

The Usual Transit of the Trafficked Women

Due to fear that Maoists would take her to 'Janamukti Sena,' Angma (name changed) was compelled to leave her village. When she first came to Kathmandu she used to wash clothes at others' houses and later she opened her own teashop. One young man started to have a false relationship with her. Giving the hope of going to Malaysia he sold her in a brothel of Sukrapitha, Pune, India.

After the death of Dalli's (name changed) parents, at the age of 12, her uncle started to rape her time and again, and she ran away from her village to Kathmandu. In Kathmandu, she began having a relationship with a mechanic. Hoping to get married in Pokhara's Bindyabasini she instead was sold in Sukrapitha, Pune, India. Like Angma, she is now forced to work as a prostitute. "Would you like to go to Nepal?" When asked she replies: "Now I am thinking of living my rest of the life here in this brothel with Angma."

In this way many of others like Angma and Dalli get sold in the brothels in and out of the country. No one thinks or bothers to search for them. And meanwhile, their traffickers may be searching for other girls to exploit. Nepalese law dictates: "the person who involves himself/herself in selling young girls or boys has 20 years of imprisonment." But those parents who struggle to fulfill their basic needs are still searching for brokers to send their daughter out of the country.

Dhilip Sigdel watches the brothels of Pune section and rescues Nepali girls of Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur, Rasuwa and Dhading. According to him, of the brothel owners, 20% are Indian and Bangladeshi and 80% are Nepali. "Girls aged between 12- 25 are mostly involved in sex trade there. Among 10 old

prostitutes, a minimum of 4 new girls are added so that the old could protect the new ones during the time of police's charge they all can hide safely," says Sigdel.

"Compared to others, Nepali brothel owners do not come under police charge because as soon as they can they run away and settle in Nepal and convince others to take charge of the brothels", says Sigdel. Nepali girls are mostly sold in Mumbai, Kamatipura area, Phokland road, and Namunavension area, Brijkundi, Simplex Building and New Bombay. They are also sold in Thane district, Triky, Binabandi, Buda pitha and Shukra pitha of Pune. A trafficker presently in Kathmandu's Dillibazaar Jail, Kalu Lama, says, "First we pamper a girl, the girl later comes with her another girl friend and the next girl comes with another, in this way a huge group of girls can be made. No one has to take those girls; if you pay them, they themselves reach to the desired place."

The main locations for buying and selling girls are in Bombay, Pune, Delhi and Calcutta. And the secondary locations, in Nepal, are in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Narayanghat, and Hetauda . Other dhipo collection centers are in minor districts and some villages, says a freed trafficker. He says, "Many young girls and women work in that dhipo."

According to anti-trafficking expert Shyam Pokharel, "this trafficking business is more advanced now, because the first phase of the process, the pampering and persuading the targeted girls, is led by their own family members, friends and neighbors, and in the second phase an attractive male seals the deal. But his identity becomes different in different phases. He does not use his original identity during his work period so that the victim do not know cannot his exact identity. Lastly, in the

third phase, buying and selling takes place. In this process the victim does not know that she is getting sold." says Pokharel.

According to Pokharel, "later when the victim come for legal aid, only the first phase person gets arrested because the victim becomes incapable to give the exact identity of the main trafficker. The trafficker can continue with his work and the first phase people are targeted by the law."

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