

2014

STOP Trafficking And
Oppression of Children
& Women

Research Unit

[STOP ANNUAL REPORT 2014]

The present report aims to provide a detailed overview of the principal programmes, projects and activities developed by STOP from 1st January to the 31st of December 2014.

President's letter

Dear Friends

Another year has passed with lots of activities, and we are very happy to share our achievements in the year gone by.

STOP has adopted a new community in Tughlakabad, and reached out to a target population of 50,000 in the first year of activity. The community intervention program in Bawana has expanded manifolds in a more inclusive way.

During the past year, the girls at the Aashray Family Home improved their physical and psychological health and became more confident. Many were rehabilitated, progressed in their education, trainings and entrepreneurial initiatives. Some girls are receiving college and University education and pursuing in different arts forms. Similarly, the younger girls attending schools are also doing very well.

The several achievements of the past year would not have been possible without your encouragement, strong handholding and generous support. This is a special opportunity to thank you all:

Mr. Jim Greenbaum, Dr. Regina Vogt-Heerein, Dr. Bernhard Heerein, Mr. Günther Heerein, Dr. Gerlinde Büchinger-Schmid, Mr. Dirk von De Wijngaard, Prof. Miriam Glucksmann, Prof. Mark Harvey, Riitta and Vardan and friends of STOP US team: Sabina Spencer, Indira Maahalingam, Ashira Greenbaum and Andy Katz, Barbara James and Tim Geddes, Lady Mohini K. Noon, Bina Rani, Sylvia Bhatia, Martha Koufos, Maria Solanki, Beverly Brar, Joana Daniel-Wrabetz, Sebnem Akçapar, Nathalie Daalder, Uma Putaduanda, Jessica Hallet from SHOM, DASAI, Australian High Commission, American Embassy, British High Commission, French Embassy, Slovakian Embassy, Bangladesh High Commission, iPartner, Ford Foundation, K. Rao Foundation, Lily Foundation, ANZA, AWA, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and last but not lest the entire STOP team who worked tirelessly throughout the year along with interns and volunteers from around the world, Agrima Goyal, Jyotsana Singh, Suryansh Kumar, Vaibhav, Masud, Naz, Mindy Kay, Vicky Caoutaer, Maisa Girado and Caroliné Rebinder-Lindström.

The year of 2015 has started in a very promising way and we hope to get your participatory support to make our effort in combating trafficking and gender based violence a reality.

With love,

Prof. Roma Debabrata
President, STOP Trafficking and Oppression of Children & Women

Introduction

STOP has, under aegis of RBC Trust, been combating human trafficking and the oppression of children and women in India and trans-border areas such as Bangladesh and Nepal since 1998.

STOP rescues and rehabilitates survivors of human trafficking and various other forms of oppression. STOP also restores and repatriates these survivors to mainstream society and places of origin, offers care and support services, such as a non-judgmental safe place to stay, trauma counseling, psychological and medical support, formal and non-formal education and different vocational trainings.

In collaboration with NGO networks, governments and anti-trafficking coalitions; STOP pursues traffickers and criminals who subject children to bondage and abuse. STOP further advocates for policy and program development in India and across the region to prevent trafficking and oppression of children and women.

Human trafficking is an intricate phenomenon affected by economic, social, and cultural causes including poverty, illiteracy, cheap labor, migration, natural disaster, and social seclusions. STOP combats the root causes of human trafficking and oppression of children and women, while providing vital services to rescued victims.



Introduction

Vision

Complete eradication of human trafficking and violence against children and women through the establishment of an egalitarian society. An egalitarian society reached as the result of political, social, and economic empowerment of children and women.

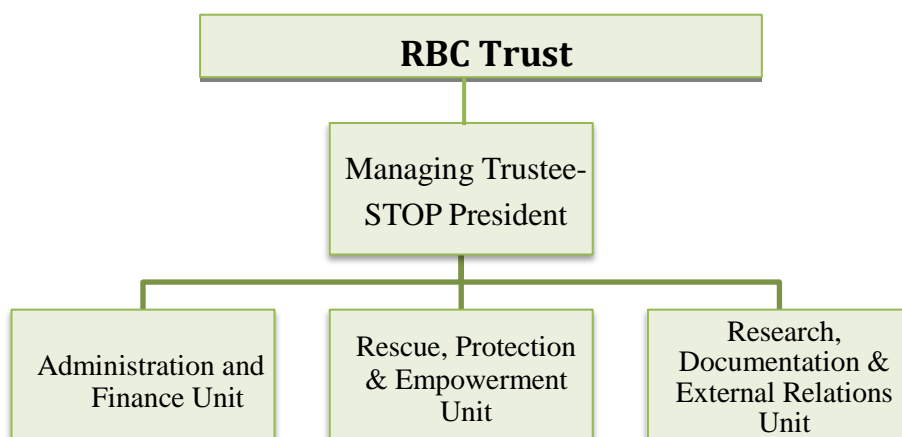
Mission

To support children and women in their personal journey from being a victim of violence to a survivor and ultimately becoming an activist of social change in the combat against human trafficking and oppression of women and children. STOP aims to improve the status and position of these victims by inculcating a sense of personal, professional, and social integrity as well as promoting and guaranteeing their rights and privileges.

Objectives

- Rescue victims of bondage and properly repatriate and restore them into society.
- Provide survivors in need with a safe home and a healthy environment.
- Provide survivors with trauma counseling and comprehensive healthcare coverage.
- Provide legal aid and legal action, as well as advocate for the advancement of laws and policies.
- Provide educational activities, basic medical services, counseling, and legal-aid in crime affected areas with women and children at risk.
- Support and encourage children to gain formal and non-formal education.
- Create women's self-help groups to empower and assist them in gaining employment.

Internal Structure



Activity overview

During the year of **2014, STOP helped 77 victims** from different types of crime: trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, and also many victims of other forms of abuse and neglect, either at the hands of their own family members or strangers.

Despite its focus on women and girls, STOP also helped little boys in need: 97% of the victims were female and 3% of the victims were male.

Regarding the nationality of the victims, besides 60 victims of Indian nationality, STOP helped 10 Bangladeshi and 7 Nepalese.

Case study

Exploited

When Mansi (name changed) was 14 years old she ran away from home after her parents had beaten her. She jumped on a bus that took her to Sagarpara, West Bengal, India. When she reached the station late at night she was approached and offered a place to stay by an unfamiliar woman. During the coming days the woman convinced Mansi she should go to Delhi to earn a lot of money. Mansi picked up on the woman's offer. The woman gave her a mobile phone and paid for her train ticket to Delhi, where she was picked up by the woman's daughter. For three months Mansi was toured around Delhi and spoiled with new clothing and jewelry. After three months the woman and her daughter demanded money, forcing Mansi into prostitution.

Time went by and Mansi fell in love with a man who she had met on the street outside of the brothel in Prahladpur, New Delhi, India. With the hope of getting married, she managed to runaway to her boyfriend's house, but he refused to marry her as she was under aged. She had nowhere to go and accepted an offer by a man she met on the street who had given her a place to stay. He brought her to his house, sexually abused her during that night, and in the morning sold her to a brothel.

Mansi ran around crying and screaming in the hallways of the brothel. An unknown person contacted the police, which resulted in Mansi being rescued and taken under the protection of the Child Welfare Committee, in 2013. She was transferred to STOP's Aashray Family Home on May 19th 2014 where she is staying till this date. Mani is now 18 years old.

The trial of Mansi's case is over. Four people have been arrested and are waiting for the final verdict in judicial custody.

Prevention

STOP is working in high-risk areas such as Bawana and Tughlakabad to decrease the risk of human trafficking and oppression of children and women. The methodology adopted is:

- Community interventions
- Running women's self help groups with educational programs
- Basic medical services
- Counseling
- Legal-aid
- Promoting women's empowerment through different kinds of skill trainings
- Support and encourage children to gain formal and non-formal education

Advocacy

- Conducting campaigns against human trafficking and the oppression of children and women
- Remain in close contact with various government and judicial departments and national and international taskforces working against human trafficking and sexual abuse of children and women

Rescue

- Conduct direct rescue operations from different highly exploitative situations including brothels and other vulnerable communities and places.

“I used to think that life was a long tale of misery. But now I realize that just as dawn comes after night, that's how happiness comes after a long tale of sorrow.”

Survivor at the Aashray Family Home

Rehabilitation

- Provide a safe non-judgmental place to stay
- Trauma counseling
- Medical support
- Legal aid
- Formal education
- Life skills training
- Establish self-help groups
- Encourage economic empowerment of women
- Conduct safe repatriation and restoration, when possible and in the best interest of the survivor.

Prevention

To counter the issue of trafficking and oppression of children and women, STOP has taken several preventative measures in high-risk areas such as Bawana's and Tughlakabad's slum clusters. STOP has conducted community programs pertaining to health, education, economic empowerment and safety. These programs primarily target women, female adolescents and children.

Health Programs

Women in communities below the poverty line are often dependent on their husbands to seek out adequate healthcare. For this reason, STOP has established free health clinics in these communities. The intent is to diminish the risk of medical neglect for these women and children, and increase their access to proper treatment and medical follow-ups. These clinics further organize workshops on sexual and reproductive health, tropical diseases, everyday health, hygiene, STI/UTI (Sexually Transmitted Infections/ Urinary Tract Infection) and immunization.



Bawana, Gynecological camp

Programs	Bawana	Tughlakabad
Free Health Clinic	2 days/ week	5 days/ week
Workshops	3	4
Number of patients treated		
-Internal medicine	388	1900
-Gynecological	65	90
-Eye	127	186
-Acupuncture	48	27
-Ear/Nose/Throat	-	80

Education

In these communities where people are living below the poverty line, adolescent girls are often neglected, without access to proper education and are limited to forced labor.

STOP has established education centers targeting non-enrolled children, children who have withdrawn from school, children in need of remedial classes, and further educational assistance. In addition to formal education these centers provide children with non-formal education in form of creative workshops and fieldtrips. The centers hold quarterly parent-teacher meetings to report on the individual students' progress. This further engages the parents while strengthening the children's progress and potential.

Programs	Bawana	Tughlakabad
Number of students	60	54
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India Gate - Rail Museum - Children Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India Gate - Doll Museum - Children Park - Bal Bhawan



Bawana, Education center

Economic Empowerment

STOP has initiated the development of income generating self-help groups in these below poverty line communities. These groups are of great importance as they serve to assist these women in becoming more independent and self-sufficient. The women in these communities have the opportunity to create employment and start their businesses with interest free loans from self-help groups such as Sanjeevani or Jagriti.

Community Empowerment

STOP has instituted the formation of Mahila Mandal groups in Bawana and Tughlakabad. It is a general body of female community representatives that meet on a monthly basis. They discuss issues related to safe migration, sexual and reproductive health, hygiene, infrastructural and facility problems, and the inadequate safety faced by females. Both communities have high rates of crime; gender based violence, and human trafficking. The initiative to form Mahila Mandal is to raise accountability and respect among the community members while aiming at decreasing the abovementioned safety problems.

As an effort to address the current safety problems, Mahila Mandal in Bawana has created a community vigilante group. This group works closely with the police to combat gender-based violence and conduct rescue operations in brothels and other exposed areas. Due to the success in Bawana a replicable model is being developed in the community of Tughlakabad with the assistance of members from the Bawana community vigilante group.



Aashray Family Home

Advocacy

During the year of 2014 STOP has run various advocacy programs within the governmental and civil sector.

STOP was invited to share its expertise during training sessions concerning human trafficking for senior police officials, judges and prosecutors, and administrative officials in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of these training sessions was to increase awareness and provide effective tools to properly handle cases of human trafficking.

The subjects discussed at these training sessions include:

- How to identify and assist a victim of human trafficking
- The importance of treating a victim of human trafficking as a victim and not a criminal
- The importance of increasing awareness of present human trafficking legislation
- The importance of cooperation between governmental and civil bodies.

As a result of STOP's advocacy, victims of human trafficking are now put in protective custody instead of jail and are treated as affected not as accused.

STOP has also held lectures to increase awareness of human trafficking at AMITY University as well as several NGO's. Furthermore, in below poverty line areas such as Bawana and Tughlaqabad, STOP has organized workshops to increase the awareness of and prevent human trafficking, sexual abuse, and oppression of children and women. STOP has additionally participated in ECPAT global network meetings in France and Nepal and People's SAARC meeting in Nepal.

“I used to feel that I was responsible for the bad things that have happened to me. Now I think that is not true, that it is not my fault and I am ready to explore different kinds of goodness within.”

Survivor at the Aashray Family Home

Rescue

In association with local authorities, STOP rescues children and women from situations of sexual exploitation, conditions of bondage and abuse. STOP's rescue teams conduct these rescue operations. The first team rescue mainly victims from brothels in Delhi or from situations of forced domestic servitude. STOP's second rescue team is conducted by community vigilante groups in Delhi's slum settlements of Bawana and Tughlakabad. These community vigilante groups rescue children and women from situations of domestic violence, sexual assault, forced domestic labour and forced marriage. STOP is further assigned cases from India's Child Welfare Committee, various high commissions, and courts to rehabilitate, restore or repatriate victims. In 2014, STOP rescued 33 victims from situations of abuse and exploitation.

Case study

Stepfather

A few years back Namita (name changed) migrated from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi with her mother, father, and younger brother. The family migrated to Delhi to seek out work and Namita's mother found employment at a nearby factory. As time went by her mother started having an affair with the factory owner, who made regular visits to Namita's house. This created a conflict within both Namita's and the factory owner's family. Namita's father left her mother and moved back to Uttar Pradesh with her brother, leaving Namita behind. The factory owner's wife left him and took their two sons with her.

This newly found predicament enabled Namita's mother and the factory owner to get married. But the relationship wasn't as good and healthy as hoped for. They fought often and as a result Namita's mother committed suicide.

At the age of 11, Namita was left alone with her stepfather who started abusing her sexually, physically and emotionally. The stepfather kept her hostage for two years and threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone about her situation.

One day Namita managed to sneak out of the house while her stepfather was sleeping. She met a woman nearby her house who brought her to the police station. A case was filed and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) took Namita for protection. On August 8th 2014, CWC transferred Namita to STOP's Aashray Family home and ordered the police to take the stepfather in judicial custody.

On August 19th 2014, CWC ordered her restoration and Namita is now living with her biological father in Uttar Pradesh. The case against her stepfather has been dropped for unknown reasons. STOP is now in the process of reopening the case.

Rehabilitation

Children and women whom have experienced exploitive situations and various forms of abuse are generally rejected by society. They often lack self-esteem, education, and the skills they need to live an independent life. To ease their reintegration, STOP provides these survivors with comprehensive support such as a safe place to stay, trauma counseling, medical support, formal education, life skills training, and legal aid as well as establishing self-help groups, encouraging economic empowerment of women, and conducting safe repatriation and restoration.

Case study

Tricked

Anjali (name changed) is a Bangladeshi woman, now at the age of 30. She was married at the age of 15 and had two children by the age of 20.

One day in 2006 Anjali was working by the roadside collecting cow dung when a car stopped by her side. She was informed her husband had an accident and they offered her to take her to the hospital. She got in the car and that is the last thing that she can remember after she gained consciousness in India. It took her some time to figure out that she was in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India. She had been illegally smuggled over the border for the purpose of prostitution.

She managed to contact her husband in Bangladesh. He snubbed her saying that she should stay in India with her boyfriend whom she had run away with. Due to the lack of a support system, she had no choice but to abide by the criminals and was ultimately forced into prostitution.

She was rescued in a police raid in 2010. Instead of receiving help she was put in jail under the charges of crossing the border without a valid passport and participating in unethical business. She was sentenced to three years of imprisonment and a fine of INR. 10,000. She was unable to pay the penalty fee and was therefore imprisoned for five extra months.

On March 4th 2014 Anjali came with a request from the Bangladeshi High Commission, accompanied by three constables from the Indore jail to STOP's Aashray Family Home for future repatriation.

With the help of partner organizations in Bangladesh, STOP is still searching for Anjali's home address in Bangladesh. Anjali will be staying at the Aashray Family home until the repatriation process is completed, as her family is yet to be found.

Aashray Family Home

As part of the rehabilitation process STOP, Aashray Family Home, provides the survivors with a safe place to stay by offering them a nurturing and nonjudgmental environment. It is a place where children and young adults are able to live, breath and aspire according to their age. The home has a capacity of 50 survivors at a time, and survivors can reside at the home until the government orders a change of residence. In 2014, Aashray Family Home supported a total number of 79 girls and women.



Aashray Family Home –Let them bloom, only a little hand holding is needed

Comprehensive Healthcare

A crucial part of the rehabilitation process is for the physical and mental recovery of the survivors. STOP therefore offers a comprehensive healthcare coverage. The Aashray Family Home conducts weekly medical checkups and trauma counseling in addition to gynecological examinations and periodic vaccinations. Further, there is always a full-time in house counselor, two doctors on call, and two survivors at the home who are trained in basic nursing.

Education

After an initial period of trauma counseling, and with the counselor's approval, the newly arrived survivor is given a variety of options regarding formal and non-formal education, as well as life skills training in line with her previous level of education. Formal education is offered through the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the non-formal education is offered through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). STOP further offers life skills training in tailoring, beauty, fashion design, organic farming, cooking, driving, nursing, first Aid, computer skills training, housekeeping, and organic soap making.

In 2014, STOP has provided 20 women and girls at the Aashray Family Home with education, 3 of them attend primary school, 5 of them attend high school, 7 of them attend secondary school, 3 of them attend college, and 2 of them attend vocational education.



Aashray Family Home – *Dare not abuse her, she will strike back*

Legal Assistance

An important step in the survivors' recovery process is to seek justice. To this end, STOP offers survivors crucial legal assistance. STOP assists the survivor in making a case and attending court hearings while also working closely with the police, judiciary, and other state agencies. Furthermore, STOP has established cooperation with a group of activist lawyers whose expertise is of great importance, as they hold workshops at the Aashray Family Home regarding the survivors' legal rights. In 2014, 17 girls and women received legal assistance by STOP.

Future Independence and Economic Empowerment

To increase a survivors' possibility of future independence and economic empowerment STOP has supported two self-help groups established by survivors residing at the Aashray Family Home, Koshish and M/S Thousand Dreams.

Koshish is a food catering business with a capacity of providing food and hospitality services to gatherings of up to 80 people.

In 2014 Koshish catered food to both the Australian and Irish High Commission; private gatherings; STOP workshops in Tughlakabad and Bawana; and sold their food at festivals in Delhi.



Koshish catering service



Thousand Dreams modeling their own Products

M/S Thousand Dreams is a tailoring and handicrafts business working with partners from USA, "Salila Rising", and Germany, "AZADI".

These companies place bulk orders of apparel and handicrafts that are then sold in fair trade shops in the respective countries.

In 2014 the girls of M/S Thousand Dreams produced around 600 products, such as kurtas, trousers, skirts, aprons and napkins.

Restoration and Repatriation

The final step in a survivor's rehabilitation process is restoration or repatriation. STOP has pioneered "the Delhi model of repatriation", based on the experience of repatriating survivors from India to Bangladeshi, Nepal, Azerbaijan and USA additionally from USA and Kenya among other countries to India and Nepal. This model gave origin a protocol, which considers the best interest of the survivor to ensure a safe reintegration with the respective family. STOP not only works with survivors recovered by the organization itself, but is conjointly approached by several other organizations and high commissions to restore and repatriate survivors of exploitation and abuse.

Survivors at the Aashray Family Home are, after a home verification and counseling, restored or repatriated with their consent. In case a survivor is reluctant to be restored or repatriated, a long-term rehabilitation plan is devised and agreed upon. Such reluctance might occur due to fear of stigma, or in case the perpetrators are members of the family, or someone close to the family. In 2014, STOP restored 35 girls and women in India and repatriated 12 girls and women to Nepal and Bangladesh.

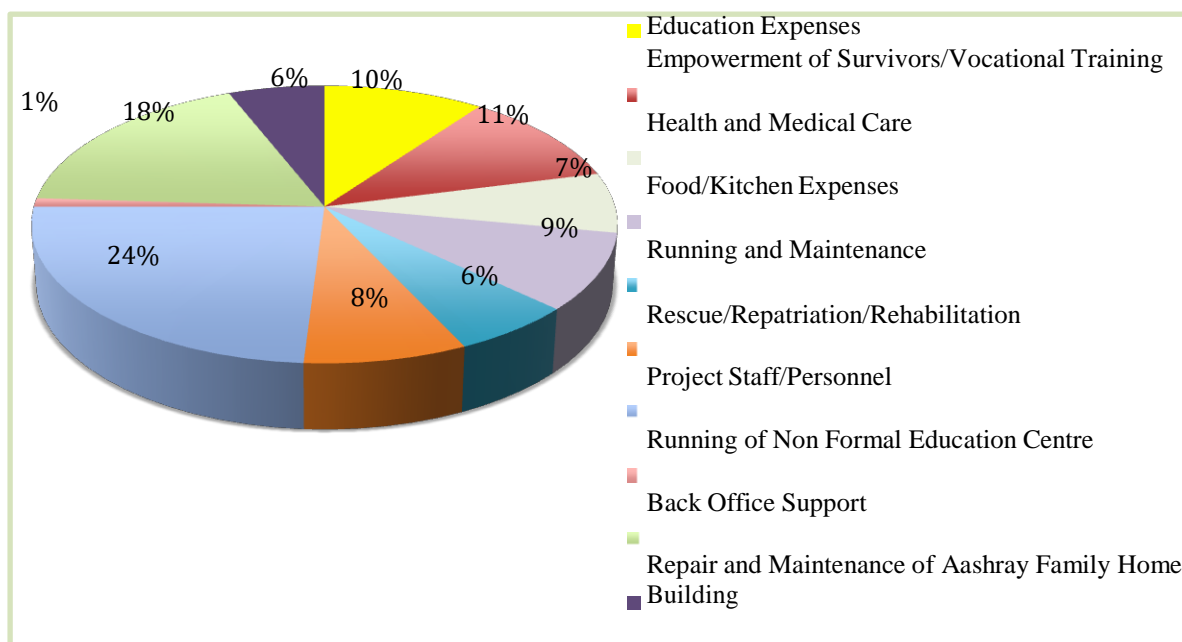
During the year of 2014, STOP has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the survivors at the Aashray Family Home, and at the same time been rescuing girls and women from situations of abuse, exploitation and oppression.

Projects and Expenses

All the work developed by STOP was only possible thanks to the generosity of our several donors. Thanks to them, we were not only able to rescue and provide all the care and support to the victims, but also invest in their education and development of skills necessary to sustain a life out of fear, in dignity and financially independent.

Projects	
-Combating trafficking at its source through community intervention programs	
-Education, health and empowerment of survivors	
-Networking	
-Combating human trafficking at the source in Bawana community, Delhi	
-Education and livelihood training for recovered survivors	
-Rescue and repatriation of survivors	
-Advocacy	
-Education and vocational training of survivors	
-Community based charity work	
-Running and maintenance of the Aashray Family Home	
-Rescue, repatriation or restoration of survivors	
-Education	
-Contingency/Emergency fund	
Total sum of donations	INR. 1,15,99,522
Minimum running costs/year	INR. 70,00,000

Application of Funds



Contact Us

STOP TRAFFICKING AND OPPRESSION IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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