

## **Trafficking- Overview**

### **Background:**

Jharkhand is said to be among the top sources for unsafe migration and human trafficking in India. Victims are typically young women and girls from tribal areas who are illiterate and impoverished. In addition, deep rooted gender conditioning, extreme poverty, failure of state to link peoples need to entitlements and rights, systematic alienation of people from their own natural resources and the state's geographic condition is making trafficking easier and worse, due to its physical proximity to international borders, namely with Bangladesh and Nepal along with domestic metropolitans as Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. These factors are making Jharkhand as an epicentre for human trafficking and migration. Women from the state are compelled to unsafe migration primarily for domestic labour besides young adult women; young girls and school dropouts (who are less informed about their rights and regular migration channels) are also put to unsafe environment for the purpose of forced marriages where they are sexually exploited and being trafficked.

According to Prabhat Khabar (Local Newspaper, 15.11.2011, [www.newswing.com](http://www.newswing.com), and Leland Stanford Junior University, USA) ,Jharkhand has the third highest trafficking incidences where annually approximately 33,000 girls below 30 years are victims of trafficking out of which 67% is under the age of 20 years . Nearly 30% of all victims of trafficking go missing, pointing towards being subject to organ trade and commercial sexual exploitation.

### **Organization Intervention:**

In order to counteract the problem of Trafficking and Unsafe Migration , Srijan Foundation is leading a state level network named Jharkhand Anti- Trafficking Network which is intensively working in 13 districts of Jharkhand with 14 grass root level organizations covering 258 villages reaching out to more than 12000 population comprising of tribal women, adolescent and migrants.

The program is specifically designed to promote Safe Migration so that anyone who is migrating will not get exploited or trafficked during the course of Migration. The initiatives undertaken so far to counter trafficking and promote Safe Migration are-

- 1) Socio Economic Rehabilitation and Reintegration of the 69 trafficking survivors. Two traffickers are arrested during the last year.
- 2) Mass mobilization and awareness of the community and stakeholders on Trafficking and Safe Migration.
- 3) Formation of Migrant Forum in 13 districts so that it they can demand their rights and entitlements.
- 4) Organizing State and District Level workshops on 19 districts of Jharkhand to promote the concept of Safe Migration and Right to Mobility.
- 5) Consultations/Discussions with the policy makers and local agencies from the state on various bills and policies.

### **Issues affecting the life of trafficking survivors**

Rehabilitation of the trafficked victims is a huge challenge in the state of Jharkhand. There is no proper system in the district and all over the state for the rehabilitation and socio- economic integration of trafficked survivors because of which many a times the survivors gets re-trafficked owing to the financial constraints, social stigma back home. These girls are looked down upon by the community people and their character is put to question. They are labelled as "Delhi / Mumbai-Return" and it becomes difficult for the family to marry of their daughters and find good husbands as they believe that they been susceptible to some kind of sexual abuse. Thus many a times the victims do not wish to go back to their homes and families fearing social delineation.

The process of rehabilitation of rescued victims is merely sending women to government run homes for protective custody until their cases are heard and sent back to their original homes. These homes lack proper infrastructure facilities to accommodate large number of trafficked girls all over the state with inadequate provisions for psychological care and need. The programs or schemes designed lacks effective implementation of the greatest challenge to reintegrate the survivor into the society without social stigma and non- acceptability.