

# *A Brief Report*

“My New Life”

## **International Day against Drug abuse and Illegal Trafficking**

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

### **ABOUT ICWO:**

ICWO is a non-profitable organization working in the field of STD/HIV /AIDS prevention among high risk population for the past 14 years. ICWO also works among children vulnerable to prevent them from being trafficked for sexual exploitation and bring in quality of life.

### **Trafficking**

Trafficking of women and children is one of the most reprehensible and heinous crimes perpetrated against humanity. In spite of various measures taken to prevent trafficking, the problem has only worsened. Through trafficking in human beings has been prevailing in human society since ancient times, in recent years the magnitude of trafficking has increased specially that of children. Trafficking of women and children are being carried out by organizing gangs for commercial sexual exploitation, bonded labor, employment in servitude, in dancing parlors, for pornography etc. The end result is the serious violation of child rights and pushing them to health hazards, psychiatric and psychological problems.

Trafficking in person means the recruitment, transportation, purchase, sale, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by threat or use of violence, abduction, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding such person, whether for pay or not, in forced labors or slavery like practices, in a community other than one in which such person lived at the time of the original act described as above.

The purpose for trafficking are Sexual exploitation, Illegal activities, Labor, Entertainment and Sports, Adoption, Marriage, Camel jockey, Begging, Organ Trade and Drug peddling

### **International Day against Drug abuse and Illegal Trafficking-“**

**ICWO is committed to prevent trafficking of women and children in Chennai. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 we have organised event on anti trafficking**

Through our constant motivation and sensitization 10 women pimps & brokers have decided to give away their profession as pimps & brokers .They burned their personal diary which consists of details of clients, sex workers and other pimps as a symbol that they will stop trafficking and work for the halting of illegal trafficking. They will be taking an oath and campaign for Anti trafficking.



26<sup>th</sup> June is marked as International Day against Drug abuse and Illegal Trafficking, We ICWO have planned to organize a program titled “My New Life” for the Pimps and Brokers.



Brokers and pimps taking oath that they will not involve in any form of trafficking. Mr. Amar Jothi, Regional Manager, Actionaid, Chennai Region (In Black T.Shirt) & participated as a chief guest to inaugurate of the initiative on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Mr. Amar Jothy, Regional Manager, Action Aid India** will be our chief guest of the day and they inaugurate the program.

Trafficking of women and children is one of the most guilty and repulsive crimes perpetrated against humanity. As estimated by International Policing Agencies, 7,00,000 persons, mostly women and children are trafficked internationally each year says Mr. *Hariharan, Secretary, ICWO*.

*He continues* that in India it is estimated in the International Policing Agencies that 22480 women and 44476 children are missing and one fourth of such cases remain untraced till end. Trafficking has emerged as a low risk high return, well organised criminal activity. Hence combating this menace is a major challenge.



**Pimps and Brokers burning the dairies which contains details of vulnerable women and children on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Mr. Hariharan** added that bring the traffickers them selves and partnering themselves in effectively preventing the human trafficking is a new strategies for ICWO to effectively halt the trafficking. So far there have been no efforts made in bring the traffickers themselves in the prevention program.

I believe it is a good beginning in the progress towards protecting the vulnerable population from being trafficked.

**Mr. A.Bakathavachalam , Director of ARM,** shared that human trafficking is one of the major social issue, so the person released this and coming forward to prevent and stop human trafficking is appreciable and usually in Tamil Nadu it happens hear and there. It is not the pimps and brokers responsibility alone the entire society has to look into it as a serious issue and control the human trafficking. And therefore decreasing the vulnerability toward the HIV/AIDS infection decreases in child labor. We have to empower the girl child and women. Mostly girl child and affected by traffickers. ICWO continuously involve in all sectors especially in human trafficking.

So NGOs will join hands with social scientist and media also should extend the support in controlling the Human trafficking.

**Community Quotes:**

**Ms.Kamala (Name Changed):** When I was in this profession I indulged my daughter also into prostitution but later she died of AIDS. Her death caused a great impact in me that I decided to leave this profession. Now I am earning through sales of blouse bits.

**Ms.P.Lakshmi (Name Changed):** Knowing my profession all my relatives including my son & daughter in law disserted me and started discriminating me. I was left aloof and realized my fault through the peer educators of ICWO and left the profession. Now I am a flower vendor and earn my daily bread through that.

**Ms.Parvathy (Name Changed):** I was in this profession since my young age. I didn't have children for many years so my husband left me. I realized that this may be due to the sin I had done. When I got awareness from the peer educators of ICWO I made up my mind to leave this profession. Now I am working as a servant maid and earning through that.

**Ms.Jeyalakshmi (Name Changed):** My daughter is dum. When my son-in-law came to know about my profession he refused to lead a life with my daughter and so went away from her. I got counseling from the peer educators of ICWO and now I am running a idly shop with my daughter.

**Ms.Thanalakshmi (Name Changed):** I was in this profession when my children were very small. I came to know about the causes of the children being trafficked through the peer educators of ICWO. Now my children are grown up and I have realized that for the sake of my children I should leave this profession and now I am earning through the sales of fancy items.

**Ms.Banumathi (Name Changed) :** I used to send the female children with cine agents, for house servant maids and etc. As I would get commission for such things I was in this profession for want of money. In spite of my husband warning me to leave this profession I continued it. But after the interaction with ICWO peer educators I slowly changed my attitude and now I am totally out of this profession and I earn by stitching torn clothes.

**Ms.P.N.Shanthi ((Name Changed):** I was indulged in the sexwork from my young age, I suffered a lot by police arrest and harassment. Later I was broker and when I came to know about the ICWO and its activities I got awareness and now I am working as the community fellow in the organization formed by us called **IFPEC**.

**Ms.B.Baby ((Name Changed):** Previously I was a sex worker and a broker. I used to send many girls to Mumbai to red light area. Once I came to know that one of the girls whom I had sent to Mumbai was infected with HIV and died of AIDS. This made me think about my profession and also about the future of my daughters. I came to know about ICWO joined with them as community fellow and started working for anti trafficking.

