

# Tribals rescued in Delhi, return safe

PREETI Maheshwari  
Sanchi, October 20

FIVE TEENAGE tribals, who were trafficked from various districts of Jharkhand to work as domestic help in Delhi, were rescued from a railway station on Thursday.

एनएनटी  
दिल्ली, 20 अक्टूबर  
पांच जार्खण्ड के क्षेत्रों से तस्करी के माध्यम से दिल्ली लाए गए पांच किशोरियों को पुलिस ने रेलवे स्टेशन से बचाया।

## VICTIMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

### Trafficking: Action favoured

Five teenage tribals who were rescued from a railway station in Delhi on Thursday.

Rebuilding Hopes A new of the  
Trafficking Survivors

Henna, a cheerful girl aged 16 got attracted to a boy of 19 years. In part, this resulted from Henna's estranged relation with her stepmother. The boy sexually abused her on the pretext of being in love with her and also compelled to have sex with some of his friends. The boy instigated her to run away from home on false promises of marrying her and sold her to a middle aged man. Realizing soon that she had landed in a trap she managed to escape with the help of a neighbor and got the culprits arrested by the police. Henna was sent to a Children's Home for girls but she again ran away to escape the oppressive atmosphere and took shelter with an old man who promised her protection. Lamentably, the man lost no time in selling her to a brothel keeper from where she could again manage to escape and reach the New Delhi Railway Station in an effort to return to home. Here, she was spotted by the team of the Prayas Railway Project who brought her to Prayas Shelter Home for Girls. Initially, she exhibited problems of interpersonal skills, anger management, suicidal thought, general hostility and disinterest in the day-to-day activities of the Home but gradually could manage to overcome these through regular trauma counseling. Presently she is attending alternative education classes and learning a vocation of her choice. She does not want to meet or go back to her family but still nurtures a hope that her boyfriend (trafficker) might one day return and marry her.

Henna was indeed lucky to be able to escape from the repeated clutches of the traffickers but there are countless who become victims of trafficking and land into situations of severe physical and sexual exploitation and emotional torture that shatter them. Besides they have very little or no hope of being welcome back by their families and the communities to which the latter belong. Apparently, associating trafficking only with sexual exploitation paints only a part of the traumatic scenario. Today, it is well known that trafficking takes place for various purposes that include commercial sexual exploitation, forced and domestic labour, organ trade, drug peddling, pornography, camel jockeying and many more.

Article 3 of the UN Protocol, 2000, defines Trafficking as:

'recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs'.

### Issues and Challenges

Literally signifying social Darwinism, human beings have been discriminated against and exploited by fellow human beings on economic, social and political grounds. Such discriminatory practices can be seen in the form of slavery, forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

The focal point of trafficking comprises vulnerable humans-their vulnerabilities arising out of their disempowerment on various counts making women and children the most easily exploitable targets, nationally and internationally. Trafficking today is carried out to serve

### Some Facts

- Today Human Trafficking is the third largest form of organized crime after arms and drugs
- Nearly 2 million children are abused/trafficked globally every year
- Due to Globalization induced poverty more and more families are either being forced or deceived into sending their women/girls into prostitution
- In India 25% of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation are below 18 years
- Nearly 5% of the women/girls engaged in prostitution in India are from Nepal and Bangladesh
- Most of the women/girls who are trapped in this trade belong to socially/economically deprived classes
- The HIV/AIDS threat has fueled the demand for younger girls



various purposes and irrespective of the purpose/s the activity results in causing long-lasting physical, social, spiritual, and psychological damage. This is notwithstanding the exposure to the threat of contracting HIV/AIDS, violence/abuse, drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy and forced abortions, malnutrition and social ostracism. All this is besides the fact that the victims are subjected to ongoing shame and degradation arising from all sectors. Coping with this problem requires both institutional and non-institutional care; determined efforts by NGOs to awaken the community to the hazards of trafficking, an equally determined police force and judiciary to effectively implement anti-trafficking law and political will to lend support to all anti-trafficking activities.

The growing social and economic disparities between states, within the country and across the borders (India, Bangladesh and Nepal) and the civic unrest, instability and social inequality across borders has led to a swell in rapid unsafe migration and poverty due to the challenge of viable livelihood options. The economically backward states of Bihar, Assam and Gujarat today have come to be associated as the major source areas with Delhi becoming the largest destination point of the trafficked and migrant population. In response the anti-trafficking organizations and the local governments in these States have placed limited emphasis in tackling this complex issue full of problems and addressing the socio-economic dimensions. The basic issue of right to work and access to decent gainful livelihood options for these marginalized migrants in vulnerable situations remains untouched and is often addressed in isolation. Therefore, there remains a strong need to address the contextualized livelihood options in the context of prevention of trafficking, safe migration and reduction of their vulnerabilities who are either forcefully displaced due to poverty and associated discriminatory systems at home states.

### About the Victims

Women and children belonging to the marginalized families and vulnerable groups lacking economic stability and support are the worst victims of the trafficking. Often they fall into the deceitful traps of trafficker who lure them to a brighter future on false promises of providing lucrative jobs opportunities.

### Myths/Misconceptions about Trafficking

- Poverty is the only push factor for Trafficking
- Traffickers are always strangers
- There is no difference between trafficking and kidnapping
- Trafficking always involves force
- Trafficking is directly proportionate to prostitution
- Trafficking always involves commercial exploitation
- Trafficking and Smuggling are same

### Facts/Responses about Trafficking

- Apart from poverty social factors are responsible for trafficking such as in communities like Bedia, Nat, Devdasi etc,
- Often traffickers are known to the families/victims such as neighbors, villagers, own family members including father/or both parents
- Trafficking does not necessarily involve kidnapping.
- Trafficking and Smuggling are not same. Trafficking usually involves deceit or fraud while smuggling is assisting someone for a fee to cross a broader illegally.
- Trafficking also happens for purposes other than prostitution such as child labour, camel jockeying, drug peddling, pornography etc.
- Besides commercial exploitation other forms of exploitation include physical, mental, sexual exploitation and harassment.

### Stages of Trafficking

- Pre-trafficking Stage
- Transit Stage
- Destination Stage
- Recovery/ Rescue
- Rehabilitation/Repatriation
- Reintegration in the society

## Prayas' Experience in Anti - Trafficking

Prayas a national level voluntary organization committed for restoring the rights of the marginalized children since 1988 has been actively engaged in anti-trafficking initiatives; especially on issues related to rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of children as victims of sex trafficking. The organization has observed that there is a peculiar change in the modus operandi, direction and extent of trafficking in India and also in South -East Asia region. It has reasons to believe that the extent of internal commercial sex exploitation of children and women has increased manifold than the cross-border trafficking in the wake of strict vigilance and check maintained at the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border areas. With the upsurge in the use of information technology (IT) and new patterns of demand and supply in the flesh trade, traffickers have adopted new strategies to lure and traffic girls from different parts of the country. Earlier, young women used to be trafficked mostly for sexual exploitation and boys for camel riding. However, in the past few years' women are being trafficked to work in urban areas as maidservants or as caretakers of old persons in homes or hospitals. A handsome amount of their earning is taken away by these traffickers as commission for providing employment with only some token money given to the family members before bringing them for employment. Middle-aged women comprise a new target population that is being brought to work as maid servants, care takers or babysitters. Migration of the marginalized rural women and girls without having necessary education and skills into the cities for employment adds to the extent of sex trafficking.

### Rights Based Approach to Counter Trafficking

Prayas promotes the rights-based approach in its anti-trafficking programs by progressively addressing the issue of vulnerability reduction and counter trafficking of these marginalized population and re-integration of the trafficking survivors through feasible empowerment programmes and policy initiatives for more than a decade. Prayas shares its mandate of addressing livelihood, poverty reduction and unemployment issues from both micro and macro interventions in the selected source areas of trafficking. It stresses the urgent need for action-based projects and programmes for implementation in cooperation with partners in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to address the issue of migration. The action programmes of Prayas focuses on following priority areas:

- Right to work and safe migration
- Vulnerability reduction of potential migratory population, particularly youth and women
- Creating viable livelihood options at source areas for economically gainful employment and empowerment of these marginalized population
- Establishing social safety networks and rehabilitative options at destination points for the trafficking survivors and the vulnerable.

### Action Programmes

#### Community Awareness

Community awareness programs for an integral element of the Prayas Anti-Trafficking Program. This is undertaken through non-institutional services and interventions like family counseling, sponsorship, self help groups, theatre and street plays, documentaries which serve as preventive measure to enable families to stay together and prevent institutionalization of children. Prayas has made five documentaries on child related issues including trafficking for screening on Doordarshan as part of the awareness and advocacy programme.

#### Training, Sensitization and Capacity Building

Workshops and Consultations are held to sensitize law enforcement agencies, partner NGOs and society at large and also to build the capacity of NGOs, local bodies and State Governments to undertake child related responsibilities. In this regard Prayas has been holding regional and national level workshops every year since 2002 in collaboration with UNIFEM, US Embassy, American Chamber of Commerce, NGOs, Media and other stakeholders.



## Networking

Creation of strong network with Allied Systems (Government and Non-Government agencies) has enabled it to achieve success in the intervention undertaken especially with regard to care, rehabilitation and reintegration with biological/ adoptive families. As a member of anti-trafficking Network in Delhi it has made active contributions on various programmes and policies related to this issue. It is also a proactive member of South Asia Forum Against Human Trafficking (SAFAHT), a network organization from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, initiated and supported by UNIFEM and ATSEC in Delhi and is jointly addressing the issues along with member organizations on national and cross border level

## Policy Research and Advocacy

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) and the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIC) enables it to undertake studies on State and NGO response to children under the law and the process adopted for rehabilitation. Based on the findings of the action research programs it undertakes Policy Advocacy to influence policies and decision-making agencies to protect and promote the interests and rights of victimized children. Based on its experiences the organization played an instrumental role in the formulation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000. A landmark legislation, that provides protection, care, treatment and rehabilitation of neglected children and juvenile in conflict of law below eighteen years.

## International Participation and Recognition

In recognition to its constant fight for combating the problem of trafficking Prayas had the opportunity to participate in several international conferences and forums. To share its anti-trafficking initiatives it participated in a conference organized by the US Department of State, Washington D.C on 'Path breaking Strategies in the Fight Against Sex Trafficking'.

## Referral Sources

The Crisis Intervention Centre (CIC), Crime Against Women Cells (Police), Local Police, Childline, Courts, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and other enforcement agencies, NGOs and Anti-trafficking Networks, etc comprise important referral sources.

The CIC of Prayas has played an important role by focusing on prevention exploitation and abuse of children, including child victims of sexual, physical, emotional and economic abuse with special attention to the protection of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in Delhi. It has focused on the need for arrests and conviction of the offenders by encouraging the citizens to report whatever they notice that might indicate that a girl has been sexually abused. Regular awareness programs undertaken by it stress on the importance of early action to capture physical evidence and document the victim's detailed recollections while they are still fresh.



### Prayas Founder Praised in 2005 U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report

Inspector General Amod Kanth is a model of public service to the vulnerable children of India. In 1988, as Deputy Commissioner of Police in New Delhi, he founded Prayas as an NGO dedicated to caring for children in distress, including child trafficking victims. With assistance from various donors, he has built up an impressive network of shelters and drop-in care and education centers for vulnerable children. Working with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Prayas led the effort to create a nationwide system of child-help emergency phone lines called "Child Line." Now any child in distress in any of India's 56 largest cities can call "1-0-9-8" toll-free and receive help.

## Reducing Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

Prayas has set up Child Assistance Booths at the New Delhi, Parna and Samastipur Railway Stations under its Railway Children Project to save a large number of children who are trafficked through railways. In the year 2005 more than 150 trafficked children for forced labour were rescued at Parna Railway Station and 160 girls rescued at New Delhi railway assistance booth. In January 2005 to December 2005, around 180 girls and 200 boys were referred for institutional care by this project. Most of them were found to have been trafficked from their native place to work as forced/ bonded labour in the growing Zari (Embroidery) Industry in Delhi. The children most of them illiterate were lured by job opportunities and the prospects of a better life and belonged to remote villages of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh, Bihar, Nepal, Bangladesh etc.

## Linkages for Effective Rescue and Rehabilitation

To evolve a comprehensive and integrated approach for the restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation of the rescued child victims Prayas has created a strong network with police, judiciary and individuals. Based on the information received from time to time regarding forced induction of children in the flesh trade in the demarcated red light areas as well as in clandestine areas. Joint rescue operations are carried out with the police and the Rescue team of Prayas and children are put in safe and friendly environment of the six Homes run in Delhi by Prayas. Under the justice delivery to the survivors FIRs were registered against the trafficker in different police stations of Delhi and as many 100 survivors were successfully repatriated to their families as per Child Welfare Committee directions in the year 2005.

## Home Away from Home

To provide a friendly and safe environment for the growth and development of the marginalized children Prayas runs six shelters in Delhi. These include Shelter Home for Girls, Bal Grah, Children's Home for Boys, Observation Home for children in conflict with law under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and Night Shelter Homes. Child victims rescued from abusive and exploitative situations receive a holistic program of rehabilitation in these Homes. The activities are children's meeting (Bal Sabha), specialized and clinical counselling, Health Care and Medical facilities, Social investigation/Home Investigation, Recreational facilities, Education and Vocational-cum-skill training and regular follow-up through visits, networking and correspondence for ensuring safe repatriation to prevent re-trafficking. These homes also carry out different programmes for the effective rehabilitation and repatriation of the children.



Prayas Shelter Home for Girls, Tughlakabad is ideally fit to serve as a non-custodial institutional care with community based facilities as one of the modes of disposition of cases u/s 15 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000.

The Bal Grah, a home for working girls above eighteen years is an example of innovative rehabilitative approach for their effective reintegration in the society. The home provides the girls an option of living in a homely environment and also helps them to learn to stand on their own and be independent, thus preparing them for future life.

## Economic Empowerment through Livelihood Options

Economic consideration, poverty and efforts for sheer survival remain the most important factor behind the vulnerability of women and children and a strong reason behind the phenomenon of

trafficking. To address this problem Prayas has made valuable efforts to create livelihood opportunities and income generation through life-skills development programme, self-help group for the marginalized population both in the source as well as the destination areas. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Prayas Institute of Economic Empowerment has been working tirelessly to reach out to more and more marginalized youth and women by providing them skills training in need based market driven trades. This program and the efforts of the placement cell has enabled a sizeable population from deprived community in becoming self-employed / employed.



### Corporate Partnerships to Foster Economic Rehabilitation

Prayas has established strong linkages and partnership with corporate houses to harness their valuable resources and managerial skills as a part of promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR). In this regard, sponsorship of children and placement of trained and skilled youth in jobs play a key role. The 10 Sanchay-Prayas business outlets in Delhi, being managed by the survivors of trafficking under the Economic Rehabilitation Programme (ERTV), in partnership with International Organization for Migration (IOM), is yet another facet of Prayas model with the corporate world. This initiative helps survivors of trafficking to earn their livelihood in a respectable way. To quote a survivor ... 'Now I have become more confident and with the help of Prayas I am going to start a new life very soon. I am now an independent person working at business parlours and earning my livelihood. At Prayas I am enjoying a new lease of life and look forward to a future with hope.'



### Future Strategy

Prayas seeks to build partnership with survivors and stakeholders in protecting the rights and securing justice, supporting the victims from rescue to reintegration and rebuilding hopes with alternative options and decent livelihood options.

### International Conventions

- SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women And Children for Prostitution, 2002
- The UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949.
- The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979 (Relevant Extracts)
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 (Relevant Extracts)
- The Vienna Declaration of 1993 at the World Conference on Human Rights
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995
- The ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999.

### Relevant Laws dealing with prostitution, trafficking in women and children

- Passport Act
- Immigration Law
- Marriage Registration Act
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- The Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Sections: 363 A, 365, 366, 366A, 366B, 370, 372, 373, 376)
- The Code of Criminal Code, 1973
- The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

**Prayas Head Office:**  
**Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice**  
59, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110062  
Telefax : 00-91-11-29955505, 29956244  
Email: prayas@del6.vsnl.net.in, www.prayaschildren.org

**Prayas Juvenile Aid Center (JAC)**

EE Block, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033,  
Tel: 27633906/27633907

**Prayas Children's Home**

EE Block, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033,  
Tel: 27634853, 27633906, 27634853  
Email: pch@prayaschildren.org

**Prayas Childline (1098)**

EE Block, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033  
Tel: 27633906, 27633907

**Prayas Observation Home for Boys**

Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi Gate, Delhi-110002  
Tel: 23318003, 23731218  
Email: pohb@prayaschildren.org

**Naya Prayas**

MCD Building Basti Vikas Kendra,  
Bhanwar Singh Camp, Vasant Vihar,  
New Delhi-110057, Tel: 55481173  
Email: nayaprayas@prayaschildren.org

**Bhatti Mines Project**

Sanjay Colony, Bhatti Mines Police Chowki,  
New Delhi-110030

**Prayas Health Service**

8/35 Kirti Nagar, Industrial Area  
New Delhi-110015, Tel: 25927766  
Email: phs@prayaschildren.org

**Anupam Prayas**

(Children's Hope Inc. Project, USA)  
Basti Vikas Kendra, Katputli Colony, Pandav Nagar,  
Near Shadipur Depot, New Delhi-110008, Tel: 55472103  
Email: anupamprayas@prayaschildren.org

**Astha Prayas**

141, Gali No. 3, Jwala Nagar, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110092,  
Tel: 22388358 Email: asthaprayas@prayaschildren.org

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan Prayas**

(Institute of People's Education)  
EE-Block, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033  
Telefax-27633453, 55482809, 55664991  
Email: jssp@mantraonline.com

**Prayas Childline**

Office of the Directorate of Social Welfare  
Gole Ghar, Port Blair, Andaman - 744 101  
Tel: 03192-237742

**Bihar Voluntary Coordinating Agency**

Arogya Niketan, Nala Road, Patna-800004  
Tel: 0612-2657332, 2671720, 2687332  
Email: bvca@satyam.net.in  
Bvca@prayaschildren.org

**Mira Memorial Trust Prayas Shishu Niketan**

(A Home for Neglected Children)  
Shri Deoraha Path, Mohalla-New Agarwa,  
P.O. Motihari-845401, Dist. E. Champaran, Bihar  
Tel: 06252-232193, 222193

**Sambhav Prayas**

Town-Thana, Garhpar, Dist. Nalanda, Bihar  
Tel: 06112-225217  
Email: sambhavprayas@prayaschildren.org

**Darbhanga Prayas Project**

C. M. Science College, Darbhanga, Bihar  
Tel: 06272-233476

**Prayas-Samastipur**

Street No.2, Professor Colony, Tajpur Road,  
Samastipur, Bihar  
Tel: 06274-223976, 09835288144  
Email: samastipurprayas@prayaschildren.org

**Prayas Bharti**

Institute of Juvenile Justice, At. Srinagar, Naraipur,  
Bagaha-2, Dist. West Champaran, Bihar-841505  
Tel: 06251-226455, 29431076342

**Sneh Prayas**

Project Office : Prayas 3 & 4, Manmohan Complex,  
Behind Navrangpura Police Station,  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009  
Telefax : 079-26461777  
Email : snehprayas@info.org  
www.snehprayas.org  
Project : Village & P.O. Kharoi,  
Dist : Bhachau, Gujarat,  
Tel. : 02837-2868701

**Alok Prayas**

Assam Chapter of Prayas JAC Society  
Lichubari, Jorhat- 785001 (Assam)  
Tel: 0376-2321586  
Email: alok prayas@indiatimes.com

**Prayas Janhit Swasthya**

Sewa Kendra (PJSSK)  
Lohit District, Wakro  
Arunachal Pradesh