

# Girls Trafficking for Sex Trade from Nepal

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## **Abstract:**

An estimated number of 5000 girls are trafficked and sold every year from Nepal to other countries for flesh trade, which spread out over 10 thousands brothels there in operation. Nepali sex workers who account for about 40% of the neighbors countries' (especially in India only) total sex workers. The high demand of the Nepali girls are due to the Nepali girls having fair skin and charming Mongolian feature which is preferred to their dark skinned counterparts. Various devises and pretentious are used by the agents in persuading the simple village girls giving allurement and expectation of happy life, full of pleasure and excitement and under the influence of which these girls follow them to other countries to be sold in various brothels. Tired of the discriminatory treatment given to girls by the parents and burdened under the incessant workload of farm and household together with the hardship of poverty in which no nice and adequate food and clothing are available to them it becomes quite easy for the agents (pimps) to sell them the expectation of better and enjoyable life, lucrative jobs, even the hope to be cine heroine.

The male family and relatives of the girls subsequently travel all the way to this country every 2-3 years to collect the girls' earnings. In the beginning, in spite of the girls' earnings amount to around Rs.10,000 a night she actually receives nominal amount from the brothel keepers. Excuses for the exploitation are made that the amount of loan which were used in their purchases had to be paid back etc. So often those from the families who go to collect the money from them but could not get it, they often get tussle and friction between them.

**Conclusion:** From what has been discussed above, the impact and magnitude of the spread of sex slave is enormous and posses a great challenge for a small country like Nepal where majority of the people is extremely poor, illiterate and ignorant. The socio economic conditions of the people in general particularly belonging to the urban areas indicate that the sex slave is certain to increase progressively in the days to come. Also the impact of increasing trend of urbanization, transmigration and intra-migration of the people may make the situation more dangerous.

If the government does not become firmly committed in it, more and more INGOs and NGOs do not come out with more and more resources and dedication in concerted manner, it is not impossible that the number of the victims should increased.

## **Background**

An estimated number of 5000 girls are trafficked and sold every year from Nepal to other countries for flesh trade, which spread out over 10 thousands brothels there in operation. Nepali sex workers who account for about 40% of the neighbors countries' (especially in India only) total sex workers. The high demand of the Nepali girls are due to the Nepali girls having fair skin and charming Mongolian feature which is preferred to their dark skinned counterparts. Various devises and pretentious are used by the agents in persuading the simple village girls giving allurement and expectation of happy life, full of pleasure and excitement and under the influence of which these girls follow them to other countries to be sold in various brothels. Tired of the discriminatory treatment given to girls by the parents and burdened under the

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Various devises and pretentions are used by the agents in persuading the simple village girls giving allurement and expectation of happy life, full of pleasure and excitement and under the influence of which these girls follow them to Bombay to be sold in various brothels. Tired of the discriminatory treatment given to girls by the parents and burdened under the incessant workload of farm and household together with the hardship of poverty in which no nice and adequate food and clothing are available to them it becomes quite easy for the agents (pimps) to sell them the expectation of better and enjoyable life, lucrative jobs, even the hope to be cine heroine.

Some of the girls are assured of getting married in India, other get married in order to get them seduced. But when they get landed in Bombay and the girls find themselves sold and purchased and brought to Kamathipura, it get already too late to escape from there. Such girls are tortured into submission and locked into the room poorly feed and forced to entertain 20-30 customers every day. How long they could withstand that inhuman treatment done to them. However, sooner or later they gradually used to the trade.

Another scenario, which gives us, a picture is different from what has been mentioned above. Once they are accustomed in the sex trade they feel comfortable and enjoy life with more income, a part of which is taken away by their families back home to lessen the hardship of poverty and enhance their prestige in their village localities by paying off their debts, replacing the thatched roofs by the corrugated sheet and many other improvements in their life. These short of things are limited to a particular district like Sindhupalchok and some other districts. This kind of change has a demonstration effect on the people in the neighborhood who also make up their mind to send their girls to Bombay for a 'trade'. The families without girl wish to have the births of girl child.

The male family and relatives of the girls subsequently travel all the way to Bombay every 2-3 years to collect the girls' earnings. In the beginning, in spite of the girls' earnings amount to around Rs.10, 000 a night she actually receives nominal amount from the brothel keepers. Excuses for the exploitation are made that the amount of loan which were used in their purchases had to be paid back etc. So often those from the families who go to collect the money from them but could not get it, they often get tussle and friction between them.

In the Bombay's sex trade 47% of the prostitute are reported to have HIV positive. So we can easily take for granted that the same percentage of infection could be applied in case of Nepali sex workers. However 30-40% of them can safely be estimated to have infected. As soon as HIV/AIDS are identified in whom so ever of them, they are instantly forced to go back to Nepal and many a time they are left helpless at the Nepal-India border. If they wish to visit village homes they are generally not accepted back in the family for the reasons (i) that a girl once leaves home and stays away without the knowledge of the family for the four nights the society considers her as unacceptable back in the family, and (ii). They are generally suspected to have been infected with HIV/AIDS and take it for granted that her return justifies the same.

In such a situation she has no other option left with her other than going to some other towns and starts the sex trade so that they can make a living to survive before disease topples then down to deplorable death.

There are other sex workers unaware and unidentified that they have infection usually visit their village homes once in a few years while working in India to meet their families. Although how many of them have infection is not known, so they are comfortable in the village. Some of them return to Bombay to their usual brothels, other starts their own brothel in Bombay leading to the increase of demand of new and fresh girls from Nepal. Some other returns home and stay permanently. A few of them might get married to start a 'respected' social life.

Now assuming that 47% of those Nepali Sex workers have HIV positive and 10% of 50,000 thousand total Nepali sex workers (the lowest figure to come closer to reality) i.e. 5 thousand visit Nepal once in a few years. If 47% of them are infected with HIV/AIDS the number of the infected once comes to around 2350. So even if 25% of those girls choose to permanently settle down in Nepal and carry on their sex trade in one or other town and localities, the magnitude of transmission to their clients is obvious. Similarly any number of these girls, who get married, brings about the same disastrous impact on the spouses and their kids.

From what has been discussed above, the impact and magnitude of the spread of sex slave is enormous and poses a great challenge for a small country like Nepal where majority of the people is extremely poor, illiterate and ignorant. The socio economic conditions of the people in general particularly belonging to the urban areas indicate that the sex slave is certain to increase progressively in the days to come. Also the impact of increasing trend of urbanization, transmigration and intra-migration of the people may make the situation more dangerous.

If the government does not become firmly committed in it, more and more INGOs and NGOs do not come out with more and more resources and dedication in concerted manner, it is not impossible that the number of the victims should increased.

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