**Trauma Counsel Victims of Trafficking & Integrate**

**A Report: April 2011**

Human trafficking has become one of the most lucrative clandestine businesses world over. Young girls and children are trafficked without their knowledge. This is primarily carried on by trafficking agencies who have very often a virtual existence. Young girls, women and children are trafficked under the pretext of giving better jobs with fat salaries. Their parents, especially in the villages are lured into believing that their wards would be safe in the employer’s location and they would fetch large sums of money to them. This makes the financially ill parents to accept the offer and send their children. Young girls and children thus brought to the urban areas are sent to prostitution, domestic work, sweat shops, small scale as well as hazardous industries or some involuntary servitude. Some of them never get to see their parents again, some never get paid and live a life of slavery and other try to escape the situation. Above all they are made to work round the clock, beaten up, abused sexually and made to undergo traumatic experiences.

Similarly women and young girls migrate to urban areas for domestic work. We have several cases from Delhi wherein the girls are kept at the Placement Agency for days and the employers visit the agency and pick them up.

The government of India prohibits trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation under Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act. It also prohibits bonded and forced labor through The Bonded Labor Abolition Act, The Child Labor Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. However these laws are ineffectually enforced and therefore these immoral activities continue.

**How do we assist?**

We have rescued several girls and women who have been victims of trafficking. People thus rescued need to get back to normalcy and for that they need to be counseled. It takes time for many of them to open up and share their painful experiences and they remain closed. Our counselors help them get over their dark past by various exercises and therapy. We shelter them in our transit shelter homes in preparation for reintegration. Once they are back to normal or almost normal we get some of them back to school others are helped to pursue some sort of vocational training. And finally get them reintegrated and for that we try to trace their parents and guardians, study the situation and get them back to work.

We have already reintegrated more than 200 victims back to their families and thus made them aware of the ill effects of trafficking.

**Trained Care Takers/ Social Workers:**

Children and women who have gone through traumatic experiences as victims of trafficking need to be handled with utmost care. Hence we have trained care takers and social workers who understand them from their perspective and care for them accordingly. We have created an environment wherein they feel at home and look at life from a different angle.

In February 2011 all the animators of NDWM were trained on caring and understanding traumatized children by Prof. Peter Adriansses at Hyderabad, India. He explained to the animators the techniques to deal with affected child domestic workers. He spoke about two aspects of victimized children and they were: Observable Aspects and Hidden Aspects. So even if a child shares something with us it would be very little in comparison with what the child suffered. He said “A child feels: Separation, Loss, Denial, Fear, Guilty, Hurt, Fury, Escape into imagination and Depression. When children come to share about their depression of being unwanted we should sit with them and acknowledge and say that it is terrible that you have gone through it and that should not have happened to you.”

Our animators, social workers and care takers interact with them in the best manner possible to make them get over their sad past.

**Conclusion:**

This is one of the neglected areas which only a few people pay attention to and NDWM appreciates all of you who contribute towards this cause to help the victims of trafficking to see a better side of life. NDWM is indeed grateful to your generosity and sensitivity towards these victims. Our team is able to carry on with this work thanks to your support. We thank you.

Reported by J. Prabhu

For Sr. Jeanne Devos.