police station, police said.

Cops rescue girl to be sold off after marriage bait

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl was rescued from the clutches of a human trafficker, who had lured her to accompany him from Assam to Delhi by promising to marry her.

The anti-kidnapping squad of the crime branch of Delhi Police, along with members of NGO Shakti Vahini, rescued her on May 5 when the accused was negotiating with a decoy customer to sell her off. The girl is a native of Kamrup district of Assam.

According to DCP (crime) Ashok Chand, the trafficker was demanding Rs 1.5 lakh from the decoy customer.

"During counselling, the girl said the trafficker used to

talk to her over phone often and soon they became close. On April 27, the accused, identified as Ismail Ahmed, left Assam for Delhi along with the girl. Ahmed had promised her that he would marry her once they reached the capital," said Rishikant, a senior member of Shakti Vahini.

After reaching Delhi, Ahmed postponed the marriage on one pretext or the other. In the meantime, the two developed a physical relationship. On May 1, Ahmed and the girl left for Kanpur and reached their destination the next morning. They returned the same day.

In Delhi, Ahmed kept the girl in a placement agency of-

fice at Shakurpur. The girl said she was not given food properly.

"After a medical test, the girl was sent to the children home, Nirmal Chaya, as per the order of the Child Welfare Committee. In the meantime, the NGO officials contacted her parents, and her father and elder brother are on their way to Delhi," said Rishikant.

During interrogation of the accused, cops found out that Ahmed is married and has four children. He is from Nagaon district of Assam. "We hope to arrest some more people in the case. Investigation in the matter is also on in some places in UP," said Chand.

THE TRAIL Girls from poor Jharkhand villages are brought to state capital Ranchi and then to Delhi where they are trained, employed and sent to other big cities

ht SPECIAL

DAY2: THE JOURNEY

no
country
for
children

Mallica Joshi

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GUMLA, JHARKHAND/NEW DELHI: Dreams of working in the movies, wearing jeans and makeup and watching television all day long. This is what the young girls from Jharkhand are being lured with to ensure that trafficking from the area goes on uninterrupted.

With parents becoming more and more aware about the dangers of sending their underage children to work as domestic maids to cities such as Delhi, Jaipur and Ahmedabad, the traffickers have found novel ways of luring young girls.

"Girls are now being picked up by traffickers on their way to home from school. They are shown a rosy picture of the life and are told that they can help their families. The few lucky ones who get to visit their fam-

ilies once a while come back wearing jeans and flashy t-shirts. They are projected as role models by traffickers," said Rahul Sharma, a social worker based out of Ranchi.

Once the traffickers have the girls, they are taken to Ranchi in buses and from there to Delhi in trains. "The recent crackdown at the Ranchi railway station has forced traffickers to shift to other stations in the state such as Bokaro, Koderma and Gomo where the scrutiny is not very high. The language barrier also plays a part as the girls speak a dialect that not many outside Jharkhand can understand," said Rakesh Sengar of Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

"Their confidence dips as soon as they see the one familiar face

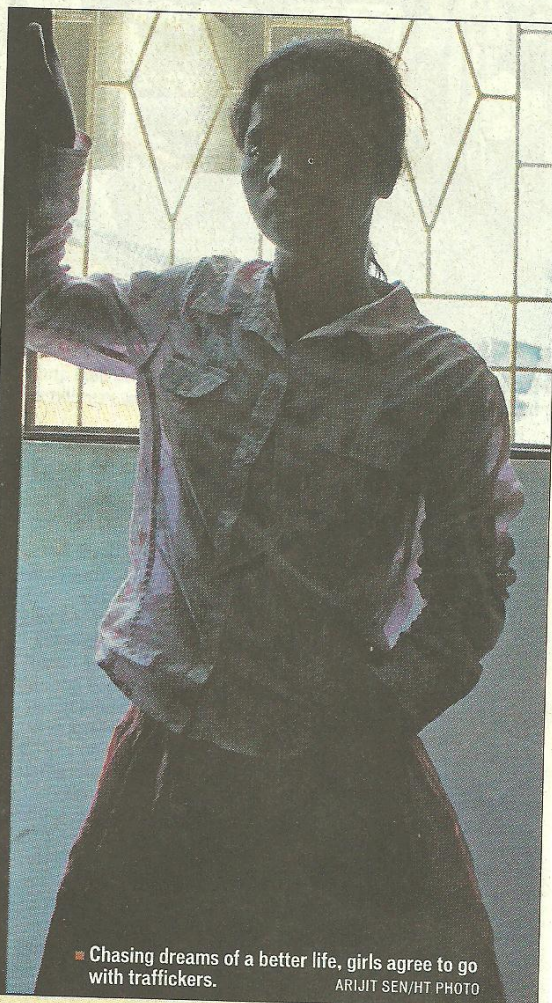
disappearing. They are then completely at the mercy of the new traffickers who usually threatens them if they speak up.

"As per our calculation, 70 per cent of these girls are tribals and have never stepped out of their villages. Life in Delhi fascinates them but when they reach here they realise what they have got into," Sengar added.

Put into squalid, suffocating rooms and often beaten up by placement agency owners, these girls have no means to contact their families.

TOMORROW

Stories of girls who were rescued from Delhi in the past six months. Rehabilitation efforts by the Jharkhand government



Chasing dreams of a better life, girls agree to go with traffickers.

ARIJIT SEN/HT PHOTO

ON THE TRAIL OF HUMAN BLACK MARKET

THE ROUTE

HT tracks the route taken by the traffickers from villages in Jharkhand to the big cities



ECONOMICS OF TRAFFICKING

₹2,000 Amount paid by a trafficker to the family of the child. He also promises to pay the same amount on monthly basis to the family

₹4,000-₹7,000 Money paid by the placement agency owners based in Delhi to the trafficker to bring each child from the villages and supplying to them

₹20,000-₹30,000 One-time payment the employer pays to the placement agency for hiring a domestic help

Monthly payments to the full-time maids:

Untrained maids	₹1,500
Semi-trained maids	₹3,500
Fully trained maids	₹5,500

■ The untrained and semi trained maids are usually between the ages of 10 & 14

■ Most placement agencies also collect the monthly salary on behalf of the girls. This money seldom reaches the girl or her family

■ Placement agencies earn an average annual income of ₹60,000 by placing one girl. In some cases, they leave early and are placed again

6

TIMES

Verify each placement: Court

Police Ordered To Conduct Door-To-Door Investigations

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: Days after the police arrested two men for child trafficking, the Greater Kailash-based placement agency the men operated has come under the scanner. The Lajpat Nagar Child Welfare Committee has ordered the Lajpat Nagar police to check all records of the Astha Placement Agency as "in all likelihood, there could be many more victims of child trafficking and sexual abuse who have received employment through this agency".

In a written order (a copy of which is with TOI) the court has asked the police "to seize all records of the agency". In a first-of-its-kind ruling, the court has ordered the investigating officer to "physically verify each placement to check whether any of its employees was working as a bonded labourer." The CWC has also asked that "a detailed action taken report (ATR) should be submitted at the next

hearing by the IO in person."

"The police should also enlist the help of NGO Shakti Vahini whose research officer will offer his services to conduct door-to-door investigations," said Raaaj Mangal Prasad,



chairperson of the Lajpat Nagar CWC.

Earlier in the same case, TOI had reported how trafficked children below the age of 14 are sexually abused by fake placement agencies. The south-east district police had arrested the owners of a placement agency in East of Kailash for ex-

plotting two girls aged 14, from Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, for the past one year. The accused were identified as Rajesh and Ranbir Singh.

The incident provoked the unified Anti-Human Traffick-

Astha placement agency, a GK I-based employment firm, has come under the scanner after its owners were arrested last week for child trafficking

additional DCP (crime) Pramod Khuswah.

The child trafficking racket was busted on June 8 when two minor girls were recovered from one of the platforms at Old Delhi Railway Station.

One of the minor girls, 14, was brought to Delhi from West Bengal a year ago by one Ranvir, the owner of Astha placement agency, through two women operatives based in Jalpaiguri. She was put to work in the house of Rajesh alias Tinku at Malviya Nagar. Later, she was shifted to Kalkaji where one Ashish, lived in a rented apartment.

"The girl said that she had been compelled to give body massages and had been sexually assaulted on several occasions. Later on, she managed to escape from the house along with another minor girl aged 14 who too had been tricked and brought to Delhi four days ago," said Meghna Yadav, additional DCP (southeast).

ing Cell of the Delhi police, led by the crime branch, to consider slapping stringent sections under the Child Labour Act against anyone found employing children below the age of 14 in the city. "We have directed all officers to treat all child labour complaints seriously and prosecute the employer as well," said

Concerted efforts will weed out trafficking

JOINING HANDS State governments must formulate laws and work together

ht SPECIAL

DAY4: THE SOLUTION

no country for children

Mallica Joshi

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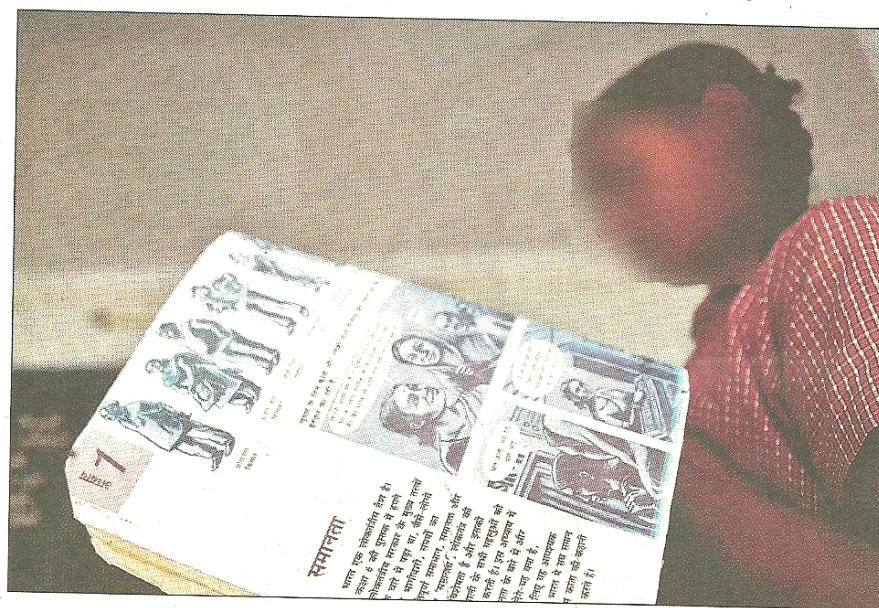
NEW DELHI: Picked up from Simdega district in Jharkhand, Meena was first taken to Patna and then to Delhi by train. She stayed in the national Capital for a week after which she was put on a bus for Ahmedabad.

In a story traversing four states, the 13-year-old found herself changing hands four times after which she was finally rescued by the police from a house where she was working as a domestic maid.

Meena's story indicates how the challenge of trafficking needs coordinated efforts by different states. The growing menace of child trafficking can only be curbed if state agencies formulate laws and work together.

"Political will is very important. It will not help if Delhi alone follows all guidelines. We need a strong coordinated effort by the state governments and police force of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Delhi. The Juvenile Justice Act needs to be followed in letter and spirit in all states and the Child Welfare Committees need to be made functional," said Raajmangal Prasad, child rights activist.

While child trafficking is an organised crime, the investigation and prosecution of traf-



■ A girl rescued from the clutches of traffickers now a student in Jharkhand.

ARIJIT SEN/HT PHOTO

We need strong coordinated efforts on parts of state governments.

RAAJMANGAL PRASAD
Child rights activist

fickers is lackadaisical.

"Inter-state investigation in such cases is very weak. They are not linked from the source states to the destination area," said Rishi Kant, member, Shakti Vahini, an NGO working in the field of child rights.

While the Union home ministry (MHA) has started Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in 225 districts in the country, training and sensitisation of the police is yet to be completed. "While the AHTUs have

been instrumental in rescuing a large number of children, the network needs to be expanded. We have already held a number of training sessions for police personnel to sensitise them. We need to get the message out that the trafficked women are not the culprits. They are, rather, the victims of circumstances," said Praveen Kumari Singh, Director (SR), MHA.

The non-implementation of the provisions of the Integrated Child Protection System (ICPS), which talks about identifying vulnerable families and supporting them, is also adding to the woes.

"ICPS can ensure that a lot of poor families and their children don't have to migrate but its non-implementation remains a big drawback," Prasad added.

HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE

- Inter-state authorities must join hands as many cases traverse several states
- The Juvenile Justice Act must be followed in letter and spirit
- Inter-state investigation must be made effective and quick
- Training and sensitisation of the police officers handling trafficking cases
- Police be made aware that trafficked children are victims not culprits
- Effective implementation of the Integrated Child Protection System

Girls fall in placement agency traps

Sugandha Pathak

West Delhi's Shakurpur area is home to over 200 placement agencies for domestic helps, catering mostly to posh Punjabi Bagh areas. Among them is the 'notorious' Laxmi Placement Agency previously called Bensa Manda Tribal Welfare Society.

It has a reputation of bringing minor girls from villages to the big city and placing them into exploitative work conditions. The agency is run from a three-storey house; its gate remains locked even during day time.

"We do not keep minor girls anymore. Police have become strict and there are continuous raids. The girls are usually from Jharkhand. They look young but all of them are adults," said Sunita, one of the owners of the agency.

Child right activist Rakesh Sengar said most placement agencies tend to change their address and name every three to four months - since they are involved in illegal activities.

"Laxmi Placement Agency keeps tribal girls inside the house. Once we got a call from one of the girl who was pleading to be rescued but by the time we raided the place, we could not find any girl there," said Shivani, another activist.

Hoping for a better life, girls come to city with agents to help them find jobs as domestic workers. The agents hand them over to the placement agencies. A labour department estimate says Delhi has around 2,800 such agencies. Out of them less than 300 are registered. They usually charge Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 as commission.

According to activists, no money reaches the girl in most cases. "The agencies take around Rs 10,000 from the household where a girl is placed. They also take about three months of the girl's salary as their commission," says Sengar.

Chirag Delhi's Amit Domestic Servant Services gets girls from Orissa. "We can arrange a minor but that will take time. We do not keep the girls at the office. The agent keeps her till the deal is fixed," said

Vijay, a worker there.

"The placement agency owner is usually from the same or the neighbouring village. He gets some relatives to work as agents at the villages. Since checks at the stations and bus stops have now become more frequent, the agents usually bring two to three girls at a time every month," added Sengar. The girls mostly come from remote villages in states like Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, where they live in abject poverty. While they are mostly financially exploited in Delhi, several incidents of sexual abuse are also reported.

"There is no specific law which makes it compulsory for these placement agency to register. If they do not, they have to pay a fine of just Rs 200. There are agencies which deal in prostitution, sell girls abroad and abuse them. In our last raid at a south Delhi agency, we found a pregnant girl who was raped by the agency owner," said Sengar.

A rescued minor victim hailing from Assam is still trying to forget her ordeal.

"I came here with a relative on the

promise that I will get Rs 5000 per month as a maid. That is a lot of money for us. The agency owner kept me for few months at his place. He tried to molest me whenever his wife was not around. Once he raped me. When I told his wife she called me a liar," the victim said.

Later, she was placed in a Mayur Vihar house. After learning that no money was given to her, the house-owners gave her three months' salary in advance and arranged somebody to take her back home. "I was lucky but there are many who are missing, even from my village. The parents keep asking about their daughters' whereabouts. The agents say the girls have run away," she said over the phone.

Rajendra Ravi, member of the National Domestic Worker's Union, said there are about 4 to 5.5 lakh workers in Delhi, of which around three lakh work part-time going from one to five homes every day. Around 2 to 2.5 lakh domestic workers are from villages. Some 15 to 20 per cent are minors.

Many owners of domestic help placement agencies trafficking, raping women: Report

Small-time trafficking agents have turned into wealthy owners of so-called domestic agencies in Capital

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: The vicious network of human traffickers has spread unchecked over the years, putting lives of hundreds of young women, minor girls and boys in peril and turning small-time trafficking agents into wealthy owners of so-called domestic help placement agencies in the Capital.

"These facts have been highlighted with the occasional arrests of people who bring in girls, mostly belonging to poverty-stricken remote tribal regions of Assam, West

Bihar, Jharkhand and Bihar.

The latest case in point is that of Seva Bharti Sanstha president Shiv Ram, 40, who was arrested for allegedly raping a young woman brought from Jharkhand along with his accomplices. The accused also ran a domestic help agency.

A detailed report on the present human trafficking trade in the city, recently submitted to Delhi Police Crime Branch by Assam Police (Special Branch) officer Anand Kumar Bania for action, paints a dreadful pic-

■ Owners, earlier workers, graduated into agents, who have now established their own networks

● Most owners are from Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, U.P.; operate in connivance with local elements

ture of how gangs have been running unscrupulous domestic help placement agencies by exploiting the victims.

The report has identified nearly 40 such agencies being run by human traffickers in the city. Owners of such agencies were earlier workers, after which they gradu-

ated into trafficking agents and then established their own networks.

They grab salaries of the victims, sell them off and force them into prostitution. A large number of victims are minors and some orphans, says the report.

According to the report, most owners are from As-

sam, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, and they operate in connivance with local elements. The local agents are from the source areas of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. They get huge commissions from owners, but there are some who get cheated themselves. After taking custody of the girls, the agency owners keep them in confinement in unhygienic conditions for days. The girls are threatened, beaten up and some even sexually abused. Private guards are employed for the job. The victims are also

prevented from communicating with relatives back home.

The money generated in the process goes into the pockets of such owners. Salaries of most victims are usurped by them, and many are even sold off in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir for various purposes, including marriage. Some of the trafficked girls and boys who died after being trafficked were secretly cremated by the gangs, the report states.

While identifying such

placement agencies, the report also reveals names of hundreds of trafficked victims. An agency run by Munna Choudhry, against whom two arrest warrants have been issued by an Assam court, is alleged to have under him over 240 persons only from Assam. He is alleged to have sexually abused several women keeping them as wives and then deserting them. Most of his agents have also been identified. Another agency operating in North-West Delhi is alleged to have under it 275 trafficked people.

July 5
2011

To stop sale of minors, Delhi govt to bring new law

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi government is planning to bring a new legislation to rein in trafficking of minors, especially girls, and women.

The move comes close on the heels of the labour ministry refusing to incorporate the provision for trafficking under the Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2012. The suggestion made by the social welfare ministry was turned down on the grounds that the existing Bill deal with the labour aspect of the working of the agencies and not with the criminal issues which includes trafficking.

"We had given many suggestions to be incorporated in the Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2012. They included renewal of placement agencies' licences at regular intervals and issues pertaining to trafficking of women and minors. But we were told that these suggestions cannot be incorporated, as they don't fall under the ambit of the proposed Act," said Kiran Walia, minister of social welfare, women and child development, Delhi government.

"We are working on a separate law that will look into issues

ACT TOUGH

- Delhi government will bring a new law to deal with cases of trafficking of women and minors
- Since registration of placement agencies is voluntary, only 364 out of the 2,300 agencies in Delhi are registered
- Delhi government is considering Andhra Pradesh Trafficking Act to come up with a new legislation

of trafficking. We are also studying the Andhra Pradesh trafficking Act," added Walia.

There are around 2,300 placement agencies in Delhi, of which only 364 are registered under the Delhi shops and establishment Act. As this registration is voluntary, not many get themselves registered.

"In case of any complaints against these non-registered agencies get away by paying a paltry fine of ₹50," said Rakesh Sengar, an activist associated with the Bachpan Bachao Andolan, an NGO working for the welfare of children.

The draft of the Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2012, is ready and it would be placed before the assembly in February 2013.

Kept as slaves, minors are shown no mercy

NO PROTECTION Upper middle and middle-class families in big cities such as Delhi employ, exploit and torture children trafficked from impoverished regions

ht SPECIAL

DAY3: TORTURE & ABUSE

no country for children

Mallica Joshi

mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Stuti (name changed) would wake up at 5 every day to sweep, wash and dust the entire house, cook breakfast and pack lunch for the family of five and then go and drop the kids to the bus stop. But she is not the mother of these children; neither is she their caretaker. She herself is an 11-year-old child.

Working at the home of a MNC executive, she was made to work at least 12-14 hours daily, given only two meals and beaten up badly if she made a 'mistake'. When she was rescued at the instance of a neighbour who could not bear to see her regular trauma, she was found to be malnourished and scared.

But Stuti's is not alone. Megha (name changed), 13, ran away from her employer's house to be found by a policeman on the streets in Kalkaji. She had run away from a doctor's house with a swollen ear, scratches on her face and bruises all over her body. The doctor's wife, she said, hit her every day.

There are thousands of minor domestic helps working in the homes of upper middle and middle class Indians who are meted out the same treat-



■ Stuti (left) and Megha (both names changed) were rescued at the instance of neighbours who were moved by the torture their upper middle-class employers in Delhi inflicted on them. ARIJIT SEN/HT PHOTO



ment daily. Child Welfare Committees, NGOs and police have rescued close to 200 minor domestic maids in the past six months.

Most tip-offs have been given by neighbours because these maids are regularly beaten up.

"I was once hit with a 'tawa' because I broke a glass jar by mistake," Stuti said.

Stuti came to Delhi as a nine-year-old from West Bengal. Her mother worked for the family's parents in their ancestral village and her mother thought she would be in safe hands.

"The working middle class is fuelling the child domestic help

sector. We think that we are doing the girl and her family a favour by employing her. What we fail to understand is that this girl should be in a school instead of doing work that even a full-grown man would find daunting. Unless a girl is beaten up badly, no one complains," said Rajasebastian Robertson, who runs a shelter home called Global Family and is currently taking care of Stuti.

"Employing a young boy or girl is not considered a crime. Unless this attitude changes, girls will continue to be trafficked and tortured," he added.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you know of a child, below the age of 14, who is employed as a domestic help, you can contact the following numbers:

- Police — 100
- Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights — 011-23862686, 011-23862692
- Bachpan Bachao Andolan — 011-49211111, 011-26224899
- Butterflies — 011-26163935, 011-26191063
- Shakti Vahini — 011-42870188, 9582909025

talktous

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Trafficked tribal girl found dead under mysterious circumstances

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: A minor tribal Christian girl trafficked to Delhi from Jharkhand about a year ago and placed as a domestic help died under mysterious circumstances at her employer's residence in neighbouring Ghaziabad about a fortnight ago. While the Jharkhand Police was not intimated about the incident, the victim's body was consigned to flames following the post-mortem, which was conducted purportedly in the absence of any family member.

The matter came to light when placement agency representatives recently contacted the girl's relatives to inform them about her death.

Subsequently Jharkhand Inspector General (Criminal Investigation Department) Anurag Gupta took up the is-

sue and contacted non-government organisation Shakti Vahini seeking its assistance. Members of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) also took cognisance and a two-member team also initiated an enquiry.

"The 16-year-old tribal girl was brought from Lohardaga in Jharkhand to Delhi by a woman named Satya Oraoin and handed over to one Sita Ram last July. Claiming that she was 18 years of age, a domestic help agency placed her at a house in Indirapuram. The agency charged Rs.20,000 as commission for the same. The girl was to be paid a salary of Rs.3,000, but we suspect that she did not receive a single penny," said Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini.

On the evening of June 19, the employer called up the local police and claimed she

had hanged herself.

"The police got the post-mortem done at a local hospital, after which the body was handed over to one Santosh. Preliminary enquiries have suggested that he was not the deceased's relative. The post-mortem should not have been conducted in the absence of a family member. Although the girl was Christian, the body was consigned to flames around 10 p.m. on June 20. Police documents also mention her as a Hindu," said Mr. Kant.

The NGO representative said despite the girl dying about 20 days ago, the Ghaziabad Police was yet to give any intimation to their Jharkhand counterparts.

"It suggests that no concrete attempt was made by the police to trace the victim's family," alleged Mr. Kant.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

City's 1 lakh full-time helps suffer silently

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: Around one lakh full-time domestic workers keep the city's homes functional and there are many more part-time helps. However, lack of laws leaves these workers, mostly women and girls, at the mercy of employers and placement agencies.

R S Chaurasia, chairperson of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an NGO, pointed out that even if just 10% of Delhi urban middle and upper middle class households employ full-time maids, the number will be nothing short of 1 lakh. "Add to this part-time workers. It is worrisome that none of these workers have any right and have no laws to fall back on," he said.

The NGO has rescued 114 minor domestic workers—all girls—in Delhi over three years. Most girls were trafficked and got jobs through placement agents in Delhi. They come mostly from Lak-

himpur, Sonitpur and Khokrajhar in Assam; Paschim- Singh Bhum, Gumla and Khunti in Jharkhand; and Bankura and 24 Parganas in West Bengal, said Rakesh Senegar of BBA.

Chaurasia said placement agencies now charge a com-

Many children and women are being trafficked for forced labour, child labour, forced marriages, sexual exploitation and bonded labour

mission of Rs 60,000 from employers. Earlier, it was Rs 20,000, he added. "This reflects the growing demand for domestic workers. The agents now work through phones and don't run offices. They tell employers to give the salary of the worker to them and don't allow the girls to talk to their parents. Workers have to sleep in bathrooms and balconies,

and are fed stale food."

Rishikant from Shakti Vahini, another NGO which was involved in the rescue of a domestic worker from Vasant Kunj recently, said, "Unsafe migration leads to trafficking. Many children and women are being trafficked for forced labour, child labour, forced marriages, sexual exploitation and bonded labour. The employers are also specifically looking for younger children because they come cheap, complain less and remain tightlipped while being exploited."

In the past two years Shakti Vahini has rescued 628 victims of trafficking, including women and children.

Rita Panicker, director of the NGO Butterflies, said girls from Jharkhand belt are more vulnerable. "The city life itself is a traumatic experience for them. To be placed in a middle class home where life is so different from their villages is a big change for them."

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013

Delhi govt drags its feet on draft bill on placement agencies

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The death of two girls allegedly trafficked from Jharkhand for domestic work in Delhi only underlines the harsh truth that there are no laws that govern domestic work. While the demand for a national legislation gets louder, the fact remains that Delhi government's draft bill limited to placement agencies—that was put up for objections and suggestions last August—is nowhere close to becoming a law. The much announced and often cited panacea for the many ills surrounding domestic work, the draft bill may not become a law if it's not finalized for approval of Delhi assembly before the monsoon session. The tenure of the current Congress-led government is coming to a close with the assembly polls scheduled for later this year.

The final contours of the draft which has drawn a lot of criticism from human rights and activist groups working with domestic workers are yet to be fixed. Top sources in the labour department pointed out that the latest delay was due to a debate over whether the ambit of the proposed legislation should be expanded to include workers beyond domestic workers engaged by placement agencies.

This issue was discussed at a recent meeting chaired by chief secretary DM Spolia. A consensus has been arrived at for now that the bill may be restricted to placement agencies for domestic workers. A meeting next month will take a final decision and put up the final draft for approval of the cabinet. Based on the objections and suggestions, some changes have been made to the final draft. For instance, it is now proposed to also register the link person who introduces the domestic worker to a placement agency to guard against trafficking and take measures against miscreants.

TOI had reported last August how the Delhi government's draft Bill on placement agencies—aimed at reining in agents—had created a flutter among NGOs, with activists claiming it was riddled with loopholes. At that time, when the Bill was put up for objections and suggestions, it came under severe criticism from representatives of

HELP CHECKLIST

Highlights of Draft Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill 2012

- Individuals or private placement agencies without licence can't provide domestic workers
 - Licence to be issued only after verification under new law
 - Licence to be issued for five years by controlling authority appointed by state
 - All placement agencies have to register with state within three months of notification
 - No agency can employ or engage anyone below 18 years as domestic help
 - Worker must be citizen of India or of any country notified in official gazette by government
 - Signboards in placement
- All domestic workers to be issued photo IDs; must have bank accounts**
- Violation of Act can attract a jail term up to 1 year and a fine of Rs 20,000**
- Agency office must display licence number**
- Agencies have to maintain details of domestic workers and their employers which can be crosschecked by labour department
 - Agencies to maintain details of person (intermediary) who brings women and men for domestic work from villages



around 12 NGOs who voiced their concerns its provisions.

Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini, who is part of the investigations in the death of the two minor girls from Jharkhand, feels this case is a classic example of how domestic work needs legal regulations. "Just implementing an Act in Delhi will not help as the problem is national. Domestic workers are being brought from states like West Bengal and Jharkhand. It's important to put in place a national plan of action for placement agencies to ensure coordination between states," said Rishikant.

Social activist Subhash Bhatnagar too feels the government's focus on regulating agencies is misplaced and monitoring employers who engage domestic workers is critical. NGOs want employers to be mandatorily registered with the state. Like in the case of the two girls from Jharkhand, most agents who bring girls to the city promising employment are exploiters not wanting to get themselves registered, say activists.

The Draft Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regula-

tion) Bill 2012 lays down that no agency shall employ, engage or deploy anyone under the age of 18 as a domestic help. Violation of the Bill's provisions can fetch a jail term up to one year and a fine of Rs 20,000. The provisions state that only licensed individuals or private agencies can provide private domestic workers. The licences will be issued for a period of five years by a controlling authority comprising officers of the level of joint labour commissioner. All existing placement agencies are required to register with the state within three months of the new law being notified.

The Bill mandates a placement agency to display its licence at the office and maintain a register with records of domestic workers and employers. The labour department has been empowered to inspect and cross-check these documents. The agency has to issue photo IDs to workers and inform the controlling authority about deployment of workers within five days of their getting employed. Each worker will have a bank account and a pass book in which their salary will be deposited.

J'khand teen leads cops to job agency

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: All of 17 years old, a tribal girl from Jharkhand's Khunti district—a belt affected by Maoist violence—led Delhi Police and an anti-human trafficking team from her home state to the placement agency in Taimoor Nagar in south Delhi on Friday.

A victim of bonded labour, she was not just denied her wages but the owners of the placement agency also took away her certificates documenting her educational growth. Another girl, who is 14 and from the same district, was rescued on May 5 by volunteers of NGO Shakti Vahini from Kashmere Gate ISBT. She had been beaten by her employers in Chandigarh.

The two girls are examples of a worrying trend. More and more girls are being lured in by traffickers from areas suffering Maoist violence to Delhi and other metros by the promise of a better life. These two girls will, however, leave for their native state on Monday.

"I came to Delhi with a few girls who already

worked here hoping to get work based on basis of my Class X result and the short course I had done in the hospitality sector. I was shocked when the man tried to place me in a job as a domestic worker. He took away my documents and, when I refused to take this job, hired me to work in his office. He never paid me the promised salary of Rs 7,000. I finally fled to my village in February and filed a case against him with the labour

WORRYING TREND

department," she told TOI.

Aradhana Singh, the police officer in charge of AH-TU in Khunti district and here to take the girls home, said most people don't complain when girls go missing because they fear attacks from the Maoists who may see them as police informers. Social activists from NGO Diya Sewa Sansthan from Jharkhand said in 13 years just about 360 FIRs have been registered in trafficking cases and only in one case a trafficker has been sentenced to a jail term.

150 illegal placement agencies feeding on trafficking racket

Faizan Haidar

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NEW DELHI: The arrest of Gayatri, member of a human trafficking ring, on Monday has once again exposed the nexus between the domestic help placement agencies running in the Capital and these gangs.

Gayatri, sister-in-law of a notorious trafficker from Jharkhand Panna Lal Mahto, was arrested by the Delhi police on Monday. She runs a placement agency in west Delhi's Shakurpur. She told the police that they used to buy minors for ₹12,000 and then charge ₹24,000 for placing them at a household to work as domestic help.

They used to take monthly salary from their employer.

Gayatri's arrest will help the police unearth the racket as they now have a list of over 150 illegal placement agencies operating from Shakurpur. HT has copy of the list. Police, however, have so far failed to arrest Mahto.

"It has been revealed that Mahto's relatives own several placement agencies in the area. The list submitted by the Jharkhand Police contains names of wanted trafficker and illegal placement agencies and action is being taken against them," said a senior Delhi Police officer.

A joint team of the Delhi Police, Jharkhand police and NGO Shakti Vahini conducted several raids in the area and managed to arrest Gayatri but Mahto and his wife are still untraceable.

Police said male members of the family stay in Jharkhand

➤ **TRAFFICKING FOR DOMESTIC HELP IS GROWING AT ALARMING RATE AND POLICE MUST TAKE ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PLACEMENT AGENCIES. THE GIRLS DON'T EVEN GET THEIR SALARY.**

RISHI KANT, Shakti Vahini

and lure minors on the pretext of job in Delhi and send them here through agents working for them. The Delhi police recovered a register from the placement agency that has details of trafficked girls.

The trafficking racket in Delhi is a steadily growing menace with victims - mostly minors and women - brought in from states like Jharkhand and West Bengal. Once in the city, they are pushed into child labour, illegal domestic work or prostitution by unscrupulous placement agencies.

"Trafficking for domestic help is growing at alarming rate and police must take action against illegal placement agencies. The worse part of the whole racket is those minor girls who have been trafficked to Delhi from various parts of the country don't even get the monthly salary as these agency owners ask the customer to hand over them the salary," said Rishi Kant, an activist with Shakti Vahini, an NGO.

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, RANCHI
FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Trafficker's body found in Khunti

**Parvati Nag
Was Pannalal's
Close Aide**

Kelly.Kislaya@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: The body of a 16-year-old female trafficker was recovered from the forests of Rani Pahar area in Murhu block of Khunti district late on Friday.

The body of Parvati Nag, who was wanted by the anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) of Khunti police, was found in a mauled condition with the face smashed with huge boulders.

The police team was led by Aradhna Singh, AHTU Khunti head, who said: "The body was unrecognizable and it took us a few hours to identify the body. An FIR was lodged against this girl a few weeks ago after a trafficking victim rescued from Delhi informed us that she was taken to Delhi by Parvati."

Parvati was a suspected aide of trafficking kingpin Pannalal Mahato, who is behind the bars for trafficking thousands of girls from Jharkhand. Her brother is also a left-wing extremist and is currently in prison. So far, Parvati is the youngest trafficker in the wanted list of police.

An FIR was lodged against unknown persons in Murhu police station on Saturday morning under section 302 (murder) and section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code.

Police and civil society members are speculating involvement of traffickers or left-wing extremists in the murder. Aradhna Singh said, "The girl's brother being a left-wing extremist, there is a possibility of other members of his group murdered her for some reason. However, chance



"As this is a case related to the murder of a trafficker, it should be shifted to AHTU Khunti for better investigation. The officials in AHTU already have information about trafficking kingpins"

Rishi Kant | MEMBER OF SHAKTI VAHINI

es of her being murdered by other traffickers and allies of Pannalal are higher."

She, however, added: "Nothing can be said for sure. Investigation is on and we will soon get to know what happened."

In the last few months, of the 35 most wanted traffickers, 14 have been arrested by the police. These include big names like Pannalal Mahato, his wife Sunita Devi, Baba Bamdev, Kapil Dev, Akash Rath and many more.

Rishi Kant, member of national NGO Shakti Vahini, who was with Khunti AHTU when the body was found said, "Many traffickers are being arrested now. As a result, there is a fear among the major traffickers who are still on the loose. There is a possibility that this girl had some knowledge about the whereabouts of one of the close associates of Pannalal. Therefore, she was murdered to prevent information from being leaked."

He added, "As this is a case related to the murder of a trafficker, it should be shifted to AHTU Khunti for better investigation as the officials in AHTU already have information about trafficking kingpins."

Wanted human trafficker killed in apparent attempt to silence her

ELIMINATED Those who killed her feared that she would reveal secrets of the network to the police

Saurav Roy

■ Saurav.roy@hindustantimes.com

RANCHI: Human trafficker Parvati Nag, wanted by police as she could have provided clues about the trafficking network in Jharkhand, was murdered in Khunti in an apparent bid to silence her, officials said on Saturday.

Information provided by local agents has led to the arrest of 14 of the 35 trafficking kingpins wanted by police, sources in the police department said. Nag too was under the scanner and would have been arrested soon, they said.

The bosses running the trafficking network were removing "weaklings" so that they would not disclose secrets, the sources added.

Police also suspect left wing extremists were possibly involved in Nag's murder, given reports of links between placement agencies and rebel groups.

CRIME FILE

■ Information provided by local agents has led to the arrest of 14 of the 35 trafficking kingpins wanted by police, sources in the police department said.

■ The bosses running the trafficking network were removing "weaklings" so that they would not disclose secrets.

■ Nag was a member of the racket run by kingpin Panna

Lal Mahato, who was arrested last year on charges of immoral trafficking and giving shelter to tainted state minister Yogendra Sao, police said.

■ Anti-human trafficking activists saw Nag's murder as a warning to local agents and an achievement for police, who have tightened their grip over agents running the racket.

Aradhna Singh, in-charge of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in Khunti, said Nag had links with extremist groups in the district and her knowledge of their activities could be one of the reasons for her murder.

"Either the kingpins or Maoists murdered Nag, fearing that she would disclose secrets to the police," Singh said.

Nag was a member of the racket run by kingpin Panna Lal Mahato, who was arrested last year on charges of immoral trafficking and giving shelter to tainted state minister Yogendra Sao, police said.

Mahato was responsible for trafficking at least 10,000 children from Jharkhand to Delhi and its suburbs, civil society

NAG HAD LINKS WITH EXTREMIST GROUPS IN THE DISTRICT AND HER KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES COULD BE ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HER MURDER. EITHER THE KINGPINS OR MAOISTS MURDERED HER

ARADHNA SINGH, anti-trafficking unit in charge

organizations alleged. Sao was accused of funding and founding a left wing extremist group.

Anti-human trafficking activists saw Nag's murder as a warning to local agents and an achievement for police, who have tightened their grip over agents running the racket.

"The murder is a result of several arrests made in the past cou-

ple of weeks," said Rishi Kant, founder of Shakti Vahini.

The body of another woman was found in Arki block of Khunti district this week. Police suspect she was a trafficking agent but there was no confirmation.

In the past month, police have arrested at least two local agents, five agents from Haryana and three agents from Punjab. They provided information about important links in the trafficking rackets, police sources said.

Jharkhand has been infamous for being one of the largest suppliers of modern-day slaves in India.

Every year, some 10,000 minors, mostly girls, are trafficked from Jharkhand to other parts of the country, especially Delhi, to work as bonded labour and sex slaves, claim civil society groups.

Most of the girls are subjected to brutality by their employers while dozens end up in brothels.

Marriage racket: J'khand police arrest five Haryana men

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: The Jharkhand police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five Haryana men and their two local links for their alleged hand in an inter-state sex-cum-human trafficking racket.

All the seven have been sent to jail under judicial custody. The Jharkhand police have sought help from their Haryana counterpart to bust the racket.

Just on Friday, the police had said that minor girls from Jharkhand villages were being bought by Haryana middle-aged men on the pretext of fake marriages.

The police based their revelation on the admission of a trafficking agent, Mahima, 22, who was arrested from a village in Khunti district on the same day in the morning.

In connection with the latest arrests, the police said that the men were caught on Wednesday from a Koderma village (Dumchach), about 165 kilometres from the state capital, when they were allegedly trying to force a villager to marry his 13-year-old daughter to one of them.

Koderma SP Sangita Kumari said the men had been identified as Vijay Pal, Karan Pal,

Vijay Singh, Suresh Kumar and Ramanand Sharma, all come from the Rewari district of Haryana. They came to the village by road and contacted their local links Mohammad Mahtab and Amjad Ali, residents of Raj Dhanwar in Jharkhand, and later contacted the girl's parents, Kumari said.

Dumchach villagers told the police that several men from Haryana had solemnized such fake marriages earlier also. The parents of those girls are now worried about their daughters as they have not heard from them since they were married off, Kumari said.

She said the police investigations had proved that "trafficking in garb of marriage" had become a practice in some parts of the district.

About 10,000 children from Jharkhand are trafficked to various parts of the country every year, claim civil society organisations.

A majority of these girls are employed as domestic help, while some end up at brothels.

Delhi-based NGO Shakti Vahini's founder, Rishi Kant, said there was need to fight this organized crime with the same spirit with which the Prime Minister's Beti Bachao Andolan was launched in Haryana.

A HUMAN TRAGEDY

DIRE PROPORTIONS

5 lakh women and children trafficked every year in India.

20,000 children are trafficked every year from Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, say NGOs

Thousands of girls, including minors, have gone missing from Jharkhand's tribal hinterlands, state has no records

Tribal districts of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal most vulnerable to trafficking

Out of 35 identified trafficking kingpins, 14 have been arrested

Jharkhand girls are trafficked to metros in India and even to Middle East countries.



Jharkhand's hinterlands have become a hotbed of modern day slavery, where kin, neighbours, politicians and even NGOs are involved in well-organised rings. HT FILE PHOTO

BIG BUSINESS

THE MONEY: Local agents earn between ₹10,000 and ₹25,000 against each girl supplied

THE ENABLERS: Many of them are kin of the girls, who make promises of money

THE REASONS: Much of trafficking happens from regions that have abysmally low earnings (less than \$1.2 per capita). An emerging reason is the demand for girls in states where female foeticide and infanticide has skewed gender ratios

THE MO: Traffickers scout and identify girls at village haats (markets) and churches

Kingpins who trade minors as slaves

ILLEGAL BUSINESS FIRs have been lodged against 35, including 12 women, for trafficking girls to Delhi, Haryana and UP

HT SPECIAL

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: Meet a group of men and women who traffic minor girls from Jharkhand to Delhi and its suburbs. They organise fake marriages to traffic girls for prostitution and domestic work, and hold annual fairs in Delhi to put girls on sale, say police and anti-human trafficking organisations.

Police have put on record 35 human trafficking kingpins who have turned Jharkhand into a slavery hub in less than a decade. They all started from non-descript hamlets in Jharkhand and now have offices in New Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

According to police, named FIRs have been lodged against these alleged traffickers, but that hasn't deterred them from practising the illegal trade.

Out of the 35 kingpins, 12 are women. Anti-human trafficking activists claim that women facilitate trafficking from Jharkhand. "They (women) are used in convincing the parents of children that their daughters would lead a better life in Delhi and other metros," said Bajinath Kumar, an anti-human trafficking activist.

These kingpins prefer trafficking children from areas under their control, police say. Their modus operandi varies. Some kingpins traffic minors from the state to Delhi and its suburbs by SUVs, but a majority use rail routes, say civil society organisations.

Right from organising fake marriages for sex trade to abduction of children and forced labour, these "slave traders" run their illegal business in the national capital. Three of the 35 kingpins — Ravindra Kumar Rath, Meri Tudu and Sushma Tudu — used a white Tata Safari with a Delhi-registered number to traffic girls from Jharkhand, police sources said. They have an office, Meri Placement Agency, at Nihal Vihar in Nagloi, New Delhi from where children are supplied to Haryana and NCR.



■ Labourers rest at the Birs Munda stadium in Ranchi after being rescued from traffickers. HT FILE PHOTO

THEY (WOMEN) ARE USED IN CONVINCING THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN THAT THEIR DAUGHTERS WOULD LEAD A BETTER LIFE IN DELHI AND OTHER METRO CITIES

BAJINATH KUMAR, anti-human trafficking activist

FIRs against the three have been lodged with Jagannathpur police station in Ranchi. Rath was arrested last year.

Nityopal, who has his placement agency Nityopal Placement Agency at Goregaon, Uttar Pradesh, is accused of organising fake marriages to traffic girls for flesh trade and domestic work, say organisations. An FIR against him has been lodged with Sukhdeoanagar police station in Ranchi. In last three years, he has allegedly organised at least 50 fake marriages, claim anti-human trafficking activists.

Devchand Sabu, Nirmal Mahato, Sundar Munia, Sonita Devi, Krishna Kumar Sahu, Basanti Devi and Nizamuddin are accused of luring children from Simdega, Khunti and Gumla districts to make them work as

domestic helps in Delhi. FIRs have been lodged against them with Simdega, Chutia and Namkum police stations. They have their offices at Shakarpur, Jamakpuri, Motinagar and Shivaji Enclave areas of Delhi, claim activists.

At least 11 traffickers run agencies that function under arrested kingpin Baba Bamedev's placement agency. They hold fairs in Delhi where children are auctioned, say police sources. After Bamedev's arrest, the agency functioned under Pannalal Mahato, another kingpin who had alleged links with left-wing extremist outfits, police said. Mahato was arrested last year from Shakarpur where he had given shelter to then state minister Yogendra Sao.

Pannalal's aide KD Choudhary ran Pannalal's

agency for a month after his arrest. He is among the 35 kingpins and was arrested in November 2014 when he was auctioning teenage girls in Delhi.

"These kingpins have agents spread across Jharkhand who can continue with the crime even in their absence," said Aradhna Singh, in-charge, Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Khunti.

Names of the agents and their placement agencies are changed frequently to dodge the police, say activists. Some agencies that were sealed after police raids were restarted with new names, said Bajinath Kumar.

"The greatest challenge is to differentiate between the placement agencies that genuinely facilitate employment and the ones that exploit our people. We don't have any mechanism for this," said an IG rank official requesting anonymity.

About 10,000 children are trafficked from Jharkhand every year, claim NGOs. While a majority of them are employed as domestic helps, some end up at brothels.

THE VICE MEN & WOMAN

Krishna Kumar Sahu, 42

Village: Dagadih, W. Singhbhum
Office: Krishna Enterprises, JJ Colony, Shakarpur, New Delhi

Case: FIR lodged with AHTU, Simdega and Golikera police station, West Singhbhum

Ravindra Kumar Rath, 45

Village: Originally from Haryana, stayed at Tupudana, Jharkhand

Office: Meri Placement Agency, Nihal Vihar, Nagloi, New Delhi

Case: FIR lodged with Jagannathpur police station in Ranchi.

Gayatri Devi, 36

Village: Torpa in Khunti

Office: Gayatri Enterprises, Shakarpur, New Delhi

Case: FIR lodged with AHTU Khunti

Background: Gayatri is sister-in-law of Pannalal Mahato, who

Rhenu Pratap Badaik, 33

Village: Khunti

Office: Jharkhand Personal Placement Service, Teachers Colony, New Delhi

Case: FIR lodged with a police station in Khunti, was once arrested in Delhi

Children trafficked: at least 1000 (as per NGOs)

Background: After working as an agent for at least two years, he shifted to Delhi and opened his own placement agency in Shakarpur.

Modus Operandi: Targets vulnerable girls from Ranchi, Simdega and West Singhbhum. Executes trafficking in garb of social service under civil society organisations.

Background: Hailing from a small village in Haryana, he started working as an agent for domestic maids in Delhi and NCR. In 2000, Rath joined hands with Meri Tudu and Sushma Tudu of Jharkhand to open Meri Placement Agency in Delhi. He was arrested in 2013.

Modus Operandi: Used to travel by road to avoid railway police. Police had found a white Tata Safari by which he used to carry girls from Jharkhand to NCR.

had given shelter to tainted Jharkhand minister Yogendra Sao in Delhi. Gayatri worked with Mahato and is alone responsible for trafficking at least 800 children, say civil society organisations.

Modus Operandi: Gayatri did not directly operate in Jharkhand. Her agents here lured Jharkhand girls to Delhi and she convinced them for the various works. Activists say she stayed at Pannalal's residence and auctioned children.

Background: He started working for Baba Bamedev's organisation at a young age and eventually became an agent. After working in Jharkhand for several years, he shifted to Delhi to work directly under Bamedev.

Modus Operandi: He used to organise fairs in Delhi wherein girls were put on sale. He was a close aide to Bamedev and was responsible for the quarterly fairs in his absence.

Abuse victims to work as security guards at KGBVs

Saurav Roy

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THE PROGRAMME

STARTED IN 2009

WHEN I WAS THE LABOUR

COMMISSIONER, WE HAVE

ALREADY PLACED 30

GIRLS EACH IN LATEHAR,

GUMLA AND LOHARDAGA

DISTRICTS

ARADHNA PATNAIK, HRD secretary

RANCHI: The students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) would be protected by those women who have fallen prey to any kind of abuse.

KGBVs function as residential schools for the minor girls who are rescued from the shackles of their employers and placement agents in various parts of the country, especially Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. There are as many as 212 KGBVs across Jharkhand.

So, 30 women, all sufferers of heinous crimes, like child abuse, human trafficking and child labour, would work as security guards in 12 KGBVs of Khunti district and earn a monthly salary of ₹8,000 from February, thanks to the state human resource development department.

These women, who have seen the barbaric face of exploitation, were given appointment letters by the state HRD department on Wednesday in Khunti, about 40km from the state capital.

They were imparted a three-month training for the job last November and are now ready to work as protectors for the vulnerable girls of KGBVs. The training was imparted by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, an NGO, which works for rescue and rehabilitation of victimised girls.

"The programme started in 2009 when I was the labour commissioner. We have already placed 30 girls each in Latehar, Gumla and Lohardaga districts," said state HRD secretary, Aradhna Patnaik.

About 10,000 children, most-

ly girls, are trafficked from the state every year, say civil society organisations.

They were either made to work as domestic helps or forced into flesh trade. Several cases of Jharkhand girls being subjected to brutality by their employers and placement agents have been reported in the recent past.

A majority of women who were appointed as security guards for these special residential schools have also studied here and understand the pain the inmates here have experienced, said Sanjay Mishra, senior member of the state commission for protection of child rights.

During the training session, these women were given lessons on self-defence, physical fitness and attack. They were also taught how to use their security stick as a weapon. KGBVs need special security as inmates are under mental and physical trauma, said Mishra.

"The inmates need special care as they have gone through a lot of mental and physical strains. Who can protect them better than women who can empathise with them," Mishra said.

Battered Khunti girl rescued

SUMISUKANYA

New Delhi, Nov. 22: All she remembers is that she was working as a domestic help for about a week in a three-storied house with 10 to 12 members.

Thankfully now, 15-year-old Payel (name changed) is going back home to Khunti, thanks to a couple of Good Samaritans who found her crying on the streets of Mayur Vihar, Delhi, on October 23, battered and bruised, and handed her over to the police.



The trafficking victim outside Jharkhand Bhavan in Delhi on Saturday.

Telegraph picture

"It was extremely difficult to trace Payel's village," said police sub-inspector Aradhana Singh, head of the anti-trafficking unit in Khunti, who is leading a team from Jharkhand that reached Delhi yesterday to take her back home, along with four other girls who had also been kidnapped from the state.

"She can't tell the address, but it turns out that her village is in a Maoist-infested hamlet in the interiors of Khunti," said the policewoman who has pieced together a likely chain of events that led to Payel's abduction to Delhi.

Payel was at a village fair near her home in Khunti when three women picked her up and put her on a bus to Ranchi.

From there, she was brought to Delhi by train.

Days later, she found herself employed as a domestic help in an east Delhi house.

On October 23, a few local residents spotted her on the streets of Mayur Vihar and brought her to the police station from where she was transferred to Snehalaya, a shelter home for girls in north Delhi.

"As a domestic help, Payel was made to do household chores for over 12 hours a day. She was abused and beaten up if she did not follow orders. But she is very confused and, therefore, unable to provide details of the women who had brought her to Delhi," said Singh.

Based on her conversations with Payel, Singh believes, she was abducted a fortnight before October 23 when she was brought to the Mayur Vihar police station.

Payel, who dropped out of school after her father and siblings died of illness, can't believe she will be going home. "I want to go to my mother. She is alone there... just like I am here," she said.

Authorities at Snehalaya, where Payel has been staying for a month, said she keeps to herself. "Most of the time she cries," said an employee.

Sub-inspector Singh said they had traced four other girls who had been abducted from Jharkhand and had been employed as domestic helps in various parts of Delhi. While two of the girls are from Chaibasa, the others are from Khunti and Gumla.

One of them was brought to Delhi by the network operated by Panna Lal Mahto, a trafficking kingpin who was arrested from Delhi last month.

Now, all of them, including Payel, will be heading for Ranchi on Monday. Their families would be asked to pick them once they reached the state capital, said Singh.

Those working for NGO Shakti Vahini, that helped the police team track the victims in Delhi, rued the fact that trafficking of young tribal girls from Jharkhand was a continuing menace.

"It does not seem the Jharkhand government is serious (about curbing trafficking). Otherwise, the district administrations would be much more vigilant at exit points to keep a check on such cases," said Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini.

CWC orders FIR against 2 traffickers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gumla: Child welfare committee (CWC) on Tuesday released orders to file an FIR against two traffickers, which included a woman, after receiving complaints from parents whose children (girls) were trafficked to Delhi a decade ago.

The parents concerned have revealed that at least 10-12 minor girls of Cobza-Ramja-Saraloya villages under Raidih police station in the district had been sold by traffickers and have since remained traceless.

"Few of the parents have also gone to Delhi in search of their kin around 15 days ago, but it would be very difficult for them to find them in a metro city," said Gumla CWC chairperson Tagren Panna.

Panna added that a Delhi-based NGO, Chetnalaya, had called her a fortnight ago asking for the addresses of four of the trafficked girls a fortnight ago.

It was discovered that Meera Kumari, Vimla Kumari, Balo Kumari and Bhikhani Kumari had been trafficked to Delhi ten years ago by Manju Kumari of Bendora panchayat who resides in Delhi, along with her unidentified accomplice, according to complaints received by the girls' family

Few of the parents have also gone to Delhi in search of their kin around 15 days ago, but it would be very difficult for them to find them in a metro city

Tagren Panna | CWC GUMLA

members.

"Meera's father Vishram Singh, Vimla's sister, Balo's mother Lilawati Devi and Bhikhni's father Jitram Singh lodged complaints with CWC, which then released an FIR order with the concerned police station on Tuesday," Panna added. The median age of the trafficked girls would be around 25-26 years.

"Not only have their daughters been trafficked but 10-12 minors girls been taken to Delhi from these villages," said Panna.

"It seems that Chetnalaya took the initiative after a girl named Etwari was rescued from Delhi by the crime branch last month. She was trafficked to Delhi when she was only nine years old and has returned at the age of 29," she said.

TRAFFICKING TRAIL

Rlys to become child-friendly

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Ranchi: The ministry of railways has prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure protection of children at railway stations and prevent human trafficking. In the first phase, 20 railway stations across the country have been identified where the SOP will be implemented, Ranchi railway station being one of them.

The SOP was launched on March 5 at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi during the celebration of fifth year of establishment of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and is likely to launch in Ranchi by third week of March.

Member of Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (JSCPCR), Sanjay Mishra said, "I will be meeting the railway divisional railway manager (DRM) Deepak Kashyap on Wednesday to finalise the date of launch here. It is likely to be held on the third week of this month and a one-day workshop will be organised on the first day."

The SOP has the provision of making the selected railway stations child-friendly and give training to TTE, GRP and RPF jawans and station master on how to deal with lost children and identify whether a child is being trafficked.

"They will be trained to identify children who are alone, lost, scared or if a big group of children is going with only one or two adults. If any such



Training will be given to TTE, GRP and RPF jawans and station master on how to deal with lost children and identify whether a child is being trafficked

child is found they will immediately be taken care of and child welfare committee will be informed," said Mishra.

As per the guidance of SOP, a special room will be prepared for rescued children where there will be provision for food, lodging and playing so that they don't feel scared.

Mishra said, "We will start a kiosk which will be functional 24x7 and regular announcements would be made throughout the day guiding the citizen about identifying children in need. There would be a male and a female counsellor at the kiosk to help the children in distress."

Mishra said that he has proposed the ministry of railways to include Dhanbad railway station in the second phase of implementing SOP.

National ST body acts on trafficked boy report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ranchi: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) took note of the case of a trafficked boy who was found begging in Barkakana and sent his details to Delhi after a report was published in this newspaper on Thursday.

TIMES IMPACT Chairperson of NCST Rameshwar Oraon, who is currently in Ranchi, said, "I am sending the details of the boy, along with the newspaper report, to my office in Delhi for further inquiry into the case. Our officials will visit Ramgarh soon to get the details."

Dilip Oraon was found begging on the roads of Barkakana in Ramgarh and was

Trafficker held

Gumla: A female human trafficker, Bhenko Devi, was arrested from Albert Ekka (Jari) police station while three persons including two women were held in a similar case in separate police stations in the district. According to Bishunpur police, the accused was arrested on the complaint of Shailendra Baraik, who claimed that his daughter Salo Kumari was trafficked to Delhi by Devi seven years ago. The accused is a close relative of the victim, said Bishunpur OC Manilal Rana. TNN

rescued by social activists on Tuesday. Barkakana police then handed over the boy to his family at Bhadgaon in Lohardaga district.

Police 'inaction'

Dhanbad: Owing to inaction of police in a harassment case since January, Swati Saha has taken her complaint to the governor, women's commission and human rights body, asking them to act failing which she will commit suicide. Saha says that she is being harassed by Deepak Yadav, a transporter of Giridih district. "He has sent me SMS's and I have his calls recorded with me. If no action is taken, I would prefer ending my life than to face an acid attack by him," ssaid Saha to TOI on Thursday. TNN

"We will locate the farm house where the boy was confined as it will lead us to the traffickers," said Rameshwar Oraon.

As antidote to trafficking, women to be trained in self-employment

Saumya Mishra

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RANCHI: To empower women in a state that is notorious for human trafficking, the CM announced a scheme to train them to become self-employed. In the budget, Das allocated ₹378 crore for a scheme 'Tejasvini', which will train those aged between 11-25 years to become independent in terms of employment.

Human trafficking is rampant in the state. Several girls hailing from economically backward sections have fallen prey to trafficking. NGOs say at least 10,000 girls are trafficked every year while the state CID department claims that less than 500 girls are trafficked every year.

"This is a good beginning towards women development. However, we want it to be implemented properly. The benefits should reach the targeted people," said Aarti Behera, a women's rights activist.

While presenting the budget — which had something in store for women from different socio-economic backgrounds — Das made it compulsory for parents to register the mother's name during school admissions. To encourage girls



■ Those aged between 11-25 years will be trained in self-employment.

HT PHOTO

to pursue higher education, the government will set up 203 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in 260 blocks, which will benefit around 19,000 girls.

It will construct 216 women's hostels in all districts. Welcoming the decision, Priya Vivek, a student at Ranchi University, said: "Some provisions related to the establishment of women's

hostels are much required. This will help girls from interior regions and neighbouring states to study here."

The government also proposes to establish a women's cell in every division for redressing their grievances. In a move that might bring cheer to the womenfolk, it has also exempted them from paying the fee for driving license.

A 2013 report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime identified Jharkhand as one of the states most vulnerable for trafficking of women and children. Much of the trafficking is done by placement agencies that are actually organised crime syndicates, the report said.

The plight of Jharkhand's trafficked children

- 5 lakh women and children trafficked every year in India.
- Over 20,000 children are trafficked every year from Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, say NGOs
- Thousands of girls have gone missing from Jharkhand's tribal hinterlands, state has no records
- Tribal districts of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bengal most vulnerable to trafficking
- Out of 35 identified trafficking kingpins, 14 have been arrested
- Jharkhand girls also trafficked to Gulf.



Done in by relatives

Many victims are sold to trafficking rings by their relatives. Like 12-year-old Somwari (name changed), a resident of Novatoli village in Lohardaga, who had no idea her uncle, who lived in her neighbourhood, would sell her for a few thousand rupees.

Child trafficking in Jharkhand: Who, why and how much

Enablers	Many of them are relatives of the girls, who make promises of money
Money	Local agents earn between ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 25,000 against each girl supplied
Operation	Traffickers scout and identify girls at village haats (markets) and churches
Reasons	Much of trafficking happens from regions that have abysmally low earnings. An emerging reason is the demand for girls in states where female foeticide and infanticide has skewed gender ratios, such as Haryana

He took her to Chhattisgarh in an auto-rickshaw on the pretext of taking her to a fair, and sold her to a placement agent, who took her to Delhi by train.

Adivasis' dangerous journey into the urban jungle

Anumeha Yadav

LATEHAR: Last week, two 14-year-old adivasi girls, who had migrated from Khunti district to work in Delhi as domestic help, were found dead in mysterious circumstances, both within two days of each other.

On April 19, Jyoti Mariyam Hora died soon after she was brought to the Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital in Delhi's Malviya Nagar. Two days later, Dayamani Guriya, who had studied with Jyoti till class VI and had migrated to Delhi with her, died in mysterious circumstances at the Ranchi railway station when she was being sent back to her village in Torpa in Khunti with police's intervention.

The Delhi Police have arrested one Chandumani, who had brought the two girls to Delhi. "We are waiting for a second autopsy report to verify if Dayamani was poisoned. Jyoti's family members have left Khunti accompanied by a police team to bring Jyoti's body back," said Superintendent of Police, Khunti, M. Tamilvanan.

The two incidents are the tip of the iceberg in the crisis unfolding in several adivasi homes across Jharkhand, where hardly a week goes by without reports of children and youth, especially girls and women, missing or

rescued from metropolitan cities. There are 14 children from villages of Murhu block alone in Khunti. In March, Miti Puri (name changed) of Kotha Toll, Khunti, returned from Delhi with a debilitating skin infection, earning Rs. 27,000 after working seven years in Delhi. Mani Dondray, 15, worked in Delhi for seven months but had to return after she contracted TB and became severely underweight.

The Hindu spoke to adivasi families in Latehar who are seeking clues to the lives, and death, of their children who have left home to find work in cities.

Missing children

On a clear evening in March, as dusk fell, Dayakishore Tirkey, a tall farmer in his late 40s, waited patiently for his turn to speak to police officials at the Mahuatarnnd police station. Two days back, he had got word for the first time since, three years ago, his 15-year-old daughter Supriya had left their home in Guera village in Jharkhand's Latehar district to find work in Delhi.

"We got information from Delhi about a girl who is from Guera village. Her name is different from her given name but we made her talk to Dayakishore on the phone and they both recognised each other. Now we will arrange for him to

go to Delhi to identify and get her back," said Mahuatarnnd Station House Officer (SHO) Anil Kumar Singh.

This is the third instance since January where the SHO has had to act on information from Delhi about adivasi girls reported missing and found or rescued through police raids at placement agencies' offices in Delhi. "The adivasi girls educated in missionary schools are well-educated, but the poorer families' children in government schools frequently drop out by class VI or VII and leave to work in cities. These adivasi families do not have the tradition of keeping in

Jharkhand villagers get frequent news of their kin missing or rescued in metropolitan cities

touch with or keeping watch over their daughters. The police have to routinely bring them back and try to get them their unpaid wages from placement agencies in Delhi," he said.

Tirkey, who owns a small plot of land in Guera, says he worked a few years as a tailor in the army. "When Supriya asked me if she could go to Delhi with Dominica Minj, a woman from the nearby village, I had said no. I have worked in Delhi, Rajasthan and U.P. and know what cities are like. But she told her mother and left," he spoke outside the police

station.

The next morning, he left for Latehar, the district headquarters 140 km away, from where he would board a train to Delhi with a change of clothes and Rs. 210 – all the money he could manage.

More mysterious deaths

The same week that Tirkey boarded a train to Delhi, in Chekma, the adjoining village Manju Lakda, in her early 20s, came home to receive her younger sister Shanti's body sent in an ambulance from Delhi.

"My brother, who is studying in Uttarakhand, youngest sister,

who also worked as a domestic help in Delhi, and Sunita the younger sister of Dominica Minj who had first taken my sister to Delhi four years – brought Shanti's body back. Dominica and Shanti called and tried to mislead me on the phone. At first they told us the wrong hospital's name and to the police who had come to the hospital after my sister died they said they did not know whose body it is," she recalled. "It took my brother and sister two days to find Shanti's body in the mortuary. They saw marks of vomit-like substance on her

face," said Manju who is training to be Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) in Visakhapatnam. The family is still awaiting the final autopsy report from Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, to make sense of Shanti's mysterious death.

A mobile phone – which the family has put in a plastic bag and hung on a tall stick at their door to be able to receive better phone signal – rings and Manju gets up excitedly to answer it. "The phone does not always work but Shanti would call once in three months or so. She said she got Rs. 3,000 as wages but I am not sure if she got the salary or the placement agency. She had left after she finished IX with Dominica from our village. Two years back she called and said she was unwell and we should come to Daltonganj station to receive her. She had contracted TB in Delhi. She stayed home a year. My husband works for the

mission here and we got her fully treated. Then she left for Delhi again with her younger sister and worked in a house in Kashmiri Gate," says Manju's mother Sabhani Khaka. The family says Dominica Minj has threatened them for pursuing the case legally. "She is close to the parties [splinter Maoist groups active in Latehar] and says she will get our family members abducted," said

Shanti's kin

Minj, who was in Chekma to visit her father, denied the allegations. "I had taken seven girls including Shanti once to a placement agency run by Mahendra Singh in Naraina Vihar in Delhi. I got Rs. 6,000 per girl. But the girls get money too and wanted to go on their own," she said. No complaint or FIR has been registered yet in Latehar.

"We will follow up and will request the families to share all information with us. In January, Jharkhand government started using Child Track, a database software used by 18 States to track missing children, we have conducted several raids on illegal placement agencies in Delhi with the Delhi Police's help," said IG CID Anurag Gupta. The Jharkhand government has so far uploaded full details of 100 missing children.

"We are trying to tackle adolescent girls' migration through 'Sablai', a scheme which focuses on vocational and leadership training for adolescent girls," said Mridula Sinha, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development. The scheme is operational only in seven of Jharkhand's 24 districts – Ranchi, Gumla, West Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Sahebganj, Garhwa.

The
Sunday
EXPRESS

THE SUNDAY STORY 11

DECEMBER 22 | 2013

SHE smiles and sways to the music as her housemates sing a song composed by their teachers. "Don't go to Delhi, Mumbai! If you go, your life will be spoilt! Don't go just because someone imitates you! If you go, you will find yourself all alone," go the lyrics, in Sadrli language.

It was two and a half years ago that the 18-year-old made that trip, which ended with her rescue from a home in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, in September, tortured and traumatised.

A month in hospital, seven plastic surgeries and a brief visit home later, the girl is at the Sakhi centre of the Union HRD Ministry's Mahila Samakhyas Society in Khunti district, where she has been staying since November 23. A scarf covers her head and neck, concealing the scars that remain.

Sitting at the back of the class, she speaks about her experience with startling clarity, unlike other trafficked girls. Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini, the NGO that helped rescue her, says counsellors spent long hours with her. "It paid off," he says.

She did not want to go to Delhi, she recalls. "Dorothy said I could learn Hindi if I go... We were doing badly that year. My father was dead; we were borrowing food." Dorothy, the "agent" from Sahibganj who took girls like the 18-year-old to big cities for work, has since been arrested by the Delhi Police.

■ ■ ■
The Muri Express from Tatanagar/Rourkela to Jammu Tawi covers 10 of Jharkhand's 24 districts, taking 30 hours to reach Delhi from Ranchi. Most of the stops it makes, in Maoist-hit districts such as Latehar, Palamu and Garhwa, are one-minute halts long after darkness has swallowed up the sleepy hamlets. However, at almost every halt, the train finds eager passengers — in one-crop Jharkhand, Muri Express is the way out for people seeking unskilled labour in North India. It's also the preferred mode of transport for domestic help like the Vasant Kunj girl, working in most of India's homes.

For many like the 18-year-old, the journeys end in tragedy. However, that hasn't slowed the stream of people boarding Muri Express with "agents". Apart from this train, Sampark Kranti and Swarna Jayanti Expresses have been identified as important in the trafficking chain.

Madan Kumar Sahu of NGO Sahiya says the agents have got wiser. Earlier they took their victims in large groups and got on the train from Ranchi. "Now, no group is larger than five-six girls. They have stopped using big cities as transit points. Smaller stations are safer," says Sahu.

On the Muri Express, three people sit leaning against each other on the bottom berth. They look no older than 15, but the boy claims to be above 18, and the father of an infant that the girl next to him is holding.

"We are from Gumla district's Ghaghra panchayat and are going to Himachal Pradesh's Palampur for work," says the boy, refusing to give his name. The other two with him are his "wife and sister", he adds. "My sister is still in school; I intend to enroll her when we get to Palampur." He has been making the trip for four-five years though, he admits, long before he turned 18.

This is peak time for migration, after Diwali, when work on the fields is done but for harvesting.

"My elder brother will take care of the crop," says Laldev Orson (35) from Lohardaga district's Kisko block, who is travelling with his wife and child less than a year old on the train. "We will travel to Ambala and go to Chandigarh. We have been going to Chandigarh for two years or so. Earlier, it was Shimla," he says.

Orson doesn't have a job waiting for him at Chandigarh, but is not worried. "We will ask around for construction work," he shrugs. He says he can earn up to Rs 300 a day, more than his wife.

■ ■ ■
After a nearly 30-hour ride, three nervous girls hasten out as the Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti Express chugs in at the Anand Vihar Railway Station in East Delhi. The train is late by more than four hours due to the dense fog.



WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

As one domestic help's story roils two countries, **DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND** meets the rescued Vasant Kunj girl who is now hoping to study again, her mother who can't afford to bring a second daughter home, and the others like them streaming out of Jharkhand to work in Indian homes — on hope and chance

The girls stand out among the station crowd and are immediately swarmed by autorickshaw drivers. The girl who takes the lead says Ashok Vihar repeatedly to no one in particular.

Surender Rawat follows the girls, hesitantly. "Pata nahin (Don't know)," he mumbles, admitting he has no way of spotting the girls trafficked even after years of waiting around at various railway stations in the National Capital Region. Rawat works for Shakti Vahini, an NGO that has brought out most of the cases of trafficked Jharkhand girls in cities.

As a driver agrees to take the girls, Rawat, along with a woman staff member of the NGO, hurriedly approaches them. However, one of the girls, Sushma Topno, says they don't need him. "We are here of our own accord," she declares. Rawat says girls unwilling to speak out are one of their biggest obstacles.

In this case, Sushma and the other two girls are taken to the police station on the railway station premises. All three of them insist they are above 18 — while Topno claims to be 19, Sunita Kumari says she is 22 and Anju Kumari 19. Sushma says they are on their way to meet "Raju bhaitiya" in Ashok Vihar Phase-III. She has a visiting card of "Sharda Placement Service".

It's not their first visit to Delhi, and their testimonies indicate at least two were minors the first time. "We like this," says Sushma of Sommer village in Gumla district. "I first came three years back. I don't remember where I worked first. The next year, I was in Gurgaon, then Janakpuri."

Sushma also claims that Sunita and Anju, both from Khunti, are her relatives. All the three say they are paid at the end of their 11-month contract, a common trend. At the end of every 11 months, the girls are shifted, ensuring that the agent earns a commission off them each year from their new employer.

Rawat says they can't do much for the Sushmas, Sunitas and Anjus, if they don't talk. "I would normally have registered an FIR and tried to verify their ages." In-



(Top) The 18-year-old rescued from a Vasant Kunj home, tortured and traumatised, now at an HRD Ministry centre in Khunti; on the Muri Express from Tatanagar to Jammu Tawi, which supplies to the country most of its domestic help

stead Pranjita Borah, who also works with Shakti Vahini, counsels the girls, writes down helpline numbers for them and hails them an auto.

■ ■ ■
The Vasant Kunj girl arrived in similar conditions in Delhi two years ago. And the initial years were not bad, she says. "I was in Noida first, then Lajpat Nagar. They treated me well, even let me call my mother. Dorothy would come every month, and collect my salary. I never got anything. At the end of 11 months, she would take me to her house and put me in a new place within three-four days," she says.

It was in June 2013 that she was employed by Vandana Dhir, then-country communications director of French company Alstom, in Vasant Kunj. The first few days went without incident. "Didi (Dhir) let me sleep in a room. I also started cooking," the girls say.

But only five days later, according to the girl, Dhir got angry when she said she wanted to talk to her younger sister, a 16-year-old working as a domestic help in Mumbai. "She was on her way home and I just wanted to make sure she was safe," says the 18-year-old. "She tore the paper with

my sister's mobile phone number on it and started beating me. She beat me with her hands."

After that, she was given food just once a day and allowed to only sleep in the bathroom, she says. "Didi would latch the door from the outside."

She was allowed outside only to walk the dog along with Dhir's aged mother. "The latter never beat me," she adds. "Whenever her daughter did, she would plead, 'Dolly, don't!'"

Over the four months that she spent at the Dhir home, the girl says, the beatings got worse. She attacked me with the hard end of a broom as I bathed," she says. Once she was hit with the plug of a laptop charger. "I started bleeding. Most of the damage to my scalp is because of that injury," she says.

At the time of the rescue, she had burn marks as well as scars from knife attacks, and her wounds were open. She was also found without any clothes on.

■ ■ ■
According to data available with the Criminal Investigation Department of Jharkhand, 252 cases of trafficking have been registered in the state since 2001, with the accused being charged in 181 of them. The Criminal Law

Amendment Act, 2013, introduced human trafficking into the IPC, substituting slavery. Anybody who for the purpose of "exploitation" recruits, transports, shelters, transfers, or receives a person through threats, force or deception and inducement can be charged with trafficking. The term "exploitation" covers sexual exploitation. Incidentally, the consent of the victim is immaterial in a determination of the offence of trafficking.

A total of 414 girls have been "rescued" till now, as per Jharkhand records. There has been only one conviction: on May 16, 2012, five traffickers were sentenced to 5-10 years in Ranchi.

The 252 cases pale in comparison to the numbers in a document that the CID is now circulating. It lists details of 181 "placement agencies" and 34 individuals identified as "kingpins".

During a November 11-12 public hearing, the Jharkhand government told the National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights (NCPCR) that an action plan on human trafficking was in the works. Social Welfare Secretary Rajeev Arun Ekka went on to claim that they had had a meeting only about a week back and that the plan would be

ready in 15 days. However, that remains an empty promise, with no meetings held since then.

The Sunday Express accessed the "action plan", and it's far from the finishing line. "It has not incorporated any of the recommendations I had made for a Jharkhand state action plan. This includes the use of village chowkidars, something West Bengal has done to good results," says Aloke Kumar Tikoo, member of the NCPCR.

The draft also needs to be updated to account for amendments in the law and policy since 2012 — such as the institution of Anti Human Trafficking Units and the POCOS (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act — and also proposes about nine new bodies to monitor human trafficking even as the existing ones continue to fail.

Activists worry traffickers are now shifting base to the National Capital Region and moving girls elsewhere almost as soon as they reach Delhi. "There are many placement agencies opening their offices in Gurgaon. Sometimes traffickers align with the girls in Ghaziabad to avoid rescue operations," says Shakti Vahini's Rawat.

■ ■ ■
At the Gurgaon Sector-21 Arushi Home for Girls operated by NGO Salaam Baalak Trust, a 15-year-old is sulking. "She cuts her wrists often," says Khushboo Sharma, the warden. The girl says she is from West Bengal's Siliguri, but the authorities have not been able to track down her house despite seemingly precise directions from her. "I was brought here by Kedar Agency in Siliguri. I was doing well in my Holy Cross school. I want to go back," she insists.

However, her future is uncertain even if she is sent back. Her parents are dead and, according to her, "My didi sold my sister and me to the agency. I don't know where they took me to in Delhi. All I know is that I ran away within a week."

A 13-year-old from Ranchi district's Angada has been at the Arushi home since September be-

cause the district does not have Child Welfare Committee. She was brought to Delhi in September 2012. "My brother came to take me back home as our father is not well. But the officer in charge said that the father himself has to come," she says. Her brother has even carried along proof of identity, but it was not enough for the wary authorities.

A 14-year-old orphan from Sahibganj district's Borio bloc was first trafficked to Ranchi as nine-year-old. "The people who took me to Ranchi told me they would admit me to a school. They used to beat me a lot," she says. She was rescued after two months of forced labour and admitted to the Sahibganj Mahil Shiksha Kendra of the Union Human Resource Development Ministry's Mahila Samakhyas in 2010-11.

The centre houses girls and prepares them for a year to rejoin the school system. "I was in the fifth standard when they took me to Ranchi. After studies at the MSK, I was admitted to the sixth standard," she says. But her sister made her drop out, she adds. "She sends her children to school but not me." The Mahila Samakhyas could not monitor her activities after her stint, and recently she resurfaced at a two-night discussion meeting of former MSK students at Sahibganj town, coming on her own.

"I want to go back to school. Maybe the MSK can keep me for another year. I try to make sure I remember whatever I learn here by reading my sister's children's books," she says.

■ ■ ■
The Mahila Samakhyas intends to keep the Vasant Kunj girl at its Khunti centre till 2015. "We try to prepare our students for admission to the sixth standard. If she is ready, we can send her to school," says Smrita Gupta, the state programme director at Mahila Samakhyas.

Samakhyas's Sakhi centre houses 30 children in the 15-1 age group. About 25 of them have been trafficked domestically for forced labour.

The Vasant Kunj girls' two-year-plus worth of sweat near Rs 15,000 for her mother — Rs 5,000 at the end of the first year and Rs 10,000 at the end of the second. "My daughter never came home once she left. Dorothy came twice with the money. When I told her it was not enough, she said she would give more later," says the mother speaking at her home in Pathan block of Sahibganj.

Working as an agricultural labourer occasionally, for up to Rs 120 per day, the mother now banks heavily on the salary of the minor daughter working in Mumbai. "She sends Rs 3,000-4,000 monthly," the mother says.

Asked whether she would be willing to bring back her daughter from Mumbai and admit her in a school, she pauses before saying, "I don't want to see her again. The girl is the youngest of six — go to school though."

"The family she is with in Mumbai treats her well," adds Veerendra Gorain, the neighbour who accompanied the girl's mother to Delhi after the incident. "The even came visiting recently."

On the girl and her mother return from Delhi, Jharkhand's Social Welfare Minister Anna Purna Devi had met them. No official of the Sahibganj district administration has met them since. The talk of providing their money to build a house under the Indira Awas Yojana has remained on paper.

The NREGA man wants to give Rs 400 for a job card. "I am not on the BPL list; I don't even have a ration card," says the mother. She gets a widow's pension of Rs 400 per month.

The Vasant Kunj girl is not thinking of going back to her village yet. "I want to return, but only when I am a teacher. Noida teaches well at the village school," she says.

Her one daughter comes home in the worst circumstance: the other seven further away, the mother hopes against hope "Bada din (Christmas) is coming, would like my eldest to come home for five days," she says.

However, the calculations against her — a 650 km walk taking at least 15 hours and cost about Rs 500.

J'khand haats, melas hotbeds of traffickers

Gullible Tribal Youths Lured With Jobs And Marriages, Shipped To Delhi And Mumbai

Ambika.Pandit@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: Wading past the surging devotees, Poonam Devi makes a desperate bid to reach a man walking a few metres ahead of her. Her struggle ends in vain as he disappears in the crowd out to witness the "rath yatra" that attracts thousands to the Jagannath temple every year in June-July. Tired and breathless, she stops to explain that he is the man who took her 14-year-old daughter away to Delhi without her knowledge. It has been a year and she has not heard from her.

The lone breadwinner for her seven children, Poonam is a widow who makes her living as a daily wage labourer. She came to the 300-year-old mela, which attracts both tribals and non-tribals, hoping to find the man who took her daughter away.

Most traffickers are known to families one way or other. They either live in the same community or neighbouring villages. Often, they operate through intermediaries in the villages. Oblivious to the evils of the larger world, gullible tribals are the softest targets.

Over the years, *haats* (weekly markets) and *melas* such as the Jagannath chariot festival, have become a hotbed



At these weekly markets, targeted young girls are often lured with the promise of marriage and taken outside Jharkhand

of intermediaries and traffickers to track potential candidates. These huge gatherings are social platforms where boys and girls mingle. Targeted young girls are often lured with the promise of marriage and taken outside Jharkhand.

The presence of sleuths of the anti-human trafficking unit from Khunti district at the Jagannath mela further underlines the dangers confronting the youth from poverty-stricken villages of this region. Aradhna Singh, Inspector, AHTU, Khunti said the number of minors reported missing often increases af-

ter melas and haats.

Poonam said that the man who lured her daughter away had earlier taken her sons too. When the boys contacted her from Delhi she learnt that they were working as domestic helps. Estimates put domestic workers in India at 50 million. Delhi alone has an estimated 10 lakh workers. Most are migrants. There's no law to regulate domestic work and placement agencies at the central or state level.

The boys were not happy with the work conditions and wanted to return. When she asked the trafficker to bring

them back he was non-committal. Finally, she went to Delhi to bail them out of the mess. Before life could normalize, her daughter vanished from the house. After a frenetic search, it turned out that the same man had taken away her daughter too. Poonam now wants the Jharkhand police to catch the trafficker and punish him.

Walking past the stalls in the mela, even a mention of "Delhi" or a casual reference to trafficking invites angry stares from bystanders. A woman is overheard telling another fellow villager to be cautious and not to engage in any discussion with strangers on Delhi and domestic work.

At the sprawling mela, stalls peddle bows and arrows, iron utensils, fishing nets and bird cages made of bamboo. Villager Dileep Kumar, who makes a livelihood selling fishing nets, hesitantly shares his ordeal. He murmurs that his daughter too was taken to Delhi for work about a year ago and he has not heard from her since. Stark poverty drove her to seek work outside, he says. Worried to the bone, he seeks help to bring his daughter back.

Baidnath Kumar from

Due to uneven development in states with substantial tribal population, such migration of women and minor girls (of those being brought to Delhi for work by traffickers) is on the rise... Many girls... are treated as slaves. Placement agencies make huge profits and victims never get salaries

RISHIKANT SHAKTI VAHINI

NGO Diya Seva Sansthan admits that the problem is acute and emphasizes on the need to create a state-police and NGO coordination mechanism. To that effect, a missing child helpline was set-up in October 2013. The NGO closely involved in rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking is manning the helpline set-up by CID, Jharkhand. Based on calls received, 128 cases of missing children have been registered since October last year. Most victims are girls. As many as 78 children were recovered following up complaints

made on the helpline.

Kumar said that in 98% of cases, the girls and boys are taken to Delhi followed by Mumbai, Pune and Goa. "Girls from this belt are also being pushed into prostitution by traffickers," Kumar added.

Rishikant from NGO Shakti Vahini, who has been part of the teams that have rescued many tribal girls from Jharkhand in Delhi, particularly over the last two years, warns that more and more women and minor girls are being brought to Delhi for work by traffickers.

"Due to uneven development in states with substantial tribal population such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bengal, Assam and Orissa, such migration of women and minor girls is on the rise," he said. "The migration happens through unregulated placement agencies that often indulge in human trafficking," he says.

NGOs working with domestic workers say trafficking in Delhi/NCR has grown over 10 years. "Many girls end up in exploitative circumstances and are treated as slaves. Placement agencies make huge profits and the victims never get salaries for their backbreaking work," Rishikant says.

Girl trafficked from Jharkhand rescued in Delhi

She was found crying at Kashmere Gate, was thrown out from her employer's house

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 14-year-old adivasi girl from Jharkhand was rescued from Kashmere Gate here on May 5 after she left her employer's house in Chandigarh. This is one of the many cases of minors getting trafficked from rural areas to work as domestic workers in the city. Despite a Supreme Court order last January followed by a Home Ministry directive in July 2013 that complaints of all missing children have to be immediately registered as FIRs, the Jharkhand Police or the Delhi Police are yet to do this.

The girl Ritika Mundu (name changed) told the Child Welfare Committee that she was brought to Delhi by a woman named Phaguni Mundu from her village in Jharkhand last month. She was taken to Chandigarh to work as a domestic worker where she was beaten regularly and not allowed to contact her family. She narrated that her employers threw her



The rescued girl's parents and their hut at Hetgaon village in Jharkhand. PHOTOS: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

out of their house on May 4 after which she caught a bus to Delhi. She was spotted crying and in distress by vendors near ISBT. They alerted the Kashmere Gate police station. The police then informed NGO Shakti Vahini.

Ritika Mundu, who has been sent to a children's shelter home, was carrying an Aadhaar card, which revealed her father's name and her ad-

dress at Hetgaon village in Khunti's Murhu block. Her father works as a farm labourer.

"Usually, the CWC orders registration of an FIR, but they did not specify this time. The child's father has not yet made a formal complaint," said a senior police official in Delhi.

"An FIR should have been registered automatically to



begin an investigation into who brought her here and if any placement agency was involved. Since the family is very poor, we have offered to assist them to meet their child here," said Rishikant of NGO Shakti Vahini. He added the NGO had rescued over 70 children from Jharkhand this year working as domestic workers. At Murhu block in Jharkhand, the girl's family

member Kunwar Mundu told Jharkhand-based NGO Diya Sewa Sansathan that Ritika and two other boys, including Ritika's 10-year-old cousin Uday Mundu, boarded a bus from the village with Phaguni Mundu on April 5 without informing the families.

"She was in my class, but stopped coming to school two years back to help her father. She is a simple child, but very

articulate. If she had continued she would have been in Class VIII now," said Devi Kumari, who teaches at the government middle school in Hetgaon. The village mukhiya, Devnath Mundu, said the village had witnessed similar cases last year too. "Two girls who are 12 and 13 years old are missing, their families cannot trace them. We reported this to the thana, too, but there has been no information so far. Then, last month these three children boarded a bus to Ranchi and maybe a train from there. At least Ritika was found, there is no word on the other two boys who are 10 and 12 years old," the mukhiya told *The Hindu* on the phone from Jharkhand.

"Studies estimate that the number of children trafficked from Jharkhand is between 30,000 and 40,000. But the number of FIRs of missing children is less than 500 – a huge gap," said Baidnath Kumar, who works with Diya Sewa Sansathan in Jharkhand.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

TIMES CITY

No easy answers for J'khnd teen's kin

Bereaved Mother Searches For Truth Behind Death Of Trafficked Help

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

New Delhi: Try as she might, Lalmani Nagesia (38) cannot stop crying. Seated at the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights office on Monday at the end of a long, hard journey from her tiny village in the Naxal-affected district, Lohardaga, she says she won't rest until she finds out the truth behind the death of her daughter.

About 11 months ago, 16-year-old Phoolmani was convinced to come to the capital for work by a woman, Batti Uraon. She was promised a salary of Rs 3,000. Phoolmani was sent to work in a Ghaziabad home as a domestic help by a Delhi-based placement agency but never paid any salary during her stay. Lalmani, a single mother of four who has no source of income except a paltry earning from selling *datun* sticks, continued to hope she would return with some money.

On July 19, Lalmani's rela-



IN GRIEF: Phoolmani's mother Lalmani (C) at NCPCR office on Monday

tive was informed by the placement agency that Phoolmani was very sick. The next day it allegedly called another villager to inform that she had committed suicide. Lalmani was shocked but asked Phoolmani's employers to send her body. She and others of the Nagesia tribe wanted to bury her as per their custom. "*Mujhe Phoolmani ki mitti chahiye*," Lalmani says as she struggles to regain her composure. *Mitti* in Sadri means body.

"Phoolmani was not sad. I

was thinking about calling her home so that she could attend her elder brother's marriage. Why would she commit suicide?" asks Lalmani. Lalde Nagesia, a relative, says, "Why did the placement agency say that she was sick if she had committed suicide? They also promised to send Phoolmani's body to our village, then why was she cremated in such a hurry?" Lalmani is quiet for a moment. Then she says, "They must have done something very bad to her and

Phoolmani used to go to school but usually no teacher turned up. After her father died, she decided to stay home

killed her."

Phoolmani used to go to school in her village but usually no teacher turned up. After her father died, she decided to stay home. Lalmani's elder son is drunk most of the time and she depends on supplies from the Antyodaya scheme. A villager accompanying Lalmani, Ram Sevak Singh, says people in the district live in abject poverty and MNREGA is not implemented properly there. There is no water for irrigation which makes it difficult to depend on agriculture. The nearest road is 35km away.

Phoolmani's employer had assured Lalmani that her body was on the way. Lalmani waited all night at a spot where they could receive mobile network to get updates on

when the body is reaching Ranchi. But there was no call.

On July 21, the agency called them to say that Phoolmani had been cremated in Delhi. The employers, who have a business in the hospitality sector, said they are ready to pay Rs 10,000 for her loss. "Is Phoolmani's life worth only Rs 10,000?" Lalmani says.

Activists from Shakti Vahini said the investigation by Ghaziabad police has been shoddy. "If the employers found her dead at 8pm, why did they call the cops only at 3am? Why did they touch the body? Why did the cops hand over her body to the placement agency after the post mortem? Why wasn't the case reported to the anti-human trafficking unit?" said Rishi Kant.

NCPCR member Vinod Kumar Tikoo said the "DGP has been asked to submit a report. If he doesn't, we will go to court. A compensation for the family must also be worked out by them".

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TIMES CITY

APRIL 27, 2013

No burial, so child's body back in AIIMS

Tribal Asked To Pay Four Times The Rate For Last Rites, Delhi Catholic Archdiocese Steps In

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: Holding the decomposing body of his 10-year-old daughter, Naveen Horo waited all Friday afternoon at the St Thomas Christian Cemetery in Tughlaqabad, hoping against hope that his daughter's body would finally be given a decent burial. But here too he met with disappointment as finding a priest who could agree to perform the funeral according to the tradition of his religious denomination turned into an ordeal.

His daughter, as reported earlier, had died after being lured away from home in Jharkhand, along with a friend, to Delhi.

Finally, a priest agreed to perform the last rites but only on Saturday morning. "Since

it was already 6pm, the cemetery in-charge asked the child's father to take away the body and return next morning," said Rishikant from NGO Shakti Vahini. "The father was asked to bring Rs 6000 with him as against the regular charge of Rs 1500 for the funeral. The staff on duty said this was the charge for cases in which priests who are not officially attached to the cemetery are called for performing the funeral."

Miserable and despairing, the father—who spent sleepless nights since the disappearance of his daughter on April 11 only to be told she was dead—was forced to retrace his steps to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The hospital, much to his relief, agreed to keep the body that's wrapped in a white



sheet in the mortuary for the night.

A Jharkhand police team and social welfare officials from the state could only watch in shock as the body which had been in the mortuary for over eight days was taken back.

Horo sat in silence, a broken man. The poor daily wageer doesn't have enough mon-

Naveen Horo's daughter and her friend were trafficked to Delhi for domestic work earlier this month and ended up paying with their lives. Probes by Delhi & Jharkhand police hinge on the post-mortem reports

ey to even go back home. On Thursday, after a tiring 26-hour long journey to Delhi, he had told TOI that he was determined to take his daughter's body back to his village. But after the post-mortem on Friday morning, the condition of the body left him with no choice but to decide on a funeral here in Delhi.

Meanwhile, on learning

about the plight of Horo, the Delhi Catholic Archdiocese has stepped in. They will be organizing the funeral at a Paharganj cemetery for the girl. "Father Mathew Koyickal from the Archdiocese will guide the funeral ceremony. We will ensure that the child gets a dignified burial," Father Arockia Dhas, deputy secretary, Regional Bishops Council of North, told TOI.

Two weeks ago, Horo's 10-year-old daughter was an eager student at their village in Jharkhand's Khunti district. When she disappeared on April 11, along with a friend, Horo, a single parent, moved heaven and earth to find her but never imagined he would not see her alive again.

On Thursday, Horo struggled with his emotions as he spoke about his daughter's

shocking death.

Horo's daughter and her friend were trafficked to Delhi for domestic work earlier this month and ended up paying with their lives. Investigations by Delhi and Jharkhand police now hinge on the post-mortem reports to establish the cause of death.

Jharkhand Police have registered a case of kidnapping, trafficking and murder, and two people, Sukhrum Gudiya and Eden Gudiya, have been arrested in the home state of the deceased girls. The main accused, Chandmuni, who allegedly trafficked the girls to Delhi, is likely to be arrested soon. Delhi Police is expected to make more arrests as sources say the trafficking trail is growing longer and indicates a major trafficking racket.

TIMES CITY

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, RANCHI
MARCH 22, 2015

Employers pay minor maid ₹1L in compensation

Kelly.Kislaya@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: In a first of its kind case in Jharkhand, employers of a 12-year-old girl were ordered to paid a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the child after intervention of the state child welfare committee, Child Line and civil society members.

The girl was trying to buy a train ticket at Ranchi railway station when GRP jawans spotted her. On enquiry, they found that she had escaped her employer's house on Thursday. The girl was handed over to local NGO Diya Sewa Sansthan (DSS) who produced the



When we asked her if her employers should be sent to jail, she refused, claiming that the couple has a child and he shouldn't be separated from his parents."

Mishra added: "The girl wants to study and requested that she should be given the money for her work. When the employers were summoned to CWC they agreed to pay an amount of Rs 1 lakh to the girl and said they have been paying Rs 3000 every month to the girl's father." The employer, a resident of a posh locality of the city, submitted a confessional letter to the CWC and promised not to repeat the mistake in fu-

ture.

On Saturday, the employer submitted a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh on the name of the girl at CWC. The cheque will be given to Child Line, who will open a bank account for the girl. Mili Birua, coordinator of Child Line, Ranchi said, "We will make a fixed deposit in the girl's name at Bank of Baroda. She will get access to the money when she turns 18."

The girl, who belongs to a village in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, was brought to Ranchi by her employers from Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh, where she worked with her father in a brick kiln.

The girl's father was called to Ranchi by CWC, but she refused to go home with her father claiming he will sell her again.

Mishra said, "At present the girl is at a shelter home. She refuses to go to her father and claims he is a drunkard and will sell her again for money. She wants to go to her aunt in Bilaspur.

She will stay at the shelter home till her aunt is located."

1ST TIME IN STATE

child before Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

CWC member Meera Mishra said, "This is the first time in the state that a child labour was given such a large compensation by the employer. During her counseling, the girl revealed that she ran away from the employer's place after she was beaten up.



Panel fines man ₹1 lakh for hiring **minor as maid**

EXPLOITATION The girl, who hails from a village in Chhattisgarh, was rescued from her employer in Ranchi by volunteers of the missing child helpline

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Jharkhand slapped a ₹1 lakh fine for the first time on a man for making a minor girl work as a domestic help at his residence for four years without paying her a penny, rights activists said on Saturday.

The girl, who hails from Farhada village in Chhattisgarh, was rescued on Thursday from her employer in Ranchi by the volunteers of the missing child helpline, a joint initiative against child labour by civil society organisations and the Jharkhand crime investigation department.

In his confession letter to the CWC, the man admitted to keeping the girl at his residence as a domestic help. Later, the girl refused to lodge an FIR against him as she said his children treated her well during her stay at his residence.

GIRL WON'T FILE FIR, SEEKS DAMAGES

- In his confession letter to the CWC, the man admitted to keeping the girl at his residence as a domestic help
- The girl refused to lodge an FIR against him as she said his children treated her well during her stay at his residence
- The girl will be sent to a local shelter home and given admission to a government school of her choice
- The girl admitted she was subjected to physical punishments during work, but she said she did not want to lodge an FIR against the man. She just wants a compensation amount so that she can study

CWC officials said that the amount realised from the employer would be used for the girl's education.

Child Welfare Committee member Meera Mishra said, "The girl will be sent to a local shelter home and given admission to a government school of her choice."

Soon after her rescue, the girl was taken to the Ranchi CWC on Friday. During a counsel-

ling session, she narrated to the CWC members how she had been working as a domestic help at the employer's residence without money for four years.

Officials said she did admit that she was subjected to physical punishments during work, but she said, "I don't want to lodge an FIR against them (employers), I only want the compensation amount so that I can study and build my career."

The girl said the only reason not to register an FIR against her employer was that his children never let her suffer even during punishments. The officials said that the girl had refused to return home as she felt unsafe with her father, who is alleged to be a habitual drinker, presently working in Uttar Pradesh.

HT did not name the employer as no FIR was lodged against him.

Social activists said the incident had once again brought to light how child labour still continued in a tribal-dominated Jharkhand despite various efforts to curb it.

"This (the incident) shows that not only Jharkhand children are trafficked as child labourers to other states, but even the children from other states (Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal) are made to work here as labourers," said Baijnath Kumar, an anti-human trafficking activist.

प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने से कतराती है पुलिस

बच्चों की गुमशुदगी के मामले में अपहरण की प्राथमिकी का है आदेश

♦ 108 शिकायतों में केवल 16 मामलों में ही दर्ज की गई प्राथमिकी

दिलीप कुमार, रांची

बच्चों की गुमशुदगी मामले में अब भी अपहरण की प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने से पुलिस कतराती है। इसका खुलासा सीआईडी के आंकड़े कर रहे हैं। आंकड़ों के अनुसार 21 अक्टूबर 2013 से 28 फरवरी 2014 तक कुल 108 शिकायतों में केवल 16 मामलों में ही प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई है। शेष 92 मामलों में पुलिस ने न तो प्राथमिकी दर्ज की और न ही बच्चों को खोजने का प्रयास किया। यह न्यायालय के उस आदेश की अवहेलना भी है, जिसमें स्पष्ट कहा गया है कि गुमशुदगी के मामले में अपहरण की प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर अनुसंधान करना है।

आठ बच्चों को है अपनों का इंतजार : राज्य के आठ बच्चों को अपनों का इंतजार है। इन

न्यायालय के आदेश के बावजूद पुलिस प्राथमिकी से कतराती है। मामला जब हेल्पलाइन के पास पहुंचता है, तब दबाव में आकर पुलिस प्राथमिकी दर्ज करती है।

— वैद्यनाथ कुमार, दीया सेवा संस्थान सह चाइल्ड हेल्प लाइन प्रभारी।

बच्चों को लोकेट तो कर लिया गया है, लेकिन पुलिस की शिथिल कार्यशैली से उन्हें रेस्क्यू नहीं कराया जा सका। लापता बच्चों में बरियातू के चिरौदी निवासी शंकर झा की पुत्री ज्योति कुमारी, गुमला के सिसई सुपाली निवासी राजेश केरकेट्टा की पुत्री पूनम केरकेट्टा, रांची के कमड़े मनातू निवासी पलटू महतो की पुत्री संगीता कुमारी, गुमला के सिसई स्थित डबना पानी निवासी घासी खड़िया की पुत्री रेष्मी इंदवार, लातेहार के

अब भी बहुत जिलों में गुमशुदगी मामले में अपहरण की प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने में कोताही बरती जा रही है। इससे संबंधित लिखित आदेश सभी एसपी को दिया गया था। कुछ एसपी कोताही बरत रहे हैं। इन्हें चार दिन पूर्व ही समीक्षा बैठक में मौखिक रूप से आदेश भी दिया गया है। करीब 50 बच्चे वापस आ गए हैं। शेष लापता बच्चों पर वर्कआउट चल रहा है और वे भी खोज लिए जाएंगे।

— एसएन प्रधान, एडीजी, सीआईडी।

मनिका थाना क्षेत्र के सेमरी निवासी रामराज उरांव की पुत्री ऊषा कुमारी, शीतल उरांव की पुत्री अनिता कुमारी, बुंदू के रोसेलटोला निवासी रेंगो मुंडा की पुत्री रूकमणी व तुरी मुंडा की पुत्री गुरुवाणी कुमारी शामिल हैं। इनमें ज्योति को हावड़ा, पूनम को दिल्ली में, संगीता को मुंबई में, रेष्मी, ऊषा, अनिता, रूकमणी व गुरुवाणी के दिल्ली में रहने की सूचना मिली है। लोकेशन भी मिल गया है, बस टीम के छापेमारी का इंतजार है।

हेल्प लाइन नंबर 9471300008 शुरू होने से अब तक

- 21 अक्टूबर 2013 को शुरू हुआ चाइल्ड हेल्प लाइन नंबर।
- 28 फरवरी 2014 तक कुल 761 लोगों ने किया फोन।
- प्राथमिकी दर्ज होने और मीडिया में खबर आने के बाद 54 बच्चे वापस।
- 16 मामलों में दर्ज हुई प्राथमिकी।
- 92 मामलों में नहीं लिया गया संज्ञान।
- केवल जानकारी लेने के लिए 261 लोगों ने किया कॉल।
- केस दर्ज कराने के लिए 104 लोगों ने किया संपर्क।
- पूछताछ के लिए 179 लोगों ने इस नंबर का उपयोग किया।
- वापसी के लिए 54 लोग सामने आए।
- 163 लोगों ने अन्य कॉल किए।

30% of missing children not found in three years

TRAFFICKING Activists say police not serious about curbing crime against children

Saurav Roy

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RANCHI: About 30% children who have gone missing from Jharkhand in the past three years have not been found, confirm Crime Investigation Department (CID) records.

According to an affidavit filed by the CID with the Supreme Court in November, 2222 children in the state went missing from January 2011 to September 2014 and 635 of them were not found.

Preventing violation of child rights poses a major challenge for the state from which every year at least 10,000 children allegedly work as bonded labourers across the country and even abroad, say anti-human trafficking activists and civil society organisations.

As per the figures with the CID, out of the 486 children that went missing in 2011, as many as 74 were not found. Out of the 605 missing children in 2012, as many as 161 were not found. In 2013, in all 645 children went missing and 217 were not found. Up to September 2014, a total of 486 children went missing and 183 were recovered.

While anti-human trafficking activists allege that the police are not serious about curbing crime against children, the



■ According to an affidavit filed by the CID in November, 2222 children in the state went missing from January 2011 to September 2014 and 635 of them were not found.

HT FILE PHOTO

police claim that they have done well in recovering the missing children.

SN Pradhan, additional director general, CID Jharkhand, said the police have recovered more than 70% of the children that went missing in the past three years. "Even the remaining children will be recovered soon," he said.

Anti-human trafficking activists and civil society organisa-

tions think otherwise. "Several policemen still don't bother to lodge an FIR for missing children," said Baijnath Kumar, anti-human trafficking activist. Kumar had been a part of the police team that nabbed human trafficking kingpin Baba Bamdev and his aides earlier this year.

A right to information (RTI) report reveals that the

Jharkhand police failed to abide by the Supreme Court's directive of mandatorily lodging an FIR for every case of missing children. Out of the total registered cases of 230 missing children in 15 of 24 districts of Jharkhand from April 1, 2012 to July 15, 2013, FIRs were lodged for only 10 cases and General Diary entries were made for the remaining 220 cases, discloses the RTI.

The 15 districts, which are less urban, include Simdega, Jamtara, Godda, Saraikela Kharsawan, Hazaribagh, Khunti, Giridih, Sahebganj, East Singhbhum, Lohardaga, Garwah, Gumla, Dumka, Pakur and West Singhbhum.

"We have organised workshops and seminars on the POCSO Act and SC directives. We will take more initiatives in future to ensure proper implementation of new directives and laws," said MS Bhatia, IG, Ranchi.

The Supreme Court's directive on response to a PIL by Bachpan Bachao Andolan in 2013 said, "All cases of missing children in India are to be registered as a cognizable offence (as First Information Report) and investigated. In all missing children cases, there will be a presumption of the crime of kidnapping or trafficking unless proven otherwise by investigation."

10 साल में झारखंड बन गया लापतागंज

रांची | अखिलेश सिंह

झारखंड लापतागंज में तब्दील हो चुका है। दस सालों में मानव तस्करी के मामलों में जहां 450 फीसदी से अधिक का इजाफा हुआ है, वहीं बच्चों की गुमशुदगी के इजाफे ने एजेंसियों और पुलिस के बीच चिंता की लकीरें खींची हैं।

सीआइडी और मानव तस्करी के खिलाफ काम करने वाली संस्था दीया सेवा संस्थान के रिपोर्ट पर गौर करें तो साल 2005 से लेकर साल 2014 के दिसंबर महीने तक 1177 बच्चों का सुराग नहीं मिल पाया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश पर 18 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के गुमशुदा होने पर अपहरण की प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने का आदेश पुलिस को दिया गया है। लेकिन अपहरण के तहत एफआइआर दर्ज करने को लेकर पुलिस अब तक लापरवाह है। बच्चों की

3838	2548	1177
गुमशुदा बच्चों की संख्या	बच्चे लापता होने के बाद बरामद हुए	बच्चों का अबतक सुराग नहीं

गुमशुदगी के सिर्फ 675 मामलों में थानों में एफआइआर दर्ज की गई है।

कहां जा रहे बच्चे

राज्य से गायब कर बच्चों को कहां ले जाया जा रहा, यह सवाल काफी पेचिदा है। महानगरों में घरेलू नौकरानी के तौर पर झारखंड की बेटियों की बड़े पैमाने पर तस्करी होती है। सीआइडी ने तस्करी में शामिल 200 से अधिक लोगों की लिस्ट भी बनायी है। नाबालिग सगे भाइयों के गायब होने के एक मामले की जांच सोबीआइ को भी दी गई थी। लेकिन सोबीआइ ने सुराग नहीं मिलने पर फाइल बंद कर दिया।

मानव तस्करी के चौंकाऊ आंकड़े

साल 2004 से लेकर 2014 तक मानव तस्करी के आंकड़ों में 450 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ है। साल 2004 में सिर्फ रांची जिले में मानव तस्करी के दो एफआइआर दर्ज किए गए थे। लेकिन

2014 में राज्य भर में मानव तस्करी के 147 मामले दर्ज किए गए। राज्य के गुमला, खूंटी, चाईबासा, सिमडेगा और रांची जिले में मानव तस्करी के सर्वाधिक मामले सामने आए हैं।

साल	लापता	बरामद
2014	581	343
2013	645	428
2012	605	444
2011	486	412
2010	353	242

अब तक कुल लापता : 1177

साल	लापता	बरामद
2009	306	197
2008	277	192
2007	65	25
2006	282	119
2005	238	146

लापता बच्चों के तलाश में पुलिस सक्रिय भूमिका नहीं अदा कर पा रही। दीया सेवा संस्थान के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, कई मामलों में पुलिस एफआइआर दर्ज नहीं करती।

बैजनाथ, सदस्य, दीया सेवा संस्थान

अच्छी पहल ट्रैफिकिंग सेल के गठन से 500 से अधिक बच्चे घर वापस लाए गए

रंग ला रही बचपन बचाने की मुहिम

डीवी स्टार » रांची

राज्य से ट्रैफिकिंग की अंधी दुनिया में गुम हो गए बच्चों को ढूंढने के लिए सरकार और स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की कोशिशें रंग ला रही हैं। सरकार ने ट्रैफिकिंग रोकने और गुमशुदा बच्चों को खोजने के लिए कई स्तर पर टीमों और व्यवस्थाएं बनाई हैं। यही कारण है कि अब गुम हुए बच्चों की बरामदगी का प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। अक्टूबर 2013 से लेकर दिसंबर 2014 तक 207 बच्चों के गुम होने की आधिकारिक रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराई गई। इसमें से 140 बच्चे रिकवर कर लिए गए। हालांकि अभी भी 67 बच्चे लापता हैं। सरकार और एंटी ट्रैफिकिंग से जुड़ी संस्थाएं इन बच्चों की खोज के लिए प्रयास कर रही हैं। सरकार की ओर से जारी हेल्प लाइन नं. (9471300008) पर राज्य भर से बच्चों की गुमशुदगी की सूचना दर्ज की जा रही है और इसपर कार्रवाई भी हो रही है।



आठ जिलों में काम कर रही है एंटी ट्रैफिकिंग यूनिट

अवैध मानव व्यापार से संबंधित घटनाओं को रोकने, पीड़ितों को त्वरित गति से मुक्त कराने एवं मुक्त कराए गए लोगों के पुनर्वास के लिए राज्य के विभिन्न विभागों की जिम्मेदारी तय कर दी गई है। गृह विभाग द्वारा इससे संबंधित संकल्प भी जारी किया गया है। मानव व्यापार रोकने के लिए आठ जिलों दुमका, खुटी, सिमडेगा, गुमला, पश्चिम सिंहभूम, रांची, लोहरदगा एवं पलामू में एंटी ह्यूमन ट्रैफिकिंग यूनिट काम करने लगी है।

पिछले एक साल में गायब और बरामद किए गए बच्चे

माह	गायब बच्चे	बरामद
अक्टूबर 2013	16	11
नवंबर 2013	09	08
दिसंबर 2013	14	09
जनवरी 2014	51	43
फरवरी 2014	14	11
मार्च 2014	09	06
अप्रैल 2014	04	02
मई 2014	01	0
जून 2014	03	01
जुलाई 2014	05	04
अगस्त 2014	06	03
सितंबर 2014	32	21
अक्टूबर 2014	17	09
नवंबर 2014	15	07
दिसंबर 2014	11	05

किस विभाग को क्या मिली है जिम्मेदारी

समाज कल्याण विभाग, बाल विकास विभाग एवं ग्रामीण विकास विभाग को मुखिया, सरपंच, वार्ड सदस्यों के साथ समन्वय बनाकर जागरूकता पैदा करना। सूचना प्रसारण विभाग को विभिन्न माध्यमों से जागरूकता पैदा करना। शिक्षा विभाग को बच्चों को शिक्षित करना। ग्रामीण विकास विभाग को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराना। पुलिस विभाग को एफआईआर दर्ज करने के साथ जल्द अनुसंधान पूरा करना। अभियोजन निदेशालय को अभियुक्तों को सजा दिलाने एवं कानूनी सलाह देने, स्वास्थ्य विभाग को चिकित्सीय सुविधा देने की जिम्मेदारी है।

सूचना पर होती है त्वरित कार्रवाई

हेल्प लाइन पर आने वाली सूचना पर त्वरित कार्रवाई की जाती है। संबंधित अधिकारी और थाना क्षेत्र को सूचना देने के बाद बच्चों के रिसक्यू के लिए ऑपरेशन चलाया जाता है। इसके अच्छे परिणाम सामने आ रहे हैं। **वैद्यनाथ कुमार**, मिस्मिंग चाइल्ड हेल्पलाइन (दीया सेवा संस्थान)

Tribal Girls self Defence training in Jharkhand : fear of poaching by Naxals looms large

Rohit Singh /Headlines Today

Young and vulnerable, many girls belonging to the Ho tribe based in Jharkhand's dense Saranda forests have been getting armed and empowered to take on the challenges of life. However, fear continues to stalk them and danger of their Naxal-infested land forces them to either hide their true identity or to flee their villages. *Headlines Today* travelled to the Naxal-infested forests to capture a story of hope and fear, where girls trained by the state might be forced to become Naxal recruits. It is a novel way of saving women and girls from the Naxal-infested region around the Saranda forests as young Ho women from remote villages have been getting trained to enter the mainstream.

CRPF training girls

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has begun the unique three-month training programme and trainees undergo physical training, parades and fire fighting in addition to martial arts.

However, these girls and their families fear that Maoists on the prowl looking for young volunteers might force them to join the outlawed outfit as they offer an ideal induction for them.

Deep inside the dense Saranda forests, at the tri-junction of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, women and children are forced by the Maoists to join their rank and file. Young girls in the adjoining villages are tracked and even kidnapped. Most of them become the victims of trafficking, physical abuse and torture, many times by the Naxals to pressure them to join their cadres.

However, in and around these jungles the situation is undergoing a dramatic change as the paramilitary forces have been training these young women to ensure that they get to lead a life of dignity. Security forces hope to provide adequate opportunities by training these tribal girls even as identification of candidates becomes a cumbersome process for them.

The coordinator of Sahyog NGO, which has been involved in the movement, Prabha Tete, said, "Villagers used to ask why we had come into the jungle to look for girls. We had a tough time convincing them. We promised them proper jobs."

The commandant of CRPF's 197 battalion based in Chaibasa, Lal Chand Yadav, said, "Girls who are fit and fulfil recruitment rules of CRPF, we will ask them to apply and we will help them. We train them for physical and interview as well as for written test."

CRPF claims that once the training programme gets over, the girls would be eligible for entry into the police and paramilitary forces. Most of the girls belong to the Ho tribes from the Saranda forest.

While 31 girls are being trained by the CRPF's 94 battalion in Khunti, similar training is being given to another 35 girls by 197 battalion in Chaibasa under the banner project Rupantaran.

The training includes drills and physical exercises, learning road traffic rules, elementary Hindi and English apart from computer and human rights educations. The girls are also being trained to handle conflict situations. The training programme is three-month long, but after three-four weeks, the trainees are already full of hope and ready to take on the world.

A trainee Monika Purti said, "Since I was a child I wanted to join the police force. I tried but could not succeed... CRPF is training us so that we can crack competitive exams for police and paramilitary forces. Our morale was down earlier, but because of the training we now don't want to go back to our village anymore."

Another trainee Basanti Kumari said, "They are giving good training and we hope we will get jobs."

Life has totally changed for these girls even before their training is over. These self-assured and poised trainees have fresh approach to life and are moving ahead with time at a faster pace.

Vulnerable to Naxal threat

Project Rupantaran might be aimed at empowering young girls from the tribal regions of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, but the fact is that this self-defence training has exposed these girls to the Naxal threat even more.

Now the Naxalites are looking to recruit these girls not just for combat, but also for their intelligence network. With the Naxal threat being real and present, questions are being raised about the effectiveness of the training project.

After being trained by the paramilitary forces, the girls risk being forcibly recruited by the Maoists. The danger is so great that even the CRPF officers who are training the girls have asked them to keep mum about the programme.

The deputy commandant of 94 battalion in Khunti, Birendra Kumar, said, "The girls when they will join the job, we want that the girls should not expose themselves. We also advise parents that they should not disclose that their girl was undergoing training... There is a threat to these trained girls."

The Maoists have been desperate to get these girls to join them to not only help in combat but also to strengthen their intelligence network. The girls themselves admitted that they were living in constant fear.

Fatima, who works as a private security guard in Patna, told Headlines Today, "Our parents think that if we get training, Naxals will take us forcibly. They come to our houses almost everyday in Latehar. We are afraid of Naxals and they come in large numbers."

Another private security guard in Patna, Renu Kumari, said, "Jharkhand is Naxal-

hit area. Parents were afraid to send us for training. They warned me that if I go for training, Naxals will take me away and force into their organisation."

There is another problem that these girls have been facing. Even after undergoing extensive training, people are sceptical of employing them as security guards.

Bhartiya Kisaan Sangh director Sanjay Mishra said in Patna, "Many people see such girls as a liability. Jharkhand is Naxal-infested area. People think hiring such girls may lead to security issue. People have no faith whether these girls can provide proper security." Now, the CRPF's intention behind empowering tribal girls by giving them self-defence training is also being questioned.

Patna-based human rights activist Shashi Bhushan Pathak said, "Empowering of women by training is useless logic given by the CRPF. Why is CRPF imparting such training? This is not para forces job. Naxals are tribal and girls are also tribal from same area. Forces want to eliminate Naxals through these tribal girls." Though the CRPF's effort might be honest and intent pure, but outcome might not be as good as one would expect.

Girls' families asked not to reveal their whereabouts

Apart from the girls themselves, their families too feel scared of Maoists as they realise that it would be tough to drag the trained ones into their cadres and to brainwash them in the name of revolution.

Taramuni of Rewa basti in Khunti was reluctant to send her daughter Basanti for training with the CRPF personnel. Her fears have come true. Ever since Basanti went for training a month ago, Taramuni has been receiving threats from the Naxals. The CRPF has now advised Taramuni not to divulge much about her daughter's training to anyone.

Basanti's mother Taramuni said, "Basanti is in Khunti for training. I cannot say what sort of training she is undergoing." Basanti said, "At home, relatives are not aware about my training. Only close family members know about the training."

Girls are known to succumb to family pressure which would be manifold in these cases. Chances are high that they might quit and return to square one to avoid trouble back home.

The commandant of 197 battalion said, "Naxals will never want that youth move towards development and take training from police or CRPF. They want that youth stay with them and take training in their camps and support them."

Read more at: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tribal-girls-learn-self-defence-techniques-in-jharkhand/1/183396.html>

Twin centres to curb trafficking

ARTI S. SAHULIYAR/ TELEGRAPH

Ranchi, Sept. 20: Senior inspector Shivani Shivaji Roy's brave journey into the sleazy corridors of human trafficking to rescue Pyari, a girl she is fond of, and busting a gang led by a young Delhi-based kingpin Karan alias Walt, is Bollywood fiction.

In fact, for Jharkhand, which wants to curb human trafficking by focussing on conduit points Ranchi and Delhi, *Mardaani*, the recent Rani Mukherjee film on fighting this menace, is a big inspiration.

At a meeting on September 15 at Jharkhand Bhavan, New Delhi, between International Labour Organisation (ILO) and a high-level state delegation led by chief secretary Sudhir Prasad, participants spoke on setting up migration rescue centres in Ranchi and Delhi, and then followed it up by watching *Mardaani*. The ILO organised the film screening.

Chief secretary Prasad apart, the state delegation comprised social welfare department principal secretary Rajiv Arun Ekka, labour commissioner Manish Ranjan, labour secretary Rahul Sharma, CID and Jharkhand police officers, officials of NGOs Bhartiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) and Save The Children.

In the meeting, chief secretary Prasad stressed on the need to check human trafficking in the tribal-dominated state by setting up rescue centres with an integrated toll-free number at Ranchi and Delhi.

In Delhi, the centre will be based at Jharkhand Bhawan or South Extension Part 1. Its Ranchi counterpart will operate out of state labour department at Doranda.

BKS secretary Sanjay Mishra, who spelt out the magnitude of trafficking in Jharkhand, said on a yearly average, 30,000 girls leave or are forced to leave the state. Most middlemen, or women, usually from the same village as the victims, entice girls to work as maids in metros. Once they reach the city, so-called placement agencies send them to households where they are often assaulted and exploited sexually. Most girls are teenagers, many minors.

Responding to the urgency of the situation, labour commissioner Ranjan said they would try their best to open the twin centres in October.

Ranchi and Delhi centres will be manned by 12 officials each, including representatives of departments such as labour, social welfare, home and HRD as well as members of BKS and Save The Children, Ranjan added.

"Our chief secretary has taken this initiative. It will definitely help check trafficking and prosecute those accused," he said. "Members of the ILO, present at the meeting, have appreciated the concept.

CID inspector-general Sampat Meena, who launched a toll-free number in March to report missing persons, said: "The number is useful. And, it will help the activities at both centres."

"The centres will check trafficking, provide counselling to rescued victims and prosecute the trafficker with the help of Delhi and Ranchi police. Each department involved will have their role cut out. For instance, labour department will provide data of those leaving the state, social welfare will help in rehab of the rescued, home will register cases and trace traffickers in actual operations," BKS functionary Mishra added.

Labour commissioner Ranjan added that he liked *Mardaani*. "It was a chilling eye-opener. We are well aware that our state is a prime source of trafficking and many girls don't return."

Meena, as a policewoman herself, said she appreciated the character of the tough cop essayed by Rani Mukherjee. "She personified courage under fire, coupled with cool thinking. I believe more such films should be made. Curbing trafficking is an issue dear to my heart. I have directed all SPs to check trafficking, especially children," she said.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140921/jsp/frontpage/story_18856833.jsp#.VRDwO_yUfBQ

The man who trafficked 5,000 tribal kids; DNA explores a dark underbelly of modern slavery

Thursday, 22 January 2015 - 7:35am IST | Place: Ranchi | Agency: DNA News Sai Manish

Man who trafficked 5,000 kids

In a three-part series, dna explores the dark underbelly of modern-day slavery and trade in humans from some of the remotest and backward areas of Jharkhand that is India's very own 'slavery belt'. In the first part, we reveal the chilling confession of a master trafficker

Sai Manish

It is estimated that every tribal hamlet in the naxal-affected Simdega-Gumla-Khunti region of Jharkhand has at least one missing child. All of them trafficked as unpaid domestic helps or sex slaves across India that has earned it the notorious tag of being the country's unofficial 'slavery belt'. dna travelled to remote villages meeting rescued tribal slaves and parents whose kids have never returned. Behind the tales of horror, is a network of human traffickers whose way of functioning the police are yet to decipher.

The Jharkhand Police nabbed Panna Lal Mahto in October 2014 from a house in Delhi's Shakurpur locality. He is one of the 35 kingpins who operate a heinous network supplying Delhi homes with tribal kids who work unpaid for years, dna studied witness accounts, hand-written police notes, confession statements and documents recovered from Mahto's residence in Delhi to deconstruct his modus-operandi and of others like him.

Mahto states that he started off in 2003 with four girls from his village of Ganoliya who he placed as domestic helps for a sum of Rs 1,000 per month in Delhi. He earned his first commission of Rs 8,000 for the job. After 11 months, he sent them back instructing each girl to bring back three more from their neighbouring villages to Delhi within a month. "I also got in touch with people at churches and villagers who were willing to become my agents for little money," says Mahto in his confession.

Mahto was a frequent visitor at Jharkhand Bhawan in South Delhi's Vasant Vihar. He would land with bouquets in hand whenever an MLA from the state came visiting. On tribal festivals like Karam and Sargol, Mahto was a regular at Jharkhand Bhawan.

Delhi was an ideal place for his business to flourish. "Almost every household in Delhi, from that of judges and politicians to bureaucrats and MNC executives, employ domestic helps. Working couples barely have time to do household chores. All they want is a placement agent who can supply them a maid at the lowest cost," says Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini, an NGO.

Heinous network of child traffickers

Panna Lal Mahto, who was arrested in October 2014 from a house in Delhi's Shakurpur locality, is one of the 35 kingpins who operate a heinous network supplying Delhi homes with tribal kids who work unpaid for years. Documents recovered from Mahto's residence show that he commissions from supplying domestic helps ranged from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000 per head.

Rescued girls we spoke to said that many of them were forced to have sex on the night of arrival.

Many of them would be employed in the national capital, while others would be supplied to places like Jaipur, Chandigarh and Bangalore.

Mahto's residence show that his commission from supplying domestic helps ranged from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000 per head. The tribal kids meanwhile were being employed on wages of Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 a month. Copies of contracts recovered show that the wages were to be paid to Mahto's agency. Statements of domestic helps, who were recovered in raids from some of his agencies, reveal that many of them were not paid wages for their work.



It is estimated that every tribal hamlet in the naxal-affected Simdega-Gumla-Khunti region of Jharkhand has at least one missing child. All of them trafficked as unpaid domestic helps or sex slaves across India that has earned it the notorious tag of being the country's unofficial 'slavery belt'. dna travelled to remote villages meeting rescued tribal slaves and parents whose kids have never returned. Behind the tales of horror, is a network of human traffickers whose way of functioning the police are yet to decipher.

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One of the girls who was brought back was Sunita, who soon became his wife. "I got her employed as a domestic maid. I felt attracted to her and married her that year," reveals Mahto. With a rapidly growing portfolio of tribal girls who were getting even more girls from the slavery belt every year, Mahto struck it rich.

Delhi was an ideal place for his **business** to flourish. "Almost every household in Delhi, from that of judges and politicians to **bureaucrats** and MNC executives, employ domestic helps. Working couples barely have time to do household chores. All they want is a placement agent who can supply them a maid at the lowest cost," says Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini, an NGO.

According to the research carried out by vocational institute, Kamalini, the demand for domestic helps, mainly women in 16-30 age group, would grow to six lakh in Delhi NCR over the next five years.

Business boomed for Mahto, and in 2005, within two years of opening an agency, he had enough money to buy a 25-square yard plot in Delhi's Shakurpur Colony. "I built a four-storey house. Whenever my agents come with kids, they stayed there.

I supplied them across Delhi and to places like Jaipur, [Chandigarh](#) and Bangalore," says Mahto. "For 150 kids, I used to earn a commission of anywhere between Rs 70,000 to Rs 1 lakh," says Mahto in his confession statement.

Even as Mahto was making a killing, the young tribal kids he employed through his web of over 400 fake placement agencies were going through hell. Documents recovered from Mahto's residence show that his commission from supplying domestic helps ranged from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000 per head. The tribal kids meanwhile were being employed on wages of Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 a month. Copies of contracts recovered show that the wages were to be paid to Mahto's agency.

Statements of domestic helps, who were recovered in raids from some of his agencies, reveal that many of them were not paid wages for their work. But the police have not found any records or receipts that show that the wages collected by Mahto were being paid to the domestic helps. Most of the victims dna spoke to said they had never received any money even after many years of work.

Mahto was a frequent visitor at Jharkhand Bhawan in South Delhi's Vasant Vihar. He would land with bouquets in hand whenever an MLA from the state came visiting. On tribal festivals like Karam and Sarhul, Mahto was a regular at Jharkhand Bhawan.

His networking paid off in 2013 when he met [Congress](#) MLA and then Jharkhand's [agriculture](#) minister, Yogender Sao, during an event on the day of Karam festival at Jharkhand Bhawan.

"We belonged to the same tribe. I liked his (Sao's) ambition to become an MP. I gave him my car to visit big politicians in Delhi. He took me to the homes of leaders like Subodh Kant Sahay, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi," reveals Mahto.

Sao is a Congress politician of dubious credentials. He was arrested at Mahto's Delhi residence in October 2014. He was arrested from the trafficker's residence after his links to an extremist extortion organisation, Jharkhand Tigers, were revealed. He is also one of the politicians named in the FIR of the 2010 cash-for-votes scandal.

"I saw on Doordarshan News that the Hazaribagh police were looking for Sao. He called me up and I picked him from the railway station. I drove him to Jharkhand Bhawan. But after seeing a media contingent outside, I drove him to a hotel in Paharganj. From there we went to my house in Shakurpur," reveals Mahto.

During interrogation, Mahto revealed to the police that his main agents keep in touch with young men and women in most villages of the Simdega-Khunti-Gumla slavery belt. These young men and women act as 'sub agents', who lure kids, mostly tribal girls in the villages, with a promise of better life in Delhi.

According to Mahto, they are paid a sum of Rs 15,000 to get the 'consignment' to Ranchi railway station from remote villages in the slavery belt. At the station another agent takes possession and is entrusted with the task of transporting them to the placement agency in Delhi. At the New Delhi railway station, another agent waits for the arrivals. After they are taken to the placement agency, the Ranchi agent gets a commission of Rs 40,000. "Rescued girls we spoke to said that many of them were forced to have sex on the night of arrival," says Sita Swansi of Diya Seva Sansthan.

Upon arrival at Mahto's placement agencies, most girls were given new names. In their identification documents, the minors were shown as above 18 years of age. "From the files recovered from Mahto's home, I saw one case where the identity of the girl had been changed four times in one year," says the investigating officer, Aradhna Singh. Mahto has confessed to having trafficked over 5,000 tribal kids. That number might be just the tip of the iceberg. The Jharkhand CID and the Delhi Police have a list of 34 other traffickers. Most are known criminals in Jharkhand but operate in India's capital. The police are yet to crack this web that supplies tribals to Delhi from India's unofficial slavery belt.

TOMORROW: In this second of the three-part series, dna explores the blacklist of traffickers and how poor investigative capabilities have literally killed the prospect of arresting these modern-day slave traders.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-the-man-who-trafficked-5000-tribal-kids-2054695>

Poor policing lets slave traders off the hook

Friday, 23 January 2015 - 5:23am IST | Place: Ranchi | Agency: dna

Sai Manish

One of the 34 traffickers of tribal kids operating in the slavery belt – some of the remotest and backward areas of Jharkhand – is Nirmal Mahto. He was arrested from Ranchi station on a train to [Delhi](#) with four minor girls in 2012. However, in 2013, when he was produced in court, the absence of a public prosecutor helped him secure bail. Since then he has been untraceable.

Similarly, in yet another bizarre incident, the [Delhi police](#) raided the premises of several traffickers in Shakurpur on the night of December 25, 2012. Among those who were raided included two master traffickers in the police blacklist – Krishan Kumar Sahu and Manoranjan Sahu. While K K Sahu had [human trafficking](#) cases against him in Simdega and West Singhbhum, Manoranjan Sahu was being actively sought by anti-human trafficking unit in Khunti. 54



minor tribal girls and eight boys were found at their placement agencies in Delhi. The Delhi police and Ranchi [CID](#) rescued the kids and sent them home. The traffickers were not arrested nor was an FIR filed at the local police station in Delhi. The two of them are still at large.

Master trafficker Panna Lal Mahto has also revealed the name of a dubious godman by the name of Baba Bamdev. Baba Bamdev is a politically connected godman who is currently behind bars for raping his own rape victim again. He is considered a master trafficker operating in both Delhi and

Ranchi in the guise of a godman. He was earlier arrested on rape charges by the Delhi police in 2011 but managed to get bail. Along with Mahto, he established an umbrella organisation for all of their fake placement agencies, titled National Adivasi Seva Sthan.

Bamdev, who even attended sittings of the Vidhan Sabha in tow with former Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA and known 'extortionist' Paulus Surin, has admitted to using Surin's clout to run his trafficking net in Khunti district. Panna Lal Mahto confesses to having formed a union of placement agencies along with Baba Bamdev, bringing Jharkhand traffickers under an umbrella organisation called the National Adivasi Seva Sthan. This organisation holds a massive gathering of domestic maids and placement agents in Delhi's Punjabi Bagh area on Christmas day every year. In photographs seized from Mahto's residence, many of Jharkhand's most wanted traffickers are seen in attendance along with hundreds of young tribal boys and girls from across Delhi.

Jharkhand's slave traders

Sundar Munda : Janakpuri-based agent. FIRs against him at PS Namkum, Ranchi. One of the most active traffickers in Ranchi, Gumla and Simdega districts.

Nirmal Mahto: Runs Prabhu Enterprises, based in Moti Nagar and Shakurpur. FIRs against him in PS Chutiya, Ranchi. Also a known member of extortionist outfit Swantatra Nyaya Manch

Mohd Nizamuddin Ahmad: Simdega-based agent, suspected to be the point person of Baba Bamdev

Gayatri Devi: Shakurpur-based agent; currently behind bars. During a raid a database of close to 1,200 girls was recovered along with addresses of the homes in Delhi they are working in



Mahendra Sahu: Shakurpur-based agent, active in Khunti, Simdega and Lohardaga. Local police suspect him to be behind the disappearance of many girls in remote villages of the belt.

India's very own 'Slavery Express'

DNA spent some days and nights at the Ranchi railway stations, monitoring various trains from the state capital to Delhi. On Mondays and Thursdays after 7 pm, the Ranchi railway station sees a trickle of groups of young girls and boys. The trickle becomes a stream by 9 pm. As dna found out,

most traffickers prefer to use one train in particular. Unofficially, the Jharkhand Sampark Kranti Express, that departs from Ranchi at 11:40 pm twice a week, is India's very own 'Slavery Express'.

Most agents buy general compartment tickets and shepherd their groups to grab a seat. Some will convert the general tickets to sleeper class by paying the travelling ticket examiner (TTE). It is not baffling to see why this particular super fast train has become India's 'Slavery Express'. It leaves Ranchi in the dead of the night when policing at most stations is usually lax. In its 1,306-km journey to Delhi, the train stops at only seven stations, five of which are during the same night. That makes police interception even more difficult. The first stop of the train after sunrise is at Mughal Sarai Junction at around 9 am. From there the train speeds to Delhi covering 800 km with only one halt at Kanpur. It reaches

New Delhi after dark at 8:50 pm. The nature of the journey significantly reduces the threat of interception at the station of origin, halts and arrival.

The Railway Protection Force or the local police in either Delhi or Ranchi mostly don't inspect 'Slavery Express'. "Even if we suspect someone they say they are going with their relatives. How can we prove that it is a case of trafficking?" asks an RPF officer at Ranchi.

Once they arrive in Delhi, the trafficked kids are sent to placement agencies. Most of the 240 placement agencies under the scanner of the state police are based in the locality of Shakurpur in Outer Delhi. The locality is a maddening maze of three- or four-storeyed brick houses. They are packed together with barely any space to walk or for sunlight to trickle in. Law enforcement agencies have often found it hard to penetrate this maze to carry out an investigation and join the dots to bust the bigger network of traffickers. The Jharkhand CID has been planning to conduct a joint operation with the Delhi police for over a year now. But none of their plans have yet seen the light of the day.

dna accompanied Delhi and [Chhattisgarh](#) police during a joint raid in November. On expected lines, the owner of the placement agency escaped before the police managed to locate the house. Inside, the police recovered four minors, all tribal kids from Jharkhand.

The Global Slavery Index 2013, released by the UN, estimates that half of the world's 30 million slaves are in India. Nations like Gambia, Gabon and Ivory Coast have fewer slaves in proportion to their population, compared with India. The report notes, "Information is not available about the Indian Government's total budget allocation to responding to modern slavery. The Ministry of Home Affairs, along with UNODC, developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the identification of victims of traffic king, in 2009. State governments were advised to implement them, but as of March 2013 no evaluation of the implementation of the SOPs has been conducted."

Most of the modern day slaves in India continue to be tribals and dalits with little knowledge of the world beyond their hamlets. In India's 'slavery belt' every village bears testimony to this trade in humans. The 'Slavery Express' might help young tribals escape a life of grinding poverty in their villages. But little do they know that hell starts where the train terminates.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-poor-policing-lets-slave-traders-off-the-hook-2054885>

India's Slavery Belt: Battered and bruised, some return, some are never to be seen again..

Sai Manish in DNA Times

The road to Jahupkokotoli village in the Maoist-hit district of Gumla is a contradiction of sorts. As the two-lane road snakes through the forests and rolling hills of the Chottanagpur plateau, bauxite-laden trucks are the only constant reminder of activity here. Yet the public transport to this part of Jharkhand from the state capital Ranchi is rickety. The only bus everyday is as uncertain as life in this extremely backward region of India.

Despite the lack of public transport, thousands of tribal boys and girls from Gumla-Khunti-Simdega region, India's unofficial 'slavery belt', are transported and trafficked to upper middle class and rich homes of Delhi. After a period of enslavement and unpaid forced labour, many return battered and bruised. Some are never to be seen again. Some still carry on.

In Jahupkokotoli, an aboriginal hamlet of 160 Oraon tribal families, 45-year-old Mathoo comes running with a picture of his 14-year-old daughter. "Help me find her. I haven't seen her after she went away in 2007," says Mathoo. His daughter would be 21 now, but Mathoo doesn't know her fate after she was taken by a 'placement agent' from a neighbouring village to Delhi to work as a domestic help. Within two months, the agent sent Mathoo Rs 1000 as a payment for his daughter's 'services'. Next year, he called up the agent again to inquire about his daughter. "The agent said that my daughter had run away and that he did not know her whereabouts. I do not know whether she is dead or alive," says Mathoo.

A few houses away from Mathoo's is the hut of Hari Oraon. His 16-year-old daughter Pramila was taken by an agent to Delhi in early 2014. But she 'escaped' within four months and came back. According to her statement to police, Pramila was taken to Delhi by another woman of the same village in the promise of a better life. As soon as she arrived in Delhi she was escorted to a Shakurpur-based placement agency by an agent. They took her finger prints on a piece of paper and sent her to work as a domestic maid at three different homes in Delhi. Facing ill-treatment and not having been paid by any of her employers or the placement agency, Pramila escaped.

Lost on the streets in Delhi, she begged another woman to take her home. The woman instead handed her over to the Delhi police. The [Delhi police](#) handed her over to a shelter home in the capital from where she was taken to Kishori Niketan, a rehab centre for trafficked women in Bijupara, Jharkhand.

Finally in April 2014, she was re-united with her family. For her work as a [domestic help](#) in Delhi, Pramila wasn't paid any money. "The police left her in nearby Bishunpur from where we picked her up and got her home," says Hari Oraon. "She says she will never go back to Delhi."

Off the road from Bishunpur lies the [Dalit](#) village of Hadiya Toli, literally translating into 'wine village'. There is no road connectivity to the village and reaching here requires walking a kilometre on a dusty track. The name of 15-year-old Sarita alias Budhni evinces a peculiar response from the village men.

"That Dilli-return?", one asks with a wry smile. "Who knows where she is," says another. "Ask her mother. She might know." We find her mother working outside her hut and as the conversation about her daughter nears completion, she says, "Who will marry her now? Who knows what might have happened to her in Delhi?"

Sarita disappeared from her house in 2013 with five other girls after an agent in her village promised her lucrative money in Delhi. Sarita says, "I was promised a monthly wage of Rs 5000. After working four months for an agency in Motinagar in Delhi, I asked for some money. They refused and locked me up instead. I begged to let me go home. But they said I cannot go home before I completed five years. Then one day the police raided the place and they took me in their custody," says Sarita. She was finally sent home in April 2013.

"There were other girls in that house. I do not know what happened to them. I did not even get the money for my work," says Sarita. When asked about the nature of her work, Sarita maintains an uneasy silence. Sarita is lucky enough to be back in her village. Even though her village doesn't have either electricity, [drinking water](#) supply or roads, she feels safer here than in any of Delhi's slave holes.

Phulin Murmu, 18, however doesn't want to return to her village. Phulin Murmu is not a name that would ring a bell. But when she was found burnt, battered and bitten in a house in South Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj locality it made national headlines in October 2013. She was found in the house of Vandana Dhir, an executive with a French multinational. Murmu's body bore hot girdle-induced burn marks, deep scars on the head and bite marks all over her body. She was forced to drink urine, prevented from using the bathroom and confined in the house in a semi-naked condition before being rescued. She was working unpaid for two years before being rescued.

dnA tracked her down at a [rehabilitation](#) centre in Khunti, one of the hardest hit districts of the slavery belt. She is being educated and trained at the Mahilya Samkhya Society, which she shares with around 30 other minor girls, many of whom are rescued slaves. Phulin can barely write her name, the scars still show on her face. But she details her three years of enslavement with a brave face and with no emotion. "It is for the first time that I am seeing her talk so openly. It seems she is recovering well from the trauma," says Asha Kusum, the warden of the institution. The Mahilya Samkhya Society is wary of letting Phulin rejoin her parents in her village. They ask her father to come to town for Christmas. They don't want to take a chance again. "Most kids are from extremely poor tribal families. Their parents will send them to Delhi for any small amount. Phulin is safe here – from poverty and from agents who would want to prey on her again. She is still scared inside. She will only get better," says Ms Kusum.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-battered-and-bruised-some-return-some-are-never-to-be-seen-again-2055157>

Maid To Order

Domestic workers, particularly young women and juveniles trucked in from Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Nepal-all well-known poaching grounds for human traffickers-bear the worst brunt.

By Asit Jolly and Asmita Bakshi | India Today – Mon 2 Dec, 2013

Sounds of the raucous street below fade away quickly. Four floors above, at the top of a steep, dark, mosquito-infested stairwell in Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur village, five young Bengali women mutely alternate between the tiny spots of sunshine on the brief terrace one floor up and the only available sitting space on the stone-and-concrete steps. The adjacent 9x9 office, neatly fitted out with a cushioned settee, framed prints of Da Vinci's Mona Lisa and Jesus Christ and a computer, is off limits to them.

Welcome to Ranju Enterprises, one of the oldest among scores of placement agencies supplying domestic help-maids, cleaning women, cooks, nannies, even drivers, guards and occasional dog-walkers-to Delhi's burgeoning population of upwardly mobile middle-class households.

International Labour Office estimates peg the decadal growth in domestic work opportunities across India between 1999-2000 and 2008-2009 at a frenetic 222 per cent with 4.2 million household workers in the country at the beginning of the current decade. Nearly a third of these, 2.95 million, are women.

Dodgy Dealers

Forty-year-old Mahendra Subba, a Nepali of Bhutanese extraction, runs Ranju Enterprises from the grubby quarters that include his office, three-room home and the dingy stairwell, invariably occupied by young women-fresh 'candidates' from Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, and 'old hands' scoping for new employers. It is all within shouting distance but conveniently invisible to the khaki uniforms inside the local police station.

Ranju Enterprises is apparently among the 'better' deals; the city is literally spotted with dozens of fly-by-night set-ups operating from even more impossible-to-find locations and almost always via constantly changing mobile phone numbers.

In northwest Delhi's Shakurpur area, Krish Enterprises is not just present on Internet search portals, but boasts of multiple phone lines on an independent website that features distinctly Caucasian women that ostensibly are part of its workforce of maids, nannies and care-givers for the old and infirm. But four of the five phones listed on the company's website are duds and there is nobody at its offices in Shakurpur's dda Market.

"Umesh nahi hain. Bahar desh jaye rahen hain. Pandrah-bees din ke baad lautenge (Umesh is not here. He is out of town and will be back after 15-20 days)," the fifth phone number finally elicits a response from a woman with a distinctly Bhojpuri accent.

"Kya ladkiyan lane gaye hain? (Has he gone to bring girls?)," we ask. "Haan ji? hame pata nahi (Yes? I don't know)," she quickly backtracks. Umesh is either missing in action or quite simply chary of risky encounters with clients who feel duped.

All the way from Delhi to Mumbai, it's a familiar story. Twenty-six-year-old Janhvi Bellare Salvi from Thane, a pr account manager at the MSL Group, says she was swindled by Exel Manpower, a placement agency working from a shack in Govandi. Desperate for a housemaid, Salvi handed over Rs 4,500 as 'processing charges' to Amir Sheikh, a well-spoken young man who showed up at her doorstep on behalf of Exel in September. After he scooted with the cash, Salvi staged a minor sting operation of her own: "I got a friend to register for the same service and informed the police half an hour before the man was to come and collect the processing fees," she says. Both Sheikh and the company's owner Suresh Gehlot were nabbed. They are presently on bail pending trial for cheating in the case.

The story gets endlessly replicated in both Mumbai and Delhi.

Rita Singh, a 57-year-old single woman in South Delhi, agreed to pay Rs 15,000 as a recurring annual retainer to a Panchsheel Park-based placement agency. "I contacted agents and they sent me a maid who decided to take off to her village barely two months after she first showed up," she says. The agents simply stopped responding to Rita's frantic calls, forcing her to initiate legal action. "These guys are nothing but a bunch of crooks," she says.

Big-bucks Business

Subba, who 'places' 100 to 150 maids in South Delhi households every year, says "this business just isn't what it used to be". Yet he encouraged his 25-year-old son Rajeev to drop out of college and join him fulltime. For each housemaid Ranju Enterprises supplies, it charges clients a non-refundable commission of Rs 25,000 that is good only for 11 months. Subba says as much as 70 per cent of the money goes to sub-agents who bring in the women, mostly sourced from tea gardens in Jalpaiguri.

The real money is made by periodically shifting domestic workers from one household to another well ahead of 11 months. Subba admits that most of his earnings come from 'recycling': "Moving a maid who is already working means the agency gets the entire Rs 25,000 commission. There are no sub-agents to be paid off."

More dubious organisations like Krish Enterprises rake in commissions of up to Rs 50,000 per domestic help besides an unspecified percentage of her salary. "Clients, usually working couples, seldom have the time to chase after agents when their maids suddenly vanish," says Ajay, a former agency employee who now drives a cab in West Delhi.

Harried Housekeepers

It's not just about duped householders. Domestic workers, particularly young women and juveniles trucked in from Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha

and Nepal-all well-known poaching grounds for human traffickers-bear the worst brunt. Fifty-two-year-old Kabi Karki, who heads Save Nepali Mission, a voluntary collective committed to rescuing and restoring domestic workers in distress to their homes and families, says, "Migrations to big metros like Mumbai and Delhi are impossible to stop unless there is a drastic improvement in the source areas." In 2011 winter, Karki and his friends rescued five underage Nepali women from a placement agency in Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila area. "They were kept like animals with almost no food," he recalls.

The investigation by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) into the unexplained deaths of 14-year-old schoolgirls Jyoti Mariam Horo and Jaymani Gurriya, trafficked from Jharkhand's Khunti district to Delhi's Chirag Dilli area this April, was a particularly rude reality check. The girls' fathers, Sukhram Gurriya and Navin Horo, struggle to feed their families with meagre earnings from occasional farm work. Six adult members of the Gurriya family received just 30 days' nrega work in 2006-2007. Horo got only 18 days' work in the past three years, making it impossible even to pay his monthly house rent of Rs 100. "There was less than 200 grams of food in the house when our team visited Kamra Simar Toli village on May 22," says ncpcr member Vinod Tikoo.

Tortured and Abused

No less horrific was the cold-blooded murder of Rakhi, a 35-year-old from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district who was allegedly bludgeoned to death on November 4 by Bahujan Samaj Party MP Dhananjay Singh's wife. In October 2011, the Delhi Police booked a Kaushambi-based doctor for allegedly raping his 20-year-old housemaid over months. A year earlier, another young woman placed by Subba's Ranju Enterprises was brutally tortured with blades and a hot iron before she managed to flee from the house of a divorced single woman in Rajouri Garden. This October, an airhostess with Air India was booked on charges of torturing and physically abusing a 12-year-old girl she had illegally engaged to work in her posh Vasant Kunj apartment.

A 33-page report by the US-based Human Rights Watch, International Domestic Workers Network and International Trade Union Confederation, on October 28 includes India among the worst offenders where domestic helps are faced with "horrific abuses". Yet the draft national policy for the protection and welfare of domestic workers put together by a labour ministry-constituted task force in September 2011 with recommendations from the National Advisory Council headed by upa Chairman Sonia Gandhi still awaits legislation.

Get Domestic Help, one of Delhi's better-known placement agencies, estimates that nearly 2.5 million households seek at least one domestic worker in tier-one cities annually. Virtually unregulated and completely unorganised, the sector remains a cesspit of exploitation and abuse-a dark and seldom seen corner of Emerging India.

- With Sonali Acharjee

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/maid-to-order-113238495.html>



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