

JHARKHAND

BASELINE SURVEY REPORT COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN JHARKHAND

June, 2021

Abstract

Learnings through the Perspective of Law Enforcement Authority and the Communities of Jharkhand to combat Human Trafficking



Foreword:

The crime of trafficking in persons is a clandestine and complex problem affecting a large number of people across the globe.

While laws in India prohibits and penalizes human trafficking, the number of reported and unreported cases is extremely high across the country.

With the rise in COVID cases, it may appear that there should be a decline in Human Trafficking cases the reality may not be so. To prevent the crime, the Ministry of Home Affairs has mandated State Governments to set up AHTUs (Anti Human Trafficking Unit) integrated task forces to prevent combat trafficking in person, especially through building community level responders who are trained and aware

The mission of combatting human trafficking may not be possible without a joint effort by the law enforcement authorities and community members. This study was commissioned to understand the synergy and interactions and awareness of community and law enforcement. The aim being building resilient communities to tackling trafficking through technological innovations. The study reveals a lot of nuanced challenges faced by both law enforcement and community members while dealing with or determining a case of human trafficking. Further, the study suggests that few thought-provoking approaches directly received from law enforcement officers and community members, these can be closely looked into and developed upon.

We are certain that this study will go a long way in assisting law enforcement, community-based organizations, and the wider public to understand the existing challenges in Jharkhand concerning human trafficking and bridge the gaps that have been identified in the study.

We thank every single community member, law enforcement across districts who have made this study possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chitra', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Ms. Chitra Iyer
CEO Space2Grow

Executive Summary

Jharkhand which is also known as the 'land of forest', is situated in the north- eastern part of India, it shares its border with Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south and West Bengal to the east. The state has reported a growing trend of human trafficking since 2017.

As per the latest report of NCRB, Crime in India 2019, Jharkhand still features among the top states where human trafficking is extremely high. In-fact the state is often identified as the source point for trafficking human beings.

Law enforcement officers and community members are of the opinion that it is due to poverty and lack of employment opportunities that traffickers are able to take advantage of the victims and / or their families.

The Status of women is not quite uplifted in this region, especially in the rural areas. Practices like child marriage and witch hunting is quite common in this region.

Cases of Human trafficking are often under reported in this region as, often the traffickers are known to the victims/ family of the victims. Thereby traffickers often have the power to manoeuvre the witness, which leads to hostility in statements of witness, thereby, offenders often get acquitted. It is high time to develop the synergy among all the law enforcement officers and community members to work together to combat the crime.

It is high time to gather knowledge on human trafficking from a level of basic understanding to a level of being aware to exact steps to be taken at a given point of time. To be updated with the new procedures and laws relating to the crime.

It is high time for the government to ensure and meet the basic requirements of law enforcement officers to conduct their duties in the prescribed manner.

Finally it is important for the government to ensure facilities for employment generation within the state, which can be possible through developing scopes and ideas of sustainable skill building opportunities based on the available resources within the state.

Acknowledgment

Space2Grow would like to express its gratitude to Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society and International Justice Mission, our partner organizations, for standing by us and making this study possible. Special gratitude to Mr Ashutosh Shekhar, SP Khunti, without his encouragement and constant support this study would not be possible especially from the perspective of law enforcement officers. We would also like to thank each of the law enforcement officers who took out time from their busy schedules to talk to us and discuss the issue at length. We are also grateful to Mr. Chavi Ranjan, DC Ranchi for your time and inputs. A special thanks to Mr Prashant Yadav, Railway Commandant, and his team who came to the office on a week off just to talk to us and share some important insights. We would also like to thank Dr. Shams Tabrez, SP Simdega, and Mr. Sourabh Kumar, SP Ranchi (City) for your valuable insights. Thanks to Mr. Jaydeep Lakhra, Dy. SP Khunti, for sharing required contacts and helping us through the process, Thanks to Mr. Parmeshwar Prasad, Dy.SP Simdega, Thanks to each of the CWC members, DLSA members, AHTU officers, DSWO's, DCPO's, all the SI's across police stations who took out time to meet us and share some valuable inputs. A special kudos to all the volunteers of JSLPS who dedicatedly took up the task of collecting information from community members, without your dedicated effort we would not be able to analyze the situation at the community level and certainly a special thanks of Mr Neelesh Singh, Programme Manager – Social Development, JSLPS and his team especially Satish, Abhay, Ramesh, Adibul, Saurabh and Shwetlana for ensuring we receive the data from the community on time.

Thanks to every single community volunteer and members of the community, without whom, this process could not have been completed. You are the pillar that strengthens the fight against this heinous crime of Human Trafficking.

Last but not least thanks to Chitra Iyer, the Founder of Space2Grow to ideate this study and believing in it and making it happen fighting all odds, thanks to Anuj Singhal, Co-founder, Space2Grow for being a constant support to make this study happen, thanks to Himanshu Sharma, Business Development Lead, Space2Grow for letting himself come out of his comfort zone and be on the field, meeting stakeholders and collecting data and information for the study, finally thanks to Somashree Das, Sr. Specialist Policy and Legal Research, Space2Grow for leading the study, visiting the field and collecting data and information for the study and drafting the report.

'This report is dedicated to each and every survivor of Human Trafficking from Jharkhand'

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Introduction - Human Trafficking

Trafficking in person is one of most inhuman crimes prevalent in the modern times, where an individual is in an exploitative situation for the economic gain of another person. Human Trafficking is often referred to as '**modern day slavery**' as in this crime one person or a group of person is exploited for the financial gain of another. Exploitation can be for various purposes - sex, forced labour, organ removal, child marriage, beggary etc.

According to The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the *recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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*. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Here, it must be noted that due to the **high profit and low risk** factor in human trafficking, it is considered to be the second most profitable illegal industry — second only to the drug trade. While drugs are sold in one transaction, human beings who have once been trafficked can be sold over and over again. Thereby, costs are low and the profits are extremely high¹.



¹ UNICEF USA (<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking/31692>)

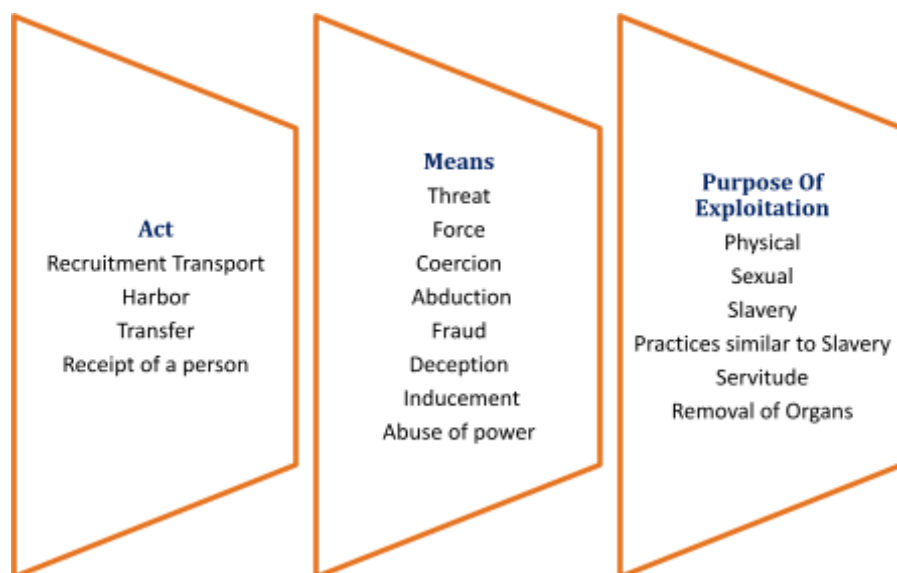
Who is responsible for addressing the crime?

Historically, law enforcement agencies have been the primary body addressing the complex needs of victims of human trafficking. However, as the crime is extremely well networked and originates from the community, the participation of community members is extremely important to prevent the crime from occurring ; protect victims, witnesses of the crime - from being re-trafficked or abused by traffickers and finally support in prosecuting the offenders. In order to achieve this there is an urgent need for not only law enforcement officers but also community members to be well aware of the crime and participate in the best way possible to counter the crime.

Situation In India

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is prohibited under the Constitution of India under Article 23 (1). Section 370 of The Indian Penal Code defines Trafficking of person as:

Whoever, for the purpose of exploitation, (a) recruits, (b) transports, (c) harbours, (d) transfers, or (e) receives, a person or persons, by using threats, using force, or any other form of coercion, or abduction, or by practising fraud, or deception, or by abuse of power, or by inducement, including the giving or receiving of payments or benefits, in order to achieve the consent of any person having control over the person recruited, transported, harboured, transferred or received, commits the offence of trafficking.



Through years of research and study, one commonality has been found in every case of human trafficking, traffickers seek to exploit their potential victim's desire to move toward better opportunities. They use coercive measures to gain control and cooperation from the victim. Victims of human trafficking often come from dangerous situations in their community of origin and are falsely promised outcomes that will improve their quality of life. These factors of human trafficking are called push and pull factors. They either push people out of their origin or pull them toward their destination².

Some of the major **push factors** in India include: poverty, large families to sustain, natural disasters like floods, draught, topographical challenges, lack of education, lack of awareness about the activities of traffickers, lack of skill development and income generating opportunities especially in rural areas, pressure to collect money for dowries which leads to sending daughters to distant places for work or child marriage, dysfunctional family life, domestic violence against women, low status of girl children, etc.

The **pull factors** in India include: lucrative employment propositions in big cities, easy money, promise of better pay and a comfortable life by the trafficking touts and agents, demand of young girls for marriage in other regions, demand for low-paid and underage sweat shop labour, growing demand of young kids for adoption, rise in demand for women in the rapidly expanding sex industry, demand for young girls for sexual exploitation as a result of certain misconceptions and myths. The increased gap in the gender ratio due to the rampant practice of female feticide in certain states of India has led to procuring girls from other parts of the country³.

Every year the number of registered cases of human trafficking is on a rise while the conviction rate is on a fall. According to the NCRB total of 6,616 human trafficking cases were registered in the country in 2019, which is far higher than the 5,788 cases registered in 2018 and 5,900 cases in 2017. A significant drop was also observed in the conviction rates of trafficking cases - from 29.4% in 2018 to 22% in 2019.

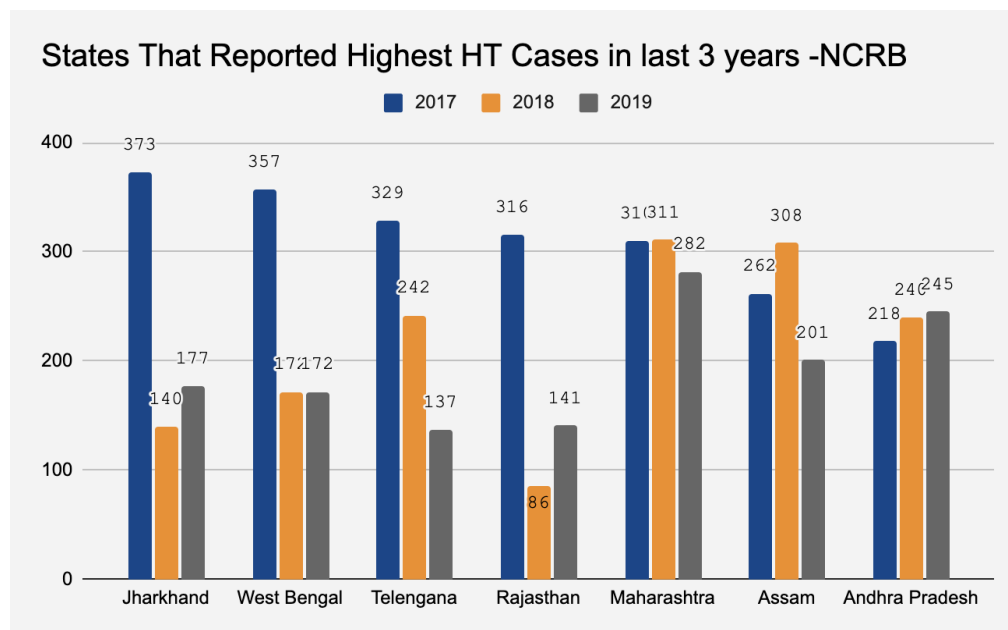
² The Borgen Project - FACTORS THAT LEAD TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING
(<https://borgenproject.org/factors-that-lead-to-human-trafficking/>)

³ Vimal Vidushy, International Journal of Applied Research 2016; 2(6): 168-171, Human trafficking In India: An analysis

Situation in Jharkhand

The state of Jharkhand was carved out of the state of Bihar in 2000. The state is quintessentially known for its mineral resources and vast forest lands, majorly inhabited by tribal population. As per census 2011, Jharkhand has population of 32.96 Million and the sex ratio is 940/1000 and the under six sex ratio is 914/1000.

Since 2017, a sudden surge was observed in the number of cases reported on human trafficking⁴ in the state. Infact as per NCRB, in 2017 **Jharkhand reported to be the state with maximum human trafficking cases in India**. Jharkhand, till date continue to feature among the top few states where cases of Human Trafficking are reportedly and un-reportedly high.



In a common understanding Jharkhand is often believed to be one of the major source areas in India from where humans (especially women and children) are trafficked to metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore. Some of the recent rescues reveal that it is a fairly organised crime. Illiteracy, lack of sustainable employment, poverty, poor irrigation facilities for agriculture, single crop patterns, intoxication, predominance of anti-social regimes in certain regions are some of the reasons for high numbers of trafficking from the state. Traffickers in the

⁴ Human Trafficking' refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of individuals for the purpose of exploitation

form of placement agencies, ill-motivated acquaintances take advantage of these situations that make people vulnerable to agreeing to unsafe migration who then end up as a victim of trafficking.

Aim & Objective of the baseline study

The basic objective of the Baseline study is to find out the overall level of awareness of Human Trafficking through a study in the four districts of Jharkhand - Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega and Lohardaga, which are believed to highly vulnerable districts from the perspective of human trafficking.



This study has been conducted with the following specific objectives:

- To assess the awareness and understanding among members of community and law enforcement officers on human trafficking
- To understand, how deep rooted the crime is in the state, to understand the major purposes of trafficking in and from the state, who are the target groups of the traffickers and what mode do traffickers use to reach the target groups
- To understand the challenges faced by law enforcement authorities while dealing with cases of human trafficking
- To understand the innovative steps that are being taken by law enforcement officers to combat the crime

- To understand the challenges faced by community members when approaching law enforcement authorities
- To assess the relevance of HT based app is launched, whether that will be helpful; to what extent and topics that may require specific focus
- The study also had an underlying objective, to identify scopes where new interventions can be made to support the community and the law enforcement to prevent the crime of human trafficking

Methodology

Study on trafficking in human beings is vital to ensuring adequate prevention, protection and assistance to trafficked persons and the prosecution of criminals. In order to achieve this, deep understanding is necessary in several key areas, notably the awareness among the members of the community, the trend of trafficking due to various factors, challenges faced by the community members and the law enforcement officers, and lastly and most importantly effective actions to prevent the crime.

The present report has been developed based on the baseline study conducted in four districts of **Jharkhand - Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, Lohardaga**, as these districts are counted among the most vulnerable districts of Jharkhand for the purpose of human trafficking.

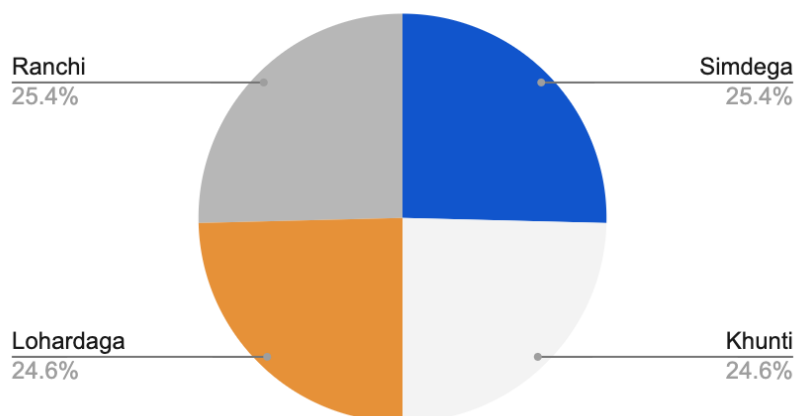
To gather our understanding from the field we made two levels of interactions-

- The questionnaires and tools were designed internally and the data collection was conducted through one-one interactions. The community volunteers of JSLPS were trained, and they led the data collection at the community level
- Interaction with Law Enforcement Officers - One on One interview of law enforcement officers, 5 law enforcement officers in each of the four districts

District	Officer (1)	Officer (2)	Officer (3)	Officer (4)	Officer (5)
Ranchi	SP (City)	Dy. SP (1)	Railway Commandant + Team	SI AHTU	DC
Khunti	SP	Dy. SP	CWC Chairperson	DCPO	DLSA secretary
Simdega	SP	CJM/ DLSA Secretary	SI AHTU	SI Mahila PS	SI Bal Mitra PS
Lohardaga	DLSA Secretary	Dy.SP	CWC member & DCPO	DSWO	SI AHTU

- Interaction with Community Level Members - Community level survey was based on a questionnaire. Survey was done across **all the four districts and for this 126 community level individuals were spoken to by community level volunteer partners from JSLPS**. This survey was supported by Community level volunteers of Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society.

Responses from Community Members



Thereafter, based on the responses received from the field the data was analysed and the report was drafted.

Limitations: As the study is based on information from a limited number of community members and law enforcement officers, this may not represent the entire state's perceptions.

Findings – Law Enforcement & Community

Law Enforcement : Key Findings and Analysis

Law enforcement officers are individuals who are responsible for maintaining public order and enforcing the law, particularly the activities of prevention, detection, and investigation of crime and the prosecution of criminals⁵. There are a wide variety of types of law enforcement officers and organizations. Duties are performed based on the type of institution the officer is working for, like the police is responsible for maintaining and executing law and order in the state, the child welfare committees are responsible to tackle with cases relating to children, the judiciary is responsible for analysing a case before it and pronouncing judgement, the district magistrates ensure proper administration of the state, and likewise. Each of their roles is unique and together they ensure the safety and security of the state.

Perception of the law enforcement officers on Human Trafficking

As law enforcement officers have an extremely responsible and tedious job, they constantly have to be vigilant and aware of the needs and requirements of the community they are working for.

In Jharkhand, in the districts we surveyed, we witness the similar dedication among the law enforcement officers, most of them were aware of the issue of human trafficking and had the basic understanding that it's an unlawful / illegal activity. However, during the discussions with most of them, it was felt that there is limited understanding of the issue from an overall perspective, as there are several pretexts on which trafficking happens - including kidnapping, children going missing, with the FIR's limited to the first complaint. Most of them related human trafficking with specific cases they had read about or had come across based on the first level of reporting and case development, thereby, limiting themselves to probe into cases which may be a potential case of human trafficking. For instance, an officer defined human trafficking to be '*Any illegal activity to exploit some-one below 18 years*', here it is important to understand that trafficking can be of any person irrespective of their age, caste, sex, financial status. Also, it is important to know and understand the essential features (types of acts) which can be catagorised as an act which may lead to human trafficking rather than having a broad understanding of illegal activity.

What came out clearly is that, though there are some cases of inter-district trafficking for the purpose of child labour in small roadside dhabas. Jharkhand is primarily the source area for

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics

trafficking to other states like - Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad mainly for the purpose of Domestic servitude which many a time convert into sexual exploitation. Surprisingly it came out in the survey that people are also being trafficked to Assam and Tripura from certain districts of Jharkhand, it is surprising as Assam is counted as one of the major source area for human trafficking⁶. Bride trafficking also appeared to be quite common in the districts, however, they are often unreported as child marriage is believed to be a common practise among the tribals. Few law enforcement officers were of the opinion that the rising cases of missing persons can be a window for organ trafficking, however due to lack of evidence such points cannot be proved in the eye of law.

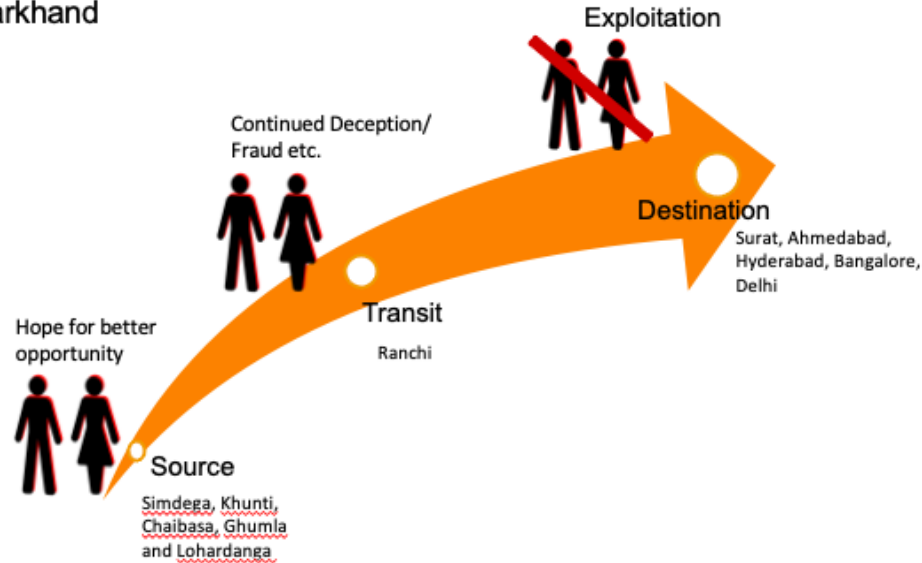
Majority of the law enforcement officers are of the opinion that mostly minor girls are trafficked from Jharkhand for the purpose of domestic servitude.

As the families are poverty stricken due to lack of sustainable employment opportunities, large number of family members to feed, poor irrigation facilities for agriculture, single crop patterns, intoxication etc. the inhabitants often agree to send their children for work to metropolitan cities with the hope of improved standard of living.

While in cases of human trafficking **exploitation can take place at any point** be it source, transit or destination. In the opinion of the law enforcement officers the most disturbed areas (**source points**) of Jharkhand in terms of human trafficking are **Simdega, Khunti, Chaibasa, Ghumla and Lohardanga**, while Ranchi is often the transit point, i.e. people from source area are brought to **Ranchi (transit point)** to be sent (**destination point**) like **Surat, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi**. However, exploitation of children in the districts are visible in small roadside dhabas and mining areas in significant cases.

⁶ In 2018 as per NCRB highest number of HT cases were reported from Assam

General Trend of Human Trafficking in Jharkhand



Challenges faced by law enforcement officers to prevent the crime

1. Traffickers are often known to victim

According to most of the law enforcement officers, majority of the victims of human trafficking are women and especially children and according to them it is often someone known to the victim who traffic the person. Thus, victims and their families are often reluctant to report such crimes, even if they report the crime later they turn hostile due to pressure from the trafficker/ known person.

2. Growing unauthorised placement agencies

As the region is extremely poverty stricken it is very easy to find the people for recruitment in jobs especially for metro cities, therefore the mushrooming of unauthorised placement agencies is quite prevalent in the districts. Keeping a check on them is extremely difficult as they are unauthorised, they open and shut their business very easily post a crime is initiated or committed

3. Poverty

Community members readily greet opportunities of work that come their way without any background check due to the apparent financial benefit. They often do not understand the consequences they may land up in. It was also gathered that sometimes family members are least concerned about the movement of their children as they have too many mouths to feed, one person

moving out of the family means one less mouth to feed and some extra income. And when this movement is with a known person, or through a known person, there is limited lack of trust.

4. Unawareness and negligence

Often the natives in such poverty-stricken areas do not complain about the women / child going missing unless the flow of payment stops coming in after a few months. It was shared by few officers that in some cases, only after years when a person went missing, a missing complaint was filed.

5. Lack of women empowerment and representation

The status of women did not seem quite promising in the state, based on a study by Tata Trust, India Justice Report 2020⁷, the representation of women in police is extremely low in Jharkhand. The representation of women police in rural areas is even lower, in districts like Simdega there are only six women police personnel in the entire district. It was informed by a few senior officers that in the rural areas men are often unwilling to work, while women are extremely hard working. Men in certain regions are often intoxicated, consuming Mahua/ Haria and mis-behave with women, while the women carry on the daily toil. It was also reported that there have been some brutal murders where the husband slashed off the wife's head from her body while he was intoxicated. Witch hunting also appeared to be common in this region. With the limited number of women police resources it gets extremely challenging to keep a check on such concerns and prevent them.

6. Lack of parental responsibility

Children born out of wed-lock is quite common as live-in relationship between men and women is not a taboo among the tribal culture, thereby, often children born out of wed-lock are uncared for and are easy prey for traffickers.

7. Infrastructural challenge

One major challenge that was observed is that, there are no or limited number of government child care homes in few of the districts of Jharkhand, to avail such facility either they have to move the child to Ranchi or look for some short stay home, or look for private shelter home or send them back home, which they described as re-integration.

⁷ Tata Trust, India Justice Report 2020
(<https://www.tatatrusters.org/Upload/pdf/ijr-2020-national-report-english-january-26.pdf>)

While there are good education facilities like Kasturba to rehabilitate girl children, there is nothing similar for boys, even though Eklavya school is there for boys but it is extremely competitive and admissions open only once a year. Thereby limiting scope for rehabilitation for boy children. Further, Kasturba school caters only upto class 10. As these schools have no such curriculum of skill building and post skill building employment opportunity, the students who pass out from such schools feel out of place when they return back to their home and often end up looking for livelihood opportunities in bigger cities with high hopes and aspirations.

Innovative Steps taken by Law Enforcement officers to combat the crime of Human Trafficking

The law enforcement officers appeared to be quite aware of the prevalence of the crime within the state and have taken some planned measures to check the crime.

- **Nanhe Farishte**

The railway police under the leadership of The Railway Commandant have come up with a phenomenal concept known as 'Nanhe Farishte', to check and prevent the crime of child trafficking via rail route. Since September 2020, the railway police have been successful in identifying and preventing 30 children from being trafficked to different parts of the country from Jharkhand.

- **Badlav Manch**

Initiatives have been taken by the state and central government to spread awareness among people about the crime, especially at village level through Badlav Manch [a village level platform where awareness on various issues is spread through interactions by appointed 'didi's' (sisters)]

- **Spreading education at local level**

Suo-moto initiatives have also been taken by SP Simdega, to spread education among children and it is said to be showing positive results in the district to curb the crime.

- **Vulnerability Mapping**

While in Khunti, under the able leadership of SP Khunti, some prominent traffickers have been nabbed and arrested. It was also learnt that the administration of Khunti along with NCPCR conducted a vulnerability mapping of children who were vulnerable to human trafficking. 4725 children were identified and now efforts are being made to link such children and their families to various government welfare schemes.

Perception of introducing app based awareness for combating trafficking

The law enforcement officers were very keen to know about the content of the app. 100% of the interactions confirmed the need for an app that creates awareness and response mechanisms, both at the same time. Apart from the content which is knowledge based, there was a suggestion if the app can also have a dashboard from where all concerned and reported cases can be tracked and managed. For instance, A was trafficked from Khunti via Ranchi through Rail Route to Delhi - The online case diary, other details and progress can be shared with the concerned authorities of Delhi, RPF, Ranchi and Khunti.

Insights - areas that can be explored as per the suggestions of Law Enforcement

1. Community policing

Based on the understanding received from the law enforcement officers of Ranchi, Khunti, Lohardaga and Simdega, the primary step that must be taken is to spread awareness among community members on human trafficking so that adequate steps can be taken by community members without any delay. Time is an extremely essential factor in preventing a crime, delayed actions may often lead to consequences which can never be mended. In simple words police cannot be omnipresent, they need support from community members to prevent the crime, right information to police and right action in the right time by the community members can aid the police to take steps to prevent the crime before it is too late.

2. Improving basic infrastructural facilities

Immediate steps have to be taken to develop new shelter homes with appropriate facilities. As one of the major challenges observed was to provide shelter to children post rescue, in some districts often because of this inadequacy children are being immediately restored in the family post rescue. Thereby, contravening section 30 and 40(3) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

3. Skill development opportunities

Development of opportunities for Skill development and Employment generation needs to be closely looked into, due to lack of opportunities there is a high probability for the victim to re-look into opportunities beyond their home districts, thereby increasing their chance to get re-trafficked.

This was a voice across law enforcement to create a solution for economic empowerment to tackle trafficking in the most affected districts of the state.

4. Checking unauthorised placement agencies

Stringent actions ought to be taken against agencies/ placement agencies which are not registered with the government of Jharkhand. Thereby, an urgent need is felt for the state to look into the Regulation of Private Placement Agency Act, implement specific laws/ orders/regulations like that of Chhattisgarh and Delhi and execute such laws/orders/ regulation in the best possible manner.

5. Dashboard for tracking cases

Based on the suggestion of some law enforcement officers it is suggested that if a dashboard can be created where all concerned reported cases can be tracked and managed, it will be extremely helpful.

6. Cooperation among all law enforcement authorities

Lastly, many of the law enforcement officers are of the opinion that there is an urgent need of synergy and cooperation among the law enforcement officers to accomplish the mission most successfully.

Community : Key Findings and Analysis

While the law enforcement officers constantly strive to ensure protection to the community, it is often not possible for them to be aware of what is developing within a community. It is the community members who will often be aware of such developments in his/ her community. Thus, the concept of community policing appears to have a lot of potential to prevent crime.

Community policing builds on this notion that community interaction and support can help in controlling crime. Community policing requires partnering with the police and citizens and rests on the belief that law-abiding members of the community deserve participation in police processes. When it comes to an issue like trafficking, community policing can help greatly as the community members act as the eyes and ears to the law enforcement and can aid in preventing the crime.

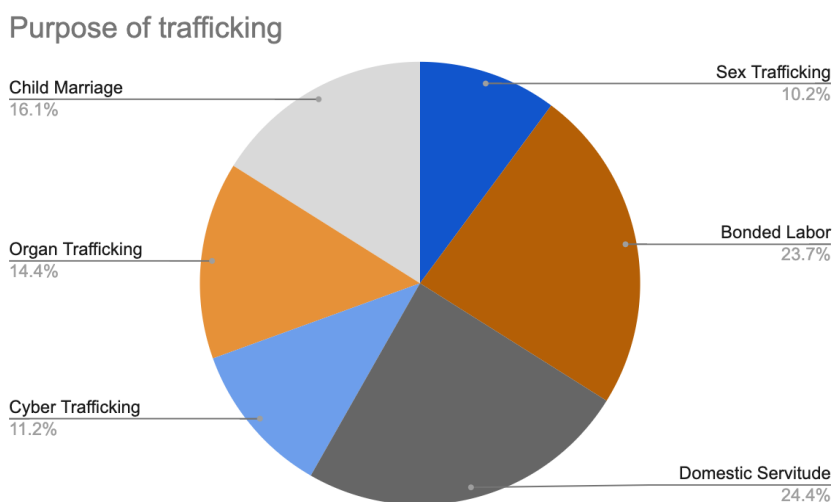
General Understanding on Human Trafficking among members of community

All the community members who participated in this survey were clearly aware that human trafficking is a crime where there is some form of human exploitation. Most of them were also aware of the means by which such crime is committed like fraud, deception, inducement and that in the process there is receipt of payment or benefit. However, many perceived it from the lense of domestic servitude (one of most common purposes of trafficking in Jharkhand) and sexual exploitation, while few others perceived it from the lense of what leads to the crime like the victims' unawareness, financial difficulty etc. Some also described the crime to be exploitation of children and women, it is extremely important to understand that human trafficking is not age or gender specific crime. Few of them also confused the crime with kidnapping/ abduction, human smuggling, human migration and witch-hunting. The overall understanding of human trafficking by the members of the community was quite fair from a knowledge perspective but certainly limited from a perspective to identify, prevent and fight the crime.

What does the Community think of the Types of trafficking ?

As we already know for a crime to be identified as a case of human trafficking three basic elements have to be present in the case – **Act** (recruitment, transport, harbour, transfers or receipt of a person); **Means** (force, any other form of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, inducement, including the giving or receiving of payments or benefits) and **Purpose** of exploitation (sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.). This section emphasises on the purpose of trafficking from Jharkhand as according to the community members.

Based to our survey among the community members, the major purpose of trafficking from Jharkhand is domestic servitude (24.4%), followed by bonded labour (23.7%), followed by child marriage (16.1%), organ trade (14.4%), cyber trafficking (11.2%), sex trafficking (10.2%)



From this data we can clearly state Jharkhand is a major hub from where women are traded in other parts of the country (urban areas like Delhi, Mumbai) for the purpose of domestic servitude, as, 'domestic work has emerged as the fastest growing sector of women's employment in urban India'⁸

⁸ ILO, Persisting servitude and gradual shifts towards recognition and dignity of labour A study of employers of domestic workers in Delhi and Mumbai

Even though in 2013 Jharkhand Government had signed an MOU with the Central Government to implement projects to reduce vulnerability of bonded labour, as per the common understanding of community members men and women are being trafficked from the state for the purpose of bonded labour.

According to United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), “Jharkhand has been among the top three states of the country, where the practice of child marriage is the highest – and the average cases have never gone below 50% in the past 10 years.” Furthermore, several reports have found that the percentage of child marriages in Jharkhand is much higher than the national average of 47%. At 49%, it has the highest proportion of married girls aged 15-19 years. 63% of girls were married before the legal age, i.e. 18.⁹

As per the understanding gathered from the field, cases of organ trafficking are quite under-reported as such victims are never to be found, such cases are often reported/ non- reported as missing persons cases.

As the cyberspace penetrates deeper into the system, lack of awareness of such crime can be fatal, as per the community a good percentage of people of Jharkhand are falling in the trap of traffickers who are utilising the cyberspace for abuse.

While instances of trafficking for the purpose of sex trafficking may appear to be low in Jharkhand, the reality may not be so. As according to a survey conducted in Delhi, over 29% of women domestic workers reported sexual harassment at work.¹⁰ Further, there are red light areas existing in the districts of Dhanbad, Bokaro and Hazaribagh. Most of the women trafficked from Jharkhand belong to Oraon, Munda, Santhal (including endangered Pahariya) and Gond tribes, out of which, maximum are from Oraon and Munda. The others are sold in marriage or to a brothel where they suffer never-ending abuse in all forms¹¹

(https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_622812.pdf)

⁹ More than Brides Alliance: A Baseline by non-profits Population Council, Save The Children and Oxfam (2017)

¹⁰ Survey by Martha Farrell Foundation in collaboration with PRIA, 2018

¹¹ Afkar Ahmad, Trafficking: A mockery to Women Empowerment, Jharkhand Journal of Development and Management Studies XISS, Ranchi, Vol. 16, No.2, June 2018, pp. 7757-7772

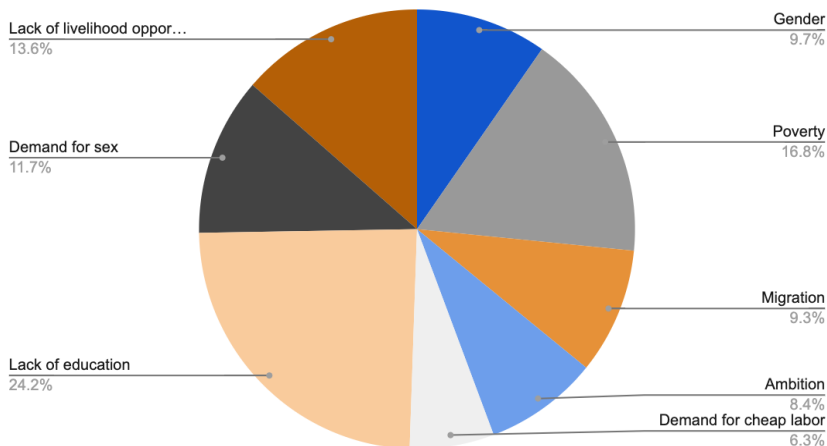
Perceptions on - Reasons for trafficking in Jharkhand

This section highlights what community members think are the primary reasons of people being trafficked from Jharkhand to other parts of the country and beyond

Jharkhand is believed to be the source area for trafficking, as per the community members trafficking of persons happen in Jharkhand as most of the victims or their family members are uneducated, they are not aware of their rights and have least understanding that they may be exploited. Further due to extreme poverty in this region, people are compelled to migrate to the states in search of livelihood opportunities. There have been several instances when girls and boys have been promised better job opportunities in different parts of the country, however, once they reached the destination, they were sold off for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labour.

Gender bias also came out to be a major factor for trafficking (discussed in detail in the next section), migration, ambition and demand of cheap laborers were few other important factors for trafficking of persons from Jharkhand.

Reasons for human trafficking in Jharkhand



Role of Gender in Trafficking - Does the Community feel only women and Girls are Trafficked?

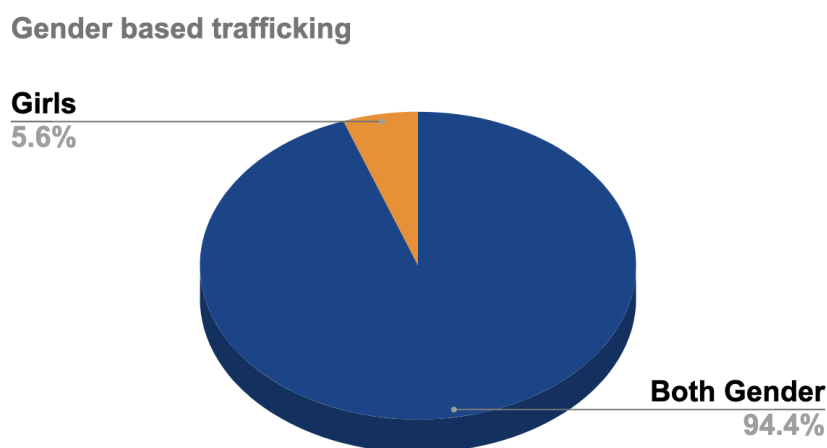
In this section we shall see, if the community members of Jharkhand are of the opinion that gender of a person plays a vital role in trafficking of persons especially from the state.

According to a recent survey by the World Bank, 86% of the unmarried girls of Jharkhand want to complete education and work after marriage. Nearly half of them desire to attend university but

reality belies their expectations as 62% of the young women between 16 and 24 are not engaged in any form of education, training or employment¹².

Infact, it was observed in the previous section that one of the major reasons for trafficking is gender bias.

As per the community members (94.4%) are of the opinion both men and women are trafficked from the state.



However, this does not indicate the percentage of trafficking based on gender.

When we closely look into the purpose of trafficking from Jharkhand we notice that the top 3 purpose of trafficking from Jharkhand are – **Domestic Servitude, Bonded Labour and Child Marriage** of these 3 purposes, women and girl child are the major victims of domestic servitude and child marriage.

As per news reports it has also come to notice that women from Jharkhand are being trafficked for surrogacy to deliver babies¹³

¹² Morton,Matthew H.; Bhattacharya,Shrayana; Kumar,Pravesh.2018.

A Window of Opportunity : A Diagnostic of Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Jharkhand, India (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/866381523450216235/A-Window-of-Opportunity-A-Diagnostic-of-Adolescent-Girls-and-Young-Women-s-Socio-Economic-Empowerment-in-Jharkhand-India>

¹³ Roy S,2015 Trafficked Tribal Girls forced to conceive, deliver babies for sale

The above represented diagram only indicates the awareness among community members on the fact that both boys and girls are trafficked from the region. It in no way indicates the percentage of trafficking of each or either gender.

The community perception and identification of Trafficking of Children

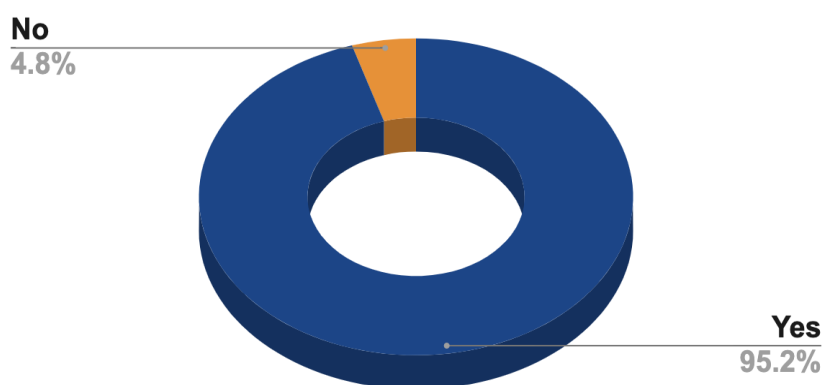
In this section we shall understand how safe children, the future of the state is from the perspective of human trafficking.

As per the understanding obtained from community member trafficking of children is extremely high in the state, children are trafficked from the state for various purposes like domestic servitude, child labour, child marriage etc.

The National Crime Report Bureau,¹⁴ has also stated that in 'every fourth day a child trafficked is from Jharkhand' and that may be just the tip of the iceberg, the actual count of trafficked children could be much higher.

As per news reports, an accused named Panna Lal Mahato was arrested by Khunti Police. Panna Lal is accused of selling at least 5,000 children from Jharhand, mostly tribal girls, to employers in New Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. The Dy. SP Khunti, who led the operation to arrest Panna Lal verified the same.

Child Trafficking is Common In Jharkhand



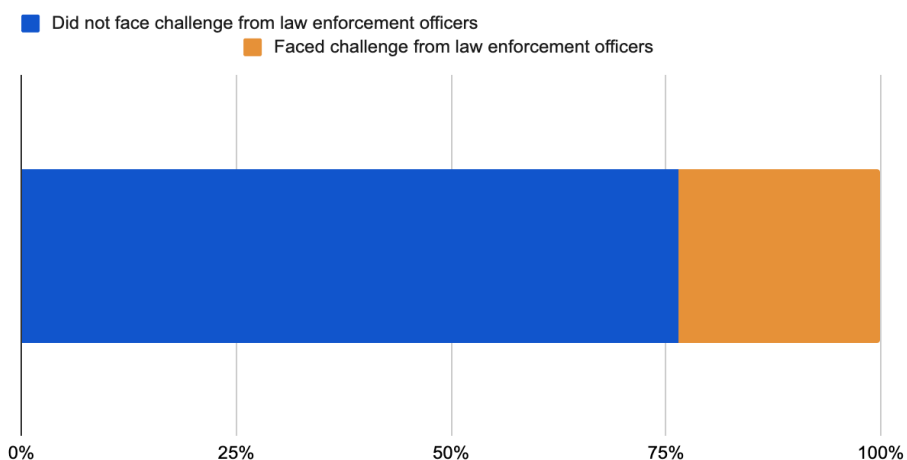
¹⁴ 2016

What are the Challenges community members face while working with the law enforcement authorities?

As discussed earlier in this paper that it is extremely important for the community members to receive cooperation and vice versa to fight the menace of human trafficking from the state, this section devles into this aspect to understand the synergy existing between the law enforcement officers and community members

Based on the responses from community members who dealt with cases of human trafficking, 76.4% of them did not face any challenge while working with law enforcement authorities while 23.60% of them did face challenge while working with law enforcement authorities. Here it must also be noted 4% of the members who did not deal with cases of human trafficking did face challenge while working with law enforcement authorities while they dealt with other forms of crime. According to the community members there have been instances where they felt threatened by law enforcement officers, some also reported to have been harassed by such officers, while few have faced challenges while reporting the crime. Challenges while registering for an F.I.R. also appeared to be a pertinent challenge, it was reported that wrongs provisions were added in the F.I.R. which made the case weak and poor investigation done by the law enforcement officers caused absolute damage to the case. Few community members also reported that there have been delays in prosecution which defeated the purpose of justice.

Cooperation from Law Enforcement Officers



From the above it is quite clear that in majority of the times law enforcement authorities have been cooperative with members of community especially when dealing with cases of human trafficking. However, some factors have been noticed on the ground of under reporting of the crime.

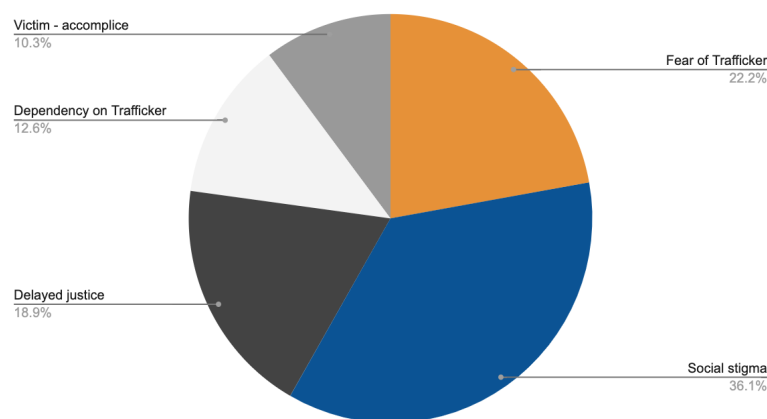
Non-reporting of crimes by community members - What are the reasons?

In this section we discuss some very crucial reasons as to why community members are not -reporting crimes before the law enforcement authorities.

According to the community members one of the major reasons why crimes are not reported to the law enforcement authorities is because of social stigma. The fear of non-acceptability in a community plays a major role to prevent a victim from reporting the crime. The second most crucial factor why victims are reluctant to report the crime is the fear of traffickers to harm them , their family members etc. Delayed justice has also appeared to be a crucial factor why victims of trafficking are reluctant to report the crime. The Supreme Court in the case of *Vishal Jeet v. Union of India, (1990) 3 SCC 318*, had specifically mentioned the need for appropriate and speedy trial. Decades have passed since the judgement was pronounced yet several cases of human trafficking are pending before the courts.

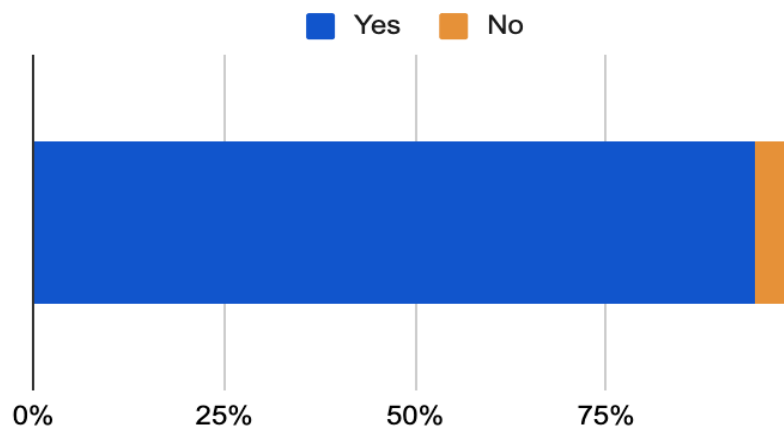
According to the members of the community, the other two major factors, why victims are reluctant to report the crime is because some feel that victims become dependent on traffickers while others are of the opinion that victims become accomplices to the crime. There is a high possibility of some form of dependency or affection that a victim may develop towards their abuser, this condition is known as Stockholm syndrome, apart from this there may be some form of financial or other form of dependency. threatening or coercion.

Why are victims reluctant to report the crime?



Community and need for an app for awareness and response on Human Trafficking - and how will this help?

While 100% of the law enforcement officers interviewed felt that an app containing information on human trafficking will be extremely useful. 94.48% community members felt the need to have an app to help them understand human trafficking better, for them to take adequate steps to prevent the crime, protect the victims and community and prosecute the offenders. The remaining (5.52%) community members who were of the opinion that such app will not be useful, felt so as the app will be technology driven, they do not have adequate device to access them, further they felt there will be difficulty in understanding and comprehending the content in the app as many people in the community are not educated.



What do the stake-holders want in the app for human trafficking awareness and response?

The law enforcement authority was of the opinion that having the following information in the app will be useful

1. Understanding the issue of human trafficking
2. Understanding the relevant laws that could be used in a human trafficking case
3. Understanding the role of law enforcement in human trafficking cases
4. Methods for identifying cases of human trafficking
5. Methods for investigating cases of human trafficking
6. Understanding the role of prosecutors in human trafficking cases
7. Understanding what rights victims of Human trafficking have in India

8. Methods for interviewing human trafficking victims

9. Understanding how law enforcement should respond to victim's mental health and their ability to cooperate with law enforcement investigating and prosecuting case

It was also suggested by an officer that, if this app can work as a dashboard where all the case reports can be managed and the reported cases can be tracked and assigned to get a better understanding of the stage the cases are at.

The community members were of the opinion that the app will be useful for them if information like the following would be available:

1. Basic Understanding of Human Trafficking

2. Identifiers of Human trafficking

3. Steps that can be taken by community members to prevent human trafficking

4. Legal, procedural steps to report a crime

5. Rights that can be availed by victims

6. Forms and formats

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the above study the primary challenge that was observed in the region was lack of employment opportunities for which people often migrate to other states or look for opportunities to move to bigger cities for livelihood opportunities. Traffickers are aware of these challenges and take full opportunity to exploit the situation and this leads to trafficking.

Due to dire financial need and lack of education the natives often do not explore the idea - what it may lead to if a person migrates to another state without any security, or that a small amount of money received from traffickers today may cost the person his/ her life or the life of any near and dear one.

This very specific reason also is a crucial factor for child trafficking from the state, often children are sent away with people (often known) who promise the family a monthly amount, it is only when this monthly amount stops coming in they realise that they have been cheated. These traffickers rarely are convicted as they often use the power to manipulate witnesses.

Delayed reporting of crime also originates from the point that people do not report the crime unless there is least hope for a redressal.

The other crucial challenges witnessed through this study is lack of respect toward women especially in rural areas. Practices like witch hunting, child marriage are absolutely un-acceptable in this era.

The state government through its consistent effort is trying to make these types of offences a rarity. Initiatives like Baldlav Manch, Kasturba school and Eklavya school are extremely promising. Initiatives by the Central Government – Railway Police, like ‘Nanhe Farishte’ are quite brilliant and effective ways to combat the crime. The joint effort of child vulnerability mapping by Khunti Police and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, to help vulnerable children out of difficult situations by mapping vulnerable children with various schemes is quite commendable.

Recommendations

- 1. Amplify knowledge and synergy among law enforcement officers:** While each of the stakeholders is doing their best in their own way, a synergy needs to be developed among all stakeholders to address the crime holistically. The knowledge about the crime has to be clear and updated in order to take adequate actions. A constant dialogue of all law enforcement officials - Police, DLSA, CWC, Judiciary, will enable easy response and better redressal.
- 2. Increase representation of women in police :** It is extremely important that efforts be made to increase representation of women in the police force as, in most of the operations of anti-human trafficking representation of women is mandatory as girls are often involved in such cases. This initiative shall also be able to empower women in general, thereby improving the status of women in the community.
- 3. Improve availability of Government facilities:** It is extremely important that facilities like government shelter homes be available across districts so that law enforcement authorities can take adequate measures while conducting their duties. Inclusion and management of one-stop centre models by civil society. Enabling the establishment and running of these centres
- 4. Develop strong cooperation between law enforcement and community members:** Close co-operation between the law enforcement and community members from an early stage is absolutely essential. In order to achieve this law enforcement officers may need to put in that extra effort to gain the trust of the locals. Support may be required from the Central government especially in areas that are disturbed by Naxal movements.

5. **Build strong co-operation between source and destination states:** Close cooperation with law enforcement officers from states (Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat) where often people from Jharkhand are trafficked appears to be extremely essential so that a strong check can be kept at both ends, the source, and destination. Across the state exchange and learning programs, based on case study.
6. **Allotment of Special funds for law enforcement departments:** Government must also ensure and keep aside special funds for rescue operations which need immediate attention, so that unnecessary delay can be avoided and more successful results can be generated.
7. **Develop opportunities for Skill Development and Employment:** New employment opportunities must be explored by the state government within districts for skilling the natives with adequate and available resources. This may prevent the natives from looking for livelihood beyond their native place. Such opportunities must be promising and must have growth opportunities so that nothing else can lure them off. Moreover if there is aspiration led migration, there is enough support provided by the government, civil society, and industry/ employers.
8. **Check on Private Placement Agencies:** A serious check needs to be made on private placement agencies, so that unauthorized private placement agencies stop exploiting human lives. Policies , guidelines, laws must be formulated to check and regulate the operation of private placement agencies.
9. **Develop understanding on cyber-crime and ways to combat:** Cybercrime is on a rise and is become a major global problem, thus, knowledge on cyber-crimes need to be included in the training programs and app for law enforcement officers, so that they are well acquainted with taking appropriate step when a cyber-crime is reported or should be reported.