Chapter – III

Framework for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Trafficked Victims

Introduction

Current chapter deals with the framework of trafficking victims. It discusses major areas of trafficking, steps taken by the government to prevent the trafficking, role of state in rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victims. It also covers the activities of national and international agencies in the prevention of trafficking.

Spread of Trafficking

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the purpose of forced prostitution has been recognized as a prevalent problem of concern in India in the recent years. India has served as a destination and transit point of trafficking victims from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan (UNODC, 2006). Many of the northern states like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are major destination states for trafficking in persons, primarily for forced prostitution. The GB Road in New Delhi and Kamatipura and Bhivandi, popularly known as Red light areas in Mumbai have been recognized for years as a major destinations in the country as well (Mukherjee et al. 1996). Trafficking of victims from the southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka has also been recorded long ago (Rozario, 1988). Today there are an increasing number of cases related to human trafficking are being filed in the southern states. These reports show that all southern states are the victims of trafficking of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation (Mukherjee et al.1996).
Since 1999, Government of India has focused its efforts on combating trafficking in persons in the country. A substantial proportion of these efforts are concentrated on operating direct assistance to the victims of trafficking in return and reintegration programs with the help of government departments like Women & Child welfare, Police department, Social welfare, Panchayathraj department, and also with the help of various NGOs. Over the same period, the United Nations organizations wings like United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT), other international organizations like World Bank, International Organization on Migration (IOM), The Asian Health Agency (TAHA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also sponsored various programs for rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking victims in the country. These activities are on a regional basis as a sustainable and comprehensive regional response to the phenomenon. The IOM has also worked closely with local governments, especially law enforcement entities, NGOs and international organizations to reach and assist as many victims as possible. Referral mechanisms have been established and implemented in most of the parts of the country.

In general, internal forced labor may constitute India's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children in debt bondage are forced to work in industries such as brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture and embroidery factories. According to a report of the National Commission for Women, (NCW) at least half of the total 612 districts in the country are affected directly or indirectly by trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The NCW report says that in 378 districts of different states, there are 1,794 identified places (spots) of origin from where females are trafficked and 1,016 areas where commercial sexual activities taking place. (NCW, 2005).
As said earlier, the states in southern and northeastern India are the most vulnerable as far as trafficking for commercial exploitation is concerned. Tamil Nadu with approximately 93.3 per cent of its districts are affected, is leading the tally of the states affected by human trafficking followed by Orissa with 86.7 per cent and Bihar 86.5 per cent. Also 2.4 per cent of the total female population in age group of 15-35 years in the country is affected by commercial sexual exploitation and about 22 per cent trafficking victims are trafficked and forced into flesh trade by family members and other well-known family friends (Mukherjee et al. 1996).

In northeast India, the situation is worse in areas, which are underdeveloped due to left wing extremism. Pangsa and Dimapur in Nagaland and many districts in Manipur are the major supply and transit centers. Women and children from Assam and Bangladesh are trafficked to more and from there, they are moved out to Myanmar and other countries in South East Asia through the Golden Triangle. Similarly, women and children from Assam (especially from Jorhat district), Nagaland (especially from Mokokchung, Tuensang, Pangsa and Dimapur districts) and Bangladesh are trafficked through the Pangsa International Treat Tower and then moved to the Golden Triangle. Dimapur is a transit center for people trafficked from Assam, especially upper Assam, Lumding, Guwahati, etc. They are moved to the international border at Tuensang and from there to the Golden Triangle (Roy, 2010).

There are also victims of labor trafficking among the thousands of Indians who migrate willingly every year to the Middle East, Europe, United Kingdom and United States for work as domestic servants and as low-skilled laborers. In some cases, such workers are the victims of fraudulent recruitment practices committed in India that lead them directly into situations of forced labor, including debt bondage, restrictions on movement, unlawful withholding of passports, and physical and sexual abuse (IOM Report, 2003).
Patterns and Trends in Trafficking

Various sources, including information received from the victims suggest that patterns and trends in trafficking in persons are changing, both internally among SAARC countries and externally in transit routes through and migration routes to the region. It appears that, in response to the action taken by governments and organizations, traffickers have adjusted their modes operandi in order to avoid detection and increase profit. As a result, trafficking has become less visible and the number of victims identified in some parts of the region has decreased (UNGIFT, 2011).

So far no comprehensive study of forced and bonded labor has been carried out; some NGOs estimate that this problem affects tens of millions of Indians. Those from India’s most disadvantaged social economic strata are particularly vulnerable to forced or bonded labor and sex trafficking (UNGIFT, 2011).

Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriages. Children are also subjected to forced labor as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agricultural workers. In the recent years, there has been an increase of sex trafficking to medium-sized cities and satellite towns of large cities (Roy, 2010).

The Government of India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so (UNIFM, 2003). Despite these significant efforts, India has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement efforts to address human trafficking, particularly bonded labor; therefore India is placed on Tier 2 Watch List (UNIFM, 2003). India’s central government faces several challenges in demonstrating a more robust anti-trafficking effort: states under the Indian Constitution have the primary responsibility for law enforcement, and state-level authorities are limited in their
abilities to effectively confront interstate and transnational trafficking crimes; complicity in trafficking by many Indian law enforcement officials and overburdened courts impede effective prosecutions; widespread poverty continues to provide a huge source of vulnerable people; and the Indian government faces other equally pressing priorities such as basic healthcare, education, and counterterrorism. During the reporting period, the central government continued to improve coordination among a multitude of bureaucratic agencies that play a role in anti-trafficking and labor issues. Government authorities continued to rescue victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and forced child labor. Several state governments (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Goa, and West Bengal) demonstrated significant efforts in prosecution, protection, and prevention, although largely in the area of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (UNIFM, 2003).

**Rescue and Rehabilitation**

Rescue and rehabilitation of these victims is a complicated and long-drawn out process. The rescue operation itself is a complex and traumatic thing for victims. The Court cases goes on for years and many times not being aware of Court proceedings and formalities, the victim finds the whole process is a frustrating thing. There are also chances of her being bailed out and monetarily supported by her traffickers so that she ends up going back to the profession. Since most of these victims are illiterate and have few life-skills, their rehabilitation process becomes long-drawn and difficult. Added to these are problems related to addiction to psychotropic substances, food habits, unruly behavior and no systematic routine in day-to-day functioning. (Mukherjee et al. 1996)

**Trafficking within India**
India is a source, destination and transit country for women and child trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation (Iyer 2003), (Rozario, 1988) and (Krishna S 1996). Trafficking from neighboring countries accounts for only 10 percent of the coercive migration, with approximately 2.71 percent coming from Bangladesh and 2.6 percent from Nepal (ACD, 1995). The internal trafficking was estimated at around 89 percent (ADB, 2002) of the total trafficking in India. Studies by Rita Rozario(1988), Joseph and Gathia(1999), Mukherjee(1997), CSWB(1991), SAP (2001) and HAQ (2001) provide details of the internal trafficking routes in India, where centers of commercial sexual exploitation are located and the interstate flesh trade triangles exist. These studies also identify geographical belts of exploitation; for instance, the pink triangle between Agra, Jaipur and Delhi( Roy, 2010).

Rozario (1988) notes that Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra as the main states from where trafficked persons are sourced. The Metro cities and satellite towns are the most frequent destination points for trafficking. She also traced various sellers and market centers in Andhra Pradesh.

With regard to interstate movement for prostitution, it was found to be high between Mumbai and Karnataka. It was estimated that women from Karnataka constitute 45.6 percent of the prostitutes in Mumbai. Interstate movement in case of women in Bengaluru was as high as 72.11 percent, and 93.60 percent of the prostitutes in Hyderabad where from within Andhra Pradesh (Mukherjee et al. 1996).

Once they are brought to their destinations, the women may be ‘sold’ or ‘transferred’. Rozario (1988) have identified the market areas in various states and describe the characteristics of the girls being ‘sold’. In some places they are ‘auctioned’ and ‘resold’. The rates for these women ranges from Rs.4000 to Rs.70000 based on criteria such as looks, age, skin tone, etc.
**Definition of Human Trafficking**

The problem in dealing with this very complex phenomenon begins with its very definition. There is no single definition of trafficking. In the absence of a common understanding, it becomes difficult to design policies, guidelines or even interventions to tackle this issue. A broader understanding of the issue is that illegal movement of any human being in any part of the world is trafficking.

There is so far no internationally recognized definition of ‘trafficking in persons’. The preamble to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (OHCHR, 1949) says that “Whereas prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community, ...”) assimilates trafficking with prostitution. The Convention in its very first article makes trafficking punishable, defining it in terms of procurement, enticement or leading away of a person for prostitution or sexual gratification of another person. The United Nations General Assembly, 1994 (Resolution 49/166) defined it as “The illicit and clandestine movements of persons across national borders, largely from developing countries with economies in transition, with the end goal of forcing women and girls into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for profit of recruiters, traffickers and syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour, false marriages, clandestine employment and false adoption.” At the World Congress against Commercial of Sexual Exploitation Children, ‘trafficking’ was taken to refer to the illegal moving and selling of human beings across countries and continents in exchange for financial or other compensation. The Global Alliance Against the Trafficking of Women
(GAATW), on the other hand, defines trafficking as “the recruitment and transportation of (a) person(s) within and across national borders, by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of actual or perceived authority arising from a relationship, or deception, in order to subject them to the actual and unlawful power of (an) other person(s)”.

Another useful definition advanced by the Netherlands Advisory Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy as “The traffic in person could be defined as transporting a person from one place to another in order to subject him or her to the actual and unlawful power of other persons by means of using violence or the threat of violence or by using a position of authority arising from a relationship or by misleading the other person.”

Some other definitions are, “Trafficking is a question that belongs to the broader question of ‘migration’, nationality and the question of applicability of fundamental human rights to children and any individual irrespective of their religion, race, class, gender, colour or nationality” (Ubing, 1996).“The recruitment and transportation of a person(s), within and across national borders by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of actual or perceived authority arising from a relationship or deception, in order to subject them to the actual unlawful power of (an) other person(s). An individual may be trafficked for various purposes, invariably ending up captive, in coercive and exploitative or commercial sex sectors, commercial servile, marriage etc.” (Sinha, 1997).Office of Drugs Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) of UN defines child trafficking as “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”
The Transnational Training Seminar on Trafficking in Women, held in Budapest from 20 to 24 June 1998, promulgated the following definition: “Trafficking consists of all acts involved in the recruitment or transportation of persons within or across borders, involving deception, coercion or force, debt bondage or fraud, for the purpose of placing persons in situations of abuse or exploitation, such as forced prostitution, slavery-like practices, battering or extreme cruelty, sweatshop labor or exploitative domestic servitude. Ms. Calcetas Santos, the Special Reporter of United Nations on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography finds this definition to be the most workable, although she expresses reservations as to whether trafficking always places the victim in a worse position than that held previously. Clearly, intrinsic to trafficking is the sale and purchase of children, as is their movement from one place to another or issues of migration especially illegal migration. The lack of concrete definitions of both sale and trafficking makes it very difficult in most instances to determine whether a particular transaction is a sale amounting to trafficking. There is therefore a need to examine what the understanding on these issues is to be able to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of trafficking.

The Indian Constitution prohibits all forms of trafficking under Article 23. The Suppression of the Immoral Traffic Act, 1956 (amended to the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act) was in response to the ratification of the International Convention on Suppression of Immoral Traffic and Exploitation of Prostitution of Others in 1950 by India. Trafficking has been an area of concern since the early 20th century. It especially attracted attention during the 1980s. More recently, there has been a widening of its focus. However, this was not accompanied by an independent and sustained mass movement, against trafficking in the country (D’Cunha 1998). The concept of trafficking in people refers to criminal practice of exploitation of human
beings, when they are treated as commodities for profit and after being trafficked, are subjected to long-term exploitation” (NHRC 2006).

**Present Scenario of Prostitution and Trafficking**

The Government of India made significant progress in law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking and commercial sex work. Government prohibits some forms of trafficking for CSE through the Immoral Trafficking Prevention act (ITPA) (HRLN, 2007). Prescribed penalties under the ITPA, ranging from seven years’ to life imprisonment, are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, such as rape, until *Nirbaya Act* came into effect. Sections 366(A) and 372 of the Indian Penal Code are also of use in prohibiting kidnapping and selling minors into prostitution, respectively, and to arrest traffickers. Penalties prescribed under these provisions are a maximum of ten years’ imprisonment and a fine.

The Central and the State governments continue to make efforts to combat sex trafficking of women and children, though convictions and punishments of sex traffickers. The central government’s National Crime Records Bureau provided limited comprehensive data, compiled from state and union territory governments, on actions taken against sex trafficking offenses in 2007. The 2007 data indicated that 4,087 cases were registered (investigations started), which likely includes sex trafficking cases referred to courts for prosecution as well as cases investigated and closed without such referrals. This data did not include reported prosecutions and convictions. (NCRB, 2008).

In Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Goa, and West Bengal (with a combined population of 360 million people), government officials registered 964 sex trafficking cases, conducted 379 rescue operations, and rescued 1,653 victims, arrested 1,970 traffickers (including 856 customers), convicted 30 sex traffickers, helped to rehabilitate 876 sex trafficking victims,
and trained 13,490 police officers and prosecutors. In Mumbai, authorities prosecuted 10 sex trafficking cases but obtained no convictions in 2008. In Andhra Pradesh, courts convicted and sentenced eleven traffickers to imprisonment for 10 to 14 years. Tamil Nadu state government reported arrests of 1,097 sex trafficking offenders in 2008, though the number of trafficking prosecutions and convictions during the reporting period was not reported. Pune city of Maharashtra attained its first sex trafficking conviction in 2008. During the reporting period, the central government made little progress to investigate, prosecute, convict, and punish labor trafficking offenders. However, it allocated $18 million to the Ministry of Home Affairs to create 297 anti-human trafficking units across the nation to train and sensitize law enforcement officials (NCRB, 2009).

In Tamil Nadu an NGO reported a significant improvement in how police file charges in trafficking cases. The police now also employ the Indian Penal Code’s tougher provisions, which allow trafficking cases to be processed more quickly through the judicial system. Corrupt law enforcement officers reportedly continued to facilitate the movement of sex trafficking victims, protect brothels that exploit victims, and protect traffickers and brothel keepers from arrest and other threats of enforcement. India reported no prosecutions, convictions, or sentences of government officials for trafficking-related offenses during the reporting period (UNODC, 2007).

It is interesting to note that there are 10 cities, which are having the highest number of places of operation. Consequently, these cities have the largest number of prostitutes. Of these 10 cities, high prevalent ones are the metropolitan cities of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata. The other seven cities are Delhi, Muzafarpur, Jaipur, Kamrup, Meerut, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram (Mukherjee et al. 1996).
It is important to point out that only 10 states in the country have red light areas. The other states / territories either have abolished their established red light areas (like MehabubkiMehandi in Hyderabad city in Andhra Pradesh) or never had red light areas because of their growth and development pattern. There are about 84 red-light areas and most important of them are Sonagachi in Kolkata, Kamatipura and Bhivandi in Mumbai, Baina near Panaji and GB Road in New Delhi (Mukherjee et al. 1996).

The following table explains the list of identified red light areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.I.No</th>
<th>State/Territory</th>
<th>No. of Red light areas</th>
<th>Name of the red light area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gali.No.4, Silchar</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>• Chaturbhujisthan (Mujaffsrpur) &lt;br&gt;• Shravan Bazar, Lal bazar (Munger) &lt;br&gt;• Islampur (Sitamarhi) &lt;br&gt;• Daira area, Aziz Ghat, Fasitakia, Baijanbagh(Bihar sharief) &lt;br&gt;• Kali temple area (Madhubani) &lt;br&gt;• Chowk area (Patna) &lt;br&gt;• Kathihar Temple(Kathihar) &lt;br&gt;• Sarai chowk road(Gaya) &lt;br&gt;• AsthaniChowk(Nalanda) &lt;br&gt;• Gulab Bazar(Purnia) &lt;br&gt;• Purani Bazar(barh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>• Baina Beach</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>• Viliyabi Bazar, Chakla Bazar (Surat) &lt;br&gt;• Bhavnagar road(Rajkot)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Maharashtra 30-40 (Mumbai alone 24)  
- Mumbai - 24 areas (Kamatipura, Turble point, Hackland road, Lamington road, Bandra, Ghatkopar, Mulund, Ponder, Kalyan, Dadar, ChatrapathiShivaji Terminus, Mankhurd, Grant road, Sonapur etc.)
- Budhbarpeth(Pune)

6. Odisha 2  
- Malisahi (Bhubaneshwar)
- Tikkarapara (picnic spot)

7. Uttar Pradesh (All other areas have been recently abolished) 2  
- Kabari Bazar (Meerut)
- Shivdaspur (Varanasi)

8. West Bengal 15-16  
- Kolkatha-14 (Sonagachi, rambaganseth Bazar, Bhabanipur, Bow Bazar, Teretibazar, Kalighat, Chetla, Chinatown(Metiaburz), Barrakpore(Khidipur), Babubazar, Seoraphulii, Manoharpur, Domjur, Garia, Tollyganj)
- Khalpara (Siliguri)
- Din Bazar(New Jalpaiguri station),

9. New Delhi 1  
- G.B Road

10. Pondicherry 1  
- Kan Doctor-Thottam

Source: Mukherjee et al. (1996)

**Existing Framework for the Prevention of Trafficking**

The Constitution of India forbids trafficking in persons. Article 23 of the Constitution specifically prohibits “traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labor”. Article 24 further prohibits employment of children below 14 years of age in factories, mines or other hazardous employment. Other fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution relevant to trafficking are Article 14 relating to equality before law, Article 15 that deals with
prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, Article 21 pertaining to protection of life and personal liberty and Article 22 concerning protection from arrest and detention except under certain conditions (Nair, 2007).

The Directive Principles of State Policy articulated in the Constitution are also significant, particularly Article 39 which categorically states that men and women should have the right to an adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work; that men, women and children should not be forced by economic necessity to enter unsuitable avocations; and that children and youth should be protected against exploitation. Further, Article 39A directs that the legal system should ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen because of economic or other disabilities. In addition to this, Article 43 states that all workers should have a living wage and there should be appropriate conditions of work so as to ensure a decent standard of life (Nair, 2007).

The commitment to address the problem of trafficking in human beings is also reflected in various laws/legislations and policy documents of the Government of India. The Indian Penal Code, 1860 contains more than 20 provisions that are relevant to trafficking and impose criminal penalties for offences like kidnapping, abduction, buying or selling a person for slavery/labor, buying or selling a minor for prostitution, importing/procuring a minor girl, rape, etc.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA), initially enacted as the ‘Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, is the main legislative tool for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in India. However, till date, its prime objective has been to inhibit/abolish trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution as an organized means of living. The Act criminalizes the procurers, traffickers and profiteers of the trade but in no way does it define ‘trafficking’ in human beings. The other relevant Acts which address the
issue of trafficking in India are the Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982; Andhra Pradesh Devadasi (Prohibiting Dedication) Act, 1989; Information Technology Act, 2000; the Goa Children’s Act, 2003; and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006. Beside these, there are also certain other collateral laws having relevance to trafficking. These are the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929; Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956; Probation of Offenders Act, 1958; Criminal Procedure Code, 1973; Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; and the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 (HRLN, 2007).

The judiciary too played an active role in preventing and combating trafficking by pronouncing some landmark judgments in ‘Public Interest Litigations’. Prominent among them are the 1990 case of Vishal Jeet v. Union of India and the 1997 case of Gaurav Jain v. Union of India. In the former case, on the directions given by the Supreme Court, the Government constituted a Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution in 1994. Subsequently, State Advisory Committees were setup by the State Governments. The outcomes of the latter case was constitution of a Committee on Prostitution, Child Prostitutes and Children of Prostitutes to look into the problems of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children and of children of trafficked victims so as to evolve suitable schemes in consonance with the directions given by the Apex Court. These and subsequent case laws thereafter have influenced Government policies, programs and schemes, as well as law enforcement (Nair, 2007).

**Dynamics of Trafficking**

Trafficking in women and girls is a reflection of the unequal status they share in the society. The causes and effects of the issue are multifarious; trafficking stems from a complex set
of power imbalances, which reflect in widespread social norms. The popular perception of trafficking is the sexual exploitation of women and girls who are taken from one place to another place having promised supposedly legitimate work who find themselves forced into prostitution or similar forced labor (Nair, 2002).

The complexity of dynamics that goes within the process of trafficking is such that it is not possible to single out the causes of trafficking and pin it down for scrutiny. While, it is true that the causes are multifarious, there are some common factors that lead women/girls to become victims of this inhuman act. There are series of social, economic or political conditions which create a situation of vulnerability for the women and children that they unknowingly or knowingly get trapped into trafficking. The traffickers take full advantage of these situations for their own benefit. While it is not possible to point out causes on trafficking concretely, some push and pull factors could be delineated as discussed below.

The Push Factors

The vulnerability of the women and children gets increased due to various conditions that they find themselves in-these have been discussed below as the ‘push factors’. In many instances, though they would not want to leave the place of origin and move on to other places, the undesirable living conditions makes it impossible for them to remain in the present situation. In the hope for a better future, the women get easily trapped in trafficking (Sen et al. 2005).

Poverty is the major and most common reason for why women and girls get pushed into trafficking. While this is not the only reason for trafficking, it holds a huge potential in making the victims vulnerable. Poverty leads to deprivation of basic needs and difficult living conditions leading them to look for better options elsewhere. The greater the degree of impoverishment, the higher is the risk of falling prey to trafficking (Vohra, 2009).
Increasing trends in migration also make the victims get attracted to the hope of good life in some other place. Poverty and economic disparities between different places encourage migration in search of survival or better opportunities.

A limited economic opportunity of the prime earner of the family is also one of the reasons why girls/women in the family are in need of employment to substitute the needs of the family. The prospect of an additional income to the family creates a situation where they willingly jump into the trap of trafficking. Similarly, lack of enough opportunity in the place of origin makes them vulnerable to shift to other places looking out for employment opportunities (Vohra, 2009).

Dysfunctional home environment: most common reasons like breakup of the family, physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug use and discrimination within family also increases the vulnerability to trafficking. An abusive family background encourages the family members to left home, thus making them vulnerable to trafficking (Sinha, 2006).

False promise of marriage is one of the main reasons in the grab of which trafficking takes place. Parents are more eager to perform the marriage of girl child as early as possible. If the groom is not demanding high amount as dowry, and instead ready to bear the cost involved, it becomes a great deal for the parents of poor girl child. The girl child, thus, gets easily trafficked under the guise of marriage (Vohra, 2009).

The vulnerability of girls and women also gets accelerated due to the high prevalence of domestic violence. Women feel pressured to escape from the existing conditions to free them from physical, psychological and mental torture. This kind of situation gets more aggravated if the woman is single, divorced, widowed or sexually abused. The social stigma makes them
getting unaccepted in the society leading to frustration, isolation and with no support system to provide them security and they fall an easy prey to the traffickers (Nair, 2002).

Recent trend of decline in the sex ratio has toppled the balance in many states. For example in Haryana the sex ratio is 780:1000. This has increased the demand of the women and girls in many locations and thus women are trafficked from one place to other for marriage or commercial sexual exploitation (Roy, 2010).

The age old phenomena like traditional prostitution, though banned through various legislations in the country, it still exists in a clandestine manner. Minor girls are forced in to prostitution in the name of faith (marrying god) especially in the states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. *Bedia, Nat, Kunjar, Basavi* and other such communities follow a traditional form of prostitution. Here, the women and girls are already devoted to a traditional form of prostitution (Rozario, 1988).

Sometimes, natural disasters like earthquake, floods, displacement, arm conflicts, social unrest, famines, political and social insecurity in the place of origin makes it very difficult for the women and girls to continue to reside in that place. The constant threat to life pushes them to leave the place and go away. In this situation, the hopes raised by the traffickers seem to be the most viable one and a better escape from the existing situation. In a time of unrest where society is fighting or trying to survive the situation, it is the women and the children who suffer the economic hardships as well as the lack of security, due to the loss of family support system and safe shelter. The traffickers take the advantage of this vulnerable situation (Agarwal, 2004).

**The Pull Factors**
The situation like lack of informed choice regarding the place and occupation makes the women and girls vulnerable to the trafficking. Limited access to the education and information aggravate these situations. Since they are unaware of the hardships of migration, the traffickers bait easily entraps them (Sen et al. 2005).

The most common pulling factor for trafficking is demand for commercial sex work. The nature of this industry necessitates regular and uninterrupted fresh supply of women, which keeps trafficking most profitable. In addition, growing demand for commercial sex work due to increased trend of migration and separated family also contributes equally in pulling out the women for trafficking. The constantly growing market encourages the traffickers to lure women and girls into it (Sen et al. 2005).

**Indicators of Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is an organized crime involving within itself a basket of crimes (Nair, 2002). This basket of crimes comprises various offences that are part of the process of human trafficking and are independent crimes punishable under the law. In these crimes one can dig out the elements of abduction, kidnapping, illegal detainment, illegal confinement, criminal intimidation, torture in the form of hurt, grievous hurt, sexual assault, outraging modesty, rape, unnatural offences, selling and buying of human beings, servitude, criminal conspiracy, abetment etc. Multiple abuses by the abusers located at different points of time and place, and human rights violations, like denial of privacy, denial of justice, denial of access to justice, deprivation of basic human rights, deprivation of human dignity etc. constitute the different parts of exploitation. Therefore, it is undoubtedly a multifaceted, multidimensional, organized crime (Nair, 2002).
Indicators are of utmost importance in understanding the dimensions, extent and ramifications of human trafficking. It is also essential to measure the harm done to the victim as well as the gains to the exploiter. Knowledge of indicators is relevant and essential for all those who are concerned with preventing and combating trafficking (Nair, 2010).

The indicators of the process of trafficking can be broadly listed as generic and specific. The generic indicators of human trafficking commonly seen in the Asian context include (Nair, 2010):

- Commercial sexual exploitation of a person where the exploiter, who could be one or more persons located at different places, gain monetarily out of the exploitation of the person. The gain may be in the form of cash or kind or even services.
- There is an economic activity with money transaction to the benefit of one or more persons and to the detriment of at least one person.
- The ambience around the trafficked person is explorative and involves several crimes and violations.
- The ambience around the exploiter excludes a general sense of impunity where the exploiter carries on the business with perceptible ease and without much challenge.
- Huge assets accrue to the exploiter from the continuous exploitation of victims. The assets may not be visible all the time, but the manifestations, which indicate the same, may be many and can be easily discerned by any observant person can.
- The exploiter would have established adequate safety value, protective measures and chain of command to ward off any onslaught by the law enforcement agencies or other exploiters or a media.
• Nexus of the exploiters with other exploiters and even respondents is another generic indicator. The nexus may appear to be one of friendship but could be deep rooted and conspiratorial. Such responders include corrupt officials in the law enforcement agencies, or a corrupt media person, a corrupt social activist, or a corrupt police personnel, or a corrupt political personality etc. Whereas corruption remains the common denominator, the responder could be anybody who can wield or influence clout and has capability to maneuver the situations.

The specific indicators of the process of human trafficking are many. Though all of them may not be seen in all contexts, most of them are (Nair 2010):

• There is an element of displacement of the trafficked person from the original community to the exploited community. This, generally, involves transportation from the source area to the destination area. There may be one or more transit points in between. The large number of women and children seen at certain railway stations is an indicator with respect to transportation.

• Trafficking of human beings presupposes that the trafficked person is a victim. Therefore, the person is vulnerable. Vulnerability in Indian context is due to one or more factors like lack of awareness of rights, lack of awareness of the dangers ahead in trafficking, lack of idea on education opportunities, lack of support systems from guardians, parents and community, disturbances or dysfunctional home environment, natural disasters and manmade disasters etc. are leading to vulnerability. Economic disparities and uneven levels of income also cause deprivation and make the person vulnerable.
• On one hand this causes lack of redress mechanisms for the victims and vulnerable persons and on the other hand it facilitates the acts of offenders and violators as they get or feel a sense of impunity and immunity.
• Demand for sex in hotels, massage parlors and in places of sex tourism is a clear indicator that trafficking of girls and boys for sexual exploitation does take place in these places.

**Demand Indictors**

The common indicators of demand with respect to trafficking for sexual exploitation are as follows.

• No of mushrooming massage parlors.
• Flurry of advertisements in the papers regarding massage services and other sexual services.
• Increasing pornographic material in circulation, including DVDs, CDs etc.
• Increasing rate of sex tourism, i.e. tourism linked with sex. For example number of such tourists visiting a place at a particular period.
• Unprecedented increase in the recruitment of women/girls in hotels.
• Increase in the number of anonymous visitors to the places like massage parlors, pubs and hotels.
• Augmentation in the facility provided by such parlors/hotels etc. to ensure anonymity of the visitors. It is a fact that demand increases with anonymity. Where persons are not known or can remain anonymous, there is a tendency for higher demand. Therefore the scope for retaining/maintaining anonymity of the customers is an indicator of demand (Nair, 2010).
• Payment systems at such places can be an indicator. It is generally reported that the clientele, who indulge in such activities in a hotel are reluctant to make payments for such
services by credit cards. They are ready and want to pay regular hotel bills through credit cards but are reluctant to use the same method of payment for the sexual favors as it could be known or deducted. Therefore, such card transaction or use of different payment systems is indicators of the demand patterns. A careful investigation will be able to locate such payments and trace back to the demand (Nair, 2010).

In conclusion one can say that exploitative demand is a crime and it leaves indicators like any other crime. It is for the alert response agency or responding official to identify such trails and work on them. In a scenario of commercial sexual exploitation, the indicators of demand are more prominent and distinct. Since these indicators bear testimony to demand for human trafficking, they are not only indices but also part of the evidence build-up against the traffickers.

**Vulnerability Indicators**

In general women and tender aged girls are more vulnerable to trafficking. In order to address the vulnerability, it is essential that the response agencies understand and appreciate the vulnerability indicators. The indicators could be visible or invisible, manifest or latent. There are approximately ten visible indicators. These include:

- Uneven economic situations, usually perceived as poverty.
- Illiteracy and lack of education.
- Children dropping out of schools.
- Lack of parental care and attention.
- Absence of community control over the activities of undesirable persons.
- Violators and predators moving around freely without any control and restriction
• Violations against women and girls being perceived as insignificant or trivial issues or as matter of non-concern.

• The culture of silence is another indicator of vulnerability. In a society where violations against women are not taken note of or are suppressed and swept under the carpet, the offenders are emboldened to commit more crimes against women. So far there are plenty of instances where even parents collude with traffickers. In some incidents where parents sold their girl child to trafficking rockets. Though poverty may be cited as an explanation, it is often a façade. It is a fact that all poor children and all poor persons do not get trafficked or are not available to be trafficked; only a portion of them are. Therefore, as a logical deduction it can be concluded that poverty by itself is not an indicator of trafficking but the culture of silence that permeates in such a society is (Nair, 2010).

• Another indicator of vulnerability in the number of persons who are missing. The NHRC study shows that in India on an average 40,000 children are reported missing in a year and out of them 11,000 continue to remain untraced. The study also shows specific examples where a person reported missing has been rescued months or years later from a brothel or some other place of exploitation. Therefore, most of these ‘missing’ children who are not traced are subjected to exploitation somewhere. Thus, the number of missing persons in a particular place is an indicator of the vulnerability of the population to trafficking (NHRC, 2006).

• The culturally and socially sanctioned age old prejudices and adversarial practices are indicators of the vulnerability of the population to trafficking. For example, a study on trafficking in Kamroop district of Assam state under UNODC project shows that there is a cultural sanction of population. Same in the case of Devadasi system in certain places in
In all these cases, there is an element of societal or cultural sanction for violation. The sexual violation of the girl child is more often perceived to be an act of ‘benevolence’, like offering the person to a ‘deity’ or for propitiating somebody or some cause. Human dignity is sacrificed at the altar of irrational customary practices. Most of the culturally sanctioned practices of have been curbed drastically through legislations and awareness, though they are still active in many places. Thus, the dedication of children under such cultural practices is another indicator of the vulnerability of the women and girls leading to human trafficking (UNICEF, 2001).

From the law enforcement agencies perspective, taking care of a typical village where trafficking has been rampant for CSE, the vulnerability indicators include the number of women who are victims of rape; women who are victims of other types of sexual assault; girl children who are subjected to incest; unwed mothers; instances where illegal abortions have been taken place; midwives at work in villages; prevalence of HIV, STI of UTI cases; instances of female feticide, female infanticide, abandonment of newly born child; instances of children who have died due to lack of medical care and attention; people who died of AIDS; children and women who are missing; children and women who have been reported to police as missing and yet remain untraced; women and children who have been rescued elsewhere after having been trafficked from this village; women and children who have been returned to this village after rescue; women and children who have been subjected to re-trafficking after rescue; media reports on the related issues in the village especially highlighting the vulnerability aspects or the response systems; complaints received by government agencies/PRIps/media or political leaders on the issues stated above; visits by senior government officials to the village to address the various issues mentioned above; visits by political personalities irrespective of the party they
belong to, to address or highlight the issues which need to be attended to. It also includes the percentage of children, especially girls, who are not sent to school and the percentage of dropouts from schools, especially that of girls (HRLN, 2007)

The list above is only illustrative, nevertheless they are practical and realistic indices, which bring out the vulnerability factors at the grassroots and are, therefore, appropriate yardsticks for measuring the vulnerability to human trafficking. To overcome the problem of trafficking, Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) are constituted at community level.

**Functioning of AHTUs**

The AHTUs are the comprehensive Task Force Units, law enforcement officials, other government department officials and NGOs. Such units are set up to address human trafficking in a holistic and integrated manner, simultaneously attending to prevention, protection and prostitution. The UNODC project in the year 2006-08 is an example when several such AHTUs have been set up. The initiative which was done on a pilot basis has made tremendous impact in the response system and therefore efforts are afoot in replicating the same. The both officials and NGOs who are working in the AHTU are selected, trained, empowered and provided with the required administrative infrastructure which includes vehicles, cell phones, computer systems, resource materials, besides hiring office/furniture etc. Contingency funds were also provided for attending to the immediate requirement of the rescued person, viz. medical care, clothing, food, temporary shelter and transportation, etc. (UNODC, 2008).

The AHTU model has established certain fundamentals in the anti-human trafficking response systems, which includes:

- The best response to human trafficking has to be integrated, holistic and multidimensional.
• All the stakeholders have to work in synergy.

• There is need for role clarity and role conformity.

• Roles of the various stakeholders are not complimentary, but are supplementary. Yet there is a process by which the roles are integrated, one leading to the other and may be cyclical many times.

• The victim remains central in this response system and, therefore all responses are oriented towards the ‘best interest of the trafficked victim’. Good and bad responses are decided based on this benchmark.

• Quantitative and qualitative indicators are available for measuring the output and the impact. This helps in evaluation and also in corrective action, whenever required.

• It enhances help seeking role of NGOs, public and victims.

• It enhances help regarding role of police.

• It provides for checks and balances and keeps the law enforcement agencies involved in proper action.

• It facilitates expeditious action and justice delivery.

• It enhances public trust in police.

• It facilitates community policing.

• This model provides a great tool for appreciating the good work done by the responders. And the award /reward system will enhance accountability of the responders, improve their morale and output.

    Public awareness initiatives by governmental and non-governmental agencies have been made tremendous impact in preventing and combating human trafficking. Public awareness activities are of two types, some are on a sustained basis and others are on a campaign mode.
Focused attention is required at problem areas like vulnerable places, vulnerable populations etc. Media agencies both print and electronic, are very powerful tools in the process. In this context, certain initiatives undertaken in India during the years 2006-08 are worth mentoring (UNODC, 2008).

During the year 2007, the UNODC brought out a short documentary film titled ‘One Life, No Price’. The documentary, though a short duration, focuses on dimensions of human trafficking in the first part, followed by the response systems in the second part and what needs to be done in the last part. The message from the celebrities has indeed added value and recognition to the theme of the film. This film which has been circulated through the world has been well appreciated by different stake-holders as a powerful tool in public awareness (UNODC, 2008). For the first time in the history of commercial cinema, anti-human trafficking message has been integrated into a film titled Welcome in 2007.

Mahila and Sishu Desk of Government of Odisha are instituted in all police stations across the state. The officials who are in charge of the Desk and those who run the Desk have been specially trained and empowered in dealing with issues of women and children including human trafficking. This is a great initiative in addressing the issues at grassroots and in an institutionalized manner. Police station, the basic unit of law enforcement functional at the cutting edge, has direct interaction with the victims and their guardians. It is the gateway to human rights. So much is being done at these stations to prevent and combat exploitations and violations against human beings. In fact, more often such splendid response is exactly what a victim is looking for. However, more often, those victims who get solace at the police station remain a silent mass. Only those who do not get proper response or are not satisfied move out to other channels and many times such issues get publicized too. Nevertheless, the silent work at
the police station is more meaningful for the victim and in this regard, the MahilaShishu Desk is a great initiative (UNODC, 2008).

While setting up the integrated AHTUs under the UNODC-MHA project 200, the West Bengal CID has treaded on unchartered territory. In order to establish synergy with the NGO partners, the police entered into an MOU with the NGOs. The unique MOU not only defines the roles, but also lays down responsibilities and duties of both the agencies. It helped both parties in addressing human trafficking from a human rights perspective. Above all, this MOU ensured mutual accountability (UNODC, 2008).

**Initiatives in Rehabilitation**

The Maharashtra Government has taken an initiative in involving NGOs in the co-management of the Homes where rescued persons are lodged and looked after. This decision was based on practical issues. One of the major complaints against the response agencies used to be that there was no proper care and attention after rescue and that no effects were made for complaints of corruption, mismanagement, etc. against some of these ‘Homes’. The joint responsibility extends to all activities including the day-to-day running of the Homes, ensuring proper care and attention to the inmates, ensuring that their rights are not violated, ensuring that proper rehabilitative measures are initiated, etc. This joint partnership ensures mutual accountability and probity in the functioning. Perhaps this is a unique initiative in allowing NGO to run government institutions (UNODC, 2008).

The other initiatives across the country that provide appropriative rehabilitation package to trafficked persons. The traditional system of surrendering the rescued persons to three or four limited avenues of so-called rehabilitation such as stitching, tailoring, embroidery and pottery had outlived its utility, especially since most of these persons did not find self-sustaining
livelihood options through such vocations. Therefore, the world of rehabilitation witnessed out-of-the-box thinking and initiatives, initially propelled by NGOs, then gradually endorsed by various government agencies and UN agencies and eventually supported by corporate agencies or business houses.

An NGO by name ARZ did market survey and observed that there is a good market for providing laundry services in the tourist paradise Goa and named the initiative as Swift Wash Goa. When the rescued women needed to be employed, this agency considered laundry services as an option and trained them in this process. They contacted Corporates who could financially support them in establishing the launderette. Simultaneously, they networked with hotels, guesthouses and tourist operators in Goa offering laundry services by the rescued women. The women were trained in knowledge and skills to run the launderette, including collection and delivery of material from and to hotels. The synergy of the NGO with the corporate duly endorsed and appreciated by the government officials. By mid-2008, Swift Wash in Goa had employed several rescued women in sustained livelihood and is a great success story (UNODC, 2008).

Prajwala of Hyderabad and PRAYAS of Delhi, both NGOs, worked with International Organization on Migration (IOM) and the Amul Corporate House to set up a joint venture in rehabilitation of trafficked persons. As a result of this initiative, trafficked survivors were trained and employed as vendors in Amul milk parlors at several places, thus providing them with a life of dignity and regular income (UNODC, 2008).

The NGO Sthree, which is working in Kadiri region of Anantapuramu district came out with a unique initiative called ‘Mix and Match’ strategy for rehabilitation of trafficking victims. The NGO runs skill development centers in the villages of Kadiri region to train dropouts,
abandoned wives and other vulnerable children and women as a preventive measure from being trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. The efforts of the NGO have primarily linked community work in crafts to a corporate sector patronage that provides consistent marketing of their products, as much as the regular outlets of designer shops, who sell the products made by the victims in Bengaluru. Once the goods are showcased with the designer outlets or corporate of Bengaluru city, they earned an average income of Rs.2000 to Rs.2500 per month. This amount though not an extremely large sum, assured them of a decent living in their homes (UNODC, 2008).

**Overview on Welfare Activities**

There are five important areas needing immediate attention. The areas are health and welfare, rescue, rehabilitation, prevention and running of shelter/protective homes.

The ‘health and welfare’ area refers specifically to those activities that aim at protecting the girls/women in the trade from becoming victims of HIV/AIDS and improving their quality of life including that of their children while in prostitution. A wide range of activities are organized under this heading and these include awareness generation programs for HIV/AIDS prevention through popularization of use of condoms for every sex act with clients, condom distribution, periodical health checkup, regular counseling and education (especially adult and rights based education), crèche services for the children, etc. (PRAYAS, 2002).

The term ‘rescue’ refers to releasing and liberating girls/women, especially those below 18 years, from brothels and brothel-like situations and from traffickers wherein they are exposed to exploitation for the purpose of prostitution/flesh trade. They are then placed in centers, usually shelter homes maintained by the government/voluntary organizations, which are considered to be free from the risk of such exploitation (PRAYAS, 2002).
Rescue of trafficked victims is not end itself. ‘Rehabilitation of the rescued victims’ indicates the efforts of restoration of rescued girls/women from the commercial sexual exploitation into mainstream society. This includes both social and economic rehabilitation by organizing multiple measures like vocational training, education, marriage counseling and so on (PRAYAS, 2002).

Instead of taking steps for rescue and rehabilitation it is better if the activity is prevented. In general, the ‘prevention’ covers various programs/activities organized to check/control the entry of the girls/women into prostitution. This is done by addressing issues like extreme poverty (lack of livelihood opportunities), illiteracy, and ignorance. It also includes the changing the mindset of the people as well as socio-cultural factors responsible for the entry into flesh trade. Rescue action for girls/women prior to their becoming victims of the trade is attempted so that they are not affected by the stigma attached to the practice of the profession. This would also help prevention (PRAYAS, 2002).

After rescuing the victims, next logical step is rehabilitation and reintegration of the trafficked victims. Before reintegration, the victims need to be provided with shelter/protective homes. The ‘shelter/protective homes’ are statutory homes meant exclusively for girls/women rescued under the ITP Act and also those who voluntarily seek protection from being forced into prostitution. There is provision for appropriate technically qualified persons, equipment and other facilities in the shelter homes. They provide custodial care and protection, besides to providing education, vocational training and arranging marriage of the girls. These homes are not meant for keeping under trails or requiring correction, they are sent to corrective institutions. The trafficking victims are placed in the homes either after the legal hearing of their cases is over or they make a special request to the magistrate to be placed in the shelter home. They may be
placed in the shelter home for not less than one year but not more than three years (UNODC, 2006).

A few of the trafficked victims need to be put in ‘corrective institution’. Such institutions are established or licensed under section 21, for persons who are in need of correction and are detained under ITP Act. It also includes shelter where the under trails (under ITP Act) are kept during the course of their legal proceedings. The court has the authority to send the women/girls to the corrective institutions in lieu of a sentence of imprisonment, for a period not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years. However, the state government is allowed to discharge the detainee after a period of six months if it is satisfied that the offender will lead useful life after release (UNODC, 2006).

Protocol for Pre-Rescue, Rescue and Post-Rescue Operations

The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the NHRC has prepared a protocol and guidelines to be followed by both police and civil society at the time of conducting rescue operations.

I. Guidelines for State Governments

• Develop an Anti-Trafficking Policy specifying victim’s friendly provisions and structures.

• Create an Anti-Trafficking Cell at the State and District level to co-ordinate with other relevant Departments and NGOs on the issues pertaining to trafficking, especially on the rescue and rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

• Create a Database on traffickers, brothel owners, informants, decoy customers, number of cases registered, status of each case, source and destination areas in the State/District and
any other relevant information. The information in the Database should be kept confidential and should be parted only to genuine information seekers.

- Form Community Vigilant Groups (CVGs) at the Community Level. The CVGs can help in rescue and rehabilitation of victims at the community level.

- Assign sufficient number of police personnel especially women Police personnel for the rescue operations.

- Prominently display signboards in hotels, tourist places, restaurants, beaches, airports, bus stands, and railway stations and other susceptible places, warning people against trafficking and use of children for commercial sexual exploitation. In case, any child is seen under suspicious circumstances in these places, the informant should inform the Police/child line (1098) / NGO immediately.

- Repatriate the victim from the Destination State to the Home State. The State would be responsible for transportation and the State Government would meet all expenses towards travel for the victim and escort, food and incidental. The State Government should provide a separate budget for repatriation of the victims.

- Give adequate publicity, through both print and electronic media, on child-lines and women help-lines over a sustained period of time.

- Declare names of fit people and fit institutions, where victims of trafficking can be kept in safe custody. The list should be circulated to all Police Head Quarters, Police Stations at State and District Levels, Courts and NGOs.

- Declare fit institutions where mentally challenged or ill child victims and women can be kept in safe custody and proper medical treatment can be provided.
• Issue directives that all Court proceedings related to child victims of trafficking are carried out in-camera.

• Assign trained Child Welfare Officers in every Police Station.

• Every Police Station should have separate clean and hygienic toilet(s) for women.

II. For Rescue Team Members

i. For Rescue of Trafficked Child Victims

• Cultivate networks of informants who will provide specific information about trafficked under-aged child victims (below 18 years) or woman willing to be rescued from brothels. Specific information may be in the form of letters, emails, photographs, personality traits, identification marks and scars, addresses, physical presence of relatives and people known to child victim, computer graphics generated by the description and mannerisms (e.g. accent, distinctive body language like frequent rubbing of fingers, blinking of eyes or any other). It is desirable, that a small remuneration is paid to the informant, which sustains their motivation.

• Identify the child victim by the use of decoy customers and authenticate the available information. The decoy customer should try to motivate the child to talk on a one-to-one basis and to facilitate further rescue operations.

• Involve NGOs and Social Workers in Rescue operations carried out by the Police or the Community.

• Prepare a strategic plan for rescue operation with minimum loss of time. The plan should include:
• Compilation of all available valid information. For example, physical layout of the brothels and hideouts, specific characteristics of the location, etc. Seek help of key informants people such as petty-shop owners, sweepers, part-time maids, milkmen or any other persons who may provide their service to the brothels/hide-outs, local contractors and builders who would know the layout of the brothels/hide-outs.

• Rescue team, preferably trained, should consists of the designated Special Police Officer as defined under Section 13 of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, Assistant Commissioner of Police and/or District Commissioner of Police, police personnel including women, NGO representative and social worker. The number of rescue team members should be constituted depending on the size (number of brothels/victims) of the rescue operation.

• Maintain confidentiality and secrecy of the rescue operation, all members of the rescue operation should gather at a commonplace or location at least 2 hours before the actual rescue operation.

• To prevent leakage of information, prior to the actual rescue operation, mobile phones and any other mode(s) of communication belonging to the rescue operation team members should be taken in custody by the rescue team leader.

• The strategy that would be adopted for the rescue operations and its various steps should be explained at this time. To each team member, explain his/her role in the rescue operation and clear any doubts that she/he may have.

• Preparing key players: Formation of teams would depend upon the situation and targeted number of brothels to be covered and expected number of minors to be recovered.
- Under no circumstances should the decoy customer(s) be exposed before, during and after the rescue operations.
- Under no circumstances should the rescue operation be revealed to any person(s) other than those directly involved”. If by any chance, the media does happen to get word of it, they should not be allowed to cover the rescue operation.
- Check /verify vacancies available in Government and other certified Homes, so that the rescued victims can be taken to the appropriate Homes for safe custody. This should be done in total confidentiality, so that any information on the rescue operation is not leaked.
- Before conducting rescue operations, all police formalities should be completed.
- During the rescue operations, the rescue team members should not physically touch the girls, women, or their belongings. Only female members of the rescue team should deal with the victims.
- During the rescue operations, no rescue team members should use abusive language towards the girls and women.

ii. Rescue Operation at a Community Level

- The community should be sensitized about trafficking, the harm resulting out of this exploitative situation and what to do in case they have knowledge of such an incident. Community members should be motivated to keep a watch in the community for irregular movement of child victims to and from the area, their possible traffickers and hideouts.
- The Community members should immediately provide information on suspicious people or to the nearest NGO working on rescue of trafficked victims. In absence of an NGO, the nearest police station may be informed.
- Involve community group in rehabilitation of the victim, if he/she is from the same community.

### iii. Strategy for Rescue Operations

- Planned rescue operations should be carried out on brothel communities.
- Place the rescue team members in strategic location as pre-planned for the rescue operation, before entering the brothel/community.
- Immediately go to the place/area where the child is being kept/confined.
- Remove the Child from the brothel/community as quickly as possible. He/She should collect all his/her belongings. In case, she has a child or children of her own, make sure that she is not separated from them.
- Treat the child victim with sympathy and not as a criminal.
- Remove any mentally-challenged or ill child victim or woman in the brothel, irrespective of their age.
- Be aware of your body language and do not make any unnecessary contact, unwelcome gesture, use physical force, cause physical harm, use vulgar or inappropriate language to any inmates of the brothel.
- Seize/collection all records showing expenses/income/payment/financial transactions and any other important document from the brothel owners, as they would form important piece of material evidence in the Court.
- Identification of the victims should be kept confidential, her name, address, photograph or any other information should not be published in any newspaper, magazine, news-sheet or visual media. This is mandatory as per Section 21 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
• Identity and location of decoy customer should be kept confidential.

• The rescue team members should be accountable to the rescue team leader and any violation of the rights of the victim should be dealt in appropriate manner.

iv. Strategy for Post-Rescue Operations

• Separate the victims by sight and sound from the accused. While taking the child victim to the Police Station, the child and brothel owners/traffickers should be taken in a separate vehicle. If this is not possible, they should be kept separate from each other. This is to prevent the accused from threatening or intimidating the child.

• Do not keep the child in the lock-up under any circumstances. The victim should be immediately taken to a certified place of safety after the raid. The victim is not an accused person and should not receive the same treatment as the accused. Keep her separately from the brothel owners/traffickers.

• Document the rescue operation in the diary, in presence of two independent reliable witnesses and get it signed by them for authentication.

• The First Information Report (FIR) should be immediately registered by the victims or NGO in the Police Station and it should contain details of location of crime, description of offence, victim and accused, chronology of crime right from the time the child was trafficked. The FIR should be as detailed as possible. The child should receive a copy of the FIR and it should be kept in safe custody of the NGO/Protective/children Home, where the child is kept.

• Invoke all relevant Sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 against the trafficker and brothel owners.
• Hand over the Child to a representative from the Protective/Children Home run by either the Government or NGO. The child should be counseled about her stay in protective custody and that she has been kept there for her safety and wellbeing.

• It is important to ensure that: 1) only plain-clothes police accompany the child to the Protective/Children Home; 2) the functionaries of the Protective/Children Home should ensure that the child does not come in contact with its traffickers, pimps, brothel owners or any such persons, who may have bad influence on him/her; 3) the medical examination, including age verification test is carried out properly and scientifically. The age verification test is mandatory as per Section 15 b (5A) of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 and Section 49 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000; 4) the child victim is produced before the Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours of taking him/her into custody. In case, the Child Welfare Committee is not available, then he/she should be produced before concerned Magistrate for relief; 5) the child has immediate access to standardized counseling, health care and legal aid. On behalf of the victim, the Personnel from the NGO, including Social Worker or Protective/Children Home should sign the vakalatnama (or the consent for a lawyer’s representation); 6) a social worker accompanies the child whenever he/she leaves the place of safety; 7) a counselor is present whenever a child is giving testimony in the Court; 8) the concerned Magistrate or the members of the competent authority as the case may be, visits the rescue home once in every fifteen days to conduct legal proceedings; 9) the child is prepared by explaining to him/her about court proceedings, so that he/she is aware of the procedures and is mentally well prepared. After every hearing of the case, the child should be informed about the court order, if any, so that
he/she is kept fully updated on his/her case; and 10) it is recommended that trafficking cases be fast tracked under Speedy Trial to reduce the trauma and suffering of the child.

v. Strategy for Rehabilitation (for functionaries in the Protective/Children Home)

- Ensure that the child is informally welcomed and is introduced to other residents and shown around. She should be shown to her room and her locker where she can keep her personnel belongings. It is advisable that for the first few days, she should be given space for privacy and if possible kept separately from the others or with those who have been rescued like her.
- Provide a welcome kit that includes a change of clothes, towel, undergarments, chappals/slippers and toiletries (soap, oil, hair brush/comb, tooth brush, paste, powder, rubber band, shampoo, sanitary napkins etc.), to the child on arrival.
- Explain to him/her the rules and regulation of the Protective/Children Homes and their objectives, once he/she settles down. This will make him/her feel comfortable and secure in his/her new environment. Also, explain to the child his/her responsibilities and duties during his/her stay in the Home.
- A registered medical doctor should examine the child for any ailments, allergies, skin rashes and psychological disorders or problems. Routine blood, urine, lung X-rays and stool tests should be carried out. In case, the child is suffering from any ailment, she should be given appropriate medication as prescribed by the doctor and there should be continuous follow-up on her condition.
- Talk to the child and find out whether he/she is interested in continuing with her education and accordingly, admit him/her to a regular school or make arrangements for non-formal education or tutoring so that she can catch up with his/her studies. In any case, the child
should be given some basic education which will help his/her to be independent when he/she leaves the Home.

- Provide the child with vocational training, including marketing strategies that are marketable, sustainable and practical. (Please check that providing a child with vocational training and marketing strategies is not contravening any child rights or child labor laws).
- Prepare the Child for his/her repatriation/integration with his/her family. No rescued child should be sent back to his/her family without ensuring social acceptance, family support, to prevent re-trafficking and further exploitation.

**Proactive Steps taken up by Government Agencies in Combating Trafficking**

Prostitution has existed in India from time immemorial, but it is only after independence that definite legal measures and programs for welfare/rehabilitation have been initiated to tackle the issue. During the earlier periods, including the British rule, efforts were occasionally made to control prostitution. Earlier, two acts were passed by British rulers, which indirectly tried to control women trafficking without initiating any specific action. The first legal provision was Indian Penal Code (1860). It tried to protect girls against forced illicit sexual intercourse. It basically covered offences like kidnapping of girls/women, rape, selling, buying or hiring a girl for the purpose of prostitution. But it did not touch the problems of trafficking as such. The other legal provision, which tried to control the use of prostitutes for fulfilling sexual needs was “Indian contagious Diseases Act” introduced in 1868, since incidents of STDs among the British officer, was increasing rapidly (NCW, 2001).

After independence, government action to deal with the problem (as stated earlier) found shape in the formation of a committee in 1954 by Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), New Delhi. The committee examined the sociological, commercial and social aspects of the problem
and also studied the private institutions providing custodial care and services. Following these, the act on the “Suppression of Immoral Traffic in girls and women” (SITA) was introduced in 1956 for implementing resolutions of the international convention for prohibiting in trafficking human beings (Mukherjee, 1989).

A number of homes were later established and support provided to the existing institutions organizing services to further strengthen their activities. This act was amended in 1986 and renamed as “Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act’. This was done with a view to widen the scope of the law. And to make it more stringent and effective, changes were necessary since the original act (SITA) was not effective in controlling trafficking of women and girls for CSE because of general lack of concern on the part of the enforcing institutions to treat this a social malady (Mukherjee, 1989).

**Role of Ministry of Women and Child Development**

Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998, with the objective to mainstream and to reintegrate the women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in society (MWCD, 2006). The Ministry has issued guidelines to the States for the implementation of National Plan of Action (MWCD, 2006).

i) The Ministry has constituted a Central Advisory Committee which functions under the chairpersonship of Secretary, department of Women and Child Development, Government of India with members from Central Ministries like Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Law and Justice, State
Governments which are important source, transit or destination, prominent NGOs working in this area, international organizations working in this field, NCW, CSWB and NIPCCD. Director, NCRB; Director General, BSF; Director, IB; Director, CBI, Director General, SSB etc. and some of the Director Generals of Police of important states where the magnitude of the problem is stated to be acute, are being nominated on the Advisory Committee as special invitees. The CAC had held meetings at three months intervals.

ii) The Ministry formulated a protocol for Pre-rescue, Rescue and Post-rescue operations of child victims of trafficking for the purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

iii) The MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD and UNICEF has developed three manuals for ‘Judicial Handbook on combating Trafficking of women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation’; ‘Manual for Medical Officers for Dealing with Child Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation’; and ‘Counseling services for Child survivors of trafficking’.

iv) The MWCD in collaboration with MHA and UNODC is developing Training Manuals for Police and Prosecutors and also setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in selected states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Goa.

v) As a part of the above project, a database for trafficking offences as well as convictions achieved, on a disaggregated basis will be developed. The data format is under preparation by UNODC in consultation with MWCD.

vi) On insistence from Ministry of Women and Child Development the Ministry of Home Affairs has set up of a dedicated nodal Cell in the MHA for prevention of trafficking. The main function of such a cell would be to coordinate, network and provide feedback to the
State Governments and other concerned agencies as well as share data inputs, best practices, innovations etc. on a sustained and continuous basis to enable better outcomes. All its meetings will be held every quarter to review the progress in anti-trafficking activities.

vii) The MWCD in collaboration with MHA, NHRC, NCW and UNICEF is undertaking the exercise of updating the Plan of Action 1998 to take into account emerging developments and with the ultimate objective of working towards a comprehensive plan of action on Trafficking in Persons. For this purpose regional and national consultations will be undertaken from November 2006 onwards.

viii) The MWCD has time and again reiterated to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the need for recruiting women to fill at least 30 per cent of the police force. It has also suggested the setting up of Women’s’ Help desk in every police station.

ix) The MHA has been requested to prepare a comprehensive Witness Protection Program which will enable the victims of trafficking to be protected and secure till such time the trafficker is prosecuted.

x) Separately the Ministry of Women and Child Development has requested the Ministry of External Affairs to set up an internal Task Force with representatives from the concerned Ministries/Departments to prepare an Action Plan for operationalizing the provisions of the Convention and also ensure the enabling legislation, enforcement mechanism, policies etc. are in place. The MEA has set up a task force for this purpose.

xi) All States DWCD Secretaries have been requested for holding regular meetings of State Advisory Committee constituted under National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of women and children, 1998 and to monitor initiatives
being undertaken on prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims of trafficking in this respective states.

xii) All Chief Secretaries have been requested to sensitize the lower level functionaries at cutting edge level, on issues related sexual abuse or molestation, so that perpetrators if child abuses are severely dealt under the provisions of Indian Penal Code and other child specific laws.

xiii) The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) is organizing a series of workshops for NGOs on issues relating to trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation. A special module for counselors of trafficked victims has been formulated.

xiv) The MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD organized training courses for Mauritius delegation on various aspects of trafficking.

xv) It is proposed that issues related to trafficking and sexual exploitation will be added in the training curriculum of Anganwadi workers in order to sensitize them and generate their awareness on these issues.

xvi) Certain amendments are proposed to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to widen its scope, focus on traffickers, human rights of victims and to make its implementation more effective. The major amendments includes deletion of section 8 that provide punishment for seducing or soliciting for purpose of prostitution and section 20 that relates to removal of a prostitute from any place. Deletion of these sections have been proposed keeping in a view that women involves in prostitution are victims of trafficking and booking under these sections victimizes them again. The other major amendments include insertion of new sections defining the offence of “Trafficking in Persons” on lines of definition of trafficking
as available in optional protocols on trafficking to UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, punishment for persons involved in “Trafficking in Persons” and punishment for a person who visit or found in a brothel for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The other amendments include constitution of a Central Authority well as State Authority for the purpose of effectively combating the offence of the “Trafficking in Persons” at central and state level. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Bill 2006 was introduced in LokSabha on 22nd May 2006. The Bill is now under examination of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

xvii) A number of efforts have been taken in imparting training to Police personnel on issues of trafficking by the Bureau of Police Research of Development.

xviii) Wide dissemination of women’s’ help line numbers and also if necessary have a special exclusive helpline number for trafficked victims.

xix) The MWCD runs Shelter based homes Short Stay Homes, Swadhar Homes for women in difficult circumstances. These cater to trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places, for women/girls victims of sexual crimes who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to respective family for various reasons. The Schemes provides for shelter, food, and clothing for women and children below the age of 18 years, counseling, clinical, medical, and legal support, training and economic rehabilitation and helpline facilities. At present, over 146 Swadhar Homes and more than 342 Short Stay Homes are being run in different parts of the country.

xx) Three pilot projects are being implemented via: i) to combat trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation under the sanction of tradition; ii) Pilot project to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial, sexual exploitation in source
areas and iii) pilot project to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation in destination areas. So far 30 projects have been sanctioned benefiting 1500 women and girls.

xxi) Based on the favorable feedback on the implementation of the pilot projects, it has been decided to convert these three projects into a comprehensive scheme in consultation with NGOs and State Governments. The proposed new scheme which is under formulation consists of two components – one, for preventive activities to be undertaken through awareness generation programs like peer education, rally, campaign, poster, booklet, wallpaper, handbill, street play, puppet show or through any other traditional art, and use of radio and local newspaper. The other component is for rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and provision of rescue cost, counseling to overcome psychological trauma, shelter home, medical care, legal aid, witness/victim protection, education vocational training, networking with various stakeholders, repatriation and restoration etc.

xxii) In view of the fact, that a number of studies have shown that economic poverty is one of the prime causes for trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women, poverty alleviation programs of the Government which target people living below poverty line in backward rural areas and urban slums also include such vulnerable groups. These programs include Swaran Jayanti Rojgar Yojana, Employment Guarantee Scheme, and Food for Work Program and Self Employment through Training and Micro-Credit for Setting up Micro Enterprises.

**Cross Border Trafficking**
Prevention of cross border trafficking needs coordination with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Important steps taken in the context as reported by NHRC (2006) are:

- MEA has been requested to set up an internal Task force to ensure that the legislations, programs etc. are in place for operationalizing the provisions of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in Prostitution.

- A special assignment is being undertaken by UNICEF in behalf of MWCD for preparing a quick assessment of the problems, constraints faced in repatriation of Bangladeshi victims back to their countries of origin. This will pave the way for preparation of a Protocol on successful repatriation.

- To ensure repatriation of victims of trafficking back to their country of origin, the possibility of developing a protocol needs to be explored.

- Help line and emergency rescue facilities to be made available in embassies/ high commissions for trafficked victims abroad.

- The NHRC has suggested certain steps to be taken to prevent human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. They are:
  
  o Analyzing the factors that generate demand and supply for exploitative commercial sexual services and exploitative labor and taking strong legislative, policy and other measures to address these issues.
  
  o Empowering the vulnerable sections living in remote corners of country by extending to them various welfare, development and anti-poverty schemes of the Government of India, such as, Swadhar, Swayamsidha, Swa-Shakti, Swawlamban, Balika Samridhi Yojana, Support to Training and Employment Program for Women (STEP), Kishori
Shakti Yojana, (KSY) etc. This would provide scope for ample economic opportunities for the women and other traditionally disadvantaged groups in their native place itself so as to reduce their vulnerability to trafficking.

- Improving children’s access to schools and increasing the level of school attendance, especially of those affected or dependents, including the girl children, especially in remote and backward parts of the country. Efforts should also be made to incorporate sex-education and gender sensitive concerns in the school curriculum, both at the primary and secondary levels.

- Generating awareness and spreading legal literacy on economic rights, particularly for women and adolescent girls should be taken up. Presently, there seems to be insufficient knowledge and information among the people to make informed decisions that affect their lives. This would not only enable them to know about their rights but also inform them about the risks of illegal migration (e.g. exploitation, debt bondage and health and security issues, including exposure to HIV/AIDS) as well as avenues available for legal, non-exploitative migration.

- Developing information campaigns for the general public aimed at promoting awareness about the dangers associated with trafficking. Such campaigns should be informed by an understanding of the complexities surrounding trafficking and of the reasons as to why individuals may make potentially dangerous migration decisions.

- Reviewing and modifying policies that may compel people to resort to irregular and vulnerable labor migration. This process should include examining the effect especially with regard to unskilled labor and woman.
Examining ways of increasing opportunities for legal, gainful and non-exploitative labor migration. The promotion of labor migration on the whole should be dependent on the existence of regulatory and supervisory mechanisms to protect the rights of migrant workers.

Giving focused attention to the adolescents, who are both potential victims and clients. It would be useful if appropriate information and value clarification is given to them on issues related to ‘sexuality’ and ‘reproductive health’. This exercise would be beneficial in view of the growing evidence of increased pre-marital sexual activity among adolescents and the looming threat of HIV/AIDS within this group.

Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to arrest and prosecute those involved in trafficking. This includes ensuring that law enforcement agencies comply with their legal obligations.

Devising necessary mechanisms for concerted coordination between the judiciary, police, government institutions and non-governmental organizations/civil society groups with regard to prevention and combating strategies. This kind of a government-public network would involve and make the non-governmental organizations/community responsible to act as watchdogs and informants on traffickers and exploiters.

Adopting measures to reduce vulnerability by ensuring that appropriate legal documentation for birth, citizenship and marriage is provided and made available to all persons.

Setting up of a national database/web portal under the aegis of National Crime Records Bureau. The main purpose of this kind of a mechanism is to create a help desk in
providing information on missing persons including women and children, alert notice on suspected traffickers, anti-trafficking networks, do’s and don’ts to be followed while dealing with victims of trafficking, etc.

- Addressing culturally sanctioned practices like the system of devadasis, jogins, bhavins, etc. which provide a pretext for trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation.

- Giving adequate publicity, through print and electronic media including ‘child lines’ and women ‘helplines’ across the country about the problem of trafficking and its ramifications (NHRC, 2006).

Further NHRC also suggested certain steps to be taken in rescue of trafficking victims especially child victims. During the rescue operations, the Central and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations should consider:

- Taking effective measures for planning and devising a rescue strategy specifying victim-friendly provisions and structures for trafficked victims who have been forced into brothel-based and street-based prostitution.

- Creating a specialized cell for rescuing them at the Centre/State/Block/District/Village level. This kind of paraphernalia would also facilitate in coordinating with other relevant departments and non-governmental organizations (intra and inter) for rescuing trafficked victims caught in brothel-based and street-based prostitution including children who have been trapped.

- Creating a confidential database on traffickers including probable traffickers, brothel owners, madams, gharwalis, etc. at all levels.
• Cultivating a network of informants who will provide specific information about trafficked women victims including child victims below 18 years who want to be rescued from brothels.

• Ensuring that rescue team should consist of both men and women police officers and representatives of non-governmental organizations/local inhabitants. Each member of the rescue team should be told about his/her role in the rescue operation and how the same is to be executed. They should also be told to maintain confidentiality and secrecy of the entire rescue operation.

• Taking due care by all concerned to ensure that trafficked women, particularly children, are not unnecessarily harassed or intimidated during the course of rescue operations. Adoption of humane and rights-based approach would go a long way in building the faith of the victims in the criminal justice system. This would also facilitate the overall rehabilitation, reintegration of the victims.

• Ensuring, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, that trafficked victims, including children, are provided access to legal, medical and counseling services. It should also be ensured that they are treated with dignity and not humiliated by the police, medical personnel or the court.

• Ensuring that any victim, including a child, who is rescued, is examined by a Registered Medical Practitioner for the purpose of age and for the detection of injuries/diseases. Trafficked victims should not be subjected to mandatory testing for diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
• Ensuring that, in cases where the victim rescued is not a child, she should not be *prima facie* treated as a criminal accused of soliciting clients. Steps should be taken to ensure that correct provisions of law are applied and that the FIR is not stereotyped.

• All efforts should be made to ensure anonymity and privacy of the victims during and after rescue (NHRC, 2006).

The NHRC has given the following directions to the State and Central Governments in rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking victims with a special emphasis to the child victims. According to NHRC, The rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims of trafficking being a long process must be planned, taking into account the specific short and long-term needs of individual victims. Efforts must be non-punitive and aimed at protecting the rights of the victims. All stakeholders should therefore consider:

• Taking into account the specific short and long-term needs of each individual victim based on their age, education, skills, etc., the rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation package for victims of trafficking should be worked out.

• Keeping in view the paucity of government run institutions as well as the deteriorating conditions of these institutions, there is need to identify names of fit persons and fit institutions for providing safe custody to victims of trafficking. This list should be made available to the police, courts, non-governmental organizations and civil society at large for information.

• Providing access to legal, medical and counseling services to all trafficked victims in order to restore their self-confidence and self-esteem. Special provision should be provided to those who have contracted HIV/AIDS.
• Enabling victims of trafficking to access both formal and non-formal education structures. Formal education should be made available to those victims who are still within the school going age, while non-formal education should be made accessible to adults.

• Providing gender sensitive market driven vocational training in partnership with non-governmental organizations to all rescued victims who are not interested in education. Government and non-governmental organizations should also work together to develop partnership with public and private sector employers in order to provide training/facilitate work placement as part of the reintegration process. Due care should be taken to give ample choice to victims so that rehabilitation and reintegration becomes a holistic process, which respects their human rights.

• Involving the community in the rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation process of trafficked victims. This means involving the families of victims and the community by enhancing their awareness about trafficking in general and the impact of trafficking on the individual.

• Monitoring the rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of rescued victims with the help of non-governmental organizations.

• Making available to rescued victims various developmental and anti-poverty schemes meant for the general population, both in the rehabilitation and reintegration phase.

• Upgrading the conditions and capacities of institutions/homes run by the Government and an increase in the number of such institutions/homes not only in the cities, but also at the district and taluka levels, are of utmost necessity.
• Recruiting adequate number of trained counselors and social workers in institutions/homes run by the government independently or in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

• Appointing trained social workers and counselors at police stations, courts and homes/institutions of different kinds meant for accommodating victims of trafficking.

• Anti-trafficking cells/units should be set up at the Centre, State, Block District and Village levels to facilitate and monitor the process of rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation (NHRC, 2006).