Asha Sadan
Shelter home for rescued victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation

| Project       | Asha Sadan
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| NGO           | Society for Help Entire Lower & rural People (HELP) |
| Location      | Machavaram, 30 kms from Ongole, Andhra Pradesh |
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Summary:
With the vision to see a world free of child exploitation, HELP recognizes child trafficking is the worst form of child exploitation. With more than 9000+ children trafficked in India and this number increasing every year, HELP has been advocating awareness about the issue across various stakeholders. At the same, HELP is proposing to support rehabilitation and social integration of the rescued victims through its shelter home - Asha Sadan.

Background:
Started in 2005 by HELP, Asha Sadan is the only transit centre in the coastal Andhra, recognized by the government to house, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of child trafficking. HELP facilitates them with the government support services such as Immediate Relief Support under G.O.Ms.No.28 and Rehabilitation support under G.O.Ms.No.1. Since its inception, Asha Sadan has been able to mainstream more than 500 rescued children and enriched 25 children with good employment opportunities.

HELP is hoping to expand its IBR (institution-based rehabilitation), besides strengthening its CBR (community-based rehabilitation) initiatives through Asha Sadan to bridge critical gaps in the existing rehabilitation efforts and ensure smooth social reintegration of the rescued victims, particularly in the 4 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh viz., Prakasam, Guntur, West Godavari, Krishna.

With various collaboration, HELP has created a robust awareness among the stakeholders of community, CSOs, Government as well as private sector on ill effects of trafficking. HELP-Asha Sadan has been addressing the prevention, protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of rescued victims from human trafficking, and also preventing re-trafficking of rescued victims.
Description:
Human trafficking has been identified as the third largest source of income for organised crimes, followed by trafficking of weapons, and drugs, generating billions of dollars every year. India is a country of origin, transit and destination for thousands of trafficked persons. Around 19,223 women and children were victims of human trafficking in India in 2016; out of this 9,104 trafficked children last year - a 27 percent increase from the previous year. Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a state which is the origin, transit, and destination for thousands of trafficked victims with Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna and West Godavari Districts being the most affected.

Evidence from a number of studies have shown that economic poverty, besides unstable home environments, as one of the prime causes for trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women. Trafficked victims often face irreversible damage, resulting due to frequent abuse, and are denied access to education, and face significant health risks, including HIV. More often they are placed in situations of extreme dependence, and are conditioned to believe that they have no alternative life options.

Asha Sadan, run by HELP, serves as a residential crisis center and aids the rehabilitation of such victims rescued from trafficking. After being rescued by the law enforcement, victims will be referred by court of Law or CWC (in case of minors) for care and protection services to Asha Sadan. Here the children are provided with basic needs, education, health, trauma counseling, vocational training, life skills and other needy services.

Asha Sadan has created hopes in these victims towards a better living. The vocational trainings that they are interested in, viz. leaf plate making, bakery, embroidery, dress-designs, bag-making and handicrafts provided to these children and women have proved very useful to them.

After they are thoroughly trained, the reintegration process would be taken up. However, their progress/status is followed up regularly till the support reached out to the victim. But, before re-integration, HELP would commence interaction with the family members of the survivor, local PRIs, community leaders and Anganwadi workers so as to reduce social stigma and to create a safety net through community based protection mechanism and safe environment which is very essential to reduce the chances of re-trafficking of the survivors.

Desired Outcomes:
- 120 rescued girls/women received formal/non-formal educational services from transit center
- 75 abused/exploited/trafficked victims received vocational trainings and psycho-social services from transit center
- 50 girls/women receive victim/witness support services and state support services through G.O.Ms.No. 1 or 28.
- 50 rescued girls and women received ToT in barefoot counseling and life skill education
- 50 rescued girls and women received alternative livelihood/employment through various Govt. and Non-Governmental organisations/institutions.

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1 The Ministry of Women and Child Development and National Crime Records Bureau
2 Central Investigation Department, Andhra Pradesh
**Join our Journey:**
We request you to support this much-needed initiative in the xx district, Andhra Pradesh in partnership with HELP. This project still require a funding of to be able to continue and yield desired outcomes. We are trying to get funds from multiple sources through applying for grants and partnerships building. We are looking for grants, or programmatic support from organisations to support this project.