

NEED ASSESSMENT

REPORT 2015

***Project: Pilot Phase- Sensitization on Human
Trafficking***



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Acronyms

CWC	: Child Welfare Committee
CDW	: Child domestic worker
CSE	: Commercial Sexual Exploitation
CVC	: Community Vigilance Committee
ICPS	: Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ITPA	: Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act
SSA	: Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan
GO	: Government Organization
DCPS	: District Child Protection Society
NREGS	: National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NHRC	: National Human Rights Commission
KMWSC	: Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
UNCRC	: United Nations Convention on Child Rights
JJ Act	: Juvenile Justice Act
DPO	: District Programme Officer
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	: United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
CBO	: Community based Organization
CRC	: Charter of Child Rights
WB	: West Bengal

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Preface

Human trafficking refers to transportation of persons for forced labour, sexual exploitation or other illicit activities. Many nations are touched by it in some way, serving as source, transit and destination countries where human beings are procured, transported and enslaved through forced labour or forced sexual exploitation. Though there are many other forms of human trafficking such as forced labour, begging, fake marriages and adoption, the most visible and widespread is the trafficking in women and girls for Child Domestic Work (CDW) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). As per the statistics of the government – in every eight minutes a child goes missing in our country. In 2011 about 35,000 children were reported missing and more than 11,000 out of these were from West Bengal. Further, it is assumed that only 30% of the total cases are reported, so the actual number is pretty high

West Bengal, a most populous state in India, where women and children continues to be the most targeted ones by traffickers. The most recent report by United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) entitled 'Anti Human Trafficking , 2013' discloses that in West Bengal more than 19,000 women and children were reported missing out of only 6000 could be traced. The state is considered as one of the most vulnerable place for trafficking as it serves only as a central location for intra and interstate trafficking but also to international trafficking also. The problem of missing children and women are increasing tremendously, reveals the files and reports by government and other various organizations of state. Many families of such victims are still hoping at their near and dear ones to come back fine, through the whereabouts and the conditions of the victims still remain unknown. The rise in trafficking case is mainly due to the outstanding accessibility of railways, roadways, airways and waterways that offers easy transit points and also the international borders shared by the state. Over the last decade, there is massive increase in the number of missing reports of minor children as well as women, as mentioned in the statement jointly given by the CID of West Bengal Police and the Union Home Ministry, Govt. of India. The total number of missing children in West Bengal was 368 in 2001 whereas in 2010 the figure touched 8,599 and in 2001 the number of missing women was 196 whereas in 2010 it was 6,514.

The state has also emerged as a hub for agents and traffickers for transferring women and children to Middle East countries for various purposes of slavery and prostitution in the name of domestic workers or stage performers. This is because West Bengal shares an international border of 2216.7 Kms with Bangladesh, 92 kms with Nepal and 175 Kms with Bhutan. The



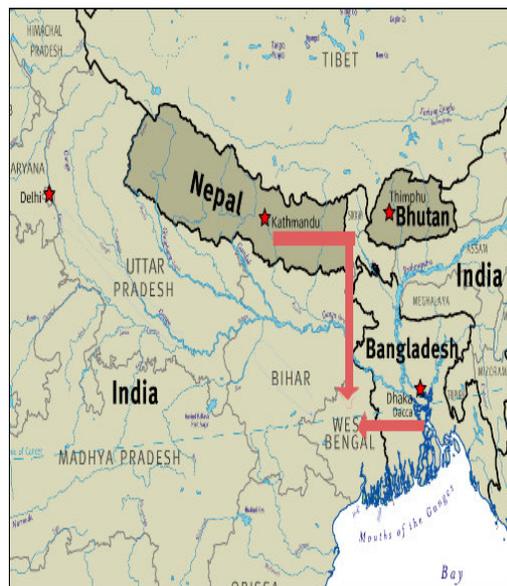
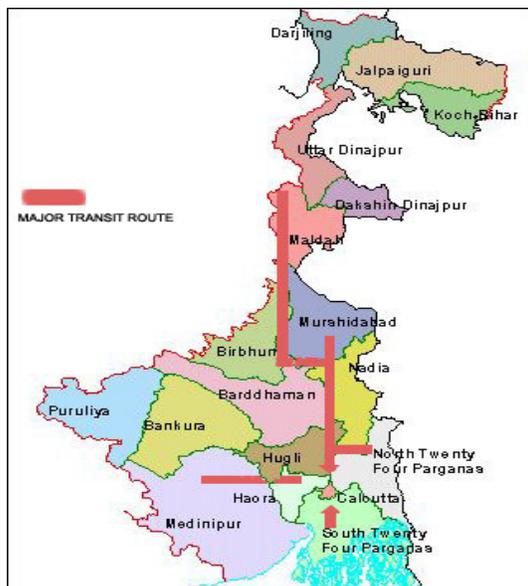
prevalence is highest in three districts in West Bengal, including Murshidabad, North and South 24 Parganas. It mostly poverty-driven districts and can only be stopped with large scale livelihood programmes. Natural disaster leading to poverty and a general condition of hunger are two major reasons. Lack of awareness and declining value system are other factors. Despite the fact that the Government of West Bengal have taken several initiatives to fight against human trafficking by introducing several awareness programmes, this state still as an unsafe place for Women and Children as they are often the targeted ones for flesh trade. The Ministry of Home Affairs has directed state governments to set up special Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in every district. In West Bengal this initiative was meant to begin three years ago. Each unit is supposed to have a minimum of five persons equipped with camera, cellphones and a vehicle. The need for these cells was felt after a report by the National Human Rights Commission which said in 2006 that nearly 45,000 children go missing every year in India.

India has adopted a number of laws and formulated a range of policies to ensure women and children's protection and improvement in their situation. However, these laws and policies promising respect for women and child rights, their protection and well being have not resulted in much improvement in lives of millions of Indian children who continue to be deprived of their rights, abused, exploited and taken away from their families and communities. Women and Child rights violation has virtually become the order of the day. And trafficking of children can be designated as a prominent example of such child rights violation. In fact it can also be considered as one of the most brutal forms of child rights violation.

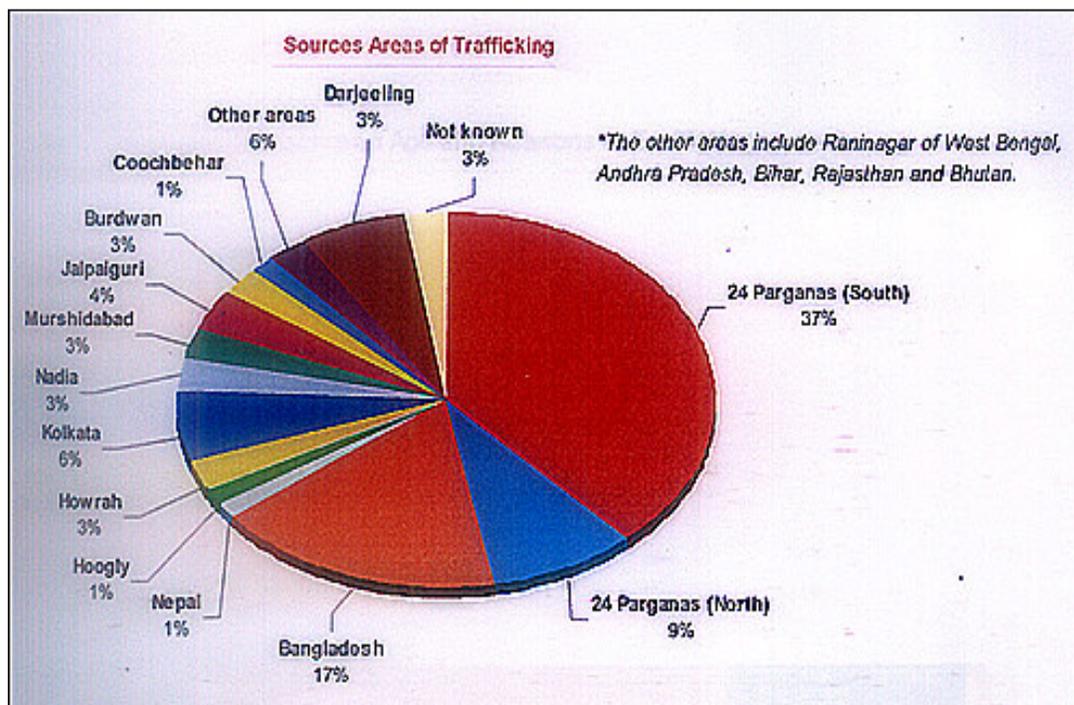
West Bengal as a Source, Transit & Destination State

Source Areas of Trafficking in the State: Midnapur, Dinajpur (N & S), 24 Parganas (N & S), Maldah & Murshidabad

Destination Area: The red light areas of Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol & Siliguri.



Source Areas of Trafficking





Objective of the Need Assessment study

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre conducted the *Need Assessment study* of 1000 household with the following objectives;

1. To map the vulnerability of adolescent girls and women in five Gram Panchayats of Canning-I Block.
2. To identify the gaps in the services of the local self government and local police stations towards prevention of human trafficking in Canning-I Block

Selection of 5 Gram Panchayats:

Five vulnerable gram Panchayats has been selected out of 10 gram panchayats of canning 1 Block. The Gram Panchayats are Matla I, Taldi, Nikarighata, Daria and Itkhola. These Gram Panchayats has been selected through consultation with local club members, Women elf Help Groups and influential person of the community. They marked and identified these gram Panchayats are very vulnerable for adolescent girls and women as these GPs are very close to canning railway station which is an easy transit route for the traffickers.

Methodology applied

The Methodology used in the survey is purposive accidental random sampling. 1000 household were surveyed through random sampling from each of Gram Panchayats 200 families were indentified through a discussion with Panchayat Pradhan (Under Panchayati Raj Institution) and members of the Gram panchayat. The vulnerable Gram Panchayat are Matla-I GP, Nikarighata GP, Taldi GP, Bansra GP and Itkhola GP.

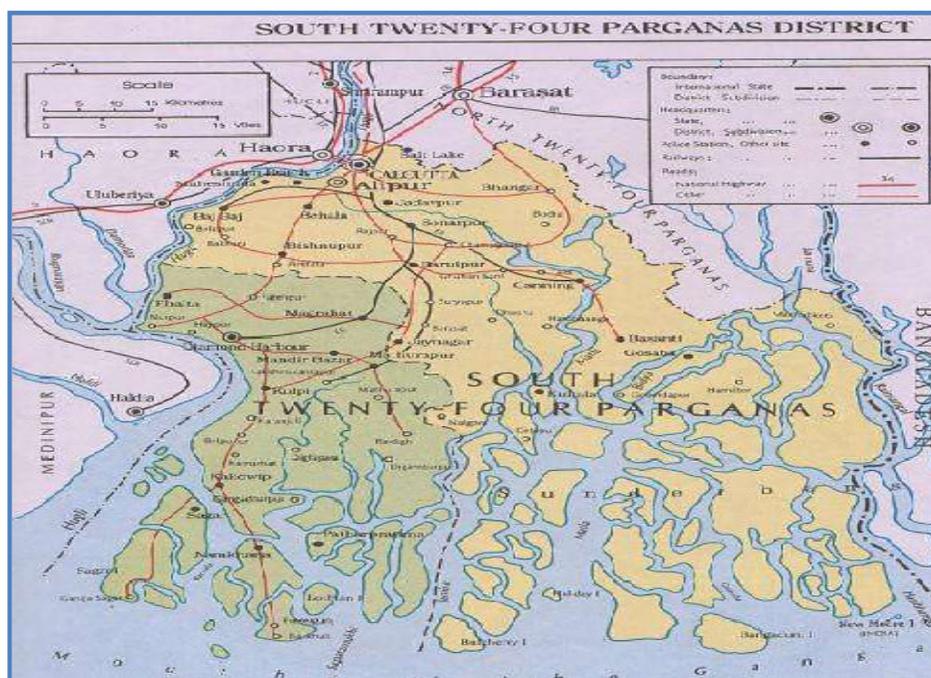
- A sample survey of 1000 households in 5 GPs (Gram panchayat- local self government) has been done. The methods used in the survey are personal interview in each household.

This survey will follow Qualitative methodology using In-depth interview and Key Informant Interview to conduct data collection and analysis of information from different primary and secondary sources. All the information collected will be systematically analyzed to understand the vulnerability of Girl children and women in Canning-I Block.

Tools:

Sample survey Questionnaires has been used for information gathering- individual survey in person.

District Profile of South 24 Parganas:



Headquarter: Alipore

Area: 9,960 km²

According to the 2011 census South 24 Parganas district has a population of 81, 53,176 roughly equal to the US state of Virginia. This gives it a ranking of 6th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 819 inhabitants per sq. km. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 18.05 %. South Twenty Four Parganas has a sex ratio of 949 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 78.57 % compared to 69.45 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 84.72 and 72.09 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 79.19 and 59.01 in South Twenty Four Parganas District. Total literate in South Twenty Four Parganas District were 56, 39,112 of which male and female were 31, 20,200 and 25, 18,912 respectively.

There were total 976,351 children under age of 0-6 against 10, 50,120 of 2001 census. Of total 976,351 male and female were 500,011 and 476,340 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 953 compared to 964 of census 2001.

Profile of Canning I Block



Canning I (community development block) is an administrative division in Canning subdivision of South 24 Parganas district in the Indian state of West Bengal. Canning police station serves this block. Headquarters of this block is at Canning Town. Gram panchayats of Canning I block/panchayat samiti are: Bansra, Daria, Dighirpar, Gopalpur, Hatpukuria, Itkhola, Matla I, Matla II, Nikarighata and Taldi.

As per **2011** census, Canning I block had a total population of 304,000, out of which 125,216 were males and 119,138 were females. Canning I block registered a population growth of 24.48 per cent during the 1991-2001 decade. Decadal growth for South 24 Parganas district was 20.89 per cent. Decadal growth in West Bengal was 17.84 per cent.

As per 2011 census, Canning I block had a total literacy of 60.49 per cent for the 6+ age group. While male literacy was 72.56 per cent female literacy was 47.79 per cent. South 24 Parganas district had a total literacy of 69.45 per cent, male literacy being 79.19 per cent and female literacy being 59.01 per cent.

Canning is the major transit route for trafficking. And it is the gateway to Sunderban Islands. It connects East Gosaba, and Basanti block quite close by. On the other hand, it connects Falta and Noorpur. The major tourist spots - Sundarban is close at hand. From experiences in the field and various police reports, it is known fact that Sundarban area are thriving as tourist spots with sex tourism rampant in the tourist resorts. The police and the members of Judiciary does not yet have data about these tourist spots acting as destination points of trafficking, but they were in agreement that all these points act as major points for sex-tourism.

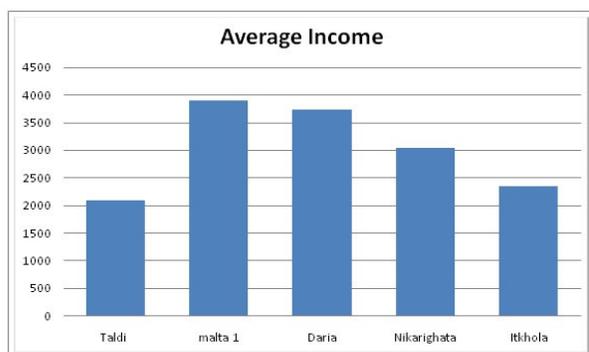
Findings and Analysis of Data from the survey

1. Primary data with analysis:

The 1000 household survey was done to analyse the various factors that lead to trafficking of a person. Various factors were categorised during tabulation.

First: Socio-economic status of the 1000 households.

The socio-economic status of the families is very poor as during the survey it was found that

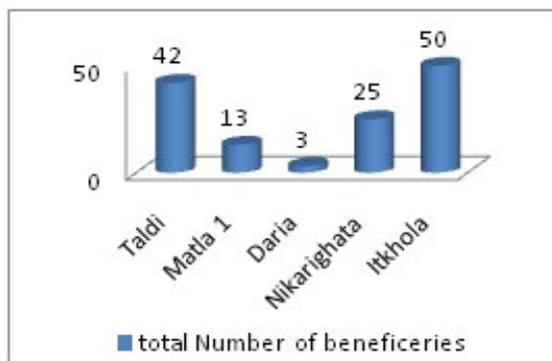


majority of the population belongs to below-poverty-line with an average income of **3500.00 per month**. Based on the survey information the families are dependent on the bread earner of the family who works as daily labour or as seasonal farmer. No other alternative source of income. Women from the families

work as a domestic maid in Kolkata and they are travelling to Kolkata daily through local transport (Local Train) via Canning railway station. Canning railway Station which plays a vital point of trafficking and it is gateway to Sunderban Mangrove Forest which is a source area for trafficking. Below diagram will show the average income of the households in five Gram Panchayats wise.

Secondly: Government schemes and services availed

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:

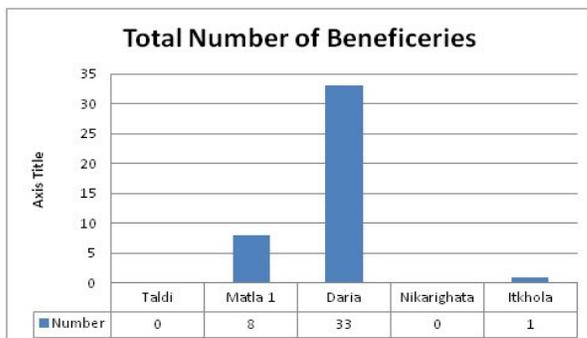


This is a central Government scheme for 100 days employment to the persons belongs to a below-poverty-line family. The Chart shows that out of 1000 households in five Gram Panchayats 133 persons are availing the scheme from the gram Panchayats. During survey it was found that many families are having acute poverty but they

are not enlisted in this scheme. Majority of the households are dependent on the

occupations like daily labour, rickshaw and van puller, vegetable vendor and seasonal agriculture. Women from the canning locality are working as a domestic maid in Kolkata and sub-urbans of Kolkata. Many are having the job card under this schemes but the gram Panchayats are failed to provide 100 days employment to the needy families. This is a major factor for migration in towns and cities from the Canning Sub-division and which leads to Human Trafficking in that area.

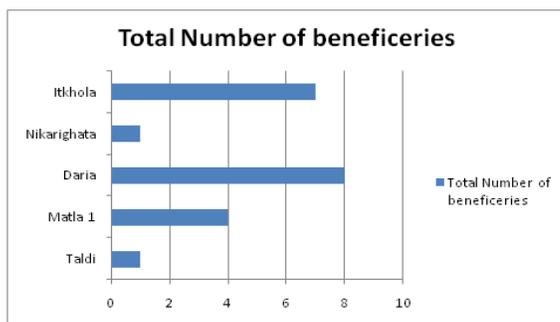
2. Indira Awas Yojna: This is a central Government Housing scheme for the people belong to



below-poverty-line families. Canning Block is the gateway of Sunderban and is a high prone zone for natural disasters. During 2009 Aila Cycle thousands of families divested due to cyclone. Thousands of families migrated to Kolkata for getting livelihood opportunities. Few families got the

Housing scheme which helped them to restore their family and belongings. But majority were left due to gap in the services from the local administration. Out 1000 households in five Gram Panchayats only **42 families** have been benefitted with the housing scheme.

3. Kanayshree Scheme: Kanyashree Prakalpa 2013, a CCT scheme for improving the status



and well being of the girl child in the state has been formulated by the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. The scheme aims at incentivizing schooling of all. This scheme will act as a strong mechanism

for restoring the girls below 18 years from getting married and increase retention rate in schools.

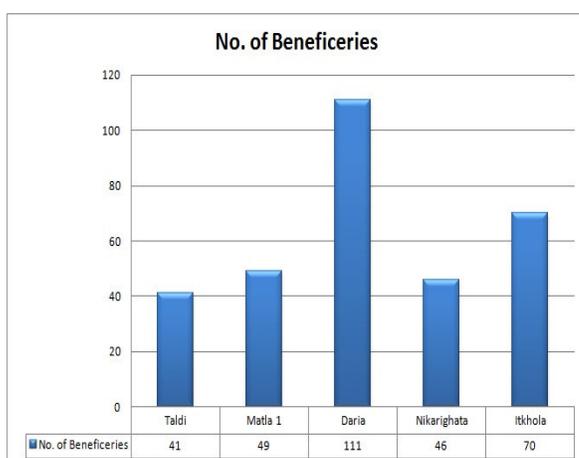
Components of the Scheme

The scheme has two components:

- Annual Scholarship of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only)
- One time Grant of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-five thousand only)

In the chart it shows that out of 1000 households **only 20 girls** has been enlisted in the scheme from 5 Gram Panchayats of Canning 1 Block. During survey it was found that majority of the girls have discontinued their education due to poverty and other reasons. They have involved themselves as a domestic help and also looking after their siblings in the family.

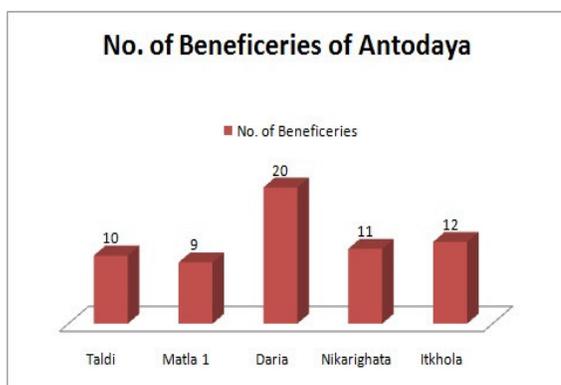
4. **Below Poverty Line Card:** The WBPDS which is also known as the full name of West Bengal Public Distribution System provides the facility for the issuance of the ration card in the state. And BPL ration card is provided for those whose family income is less than Rs.10,000/- per annum.



The graph shows that out of 1000 households **only 327 households** has been benefitted with BPL card. The average income and economic condition does not support them to feed their family properly. They look for alternative ways of livelihood in towns and cities which leads to unsafe migration, child labour, and human trafficking and other social issues in

Canning 1 Block.

5. **Antodaya Anna Yojna:** Antyodaya ration cards are issued to such families who have the income of less than Rs. 250/- per capita per month. A Green coloured ration card is issued to the Antyodaya beneficiaries. The AAY card holder is provided 35 Kgs. of rice at the rate of Rs. 3/- per Kg.

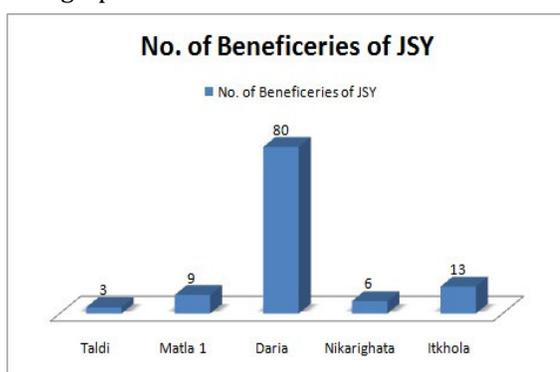


In this graph it is shown that out of 1000 households **only 62 families** has received the benefits of the scheme. During survey

many families were identified having no alternative ways of income but begging. These families are targeted by the traffickers and they provide lure of jobs in the cities and which leads them to women and child trafficking.

6. Janani Suroksha Yojana: Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NHM). It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women. The scheme is under implementation in all states and Union Territories (UTs), with a special focus on Low Performing States (LPS). Janani Suraksha Yojana was launched in April 2005 by modifying the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). The NMBS provides for financial assistance of Rs. 500/- per birth up to two live births to the pregnant women who have attained 19 years of age and belong to the below poverty line (BPL) households. The

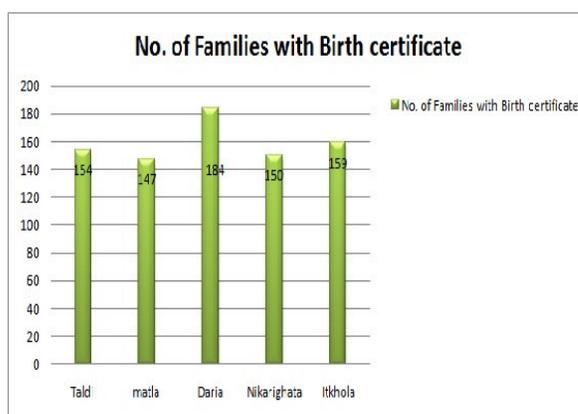
The graph shows that out of 1000 household only **111 women** has been benefitted with the



scheme and they have received Rs. 500.00 as financial assistance during the Institutional delivery. The vulnerability of maternal mortality rate is high in these five Gram Panchayats due to lack of information and access to proper health services. Women and children are often neglected with the basic services of

Government because of poor infrastructure and services.

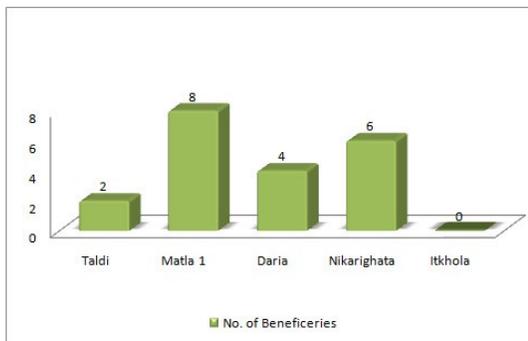
7. Birth Certificate: Birth registration is a permanent and official record of a child's existence. The child who is not registered at birth is in danger of being denied the right to an official



identity, a recognised name and a nationality. Unregistered children are generally the children of the poor and the excluded. An unregistered child will be a more attractive target for a child trafficker and does not have even the minimal protection that a birth certificate provides against early marriage, child labour, or detention and persecution as

an adult. The graph shows that in 1000 households in 5 Gram Panchayats **794 children** have received birth certificate from the Gram Panchayats with the help of ASHA worker under National Rural Health Mission.

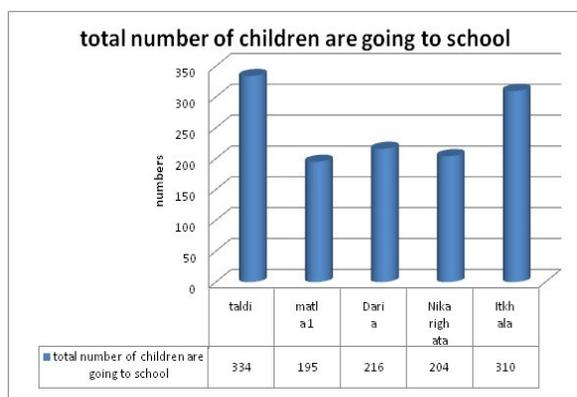
8. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme: The Indira Gandhi National Widow



Pension Scheme will provide pension of Rs 200.0 to widows between the age group of 40-64 year. The graph shows that only **20 widows** out of 1000 households are getting the benefits of the scheme. This may lead to vulnerability of the families who are having no source of income and livelihood. They opt

for working as domestic maid in town and cities.

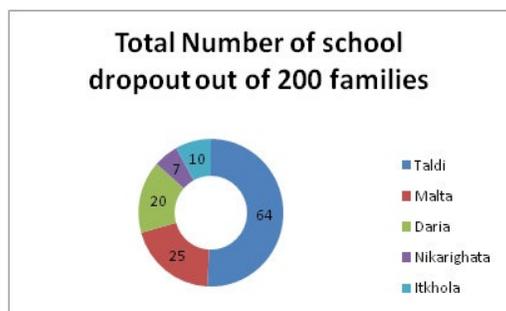
Thirdly: ICDS and School going children in 5 Gram Panchayats of Canning 1 Block:



The following graph shows that in the 1000 households only **1259 children** are enlisted the Anganwadi centres under Integrated Child Development Scheme and Schools under Right to Education Act. Out of 1259 children **181** children aged from 3yrs to 6 yrs of age are the beneficiaries of ICDS scheme in five Gram panchayts and rest are in schools.

Fourthly: School Drop-out rates in five Gram Panchayats:

During the survey of 1000 household in five Gram Panchayats the surveyors came across with

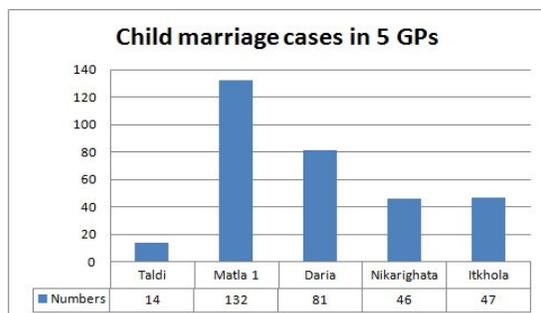


many drop-out cases from school due to poverty, child marriage, child labour and migration which is leading to a human trafficking. Canning 1 block is recognised as the source area for trafficking of children and women. In 5 gram Panchayats **126 children** are out of school due the social causes.

The Right to Education Act enhances the child's fundamental right to education but due to lack of awareness and social stigma many girls are out of schools. The trafficker identifies these vulnerable children and their families. They give lure of job, better future through marriage and which ultimately leads to trafficking.

Fifthly: Child marriage cases in 5 Gram Panchayats:

During the survey of 1000 households the surveyors came across with many child marriage



cases in 5 Gram Panchayats of Canning 1 Block.

It is also observed that generation to generation the girls are the victims of child marriage and it became a social customs in the rural areas. Not their girl children are the victims of Child marriage but the daughter-in law are also the victims of this social custom. The reason behind

child marriage is poverty, gender discrimination and acceptance of the evil practices by the society and community. The present trend is different as the cases are of elopement by the girls which is rather an impact of globalization and electronic media. The glitters of Kolkata always attracted the girls to city life and intern they become the victim of child marriage and human trafficking and it is called as pull factor towards trafficking. In the graph it is reflected that **320 girls** are victim of child marriage in 1000 households. During interaction these girls have accepted that this is socially accepted and as well lack of awareness on Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006.

Findings:

- There is awareness about trafficking as a substantial risk but no control over the problem both from a societal and systemic point of view.
- There is awareness about migration risks including trafficking, but people are ready to take the risks because of desperate economic situations.
- Missing cases are not talked about. There is little awareness on the problem and action taken.
- Gender differences in terms of gender power equations on decision making, education, Violence against Women, and marriage exist among the respondent generation.
- If better livelihood and employment options are available within the panchayat, people will prefer not to migrate.
- Safety nets like MGNREGA are available but not adequate.
- No vigilance mechanism available at the Community level against trafficking
- Poor economic conditions are at the root of women and girls' vulnerability to migration risks including trafficking.



Recommendations:

1. Formation Adolescent Girls group in the villages and capacitate them with the knowledge regarding Child marriage, Human Trafficking and other Social issues. Prepare these girls as peer educator where they will aware their fellow friends in schools regarding the impact of the social evils.
2. Formation of community Vigilance committee: Through forming community vigilance committee, people will be sensitized on the women & child protection issues (Child Trafficking, child Labour, Child Marriage, and Abuse etc) and they will act as a safety net for the vulnerable community. The following steps in this process. These are:
 - ✓ Assemble a core group of individuals who will set up and manage your Community Vigilance Committee (CVC).
 - ✓ Recruit other community members to join CVC through focus group discussion, and PRA method, such as neighbours and local business owners. Make a plan that suits everyone on how and when you can meet to discuss efforts.
 - ✓ Make contact with local law enforcement, especially a local, Special Juvenile Police unit if, to set up a system of reporting to a point person should any member of your CVC witness a sign of Child protection issues. Follow the guidance of local law enforcement on the best ways you can assist them.
 - ✓ Make contact with local youth clubs, CBO's, CSO's that focus on Child Protection issues (especially shelters, rescue, restoration etc), to discuss your plans and set up a system of referral. Follow the suggestions of these NGOs on how you can be most effective in assisting them.
3. Capacity building of government officials regarding the acts and legislation pertaining to human trafficking and other related issues.
4. Regular sensitization campaign workshops in schools, communities regarding the social issues pertaining to human trafficking involving the community based organizations.
5. Placement of suggestion box in every school collaborating with School Management Committee in the intervention areas, which will ultimately address the issues related to child-marriage and drop-out of adolescent girls leading to trafficking
6. Networking and advocacy with the likeminded NGOs and Government Bodies, Child Welfare Committees and Special Juvenile Police Unit for improving the gaps in the systems and services.
7. Collaboration with CHILDLINE services and Women Helpline numbers for rescue, restoration of the cases of trafficking.



8. Investigation of missing children needs to be done in the source areas by the Panchayat, which is the nearest formal body, which can identify trafficking.
9. ICDS (Anganwadi workers) with members of panchayat should take initiative to identify and lodge complaints on missing girls with the police.

Conclusion

A large majority of the victims of human trafficking in India are women and children among whom the Girl child is at a higher risk of being trafficked. Trafficking of the girls is often a result of structural gender inequalities and marginalization, making them easy targets for forced labor, sexual exploitation, organ trade, or other crimes and servitude. It is estimated that up to one million women and children are affected by sex trade in India. This number rises by around 200 new victims every day. Around 80 percent of the women and children affected by sex trade are being trafficked. Although the Indian Government has made concerted efforts to address this problem through introducing legislations like the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1986, the source of the problem remains intact. Until date, there is a lack of preventive measures, especially at local level. Economic marginalization of potential victims further aggravates the vulnerability of being trafficked.

The need of the hour is to ensure joint effort by the Government mechanism and civil society organization for having continuous awareness programme at community level. The Project on Sensitization on Human Trafficking is designed to support and protect the most vulnerable communities who are facing the problem of trafficking and other child protection issues (child labour and child marriage), domestic violence etc. The existing network on human rights should be strengthened so as to identify the gaps in the services and pressurise the Govt. Mechanism to ensure the safety of women and children at all levels.



Annexure 1

Survey Questionnaire

▪ Name of the Respondent:

▪ Address in details:

▪ Details of the family:

Sl. No	Name of the family members	Age	Sex	Relation	Education	Occupation	Monthly Income

▪ Any benefits received from govt. schemes (Put \checkmark tick mark)

Sl. no	Schemes	Benefits received	
		Yes	No
1	Birth Certificate		
2	School living certificate		
3	Indira Awas Yojna		
4	MGNREGA (Job Card)		
5	Kanyashree		
6	National Oldage Pension Scheme		
7	Widow Pension Scheme		
8	BPL Card		
9	Antodaya Yojna		
10	Janani Suroksha Yojna		
11	Person with Disability Card		
	Any other? Mention		

▪ Details of children going to School:

Name of the child		Age:	Sex:
Name of the School		Presently Studying in	
Reason for discontinuation from School		Present Occupation	

▪ Details of girl child engaged in any occupation:

Name :	Age:
Type of Occupation:	Monthly income:



Where she is working?	Since how long working?
How frequently she visit her family:	

▪ Details of the Girl who got married (Optional):

Name :	Age:
where she got married:	How long she is married?
Boy known to family/relatives/neighbourhood:	
How frequently she contacts her family:	

▪ Details of girl child(victim) of Trafficking

Name :	Marital status:
Age:	
If married at what age she got married?	With whom she went?
Where:	Present status:
Sent out to work:	Where-details-Address:
Any General Diary/FIR done in local Police Station:	

▪ Any information about the victim (neighbourhood):

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▪ Any other information:

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Date of Survey:

Place: Name of the surveyor



Reference:

1. <http://www.unwomensouthasia.org/assets/AHT-Final-Report-FINAL-May-20131.pdf>
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5. Project Proposal On sensitization on Human Trafficking, KMWSC