

# Human Trafficking



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## Case Study 1

Alma Khatun was a 47-year-old woman, married to Mohammad Manzar Alam, and living in Islam Nagar, Pathalkudwa Chowk, Ranchi. Her neighbors, Mohammad Zuber, his wife Gudiya, and Gudiya's mother Mustari Begum - all noticed Alma's challenging economic conditions. They told her that they knew many people working abroad who were earning a good monthly salary. They offered Alma a lucrative job in Saudi Arabia.

Alma agreed to take up the job, and Zuber helped her in obtaining her passport. On 3rd May 2014, Zuber escorted Alma from Ranchi to Mumbai, where he connected her with an agent in 'Bhindi Bazaar'. Alma was promised a monthly paycheck of 1000 Riyals (almost 17,000 INR).

Subsequently, Alma traveled to Saudi Arabia, but all, to land in for a rude shock. She realized that the agent had sold her to an Arab Sheikh for an amount of Rs. Three Lakhs. Shortly after her arrival, Alma contacted her son and revealed this harsh reality to him.

The Sheikh who had bought Alma had further assigned her to another unidentified person. The only information Alma had was that she was residing in the Al Qassim province in the city of Riyadh. Alma informed her son that she was being compelled to work for 18-20 hours daily without adequate rest. She would be beaten up if she refused to work. She was not given any sick leave and was forced to work even when she was unwell. She conveyed her pain and suffering, expressing her desire to come back to India immediately.

Alma's son set out to seek legal assistance in Ranchi, where he learned about AALI. Alma's son approached AALI for support. Initially, AALI's team visited the Anti Human Trafficking Unit in Ranch - a special unit of the police to investigate cases of human trafficking, but the case was initially refused due to Alma's overseas employment. The police claimed that the incident was beyond their jurisdiction, and therefore the **FIR[1]** could not be registered. However, AALI persisted in its efforts, and under the pressure of the City Superintendent of Police (SP), the case was eventually registered at the local police station in Hindpiri. AALI's team filed the case under human trafficking charges, specifically under **IPC 370[2] and IPC 334[3]**, on behalf of Alma's son against the agent.

[1] FIR-First Information Report

[2] Exploitation of a trafficked person

[3] Voluntarily causing hurt on provocation

Subsequently, a copy of the FIR application, along with case details, was sent to various authorities and government agencies including the State Human Rights Commission, Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Director General of Police (DGP) of Jharkhand, and the Ministry of External Affairs, India.

Alma's employment overseas threw up numerous challenges. Central government agencies including the Ministry of External Affairs had to be involved if Alma had to be safely brought back to India. Her limited literacy and lack of local contacts or access to state officials only made matters more difficult to resolve. However, with the intervention of AALI's team and the active support of the Jharkhand Police and the Ministry of External Affairs (MoE), Alma was eventually able to return to India with the assistance of the Arab government.

## Case Study 2

Anita Kumari, a 15-year-old girl from Simdega, Jharkhand, embarked on a profound journey that would test the boundaries of her human rights. While studying in the seventh grade, she had no clue that her life would spiral into an arduous ordeal.

Amarish Tirki, an acquaintance, extended a seemingly friendly hand and introduced her to grand plans for a trip to Delhi. Little did Anita know that this journey would push her into a world of exploitation. In Delhi, Amarish introduced her to Guddu, who, cloaked in promises of employment, also soon became a witting accomplice in the violation of her rights.

In a heart-wrenching breach of her autonomy, Anita was trafficked through Amarish and Guddu where they had sold her off to a placement agency. From here, the placement agency dispatched Anita to work in an apartment in Gurugram. All this while, she remained blissfully unaware of the calculated erosion of her fundamental rights.

Anita, despite the dire circumstances, forged ahead. It was her courageous request for leave, however, that would lay bare the painful truth. Unbeknownst to her, this plea for respite would expose Amarish's clandestine return to Jharkhand, having profited from her harrowing ordeal.

Armed solely with her family's mobile phone number and lacking her device, Anita borrowed a phone. Trembling with fear, she reached out to her mother, recounting the nightmarish experience she had endured.

Haunted by the specter of retribution, Anita led a nomadic life, constantly shifting her location to evade capture. Undaunted by the enormity of the challenge, her mother sought the assistance of AALI's case worker in Simdega. Together, they approached the Simdega police station, although the initial response failed to materialize into the vital FIR (First Information Report). Undeterred, the indefatigable case worker, in collaboration with the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), invoked the formidable instrument of a zero FIR under **Sections 363[1], 370[2], 376[3] and the POCSO[4] Act.**

[1] Punishment for kidnapping

[2] Exploitation of a trafficked person

[3] Punishment for rape

[4] POCSO- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

Subsequently, law enforcement authorities orchestrated Anita's rescue from Delhi, ensuring her safety under the protective custody of the Delhi Child Welfare Committee before transferring her to the Simdega Child Welfare Committee(CWC).

In Simdega, the caseworker prepared her for the testimony, which was solemnly recorded in court under **Section 164[5] CrPC**, where she bravely detailed the heinous sexual assault she had endured at Amarish's hands. The police have arrested the accused Amarish and Guddu. Following her heroic testimony, Anita was reunited with her mother and presently she is safely back in her home. Currently, the case is at the stage of trial.

This intricate narrative underscores the resounding victory of human rights in action, exemplified by the unwavering commitment of AALI and the DSP. Nevertheless, we cannot overlook instances of negligence within the local police station. Acknowledging these hurdles, AALI reiterates its unwavering commitment to justice and human rights, advocating for systemic reforms that fortify the rights and dignity of vulnerable individuals like Anita.

[5]Recording of confessions and statements.

### Case Study 3

Anu Minj, a minor girl, about 12 to 13 years old, was living in the Gumla district of Jharkhand. At that time, a man in her village named Tofar Minj offered her a work opportunity in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Tofar told Anu's parents that he would take Anu to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, where she would work as a cook for a Priest in a Church, and earn a monthly salary of Rs.1000.

When Tofar Minj took Anu to her workplace in Varanasi, she found out that she wouldn't be working for the Priest as was told by Tofar, but for a couple, Shobhana Franklin and Sumit Franklin, residing at Ravinder Lane, Varanasi. The couple had a three-month-old daughter. Anu's duties included looking after the baby and performing household chores. However, despite the promise of a monthly salary, Anu and her family never received any payment for her work.

Moreover, whenever Anu made a mistake in her assigned tasks, her employers would physically abuse her. Every time Anu or her family would ask about her wages, the couple would avoid the topic and would give the excuse of depositing money in a bank, that would be given to Anu when she returned to her village.

Seven years later, Anu's brother came to Varanasi to take her back to the village. He asked the couple to pay the money they owed to Anu over the last 7 years that Anu had worked with them as their household help. This time around, Sumit Franklin gave the excuse that the money would be given to Anu upon her final return, and this time Sumit gave Anu only the transportation fare from Varanasi to Gumla.

Anu returned to her workplace in Varanasi after 15 days of leave. The couple owed Anu close to Rs. 85000 for the last 7 years that she had worked with them. However, Sumit paid her brother only Rs.20,000 of the outstanding amount. They were told that the remainder would be deposited in Anu's bank account for her future use. Sumit gave the pretext that if he gave the full amount to Anu's brother, he might squander the money.

Despite these setbacks, Anu continued to work for the same couple, with the hope that the couple would pay her entire outstanding amount for all the years that she has worked with them. According to Anu, she worked for almost 20 years for this family.

Anu, after working for so many years, finally expressed her desire to return to her village, get married, and settle in the village. She asked for her due wages earned over all these 20 years, but Shobhana Franklin outrightly refused to pay her the due amount. Dejected and helpless, Anu came back to her village and shared her ordeal with everyone.

Anu took it upon herself to demand her outstanding payment, and she, along with her brother and relatives, visited Shobhana Franklin and Sumit Franklin's home again to demand her wages. The amount Anu had earned over a period of 20 years was approximately Rs. 5.2 Lacs, but the couple defaulted again, and she was paid only Rs. 50,000. When Anu demanded the balance amount, the couple threatened her with dire consequences, denying her a single penny more.

Anu's brother then filed a complaint against the couple for non-payment of dues at the Bhelupur police station in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. However, due to the apathy of the police, no action was taken against them in response to the complaint. Left with no other option, Anu returned to her village in Gumla.

After some time, Anu moved into her relative's home in Ranchi and again began looking for domestic work. During the stay at her relatives' house, Anu found out about AALI from one of her relatives and soon she approached AALI seeking help from them.

AALI's team accompanied Anu to the **Anti Human Trafficking Unit[1]** Police station in Ranchi, Jharkhand, where her case was registered under **Sections 370[2], 370 A[3], and 374[4] of the IPC**. After the case was registered, the Franklin couple applied for anticipatory bail with the District Judge. But AALI's team opposed the bail, and the District Judge ordered Shobhana Franklin and Sumit Franklin to appear in court.

On 11th August 2015, Shobhana Franklin and Sumit Franklin appeared in court. Upon AALI's request, the case was sent to a mediation center to facilitate Anu's receipt of the remaining wages. At the mediation center, Sumit Franklin agreed to pay Anu the dues, and he was subsequently granted provisional bail.

[1] AHTU-Anti Human Trafficking Unit-A special unit of police to investigate in cases of trafficking

[2] Buying or disposing of any person as a slave.

[3]-Exploitation of a trafficked person

[4] Unlawful compulsory labour

The Franklin couple owed a total of five lakhs and twenty thousand rupees to Anu. She had already received seventy thousand rupees, and the remaining four and a half lakh rupees were paid to her in three installments.

The pursuit of justice for Anu presented numerous challenges for both Anu and the AALI team. Anu, a resident of Gumla district, Jharkhand faced difficulties as the incident occurred in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Initially, the AHTU police station in Ranchi refused to register the FIR, and it was only registered after the intervention of the AALI Team. The court also suggested that the case, which involved wages, should be filed in the labor court. However, after explaining the legal nuances, the case proceeded.

Another complicating factor was Anu's long tenure with the accused, which created an emotional attachment. This attachment made her reluctant to file a criminal (trafficking) case against them.

In the end, with the court's intervention, Anu received her due wages of five lakh twenty thousand rupees (5,20,000/-) for her years of hard work.

## Case Study 4

On 10th October 2014, Ram Lohra made his way to the AALI office, burdened by an unsettling predicament. Sunil Kerketta, a resident of Ram Lohra's ancestral village in Simdega, had initially brought Ram Lohra and his family to Ranchi in July 2014, for labor work. However, upon their arrival, Sunil Kerketta employed Ram Lohra but callously withheld his wages. What was initially planned as a means to relocate the family from Simdega to Ranchi, took a disheartening twist as Sunil, a contractor with an extensive network in need of labor, led Ram Lohra to believe that he had dispersed his daughter, Dayamani, and another girl from his family to different construction sites. Ram Lohra was overwhelmed with gratitude for Sunil's initial assistance, making his current plight all the more perplexing.

After eight days in Ranchi, when Ram Lohra sought information about the two girls, Sunil Kerketta resorted to threats and intimidation. Ram had doubts about the safety of the two girls and their whereabouts, and he alleged that his 12-year-old daughter, Dayamani, and Somani Kumari, his 19-year-old relative, had been sent to work in a different city. Ram Lohra's inquiries about their whereabouts were met with further threats, leaving him in despair, unaware of their locations.

Driven by desperation, Ram Lohra submitted an application to AALI, seeking assistance in looking for his daughter, Dayamani and Somani Kumari. Despite the absence of concrete evidence against Sunil Kerketta, Ram Lohra persisted in demanding justice, calling upon AALI to intervene and facilitate the safe return of both girls.

The case took a legal turn when an FIR was filed against Sunil Kerketta, invoking **Sections 370[1] and 363[2] of the Indian Penal Code**, 1860. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit[3] initiated a comprehensive investigation, leading to the case's subsequent referral to the local police station for further action. The wheels of justice had been set in motion. Sunil was apprehended by the police, and attention turned to investigating the network responsible for transferring the girls to Delhi.

On 18th October 2014, under mounting pressure, Sunil Kerketta's family took a step towards redemption by bringing Dayamani and Somani Kumari back

[1] Buying or disposing of any person as a slave.

[2] Punishment for kidnapping.

[3] AHTU-Anti Human Trafficking Unit-Special Unit of Police to investigate trafficking cases.

from Delhi and delivering them to the local police station. After the FIR was lodged and Sunil's arrest, a group of 8-9 unknown individuals confronted the AALI team, threatening them to withdraw the case. AALI played a pivotal role by diligently preparing both girls for their statements on 19th October and 20th October 2014.

On 20th October 2014, statements under **Section 164[4] of the CrPC** (Code of Criminal Procedure) were meticulously recorded before a First-Class Magistrate. Dayamani was joyously reunited with her father, while Somani Kumari was placed in a shelter home in Ranchi, eagerly awaiting her father's arrival for her eventual return.

Despite the extensive legal proceedings and thorough investigations, the case had yet to reach the courtroom as of the latest update. Remarkably, Ram Lohra, the father of one of the survivors, and Somani Kumari's father had forged an alliance to resolve the matter amicably without the need for further legal intervention.

This story stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment to upholding rights, where individuals like Ram Lohra are empowered to seek justice, and organizations like AALI play a pivotal role in raising awareness, advocating for justice, and fostering a society where rights are not mere words on paper but a reality for all.

[4] *Recording of confessions and statements.*

## Case Study 5

In the serene village of Dumartoli, nestled in the heart of Simdega, Jharkhand, a young 12-year-old tribal girl named Raina Sushan Keraketa had her childhood marred by insurmountable challenges. Orphaned at a tender age, Raina, along with her two sisters, found themselves entrusted to the care of their distant relative, Baba Suman Kido. Life was an arduous journey, but they persevered.

However, Raina's life took a chilling turn when Ritesh Dungdung, a notorious troublemaker, entered her life with a shocking proposal - marriage. He asserted that he needed to accumulate sufficient funds before their wedding could take place. Ritesh took Raina to Delhi, where she was placed under the guardianship of Anish Kumar, in a house located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Unbeknownst to Raina, Ritesh's sister also worked in the same house. Raina found herself trapped, stripped of the freedom to step outside, and unable to communicate with the outside world. She was essentially held captive, with Anish refusing her requests to speak with Ritesh, repeatedly citing that Ritesh had taken all the money he had asked for. Anish did not even give her the dues wages. In a daring bid for liberation, Raina managed to clandestinely contact her uncle, Baba Suman Kido, revealing her harrowing ordeal.

Desperate to rescue her, Baba Suman reached out to Gloria, one of his acquaintances who was well-versed with AALI's work, so they reached out to AALI's Ranchi office, submitting an application on 23rd July 2020 for Raina's rescue. On the same day, AALI contacted a local organization working in Delhi dedicated to the eradication of child trafficking "Bachpan Bachao Andolan". They established contact with Ritesh, to locate Raina, who remained ensnared within the confines of the Noida house.

Despite formidable challenges posed by the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the organization relentlessly pursued Raina's rescue. On 25th July 2020, they executed a successful operation, liberating her from her tormentors. At last, Raina emerged free from the clutches of her captors, able to breathe a sigh of relief. Nonetheless, Raina's case presented a unique set of complexities.

She hesitated to testify against Ritesh Dungdung, as she harbored emotional ties with him due to the circumstances of their initial encounter. This posed a substantial obstacle in constructing a robust legal case against the accused.

The determined case worker faced an uphill struggle in persuading Raina to fully cooperate with the legal proceedings. Nevertheless, the organization remained steadfast in its commitment to Raina's well-being.

With the passage of time, patience, and comprehensive support, Raina began to open up and recognize the imperative nature of seeking justice. Today, Raina resides in safety and has been reunited with her family. The organization played an indispensable role in rescuing her from a precarious situation and continues to furnish her with the much-needed support and counseling to rebuild her life. It underscores the critical importance of extending emotional and psychological assistance to trafficking survivors, recognizing that their journey to recovery is often a complex and strenuous endeavor.

## Case Study 6

Urmila (16 years old), Rubina (18 years old), and Suchita (22 years old) are residents of the same village in Simdega. Ranjit and Sunny, who were regarded as Urmila's brothers-in-law from a neighboring village, orchestrated the journey of the three girls to Hyderabad. They first took them from Simdega to Birmitrapur in Odisha and kept them in a house with other girls, then from Birmitrapur to Hyderabad. Upon their arrival in Hyderabad, the girls were employed as domestic help at a doctor's residence.

However, after a few days, the men who had brought them to Hyderabad relocated the girls to a place where they were effectively confined, and unable to leave. Here, the three of them found four other women and girls from different states who were also being held, and they too lacked the means to return to their respective homes. Meanwhile, back in their village, Rubina's sister had been repeatedly attempting to contact them on their mobile phones, but the phones were switched off. Urmila, Rubina, and Suchita too could not get in touch back home as their mobile phones were confiscated and they had no access to any other phone. After a few days all these girls were taken to Madhya Pradesh for work.

In the meanwhile, unable to get any information regarding the whereabouts of Rubina, her sister sought assistance from AALI, and a caseworker in Simdega got in touch with Rubina's sister. With AALI's support, the matter was reported to ChildLine and the local police station. When the police station initially refused to register an FIR (First Information Report), the caseworker reached out to the DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) and ChildLine, eventually leading to the filing of a Zero FIR. The police located Sunny and inquired about the girls, from whom they received information that all the girls were in Madhya Pradesh. When the caseworker came to know that all the girls were in Madhya Pradesh, they contacted the 'Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation' for support in rescuing these girls.

Following this, a collaborative rescue operation between the police, ChildLine and Kailash Satyarthi Children's foundation was initiated which resulted in the successful rescue of these girls from Madhya Pradesh. All three survivors Urmila, Rubina, and Suchita were provided shelter in a women's shelter home. Throughout the rescue mission, ChildLine and local organizations of Hyderabad also played pivotal roles. At present, the women are actively engaged in skill development programs at a women's shelter home.

## Case Study 7

Ruby Kumar, a young girl studying in the 7th grade, had dreams that soared beyond the boundaries of her humble background. In the tranquil village of Bano where she was residing, nestled in the heart of the Simdega district of Jharkhand, a remarkable tale of resilience and hope was unfolding. Ruby's world was set on fire by the stories of opportunity and prosperity shared by her friends who had ventured to the grand city of Delhi.

Enchanted by these tales, Ruby's heart swelled with dreams of a bright future. Little did she know that her dreams and ambitions would unwittingly lead her into a world fraught with danger and deception.

Navin Sharma, a man who seemed to hold the keys to the city, emerged as Ruby's guide to this new life. He painted vivid pictures of a Delhi brimming with opportunities and riches, luring Ruby into his elaborate web of promises. Eager for progress, Ruby believed in Navin and embarked on a journey that would change her life forever.

With hope and trepidation, she left her village, leaving behind her worried family. Little did they know that this farewell would be shrouded in uncertainty. Ruby's ties with her family were severed when Navin Sharma cut off all contact with them.

Back in Bano, Ruby's family couldn't shake off the gnawing unease that grew with each passing day. Realizing the gravity of their actions, Ruby's friends, the ones who had introduced her to Navin Sharma, got in touch with Ruby's family. They united in their determination to bring Ruby back home and reached out to AALI for help.

Having worked in the past in numerous such cases of human trafficking, AALI was undeterred by the obstacles they faced. The local police station initially refused to register a First Information Report (FIR), but the case worker from AALI persisted. They joined forces with a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) to ensure that a zero FIR<sup>[1]</sup> - was finally lodged, breaking the bureaucratic roadblock.

Even though Ruby's mobile phone had been switched off forcefully by Navin

*[1] Zero FIR- a procedural tool allowing victims to file complaints at any police station regardless of the crime location;*

to evade tracking, the case worker's relentless efforts paid off. They managed to trace her new number through one of Navin's associates, leading them to Ruby's whereabouts.

In a remarkable display of collaboration, the case worker contacted a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Lohardaga district, who have an office in Delhi. Together, they orchestrated a daring rescue operation. The Delhi police swiftly moved into action, ensuring Ruby's safe return.

After an immense effort by AALI caseworker, Ruby Kumar has finally returned to her village, resuming her education at Kasturba Vidyalaya. Her journey back to her community has been a significant achievement, but it's only one part of the story.

In the meantime, Navin Sharma has been apprehended for having trafficked Ruby, and now faces the legal consequences of his actions. He is currently incarcerated behind bars, a vital step towards ensuring justice is served.

This case serves as a powerful reminder of the intricate challenges that arise in addressing trafficking cases. It underscores the indispensable role played by dedicated caseworkers who navigate complex bureaucratic hurdles to secure the safety and rehabilitation of individuals like Ruby Kumar. Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts demonstrate the strength of human perseverance in the face of adversity.

This story also highlights the power of collaboration in the pursuit of justice and a brighter future for those who have suffered injustice. It is a testament to the resilience of individuals like Ruby, and the relentless dedication of organizations like AALI working tirelessly to right the wrongs and create a more just and equitable world for all.

## Case Study 8

Shruti, a 15-year-old girl from Simdega, Jharkhand, found herself at a crossroads in life when her father tragically passed away. Her mother after her husband's death, remarried and entrusted her to the care of Shruti's maternal aunt so that her education and well-being were looked after. But that was not meant to be.

One fateful day, Shruti mysteriously disappeared from her aunt's house. Alarmed and distressed, her aunt immediately began searching for her. Her determination and tireless efforts to locate Shruti proved futile initially. It was only later that she found out that Shruti's another aunt had sold her in Rajouri Garden, Delhi.

Shruti's aunt decided to approach the **AHTU[1]** for assistance. However, the initial response from the AHTU was lukewarm, the officers were indifferent to her plea. Disheartened but not defeated, she attempted to file a complaint two times, hoping for justice. Despite her persistence, the local police did not register the **FIR[2]** both times.

But Shruti's aunt was not one to give up so easily. She made a third attempt to submit a complaint at the same AHTU police station. Still, the Police did not register the FIR, however, they suggested Shruti's aunt to go to Delhi. They took her into confidence and informed her that they had talked to the concerned Police station in Delhi and they would cooperate with her in search of the girl.

The search in Delhi too, turned out to be futile, the Police demanded a copy of the FIR, which Shruti's aunt was unable to produce since the local police had refused thrice to register one. She came back to Simdega, disappointed. The next day, one of her acquaintances told her about AALI and its work to support women's and girls' rights. The caseworker came in contact with Shruti's maternal aunt and understood the whole situation. The caseworker then contacted the **DSP[3]** for support in the case. With the guidance and support of the DSP, they finally registered an FIR. This marked a significant turning point in their pursuit of justice for Shruti.

The Police went to Delhi to rescue Shruti and with the cooperation of the local Police in Delhi, Shruti was found and rescued.

[1] Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

[2] First Information Report

[3] Deputy Superintendent of Police

She was sent back to Simdega and was kept at a shelter home for a few days. Shruti was presented before the **CWC[4]**. Meanwhile, she lived in a shelter home, and after a few days, she was sent back to her aunt's house.

With the support of AALI, a case was registered against the human trafficker. The trafficker is behind bars now and serving a jail term. Shruti is now reunited with her family, back where she rightfully belonged. Subsequently, with AALI's support Shruti was enrolled in Kasturba Vidyalaya for further education.

This narrative underscores the increase in the number of cases of human trafficking in Jharkhand and the challenges the locals come across while registration of human trafficking cases. It was only as a result of AALI's continuous follow-up and its determination to rescue Shruti, that a case could be registered against the trafficker. Shruti is now happily reunited with her maternal aunt and the culprit is behind bars.

[4] Child Welfare Committee

## Case Study 9

Sushma is a 28-year-old tribal woman from Ranchi. She is a determined woman, residing in the heart of Delhi, a city pulsating with life and dreams. Her life is a living testament to the pursuit of her dreams, but it was also marked by unwarranted adversity. Sushma, with her devoted family by her side, worked relentlessly to improve their living conditions.

For years, she labored diligently in the city and worked as house help at Reema's daughter's house in Delhi, channeling her energy and determination into realizing her dreams. She was committed to uplifting her family economically, and she displayed unwavering perseverance in the face of hardships. However, destiny had a different narrative to unveil. In 2019, after Reema's daughter changed her job, Sushma was sent back to Ranchi to stay with Reema. What followed was a harrowing chapter in Sushma's life. Reema subjected her to brutal physical and psychological abuse, using everyday household objects as tools of torment. Sushma endured relentless beatings, with a rolling pin leaving its mark, a ladle striking her back, and a searing griddle inflicting burns. The turning point came when a brutal blow from a rolling pin left Sushma with a grievous back injury.

Sushma's once-vibrant appearance deteriorated rapidly, rendering her unable to walk. Her body succumbed to the ravages of a severe, underlying illness. The simple act of eating became an ordeal, and she suffered the pangs of hunger day and night.

Reema's son, Ayushman, who was 30 years old, could not bear the suffering of Sushma and bravely lodged a complaint against his own mother, accusing her of perpetrating a series of abusive acts.

Sushma's acquaintances, Vivek Baski and Rashmi Gorge came to the AALI office in Ranchi seeking support in the case. Upon receiving the application, the AALI team informed Argora Thana Ranchi, where an FIR was lodged under **sections 323[1],325[2],346[3],374[4] of IPC and 3(1)(a)(h)[5] of the SC/ST Atrocities Act**. They arrived at Reema's home to rescue Sushma.

[1] Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt

[2] Punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt

[3] Wrongful confinement

[4] Unlawful compulsory labour

[5] Whoever, not being a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe-puts any inedible or obnoxious substance into the mouth of a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe or forces such member to drink or eat such inedible or obnoxious substance;(h) makes a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe to do "begar" or other forms of forced or bonded labour other than any compulsory service for public purposes imposed by the Government;

After filing the complaint, they promptly removed Sushma from her home in Ashok Nagar. She was subsequently taken to the One Stop Crisis Center (OSC) at the Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS) for her safety. The AALI team diligently conducted a fact-finding in the case. They attempted to meet Sushma at the One Stop Crisis Center, but the staff there had strict orders to restrict access to her. The police then transported Sushma to the district hospital for a thorough medical examination. Communication with Sushma proved difficult, but her physical condition raised concerns, as she was struggling to walk and suffering from a serious illness.

The team got in touch with the Thana in-charge, Mr. Vinod of Argora Thana. He informed them that, following the medical examination, Sushma had been admitted to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Hospital due to her critical condition, and her recovery would likely require a substantial amount of time. When asked about the **Section 164[6] CrPC** statement, he had no information, and was also unaware of Sushma's ward.

After conducting inquiries through various channels, the AALI team visited Sushma at RIMS Hospital. There, Dr. Indu was found interrogating Sushma in a loud and persistent manner. She repeatedly questioned why Sushma had endured two years of violence, why she had been kept at home if she couldn't work, and why Reema's son had lodged a complaint against his mother. This harsh line of questioning continued until the AALI team intervened, prompting Dr. Indu to cease her inquiries.

During the Section 164 CrPC statement process, the AALI team provided valuable assistance in court. They ensured Sushma received improved medical care and took steps to enhance her security. Additionally, they submitted an application to the Honorable Governor, for financial assistance for Sushma's medical treatment. Furthermore, the AALI team filed an application before the Jharkhand State Legal Service Authority to update Sushma's name and address on her Aadhar card.

Sushma's condition remained critical, but with the steadfast support of the AALI team, she embarked on a journey of recovery. Today, Sushma stands as a beacon of resilience and determination. Her dreams, once shrouded in the darkness of violence and hardship, have rekindled. Currently, Sushma is living in a shelter home.

[6] Recording of confessions and statements.

Sushma's saga serves as a poignant reminder that even amidst the bleakest of circumstances, with a helping hand and unwavering determination, one can ascend from the depths of despair and script their life's narrative with triumph and justice.

[6] *Recording of confessions and statements.*

## Case Study 10

Anju, Urmila, and Soni, three young girls aged 16, 17, and 20 respectively, residents of Ranchi and Khunti districts of Jharkhand, were determined to change the course of their lives for the better. They aspired for success and a brighter future, so they sought job opportunities through a middleman named Sukhu Nayak, who promised them training at a network marketing company in Koderma. However, their pursuit of a better life took a nightmarish turn when Sukhu Nayak charged them exorbitant fees ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 rupees.

Upon arriving at the training facility, the three girls immediately sensed that something was gravely amiss. They found themselves confined to a cramped room, coerced into captive living conditions against their will. Fear and desperation gripped them as they realized they were trapped.

In a courageous act of defiance, Urmila managed to get hold of a phone, dialed an unknown number, and reached out for help. Through this call, she shared their harrowing ordeal and expressed their desperate desire to escape from Kodarma. Luck was by their side this time. The receiver of the call happened to be a compassionate woman. Sensing the urgency and the seriousness of the situation the girls were in, the woman contacted AALI's caseworker in Kodarma and provided the much-needed crucial information about the girls' dire situation. The caseworker wasted no time in alerting the local police, furnishing them with detailed information about the incident.

Following Urmila's distress call, the caseworker teamed up with the Tilaiya police to chalk out a rescue plan. Their diligent efforts uncovered a shocking revelation - a company operating under the name of 'Gailway Brand' was involved in trafficking several girls and subjecting them to forced captive training. Meanwhile, the caseworker also called Childline and collaborated closely with police to spearhead the rescue operation in Tilaiya. Their relentless efforts exposed the exploitation of numerous girls at the hands of the Gailway Brand company, all of whom were subjected to coercive training against their will.

All three minor girls, Anju, Urmila, and Soni, were swiftly reunited with their families, through AALI's caseworker. Legal action was promptly initiated against the human traffickers and the managers of the Gailway Brand company through the filing of First Information Reports (FIRs).

Subsequent legal measures were taken against the perpetrators, and the minors were provided with the care and support they needed before being safely reintegrated into their families. The trauma they had endured was acknowledged, and steps were taken to ensure their well-being and emotional recovery.

At present, Anju, Urmila, and Soni are housed under the care of Ujjwal Home, where they are receiving education, care, and guidance. They have been given an opportunity to build new and prosperous lives. Urmila's extraordinary bravery served as an inspiration to her companions, motivating them to take courageous steps toward a brighter future.

Urmila's act of courage not only saved her own life but also marked a new beginning that raised awareness in society. As a result of their resilience and the collective efforts of AALI's caseworker, Childline, and Police, Urmila and her companions are now on a path to a better life, while their bravery continues to make their community a safer place for all.

