

INDIA



Population: 1,205,073,612 (July 2012 est.)
Population Growth Rate: 1.312% (2012 est.)
Birth Rate: 20.6 births/1,000 population (2012 EST.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 67.14 years; male: 66.08 years; female: 68.33 years (2012 EST.)
Literacy Rate: total population: 61%
Male: 73.4%
Female: 47.8% (2001 census)
Net Migration Rate: -0.05 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 9.8% (2011 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$3,700 (2011 est.)
Religions: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2001 census)
Languages: Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%
Ethnic Groups: Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)
Capital: New Delhi¹

Trafficking Routes

India is primarily a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking in persons. Eighty-five to ninety percent of India's human trafficking is intra-national, supplying domestic markets.² Non-Indian trafficking victims in India come mostly from neighboring Nepal and Bangladesh.³ Most internationally trafficked Indians are sold to, and work in forced or bonded labor in the Middle East.⁴

Factors that Contribute to Trafficking

¹ CIA, World Factbook, India, available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>.

² Human trafficking a serious organised crime: CBI chief, TIMES OF INDIA, May 12, 2009, available at: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-05-12/india/28164967_1_human-trafficking-dance-bars-prostitution. Also see, CRS Human Trafficking Response: India Trafficking in Persons, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, available at: <http://gsn.crs.org/Images/Human%20Trafficking/India%20CRS%20Human%20Trafficking%20Response.pdf>.

³ US Agency Warns Nepal to Curb People-Trafficking or Lose Aid, THE HIMALAYAN TIMES, September 14, 2010, available at: <http://esf5.wordpress.com/2011/03/03/us-agency-warns-nepal-to-curb-people-trafficking-or-lose-aid/>

⁴ India's Country Narrative for the Trafficking in Persons Report 2008, Consulate General of the United States Kolkata, India, June 4, 2008, available at: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov/usgovtreportstipind.html>.

India's vast poverty, traditional views towards women, and marginalization of lower castes and tribes all contribute to the human trafficking situation. A vast amount of India's hundreds of millions of people live below the poverty line, which makes them vulnerable targets for traffickers.⁵ Rapid development has created the demand for massive pools of manual labor to construct infrastructure.⁶ While the majority of that labor is willingly provided, millions of Indians are stuck in bonded labor situations and are indebted to their owners; indebted, landless, and unable to feed their families, desperate parents resort to selling their children.⁷ For others, it is not so much an act of desperation as one of seeking better opportunities. Traffickers lure victims and their families with promises of "good" employment and high earnings in the city.⁸ While some trafficking victims initially go willingly, others face forced kidnappings.⁹

The status of women in traditional Indian society has also been a factor in human trafficking. In particular areas of the country, such as the states of Andhra, Pradesh, and Karnataka, traditional practices of temple prostitution remain.¹⁰ Dowries, though outlawed, are customary and often put an enormous financial burden on parents. Some parents sell their daughters instead of paying a dowry in order to "marry them off," thus increasing the supply of trafficked girls.¹¹ Feeding the demand side, female foeticide and infanticide contribute to a very low female to male ratio in many Indian states.¹² Patterns are emerging in states, such as Punjab and Haryana, which present extremely, skewed sex

⁵ Indrani Chakraborty, SANLAAP, *Trafficking Our Children: A Brief Situational Analysis on the Trend of Migration, Child Marriage, and Trafficking in Eight Districts of West Bengal*, (April, 2006), available at http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/sanlaap_tracking_oct07.pdf.

⁶ Christoph Ernst and Janine Berg, ILO & OECD, *The Role of Employment and Labour Markets in the Fight against Poverty*, (2009): 41-65, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/povertyreduction/43280231.pdf>.

⁷ P. M. Nair and Sankar Sen, *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, 120, (2005).

⁸ P. M. Nair and Sankar Sen, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, 120, (2005).

⁹ For example, see: Press Release, Asian Human Rights Commission, India: A Girl Kidnapped and Forced Into Prostitution for Two Years but Police Do Nothing (September 19, 2008), available at: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CDIQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.humanrights.asia%2Fnews%2Furgent-appeals%2FAHRC-UAC-212-2008%2FasPlainPDF%3Fconverter%3Dpdf-pisa%26resource%3Dahrc%26template%3Dahrc_pdf_template&ei=YpMKUcXbMsje0gHkmoCIAQ&usg=AFQjCNFhuEQTmPzgGY9WifOolC2Yt1NYmg&bvm=bv.41642243.d.dmQ.

¹⁰ "Although formally prohibited since independence, the practice of dedicating girls to a deity still survives in southern India in significant numbers. The latest available official figures for the key districts in Andhra Pradesh are around 17,000, and for Karnataka, around 23,0001. Initiations are in decline, but these figures indicate that tens of thousands of women exist who have had their lives severely damaged by the practice." See Maggie Black, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL, *Ritual Slavery Practices in India- Devadasi*, JOGINI and MATHAMMA, (2007), available at http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2008/r/ritual_slavery_briefing_paper_1_august_2_007.pdf.

¹¹ P. M. Nair and Sankar Sen, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, (2005).

¹² CHARANJIT AHUJA, *Punjab and Haryana Step Up to End Female Foeticide*, THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS, March 22, 2008, available at <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/punjab-harayana-step-up-to-end-female-foeticide/287269/>.

ratios because trafficked “brides” are being used to compensate for the low availability of marriageable women in the area.¹³

Discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Tribes increases the vulnerability for members of these groups to trafficking.¹⁴ Dalits account for two-thirds of India’s bonded labor, much of it in agricultural bondage.¹⁵ Desperate economic circumstances and social discrimination are factors that force an incredibly high number of dalit women and children into sex trafficking.¹⁶

Forms of Trafficking

Bonded and sex labor comprise the vast majority of human trafficking in India, although child soldiering and organ harvesting have also been reported.¹⁷ Forced labor accounts for 90% of human trafficking.¹⁸ Of the 20 million domestic workers in India, almost half are younger than 20 years old; 20 percent are children younger than age 14, and 25% between the ages of 15 and 20.¹⁹ Indian men, women, and children are trafficked into forced labor for a variety of industries from textiles and fireworks to agricultural products.²⁰ Most of this forced labor—estimated at 20 to 65 million people in India (most are Indians)—is tied to debt.²¹ Debt is sometimes passed down from previous generations and ties landless farmers to exploitative landowners.²² According to the Ministry of Labor, the government identified and released around 280,000 bonded laborers, which is likely a slim fraction of the total number of bonded laborers.²³

Sexual exploitation is a common form of human trafficking in India. Many of India’s three million prostitutes—40% are children below the age of 18—are victims of trafficking.²⁴ Many of India’s commercial sex workers are sold into slavery by relatives or tricked by traffickers with promises of a good job and new life in the city.²⁵

¹³ Kamal Kumar Pandey, SHAKTI VAHINI, *Female Foeticide, Coerced Marriage and Bonded Labour in Haryana and Punjab: A Situational Report*: 3-4 (2003).

¹⁴ Chandrima Chatterjee and Gunjan Sheoran, *Vulnerable Groups in India*, THE CENTRE FOR ENQUIRY INTO HEALTH AND ALLIED THEMES (CEHAT), Mumbai (May 2007), available at <http://www.cehat.org/humanrights/vulnerable.pdf>.

¹⁵ Sessa Kethineni and Gail Diane Humiston, *Dalits, the “Oppressed People” of India: How are Their Social, Economic, and Human Rights Addressed?*, War, Crime, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity, Volume 4, p. 104, (2010), available at: <http://www.aa.psu.edu/journals/war-crimes/articles/V4/v4n1a3.pdf>.

¹⁶ TAMIL NADU WOMEN’S FORUM, *Unheard Voices; Dalit Women* (Jan 2007), available at http://idsn.org/fileadmin/user_folder/pdf/New_files/Key_Issues/Dalit_Women/CERD-India_unheard_voices.pdf.

¹⁷ Kathryn Cullen DuPont, *Human Trafficking*, 94-100 (2009).

¹⁸ *Id.* at 99

¹⁹ *Id.* at 98

²⁰ Kevin Bales, *Disposable People*, 198 (2004).

²¹ DUPONT *supra* at 99

²² BALES *supra* at 203-213.

²³ MINISTRY OF LABOUR, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ANNUAL REPORT, 96, (2009-10), available at <http://labour.nic.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Reports/Annual%20Report%202009-10%20English.pdf>.

²⁴ *Official: More than 1M child prostitutes in India*, CNN ONLINE, May 11, 2009, available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/asiapcf/05/11/india.prostitution.children/index.html>.

²⁵ Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, *Fact book on Sexual Exploitation: India* (2009) available at: <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/india.htm>.

Contraceptives are rarely used; therefore these girls and women have high rates of STDs and HIV infections. In one study of Nepalese sex trafficking victims, rescued in India, 38% tested positive for HIV and 61% of those who had been trafficked before age 15 tested HIV positive.²⁶

New trends in sexual exploitation are sex tourism, child sex tourism, pedophilia, prostitution in pilgrimage towns, and cross-border trafficking (e.g. from Nepal and Bangladesh).²⁷ There are also surviving traditional practices, reported recently in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, in which young girls are dedicated to a deity, making them temple prostitutes.²⁸

Sexual exploitation through trafficking also occurs in forced and child marriages. More than half of Indian females marry before age 18 in a society where child marriage is a long-accepted practice. Child brides have been reported as young as age 5, and in some areas it is common for girls to marry between ages 8-12.²⁹ As a result, according to an Indian government office, 240 girls die each day from pregnancy-related complications in early child marriages.³⁰ Adult women are also forced into abusive marriages. Women from states such as Assam and West Bengal and outside of India, from Bangladesh and Nepal, are married to men often in richer states such as Haryana and Punjab (where preference for male children has made marriageable women scarce).³¹ Far from a respectable marriage, these “bought” women are derogatorily referred to as *paro*, and are often forced to sleep with male relatives of their husband and whored out to his friends. These trafficked “brides” endure rigorous domestic servitude beyond sexual exploitation and can be sold multiple times in their lives.³²

Child soldiering and organ harvesting are also forms of trafficking that occur in India, though on a much lesser scale than forced labor and sexual exploitation. Child soldiers are reportedly recruited and trained by Naxalite insurgents operating in India’s eastern belt, and by the anti-Naxalite paramilitary group Salwa Judum, operating in Chattisgarh. Children as young as age 14 are recruited and employed as spies, messengers, and anti-personnel mine sweepers.³³

Organ harvesting has become an increasingly visible problem in India. In January 2008, police discovered a kidney trafficking ring of four doctors and forty support staff thought to have supplied 400 to 500 kidneys for “transplant tourists”.³⁴ The kidneys were

²⁶ *Id.* note 20 AT 96

²⁷ MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, *India Country Report: To Prevent and Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women*, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, PREPARED FOR WORLD CONGRESS III AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, Rio De Janeiro, November 2008, available at http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/NAP-Draft-India_2006.pdf

²⁸ Maggie Black, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL, *Ritual Slavery Practices in India- Devadasi, JOGINI and MATHAMMA*, (2007), available at http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2008/r/ritual_slavery_briefing_paper_1_august_2_007.pdf.

²⁹ *Supra* note 16.

³⁰ *Id.* at 97.

³¹ *Id.* at 97.

³² *Supra* note 13.

³³ *Supra* note 16 at 100.

³⁴ Amelia Gentleman, *Kidney Thefts Shock India*, NEW YORK TIMES, January 30, 2008, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/30/world/asia/30kidney.html>.

taken from laborers, earning about a dollar a day, either through kidnapping and drugging or offers of small cash payments.³⁵

Government Responses

Numerous federal and state level ministries and national commissions are addressing aspects of human trafficking including prevention, protection, and rehabilitation. The Indian Constitution explicitly prohibits “traffic[ing] in human beings.”³⁶ India’s Penal Code prohibits kidnapping or abducting any woman with the intent of compelling her into “illicit intercourse,” or with the knowledge that she is likely to be so-compelled, forced, or seduced.³⁷ The code also prohibits kidnapping or otherwise inducing a woman to marry any person against her will.³⁸ The offense is punishable by a fine and up to 10 years of imprisonment.

India’s laws prohibit human trafficking, bonded labor, many types of child labor, and dowry, as well as offer special protections for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The 1956 Prevention of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), India’s major anti-trafficking law, specifically addresses sexual exploitation (to the exclusion of bonded and forced labor).³⁹ The ITPA prohibits many prostitution-related activities. Keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as a brothel is an offense punishable by imprisonment for 1 to 3 years and a fine.⁴⁰ Living on the earnings of prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for up to 2 years and a fine.⁴¹ Procuring, inducing, or taking a woman or a girl for the purpose of prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for 3 to 7 years and a fine.⁴² If such an offense is committed against the will of any person, the punishment is increased to imprisonment for 14 years.⁴³ Detaining a woman or a girl in premises where prostitution is carried out is an offense with punishment of a term of imprisonment ranging from 7 years to life.⁴⁴ Carrying out prostitution in a public place is punishable by imprisonment for up to 3 months. Carrying out prostitution in a public place with a sex worker who is 18 years old or younger is punishable by imprisonment from 7 years to life.⁴⁵ Seducing or soliciting for purposes of prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for up to 6 months and a fine.⁴⁶

Trafficking in persons in India is also criminalized under related legislation. The 1929 Child Marriage Restraint Act, under its most recent amendment in 1978, sets the legal age of marriage consent at 18 years for females and 21 years for males.⁴⁷ The 1961

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ Constitution of India, art. 23(1).

³⁷ Indian Penal Code, art. 366.

³⁸ *Idib.* art. 366.

³⁹ Government of India, *Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956*, available at: [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Immoral Traffic Prevention Act \(ITPA\) 1956.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Immoral%20Traffic%20Prevention%20Act%20(ITPA)%201956.pdf).

⁴⁰ *Immoral Traffic Act supra* at 30, § 3.

⁴¹ *Id.* at 30, § 4.

⁴² *Id.* at 30, § 5.

⁴³ *Id.* at 30, § 5.

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 30, § 6.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 30, § 7.

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 30, § 8.

⁴⁷ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929*, available at: <http://wcd.nic.in/cm1929.html>.

Dowry Prohibition Act, most recently amended in 1986, prohibits dowries and includes provisions to criminally prosecute grooms and families who insist on dowry payments.⁴⁸ The 1976 Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act cancels debt bondage and requires the state to provide economic assistance to newly-freed laborers.⁴⁹ The 1986 Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act regulated working hours and safety conditions for children under the age of 14 and forbid their participation in 25 hazardous occupations.⁵⁰ The Act was amended in 2006 to prohibit children younger than age 14 from being employed as domestic servants.⁵¹ Also, the 1994 Transplantation of Human Organs Act bans the commercial trading of human organs⁵² and the 1994 Prohibition of Sex Selection Act (aka Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act), targeting female foeticide makes it illegal to use ultrasound to determine the sex of the fetus.⁵³

The Government of India takes a two-pronged approach to combating human trafficking by coordinating enforcement efforts with social programs. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), the nodal ministry in the Government of India for addressing human trafficking, chairs the Central Advisory Committee which meets every three months and includes high level representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Information and Technology, and Ministry of Law and Justice.⁵⁴ Representatives from the National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, Central Social Welfare Board, and Central Bureau of Investigation are also included in the Central Advisory Committee. Prominent NGOs and international organizations working in India are invited to participate in Central Advisory Committee meetings as well.⁵⁵ In August 2006, the Ministry of Home Affairs established a nodal cell for the prevention of human trafficking.⁵⁶

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), created in the 1993 Human Rights Act, plays a lead role in the government's efforts to combat bonded and child labor. NHRC monitors the child labor situation in the country and particularly targets nine industries where child labor is rampant, including carpet weaving and construction work.⁵⁷ NHRC coordinates child labor eradication efforts with state governments, NGOs,

⁴⁸ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961*, available at <http://wcd.nic.in/dowryprohibitionact.htm>.

⁴⁹ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976*, available at http://dc-siwan.bih.nic.in/bonded_labour_system_abolition_act_1976.pdf.

⁵⁰ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986*, available at <http://indiacode.nic.in/fullact1.asp?tfnm=198661>.

⁵¹ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *The Child Labour (Abolition and Rehabilitation) Bill 2006*, available at http://www.karmayog.org/childlabour/upload/17683/CVII_2006.pdf.

⁵² GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *The Transplantation of Humans Organ Act 1994*, available at <http://india.gov.in/allimpfrms/allacts/2606.pdf>.

⁵³ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, *Prohibition of Sex Selection Act 1994*, available at [http://rajswasthya.nic.in/PCPNDT%2005.12.08/PCPNDT%20Act%20\(2\).pdf](http://rajswasthya.nic.in/PCPNDT%2005.12.08/PCPNDT%20Act%20(2).pdf).

⁵⁴ MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, *Draft National Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with Special Focus on Women and Children*, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, p. 9, available at http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/NAP-Draft-India_2006.pdf.

⁵⁵ *Id.* at 9.

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 12.

⁵⁷ NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, Website, available at <http://nhrc.nic.in/> (last visited March 12, 2011).

and industry associations.⁵⁸ NHRC monitors the country's bonded labor situation by requesting states to submit on quarterly basis information about identification, release, and rehabilitation of bonded laborers.⁵⁹ NHRC also engaged in a series of sensitization workshops with local government leaders on bonded labor, but it is unclear if this workshop series is currently ongoing.⁶⁰

While human trafficking has long been a priority for the Government of India's social ministries and agencies, India's federal law enforcement agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has more recently begun to take more stringent actions to combat human trafficking as the organized crime element becomes more prominent.⁶¹ In May 2009, CBI organized a two day conference on Organised Crime and Human Trafficking in New Delhi in partnership with UNODC.⁶² Two weeks after the end of the conference, as a sign of the CBI's renewed seriousness to combat trafficking, the CBI busted a major human trafficking racket in Mumbai.⁶³ The Mumbai operation, where eight people were arrested, along with the rescue of 26 women and 8 girls, was the first operation which exhibited the CBI's stronger mandate to investigate human trafficking, under the 2006 amendment to the 1956 ITPA.⁶⁴ Under the provisions of this mandate, "CBI can take *suo motu* action in cases of human trafficking with inter-state or international ramifications."⁶⁵

Despite extensive legislation targeting the major drivers and forms of human trafficking, enforcement is severely lacking. Compared to the scope of human trafficking, few are arrested and even fewer are convicted and incarcerated.⁶⁶ Beyond lax enforcement, police reportedly receive bribes from brothel owners and human traffickers as a fee to allow them to operate.⁶⁷ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Ministry of Home Affairs acknowledges that human trafficking is a major problem in India and that the current enforcement effort is not sufficient.⁶⁸

NGOs and International Organization Response

Numerous international, national, regional, and local NGOs seek to combat human trafficking through rescue, relief, and rehabilitation programs. These groups operate at the international, national, regional, and local levels to address: health,

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ *Human Trafficking a Serious Organised Crime: CBI chief*, TIMES OF INDIA, May 12, 2009, available at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-05-12/india/28164967_1_human-trafficking-dance-bars-prostitution.

⁶² CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, Website Photo Gallery, available at http://cbi.nic.in/photogallery/pg_orgcrime_20090511.php (last visited 14 March 2011).

⁶³ *CBI Busts Human Trafficking Racket*, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, May 27, 2009, available at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/CBI-busts-human-trafficking-racket/Article1-415243.aspx>.

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ DUPONT, *Human Trafficking*, at 195.

⁶⁷ *Id.* at 105.

⁶⁸ *Human Trafficking a Serious Organised Crime: CBI chief*, TIMES OF INDIA, May 12, 2009, available at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-05-12/india/28164967_1_human-trafficking-dance-bars-prostitution.

education, and socio-economic issues for victims of human trafficking; advocate for stricter enforcement of anti-trafficking laws; and organize rescue operations to free human trafficking victims from forced labor and/or sexual exploitation. NGOs include Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, UNICEF, Apne Aap, Sanlaap, Odanadi, Gram Niyojan Kendra, Shakti Vahini, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude, and Nedan Foundation.

In eight years, Apne Aap has impacted 10,000 women and girls previously working in the sex industry.⁶⁹ Apne Aap's programs include: facilitating over 150 anti-trafficking self-help groups; providing education and livelihood programs; publishing the Red Light Dispatch written by girls and women in prostitution; and research and advocacy in national forums.⁷⁰ It has offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkotta, and Bihar.⁷¹

Shakti Vahini is a human rights organization and is a strong legal advocate for enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation in India.⁷² To support this legal advocacy, Shakti Vahini carries out extensive research on the human trafficking situation across India and uses that information to lobby government agencies and ministries such as National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Department of Women and Child.⁷³ For the last 23 years, Sanlaap has rescued and rehabilitated women and girls. Sanlaap works in West Bengal's red-light and source areas, while particularly focusing on the porous border areas of the state connecting Bangladesh and Nepal.⁷⁴ Its programs include child protection units, education centers, and support groups for women in prostitution.

Odanadi Seva Trust, begun 18 years ago and located in Mysore in the state of Karnataka, provides a safe and nurturing environment to over 85 women and children rescued from sexual exploitation, slavery, and destitution.⁷⁵ It also participates in national efforts to create awareness of and a popular movement against human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

In Northeast India, the Nedan Foundation is carrying out livelihood support programs and research in its Combating Transborder Human Trafficking Initiative.⁷⁶ Between 2004 and 2008, the Nedan Foundation rescued over 400 girls and women who were being trafficked from and through the northeast region.⁷⁷

Multilateral Initiatives

⁶⁹ AAPNE AAP, <http://apneaap.org/about-us/story-apne-aap> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷⁰ AAPNE AAP, <http://apneaap.org/about-us/what-we-do> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷¹ AAPNE AAP, <http://apneaap.org/contact-us/offices> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷² SHAKTI VAHINI, http://www.shaktivahini.org/?page_id=3 (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷³ SHAKTI VAHINI, http://www.shaktivahini.org/?page_id=284 (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷⁴ SANLAAP, <http://www.sanlaapindia.org/> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷⁵ ODANADI, <http://odanadisevatrust.org/about.html> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷⁶ NEDAN FOUNDATION, <http://nedan.in/projects-1/trans-border-human-trafficking> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

⁷⁷ NEDAN FOUNDATION, <http://nedan.in/success-stories/year-wise-rescued-by-nedan> (last visited Mar 24, 2011).

UNODC supports the efforts of CBI and other law enforcement agencies to increase India's enforcement capabilities against human trafficking.⁷⁸ UNICEF supports many programs, often in conjunction with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to address the root causes of child labor and the sexual exploitation of minors.⁷⁹

India is a party to numerous international agreements to prevent human trafficking. India has signed but not yet ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons. India has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict.⁸⁰ India has ratified two ILO conventions on forced labor, Convention 29 and 105.⁸¹

India also works with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to combat human trafficking. In 2002, the SAARC nations adopted the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.⁸² At the most recent high-level SAARC meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka in February 2011, the SAARC Foreign Ministers reiterated their countries' commitments to cooperating in efforts against human trafficking.⁸³

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⁷⁸ MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, *Draft National Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with Special Focus on Women and Children*, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, p. 9, available at http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/NAP-Draft-India_2006.pdf.

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ DUPONT, *Human Trafficking*, at 247.

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002), available at http://www.humantrafficking.org/uploads/publications/SAARC_Convention_on_Trafficking_Prostitution.pdf.

⁸³ SAARC Nations Pledge to Combat Human Trafficking, ONEINDIANEWS, February 8, 2011, available at <http://news.oneindia.in/2011/02/08/saarccountries-pledge-to-combat-terrorism-humantrafficking-aid0121.html>.

⁸⁴ MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, *Draft National Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with Special Focus on Women and Children*, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, p. 9, available at http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/NAP-Draft-India_2006.pdf.

⁸⁵ *Id.*