



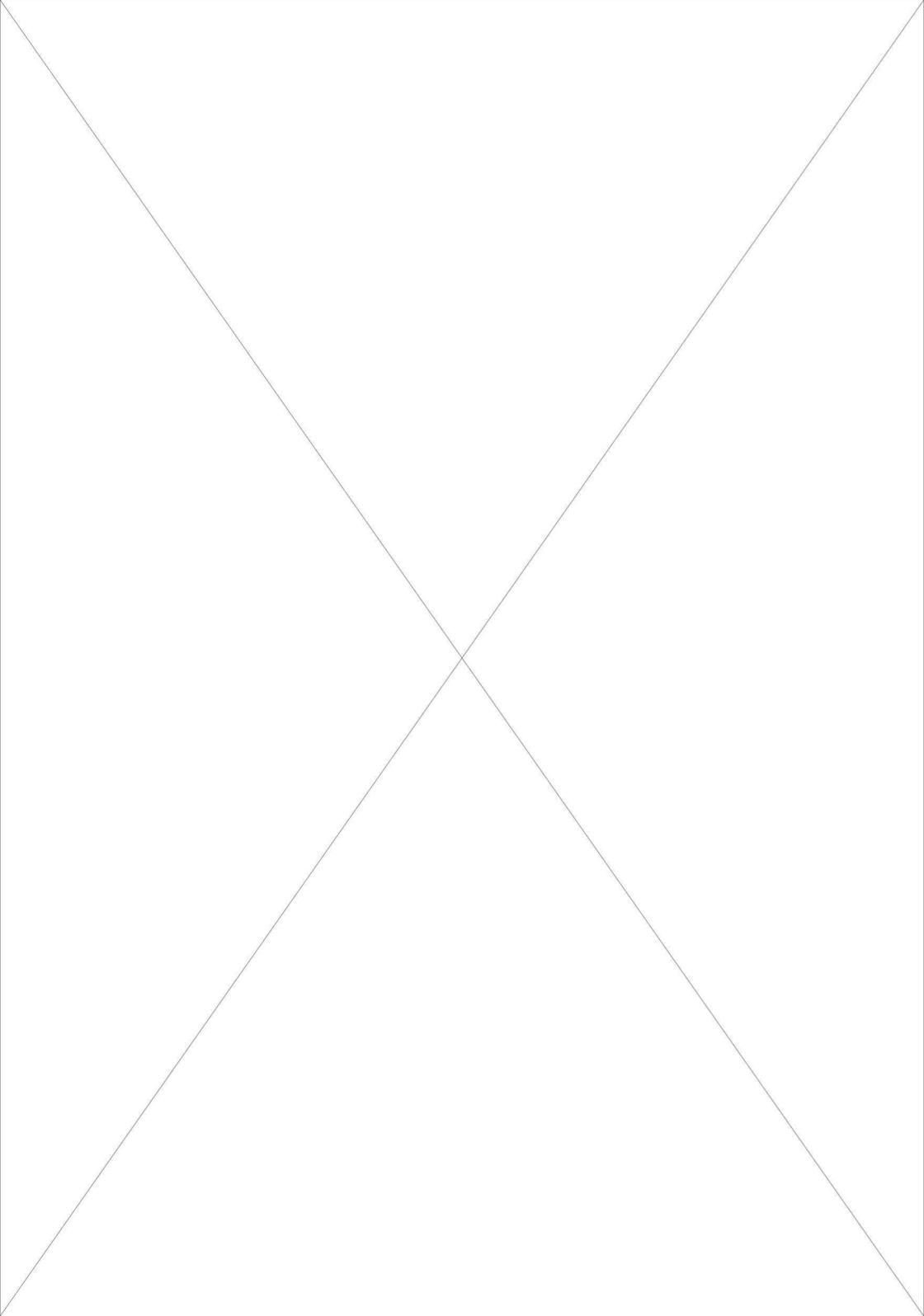
Excerpts From The Book

The police in conjunction with the CWC should ask why minor girls and their relatives from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are staying in Nagpur, Maharashtra. When their daughters go missing, do the families file missing person's reports? Are they somehow profiting from the business?

There needs to be better communication between all the parties about minor victims of trafficking. Their care and protection demands the involvement of the whole community and can only be accomplished when all the agencies work together.



Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor Girls in Ganga Jamuna, Nagpur



Introduction	3
Rescue	4
Ganga Jamuna, Nagpur	
Law and Order	
Rehabilitation and Reintegration	9
Origins of the victims	
Psychological impact on the victims	
Efforts underway for rehabilitation	
Obstacles to rehabilitation and reintegration	
Justice	15
Criminal Cases	
Custody Applications	
Public Interest Litigation	
Case Studies	19
Savita	
Pooja	
Sujata	
Preeti	
Geeta	
Summary and Key Findings	24
Rescue	
Rehabilitation and Reintegration	
Justice	

CONTENTS

Introduction

The findings presented in this report are based on the experiences and observations of Freedom Firm social workers in Nagpur, Maharashtra from September 2010 – May 2014.



Freedom Firm (mission statement) is a registered trust which serves minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation through rescue, restoration and justice in the hopes that minors should not be forced into the prostitution business. Towards this end, Freedom Firm advocates before the police, social welfare agencies, and the courts for effective implementation of the (IPC) Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, the Juvenile Justice Act and relevant State and National protocols on the protection of children and victims of trafficking.

Rescue

Ganga Jamuna, Nagpur

Freedom Firm began work in the city of Nagpur, Maharashtra in October 2010 by providing information to the Crime Branch Police about one minor girl in the Ganga



Jamuna red light area. Since then, Freedom Firm has provided information to the Lakad Ganj Police Station and Crime Branch Police on twenty (20) occasions resulting in one hundred (100) girls taken into protective custody. Out of one hundred (100) girls, fifty five (55) were minors, or fifty five percent (55%). Out of that amount, thirty two (32) were children (below 16 years), or thirty two (32%).

Ganga Jamuna is located near Itwari in Nagpur, Maharashtra and is infamous for being the city's red-light area. It gets its name from two dancers, Ganga and Jamuna, who were brought here, possibly from Pune.¹

¹ Times of India, 12 December 2010.

Ganga Jamuna may be just as old as Nagpur; around 300 years old.² “Some people say many dancers used to be summoned by the city’s elite families to perform their traditional art forms. Some of the dancers stayed back in the city. But, because they weren’t always looked at respectfully, they were settled in what came to be known as Ganga Jamuna since the area was considered to be on the outskirts of the city. By and by, it gained infamy as more and more commercial sex workers started settling here.”³ Today, the prostitution business continues.

Survey of the locality reveals mostly simple buildings of 1-4 stories set in a residential area. The inner roads can be passed by bike or car. Some of the lanes are met with steps preventing vehicle travel. These lanes are quite small passages. Many of the buildings contain separate doors for each home. Each home consists of one or a few small rooms. The rooms used for prostitution business contain a bed, dustbin and dim lighting. Bollywood posters are on the walls. It is rumoured, though unconfirmed, that some rooms contain hiding places and escape routes. Though the buildings are generally simple concrete structures, they will often have strong reinforced steel doors with secure pull-bar locking systems which can be locked from both the inside and the outside. Some homes have a second door of wood immediately following the metal door. During raids, these doors can be locked from one of the two sides which delays rescue and also allows time for escape.

Girls, pimps, brothel managers and others involved in the business stand out in the lanes or gather at various points. Customers roam through the area looking at girls or stand out on the main road until they are ready to enter. Payment for a girl is usually paid directly to her, even if a minor. A girl will then lead the customer to a room where he will wait inside while the girl returns outside; to deliver the money to the brothel manager. A brothel manager will operate one or more rooms on rent and control one or more girls who she collects money from.

Law and Order

Much has been written over the past five years about the issue of minors in prostitution in Ganga Jamuna. The number of prostitutes and their ages has never been officially counted. Perusal of the newspaper articles reveals that much effort has been undertaken by the police though to reduce the crime committed, especially the use of minor girls for sex.

Year after year, minor girls are rescued from Ganga Jamuna; as in the case of a

²Id.

³Id.

16 year old from Gondia, Maharashtra in 2007.⁴ In 2009, the police developed a Ganga Jamuna raid pathak (squad) consisting of a lady Sub-Inspector, lady Constables, and male colleagues.⁵

*“Four times a day minimum with a gap of two hours and nonstop everyday,” said Supare who claimed the scheme has already started yielding results. Supare added that city police chief Praveen Dixit has been a motivating factor in dealing with the problems of Ganga Jamuna. “This special squad goes to Ganga Jamuna for patrolling. We round up women, customers and others loitering aimlessly at a random. We bring them to police station. They are questioned about their antecedents which are then verified. We deal with the customers and women in different ways. Customers are checked to ascertain whether they have any criminal background. On the other hand, women are counselled,” said Supare who added that cops are keeping a watch near the Itwari railway station too.*⁶

Though Ganga Jamuna has drawn much attention and efforts have always existed to curb the influx of minors, the red light area has yet to see permanent change. An article in 2011 quoted local residents who were frustrated with the methods of the local police to police the area.



Nagpur Court

⁴Times of India, 31 August 2007.

⁵Times of India, 17 August 2009.

⁶Id.



The efforts of the police can only bear fruit if it is followed by strong legal action and effective rehabilitation of the girls

“Senior officers should take interest in the working of the Ganga Jamuna chowky. The group rivalry among cops is leading to victimizing of local youths. Some youths want to help cops but are now on the run after being threatened by others to remain away when they are raiding. The cops wanted us not to raise voice when they accept money to allow the minors to continue in the flesh trade,” said another resident.⁷ Social worker Nutan Rewatkar has been working hard to fight corruption in Ganga Jamuna police outpost and also to rescue minors. She too said that senior officers need to pay attention here. “DCP Kishor Jadhav had been helping us eliminate corrupt practices but a handful of lower rank personnel are letting down the entire system,” she said.⁸

Freedom Firm has spent time observing the Ganga Jamuna red light area and has witnessed the efforts of the police to patrol. Often, the police will roam in the area wearing plain clothes. The team has observed the police catching unsuspecting customers and taking them to the police station for questioning. Intense patrolling and screening of the area has been shown to produce positive effects by discouraging customers from visiting those places. The red light area is a business and reducing the demand will surely impact the trade.

Since at least June 2012, local police have increased the rate of patrolling the Ganga Jamuna and Itwara area. This heavy patrolling has reduced the number of customers present in the lanes. It has also resulted in an increase in looting by the girls and area people in an attempt to maintain income. However, the number of minor girls has not decreased. Our team reports that minors stand openly in the alleys and in front of the doors visible to all customers.

Police intervention and rescue of minor girls is a necessary first step to curbing the flesh trade of minor girls. However, such action alone will not suffice. The efforts of the police can only bear fruit if it is followed by strong legal action and effective rehabilitation of the girls.

⁷ Times of India, 25 March 2011.

⁸ Id.

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Origins of the victims

On a raid in Nagpur you quickly realize that girls here are very different from the girls in the brothels in Mumbai or Pune. No resistance. Once their rooms are broken



recognized as scheduled caste. These communities have long histories participating in the prostitution business either by directly operating or by selling their daughters to agents for prostitution. The sale of a daughter could be a permanent sale, on a contract basis, or by commission to receive regular monthly income.

In such communities, the birth of a girl child calls for grand celebrations as a girl is a certain source of income. Families bemoan their fate if they have only boys in the family. In this situation families are known to have bought girls from neighbouring states like Bihar and Rajasthan where a girl child is put up for auction and can fetch a good price. Girls in the family are raised to be prostitutes. After puberty there is an official ceremony that inducts the girl into prostitution. The fair skinned girls find themselves pimped and sold into dance bars and brothels of Nagpur, Mumbai and Delhi whereas girls with dark complexion will be prostituted within the city. Male members in the family are not required to be employed. Their main 'occupation' is pimping and escorting girls to wherever there is a demand. The men marry from out of the village and the community and their wives are not prostituted. The wives of the men are responsible for looking after the cattle, the household chores and the farm. They have absolutely no say in family matters and are treated as third class citizens. The prostituted daughter or sister however, as main bread winner, enjoys a certain position in the family and is exempted from any labour, though with little possibility of getting married. With a monthly income going up to several thousands of rupees, these women enjoy lavish lifestyles. Young children are enamoured with the lavish lifestyle of the prostitute and aspire to be like them, which is then seen as her consent to become a prostitute.

Psychological impact on the victims

As families from Beida, Nath and Kanchar communities are known to sell their daughters at a young age, some girls rescued from Ganga Jamuna grow up not knowing their actual parents but calling another woman their mother. When these girls are rescued, there is confusion as they name individuals as their parents who only raised them but are not actually their birth parents. These fake parents may even be able to produce government issued identity cards to show that they are the parents. In one case, four girls were rescued who all claimed to have the same mother but denied that they were sisters.

into, they will quietly come along with the police. Their statements are almost identical. They claim that they are here freely; they have been in the business for a couple of years now; they buy monthly ration for the family; they have never been to school; and they come from Badnapura, Reshampura, Agra or Morena.

Following the rescue of minor girls from Ganga Jamuna, social workers conduct home visits to the home addresses given by the rescued girls. The majority of the girls claim to be from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, girls have come from Badnapur, Reshampura and villages in the Gwalior District.

Upon visiting these places, the social workers learned more about the girls' situations and confirmed the status of the girls and the community from which they originate. All of the victims from the Bedia, Nath and Kanchar communities have been

Minor girls found in the Ganga Jamuna red light area exhibit the strong effects of these cultural coercions. Girls who are sold at a young age and grow up in the red light area develop a comfort with the lifestyle of the red light and are inculcated and brainwashed into that mindset. Our social workers have found that younger girls are less responsive to counselling than older girls. Girls below sixteen (16) years tend to be more psychologically confused after rescue. They struggle to cope with the trauma of habitual rape. They are not able to understand what is happening to them and tend to cope by accepting their situation as normal. They boldly say they want to return to this business. However, this is done out of submission and conformity to their parents and prevalent cultural norms. When they meet with the probation officer and social workers in the shelter home, they refuse to talk, are dishonest, or are in denial. They may blame themselves for getting “arrested” thereby causing great inconvenience and distress to their families.

Efforts underway for rehabilitation



Efforts are being made by the staff of the government shelter home in Nagpur as well as non government agencies to impart some level of education, training and recreational activities to the rescued girls.

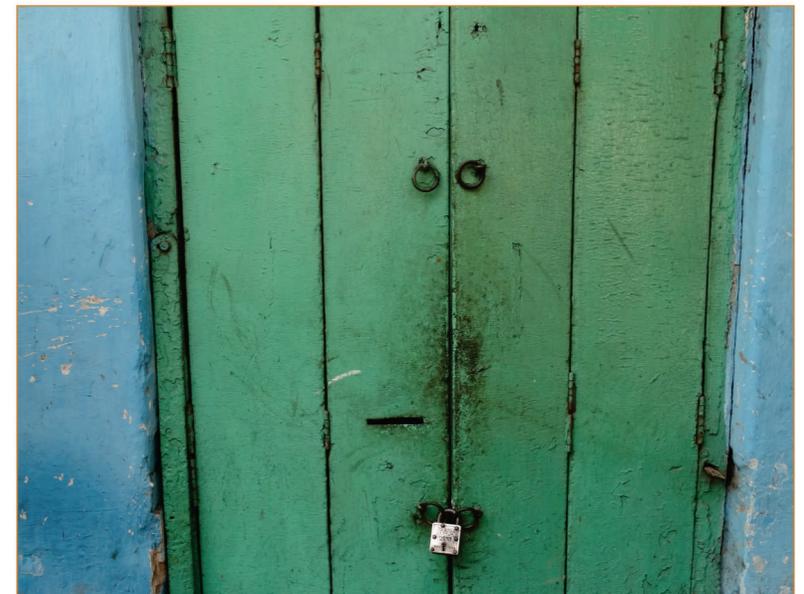
There is a government employed teacher who comes on weekdays to give basic elementary lessons. Many of these girls have never been to school. It is a big achievement for them to learn numbers and alphabets as well as spell their names.

A jewelry teacher from Ruhamah Designs gives trainings on jewellery making five days a week.

Freedom Firm conducts recreational activities, counselling and special programs which are educational and stress relieving.

Obstacles to rehabilitation and reintegration

Initiating and sustaining a long term rehabilitation and reintegration strategy has been a major challenge. There are a few reasons for this. First, girls get released prior to completion of their aftercare. From September 2010 until September 2012, seventy one percent (71%) of minor girls have been released from the shelter home before they completed nine (9) months of rehabilitation. The Immoral Prevention Act, Section 17(4) mandates rescued minors in need of care and protection to be sent for rehabilitation in a protective home for a minimum of one (1) year up to three (3) years. However, the chart on the following page demonstrates that this was not the case in practice. From October 2012 until May 2014, the numbers did not improve. During that time, seventy three percent (73%) of minor girls were released before they completed nine (9) months of rehabilitation.



	Rescued Minor Girls			Duration in protective care				Not Released
	1 month	2 months	3-4 months	5-6 months	7-8 months	More than 8 months		
Minors from September 2010 until September 2012	1	1	5	8	7	9	1	
Minors from October 2012 until May 2014	3	3	5	1	1	1	5 (of which, 4 girls completed 9 months and 1 girl rescued January 2014)	

The shortened duration in protective care results in the second barrier to rehabilitation and reintegration. The girls do not want to participate in any of the activities of the protective home, i.e. counselling, education, vocation training, etc., because they believe that they won't be there long enough to pursue other options. The system of releasing rescued girls before they can complete any meaningful rehabilitation scheme instils in the girls a lack of motivation and sincerity to participate in the first place.



On a few occasions, the girls have shared with the staff that they will be leaving soon. This may be based on information they received from their family and often follows visits from relatives. The girls then operate under the mindset that their time in protective care is insignificant. They then pass the time waiting for their release.

The third barrier to rehabilitation and reintegration is that rescued girls are released to their family without completion of a proper home inquiry report. Or, if a report is conducted which reflects negatively on the families capacity to care for the girl, release is still granted based on undertakings of the family. Due to the nature of the communities which these girls originate, they are at high risk to be re-trafficked.

There have been isolated cases of girls who were outside the above mentioned communities finding themselves trapped into the clutches of the red light area. These girls may be ready to return to their families. Often these families have already filed a missing persons report in their home town or the girl takes initiative herself to get rescued. A careful review of the home inquiry report and circumstances of the rescue often reveal if it is safe to return her to the family. However, out of the one hundred (100) girls mentioned in this report, only two (2) girls were successfully reintegrated with their families. It is a rare instance therefore to find a family in these communities capable of providing meaningful care to a rescue girl after release. The family is either immediately involved in the business or the vulnerability of the girl makes protecting her outside a shelter home a challenge.

Freedom Firm conducts recreational activities, counselling and special programs which are educational and stress relieving.

Justice

Criminal Cases

As stated above, of one hundred (100) girls rescued during police raids that Freedom



Firm staff witnessed, thirty two (32) girls were children; below the age of sixteen. According to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, rape occurs “with or without her consent, when she is under sixteen years of age.” Therefore, more than thirty two percent (32%) of these girls have been raped. However, in the fifteen (15) cases registered concerning those thirty two (32) girls, Section 375 has never been charged against any accused. Furthermore, in twenty (20) cases that Freedom Firm has witnessed, sections under the Indian Penal Code have only been applied in three (3) cases. IPC Sections such as 344, 363, 366A, 372, 373, 504, and 34 for common intention should almost always apply. Cases registered under the ITPA are heard in the Magistrates Court and carry

lesser sentences. The power of the Sessions Court will only come to bear if the police apply the applicable IPC sections.

The accused in the twenty (20) cases mentioned above include customers, brothel keepers, building owners, pimps, and relatives of the rescued victims. None of the twenty (20) cases mentioned has reached Judgement in the Magistrates Court therefore the information about how these cases will advance is limited. However, a report released on 28 November 2008 revealed that from 2000-2008 only five (5) out of eighty seven (87) PITA cases filed in the Nagpur court ever came to trial. And there were no convictions.⁹

The State Departments report revealed:

Witnesses are often reluctant to testify often because they are bribed or fear for their safety, making convictions even more difficult to obtain. Sathiaanathan acknowledged pimps often send agents posing as “parents” to post bail for the women so that they can be pressured not to testify or moved to where the court cannot find them. No specific witness protection system exists, but police give protection in very serious crimes.¹⁰

Custody Applications

In addition to criminal proceedings, Freedom Firm has observed applications in the Magistrates Court, Sessions Court, and Child Welfare Committee for custody of the rescued girls. A parallel system has been established and practised for a long time that ensures that girls can be easily handed back to the relatives. However when a girl is released to the relatives, she often ends up back in the red light area. This is because the relatives are often involved in the business or under the control of pimps to regain custody of the girls. It was previously practiced that the relatives could even bypass the Child Welfare Committee, in case of a minor, and petition the local court with evidence stating the girl is their daughter. With a warning, and a nominal surety amount, sometimes as low as Rs. 5000, the girls are released back to the very people who put them into the business. Over the last four years, efforts by the probation officer at the government shelter home, the public prosecutors and NGOs have reduced the instance of minors being released by the Magistrates or Sessions Courts. However, it is still observed that major girls are released by these Courts without proper home inquiry reports. Home inquiry reports are required to be

⁹ Nagpur's Sex Trade and Child Labor; Challenges Remain Despite Government and NGO Efforts , 28 November 2008, United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Office.

¹⁰id.

considered under ITPA.

Furthermore, the Child Welfare Committee is observed to release minor girls at times without home inquiry reports and prior to completion of any rehabilitation program. In June 2012, a rescued girl was released to her mother in spite of her mother being accused of involvement in the girl's sexual exploitation and named in the FIR. There was no home inquiry report; however it should not have mattered since circumstances of the girls' rescue cast doubt on the family's ability to care for her. The Child Welfare Committee released the girl based on a birth certificate stating her age to be twenty and half (20.5) years old. The medical age verification obtained six (6) months before from the government medical hospital reported her age as fifteen (15) years. The girl had not completed seven (7) months in the rehabilitation program.

Public Interest Litigation

In August 2013, Freedom Firm took the cases of minor girls released by the Child Welfare Committee to the Nagpur High Court. The need for High Court intervention became evident after observing girls rescued at a very young age, the rehabilitation efforts on their behalf and especially the inability of the Child Welfare Committee to protect these girls post-rescue.



As mentioned above, the age of girls rescued in Nagpur is very low. Thirty two percent (32%) of rescued girls are children below the age of sixteen (16). The sexual trauma they endure at an immature age is processed differently than the trauma of an older girl. The girls exhibit stunted development, loyalty to their oppressors and confusion over family loyalties. They therefore often adamantly demand their release and freedom, even if they know it means returning to the red light area.

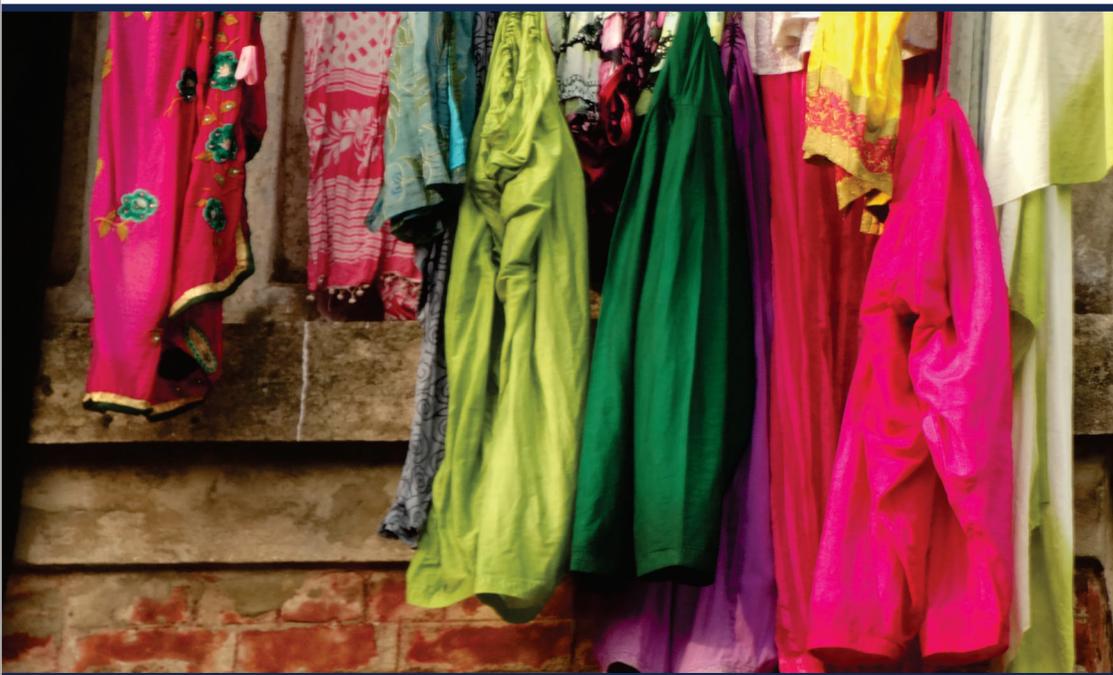
GOs, like Freedom Firm, along with the Government have put into place certain basic rehabilitation systems into the Shelter Home in Nagpur which receives rescued girls. These efforts were virtually meaningless though as girls were only temporarily residing in the home and exposed to various forms of aftercare for a limited period of time.

Finally, the brothel keepers used various and determined strategies to retake custody of minor girls. They effectively applied in various courts, at differing time periods, with different legal arguments while largely being unchallenged by the Government to retake custody. Further, the Child Welfare Committee mechanically applied laws which allowed girls to be released. Lastly, due to the nature of the business and the communities where these girls originate, the families of the girls proved unable or unwilling to fight for their daughters and in some cases took custody themselves only to hand their daughters back to the red light area.

Freedom Firm filed Public Litigation 4/2013 in an effort to seek true enforcement of the Juvenile Justice Act, the Rules for the State of Maharashtra and the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. The PIL raises the inadequacies of the Government and Legal machineries efforts and the need for accountability in order to protect these vulnerable children. The PIL represented the cases of nineteen (19) girls whose cases had come before the Courts. Final Orders were pending at the time of this reports publication.

Case Studies*

The actions taken by relatives to claim custody of minor girls and children is never obviously illegal but often feels to be motivated by the brothel based community who were previously earning from the girl. It can be assumed that if the family genuinely cared about the child, then action should have been taken to release her from the red



light area or at least file a missing persons report in the home town. Instead, the relatives approach the authorities for custody after the girl is removed from the prostitution business. While a case by case study does not reveal much to object, a few cases are illustrative and, combined, they reveal the overall strategy of the brothel based business to manage the courts and the system to their advantage to regain custody of girls and get them back to earning money through prostitution.

Savita

Savita is from Bundi, Rajasthan. In June 2010, Savita was rescued from the Ganga Jamuna red light area. Her medical report gave her age as 14 years old. On 3 January 2011, she was released by the Child Welfare Committee, Nagpur based on an order from the Honorable Adhoc Dist. Judge - 1, & Addl. Sessions Judge, Nagpur. A woman produced documents showing her to be Savita's mother and executed a bond to keep Savita in good care and not to keep her in the red light area. Still, on 13 May 2011, Savita

was spotted back in the red light area and rescued by the Lakad Ganj Police Station. This time she was treated as an accused and released the next day on bail. She was charged with soliciting customers.

No medical age determination was conducted at that time. Then, for the third time, she was rescued on 26th August 2011, from Ganga Jamuna area. In that case, her mother is held as the accused. This woman has also stood as 'mother' for other girls namely Manju, Kasturi and Karishma. Kasturi and Manju have been repeatedly rescued from Ganga Jamuna including after being handed back to the same mother. Savita was transferred on 17 September 2013 by the Mumbai Child Welfare Committee to her home state and to her family pending a DNA test to prove parentage. However, she was immediately released to her family on 9 October 2013. It is unlikely in this short period of time that a DNA test was ever conducted.

Pooja

Pooja was rescued from Ganga Jamuna on 24 June 2011. The AVM stated that she is not more than 16 years of age. She was admitted at Karuna Mahila Vasti Graha (KMGV) for protection and care. On the day of rescue at the police station, she gave names for her mother and father. She stated that they are from the Bedia community in Madhya Pradesh. During the subsequent visits however, she shared a different name for her mother with a counselor. She then told that her family left Gwalior years back and live in Ganga Jamuna, Nagpur.



The names of her parents given in the police station were actually individuals who were using Pooja for prostitution, against her will. Pooja has given her true statement in the presence of Child Welfare Committee of how she was tortured, beaten and not given food whenever she refused to entertain customers. On one occasion she was slapped by the customer too for refusing him. Pooja has also confined now that those people she originally said were her parents are not her biological parents. Pooja remembers her real parents to be from Malva, Bhopal, where she was born and raised in her early years. When she was very small she was taken away from her parents and raised in Gwalior in Badnapura. From Badnapura she was moved to Ganga Jamuna. Pooja recalls that later in life she was informed that her real parents were dead and subsequently she was inducted into prostitution. According to her she has been in the business from the past 4-5 years, during which she spent a year in Mumbai and the rest of the time in Ganga Jamuna. Pooja had no choice but to do as she was told, since those around her used physical force and abuse to make her submit. The woman who claims to be Pooja's mother has visited her in the shelter home. She tried to convince Pooja to share false information with the Shelter home authorities and the CWC.

Unlike most of the girls that are rescued from Ganga Jamuna, Pooja has consistently insisted that she does not want to go back to her so called parents and the flesh trade. She does feel a sense of attachment to the community since it is all she has been exposed to, but really wishes to study and learn. Her determination to not go back to the business caused a major upheaval among the inmates in the shelter home who could not believe her audacity to betray the community. Pooja was strongly pressured by her fake mother and the other inmates to recant her statement to the CWC and accept the fact that she should go back into prostitution. She has gone through a traumatic time due to the threats and attacks from the brothel keepers and some goons outside the home and also from ill treatments from the other girls inside the home. Her safety became a major concern and priority. Immediately a transfer was sought and granted to another shelter home. She is currently receiving training and care. Pooja told the social workers that she would like to learn and one day get a good job and show her 'so called parents' what she is capable of.

Geeta

Geeta is another minor girl who is a victim of a well developed systemic crime that is perpetuated through traditional and communal practises. Geeta hails from the Khanjar community in Pepretha, Agra. Her so called mother is the accused in the raid of 6 December 2011 on which Geeta was rescued. Her AVM states her to be fifteen (15) years of age. The police constable accompanying the social workers in Agra for the Home Inquiry told them the entire community in Pepretha are famous for their reputation of prostituting the girls in the family. This statement is not casual as on visiting the village it was observed that several girls from different families are inducted early in to the flesh trade. Both Geeta's cousin and neighbour were both rescued from Ganga Jamuna and admitted to the shelter home. According to her so called brother, Geeta and her parents have moved from Agra almost 10-11 years ago and visit only occasionally and the family in Agra has not seen Geeta for several years now. The family depends on income from prostituting girls like Geeta. Unfortunately, even though her mother is the main accused in the case, Geeta was handed back to her father through a CWC order on the 20 July 2012 based on a birth certificate document stating her age to be twenty (20).



Preeti

Preeti's case is an example exposing the vast network and intentions of a trafficking ring involved in the preying and exploitation of vulnerable and defenceless young girls. Preeti has a hearing and speech impairment. Her family circumstances and environment only heightened her vulnerability. Prior to her trafficking, she lived along with her parents and younger sister. Her mother made and sold country liquor to etch out a living. The family lives in Haveli Taluka but hails from a sect from the Banjara tribe. Police reports state that Preeti's mother had registered an FIR on 17 July 2008. At that time, about eight youth between 19 to 26 years hailing from Dhule, had broken in to Preeti's home, assaulted the family and kidnapped Preeti. Preeti was then trafficked to Gwalior where she was eventually sold to a person for a sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs by fake parents. Preeti was approximately 12 years of age at that time. She was then trafficked to Ganga Jamuna in Nagpur. A brothel keeper forced Preeti into prostitution for close to three years. During this time Preeti's father was killed in a skirmish, yet her mother pursued the police and looked everywhere for her daughter. She was rescued by police during a raid in March 2011.

Sujata

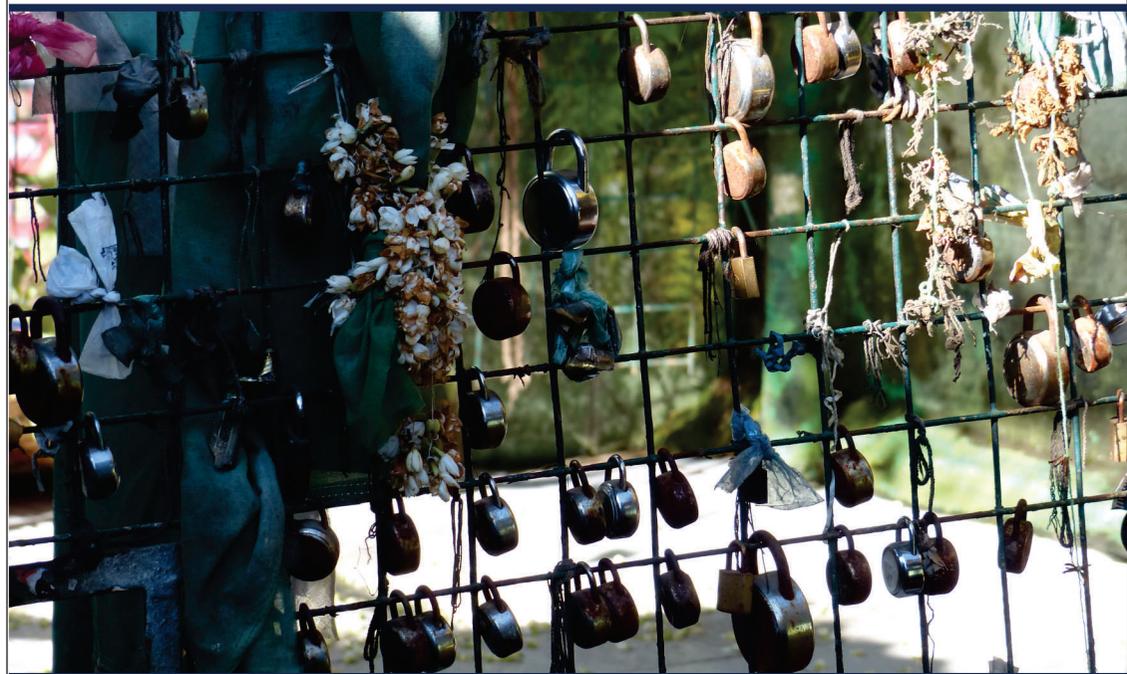
Sujata was rescued by the Lakadganj Police on 13 July 2012 from the red light area in Nagpur on the information received from a customer whom she had asked for help to get her out of there. She was in a bruised and battered condition at the time of rescue. Sujata was admitted at the government run shelter home in Nagpur. Her AVM showed her to be 16 years of age. She told the counsellor about how she used to get beaten up and left to starve if she refused to entertain customers. In her home investigation report, Sujata's parents live in Ralayathi village in the Zalawad district of Rajasthan. According to them, they had got Sujata married to a man from another village who paid them Rs.1 lakh as dowry. They don't keep in touch with her. But they did hear and know that Sujata has been sold to some people. They were not concerned about it. The constable who accompanied the social workers for the home investigation informed that it was common practice for parents in this community to sell their daughters in the guise of marriage and they are trafficked for sexual purpose to other cities.

*Confidential due to sensitive information. Names of minors changed.

Summary and Key Findings

Rescue

In spite of the improvements, there are still many minors standing openly in the Ganga Jamuna area. There is a need for regular intervention to rescue these victims and put them in protective care at the Government Shelter Home



Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Full investigations should be conducted into the nature of the trafficking networks and the involvement of the families. The police in conjunction with the CWC should ask why minor girls and their relatives from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are staying in Nagpur, Maharashtra. When their daughters go missing, do the families file missing person's reports? Are they somehow profiting from the business?

Security should be strengthened within the protective home. Relatives and visitors should not be granted permission to meet the victims without proper screening.

The social service agencies, CWC and Courts must become more aware of the network acting to gain control and influence over these vulnerable children.

Girls should not be released to their parents before a thorough and complete home inquiry report is submitted. The findings should be given due weight in any decision regarding care and custody of the minor girls.

Rescued girls should be committed to the aftercare program for a period of not less than one (1) year in accordance with the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Section 17.

Justice

The Public Prosecutors and Court officials need to be sensitized to ITPA cases and understand that these are on par with cases of rape. They should take them very seriously. Absconding offenders should be arrested and jailed pending trial. Cases should move quickly in the interest of the victim to get justice and so she can move on with her life.

There needs to be better communication between all the parties about minor victims of trafficking. Their care and protection demands the involvement of the whole community and can only be accomplished when all the agencies work together.

