

Similar is the Situation of Girls Trafficking

Two Nepali girls, both recently rescued from brothels in India, discussed the greed that caused them to be trafficked. "In the desire of getting enough money, people do not recognize one's own or the other. People are just running after it. The one that we trust only creates a doomsday for us. We are not even able to trust ourselves."

Following the death of her husband and therefore the loss of her economic security, Sabina Nepali (name changed) of Lagankhel began to sell vegetables on the street in Lalitpur. A distant family relation began visiting her regularly. One day, the distant relative and his two friends, Rajkumar and Sagar, took her in the bus and sold her in G.B. Road, no. 64, brothel of Delhi, India on Jestha 2066. Sabina was able to escape back to Nepal with the help of one Nepali after she was tortured for seven days in the brothel. Sabina explains, "I have complained about it to the police in Sorakhutte, but I am worried how I will be able to solve me and my son's needs!"

Tulbahadur of Dhading spared no expense in wooing Sharmila, and Sharmila, completely in love, thinking of him as a God, happily married Tulbahadur. Upon marriage, Sharmila came to know that her husband was instead a devil. "My husband with his other 5 friends together sold me for 70 thousand rupees in Pune, India. I was able to return back to Nepal after one month of torture and abuse there. I have no one. I am doing labour work now" says Sharmila confidently.

Our Government does not have any statistics of how many women and children get sold in India annually. The government does not know whether trafficking is increasing or decreasing. The Supreme

Court's annual report 2064/65 shows 265 cases of trafficking are in process at the District Courts. However, this statistic grossly underestimates statistic studies performed by numerous NGOs and international governments. For example, the American Government estimates that about 10-15 thousand girls are trafficked annually in Nepal.

Even though Nepal law punishes convicted human traffickers with 20 years imprisonment and the sum equal to the money that they receive through the selling as compensation, it fails to dissuade human traffickers. The increasing instance of human trafficking begs the question; Why is human trafficking of girls increasing in Nepal? "Because of the increasing living expenses in Nepal, the migration into the larger cities, competitive nature amongst Nepalis, and too much influence from the West, people forget about village life and can not make their livelihood from the salaries and tips received from customers in the service industry" states Shyam Pokharel, currently researching the reasons why human trafficking is increasing in Nepal. "Because of these reasons, the human traffickers then start the illegal work of prostitution, sex activities, drug peddling, girls trafficking", adds Pokharel.

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