Foreign funds hamper values

While sovereign India, as a result of globalization is making a head way in the field of technology, trade, out sourcing, exports and so on it stands to face peril in the field of culture and constitution. It is a welcome fact that the organizations in various countries come to help eradicate HIV/AIDS, that has become a challenge to India. But the voluntary organizations in the country are agitated that the donor Agencies under the guise carrying out their of giving a helping hand do harm indirectly to the human values relationships following their pre planned strategies. Certain foreign Funding Agencies came forward to donate crores of rupees for eradication of HIV/AIDs. But these organizations entered into an agreement with the central Government that they do not follow deleterious methods that harm the country’s sovereignty, culture and solidarity and abide by the Indian laws. But instead of controlling and eradication of HIV/AIDs and taking advantage of the innocence and helplessness of the VOCSET (Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking) they began to form them into organizations and instigate them to launch revolutions for licensing prostitution. Some organisations went to the extent of demanding licensing of sodomy, lesbianism, recognition of homosexual and legitimising them. One Calcutta based organization which has been striving for licensing prostitution since 10 years is in receipt of crores of foreign funds. However these organizations failed to evoke public support. Recently

Trafficking Danda

The atrocities of traffickers are increasing day by day. Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi, Guntur are the hubs of Trafficking activity. The women and children moving alone are falling a prey to the goons and forced to brothels.

Sobha came to Hyderabad seeking a Nurse Job. Unfortunately, she was tricked by a hooligan and became pregnant. Later she fell a prey to a broker and she was sexually exploited. At last she was rescued by an organization. “I did not think that I will be subjected to this situation, I searched for Raja for a week who loved and married me. But he was not traced. Then I moved to Secunderabad railway station waiting room. There a women pitied me and took me to her home in uppal where two days passed off peacefully. The third day at 8:00 P.M the women took me to Secunderabad Railway station. She asked me to follow two persons who took me in auto to Kukatpalli. I feltt doubted. Before I could know where I was, I was raped by 8 persons all through the night. They did not hear when I said I was hungry and pregnant “ she said in a hoarse voice. This warangal based girl joined in inter with an aim to become a nurse. But having lost her parents and neglected by brothers. She had to discontinue her Studies to labour a sum of Rs. 10,000/- for nursing course, which is her cherished ambition.

Vijaya, arrived at Hyderabad city over a grouse with cont......2

Rina rescued

Rina (name changed) is from Mangalagiri in Guntur District. Her father is a poor mason. Rina failed in 10th class. It was shocking news to Rina and her family. The family was in distress. At this juncture, a woman met Rina. Pretending sympathy towards Rina, the woman raised false hopes of livelihoods in innocent Rina. Rina believed and followed the woman to M artur, where the woman dropped Rina in a house, and secretly sold her to the owner. Rina was moved to Nagaraju centre confined in a house and was forced to do sex work. A stonished at this, Rina began making appeals to cont......3
Training programmes in counseling

As part of CTHAAP Project being implemented by HELP, training was given to the staff of the organization on "basic counseling skills" at Chilakaluripet. Community organisers, peer workers and volunteers participated in it. The field workers have gained knowledge about skills and as to whom the counselling is to be given at the field level. After training, the staff identified the village volunteers in their cluster villages (Guntur, Mangalagiri, Chilakaluripet, Narasaraopet) and "basic counselling" training was given to 100 peer volunteers for 25 villages (4 Volunteers each village) for two days. By this training, the village volunteers, came to know what it means by counselling why counselling should be given, to whom, who is counsellor, what his characteristics are, who is a client, what are the problems, what kind of relation ship is to be maintained between a counsellor and a client, what are the skills of counselling. Afterwards all the volunteers were asked to indentify the people facing problems, and give them counselling. This programme was organised at Chilakaluripet, Guntur, Narasaraopet in stages.

Sensitization for officials

The police seem to be reluctant to take action as they allegedly collude freely in Bus and Railway stations. Traffickers move freely in Bus and Railway stations. Traffickers use various forms. They have developed acquaintance with Vijaya, and both moved to Mehdipatnam, where they lived as man and wife. Having lived with Vijaya for 6 months Sreenu had fled away leaving her in lurch. She was forced to work under a common umbrella and advised all the N.G.O. representatives to form networks with lawyers in each and every state. In this work shop all the N.G.O. representatives passed a resolution to generate awareness on trafficking among Govt. Officials, judges and other stake holders. It was also decided to publish books on Acts in Law in the local languages and to establish Legal Aid Centers at state level.

Vimukti – meetings to strengthen

Various organizations of VOCSSET (Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking) which formed into 'Vimukti' decided to strengthen Vimukti further. They decided to form themselves into an united front in the first week of November. They decided to carry out their own programmes with effect from October. They further decided to form into a united front in the first week of September. During this meeting these organizations took certain key decisions.

In the areas where NATSAP (Networking Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Andhra Pradesh) partner NGOs are working namely Rajahmundry (East Godavari Dt.), Visakhapatnam (Visakha Dist.), Tanuku (West Godavari Dt) Vijayawada(KrishnaDt.) Chilakaluripet (Guntur Dt.), Khammam (KhammamDt.) Nayudupet(Nellore Dt.) Ongole (Prakasam Dist.) CBO’s were formed with the support of VOCSSET and got them registered under Societies Registration Act. These organizations have decided to carry out their own programmes with effect from October. They further decided to form into a united front in the first week of November. They focused mainly on the steps to be taken to prevent their children from entering into the profession, prevent trafficking and implementation of GO M.S No.1. They further decided to strengthen the Vimukti further.

Traffickers data in websites

ATSEC National chapter has passed a resolution in the work shop held at Dehradoon to put traffickers data and photographs in the web sites and also to keep traffickers data and photographs in the web sites. The police seem to be reluctant to take action as they allegedly collude freely in Bus and Railway stations. Traffickers move freely in Bus and Railway stations. Traffickers use various forms. They have developed acquaintance with Vijaya, and both moved to Mehdipatnam, where they lived as man and wife. Having lived with Vijaya for 6 months Sreenu had fled away leaving her in lurch. She was forced to work under a common umbrella and advised all the N.G.O. representatives to form networks with lawyers in each and every state. In this work shop all the N.G.O. representatives passed a resolution to generate awareness on trafficking among Govt. Officials, judges and other stake holders. It was also decided to publish books on Acts in Law in the local languages and to establish Legal Aid Centers at state level.

Voice of the Voiceless

work shop at Guntur

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Some concerns that come to my mind.....just ventilating (Dr. Sunitha Krishnan)

Should we legitimize?
In the unknown terrains of darkness...
I see for light to guide my soul
In the untold depth of my being...
I yearn for dignity to hold my whole...

For hundreds of thousands of victims of commercial sexual exploitation whom you can call by any name depending on the perspective you carry, a prostitute or a commercial sex workers this is their heartrending plea-need to be a part of the mainstream society – a need to belong. Ask any of them whether they want their children in the trade and the answer is a firm NO. And there the dichotomy begins.

In recent times there have been a lot of debates on whether prostitution should be legalized/decriminalized etc...I am actually now waiting for a time when people will start debating whether rape or murder should be legalized. Sounds absurd. Well if prostitution can be legalized then in the course of time even crime and slavery should be legalized, for prostitution or sex trade is the oldest form of sexual slavery.

From time immemorial various deviances and discrepancies have existed in the society many of which internalized and integrated in the normal day today social functioning, be it feudalism, sati or dowry. To maintain the power hierarchies these have been reinforced by social systems such as patriarchy that makes male hegemony the all powerful process. The male domain has constantly found ways to maintain women subversively so that power blocks are never threatened. Over the centuries women and the larger society have slowly internalized all this with a ‘culture of silence’ and also have learnt the ways to be the torch bearer of this system. The consequence a society that is specialized and skilled in the art of gender discrimination which is manifested in various forms ranging from female foeticide, infanticide, child marriage, eve-teasing, rape, dowry death etc..etc...

And somewhere this message is also griddled that as a woman you have an object … a commodity of dignity that can be suitably traded off. Only the orifices in your body have certain significance otherwise you are worthless. This has been the primary logic of women being in flesh trade. That a woman’s identity is either for procreation or as a sexual being who will sustain the well being of the extent of calling sex as a service industry that actually protects other women from being sexually molested or raped. Well if that is the case there should not be a single rape in countries where prostitution is legal !!!!!

Slavery has never empowered a human being and therefore prostitution can never empower a woman. Prostitution is a by-product of lack of options or alternatives in the society. No woman or man for that matter, will ever voluntarily opt for flesh trade in a context of adequate sustainable options. therefore let us not legitimize our own inadequacies because we could not provide options and call prostitution as a sexual right of a person to sell for flesh trade in a context of adequate sustainable options. therefore let us not legitimize our own inadequacies because we could not provide options and call prostitution as a sexual right of a person to sell for flesh trade in a context of adequate sustainable options. therefore let us not legitimize our own inadequacies because we could not provide options and call prostitution as a sexual right of a person to sell ...

On the other hand in this era of HIV/AIDS and foreign funding there is a growing need to gain entry points so that money can be suitably expended. A need to implement strategies that will target the so called communities with ‘high risk behaviours’ but the catch is that these well wishers/savior of the society are not willing to address any deep-rooted issues in the society nor invest a fraction of the billions of rupees on options. their predominant obsession is to impose short cut methods to prevent HIV/AIDS, not at any point realizing or acknowledging that change cannot occur from the periphery. In a situ-

ation of absolute slavery, helplessness and optionlessness what is that money is taken and it has to be expended so the most convenient strategy is to gain entry through an object that violates all human rights it is the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. By being a silent spectator we are all a part of the ‘culture of silence’ that promotes this dehumanized trade. Our silence supports demand....our inaction motivates exploitation....we have disempowered ourselves. Break this chain of silence...for it is our own sisters and daughters who are being trade.

cont... from 1st Page

Rina rescued
the clients who wish to her to save her from the hell. Having received this information, the ELP Co-ordinator, M r. M. Sekhar and Field officer Srinivas plunged into action and consulted the local police. At the same time news was published in the Dailies. Immediately the police raided the premises and rescued Rina. Police booked case under the ITP Act. When Rina was produced before the Magistrate, he ordered for safely handing over of the girl to her parents.
US Government is getting on the issue of trafficking of human beings. Indicating its seriousness on the issue, the US government funding agency USAID terminated funds off the NGO Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM) for reportedly supporting brothel owners and obstructing the rescue of minor girls from red light areas. SANGRAM is said to be the first NGO to be cut off from funding for trying to thwart rescue efforts. "It is for the first time in India and perhaps internationally, as far as I know, I want to believe this is an exception, an anomaly. But we are reviewing other programmes and if there is any specific information that an organization is trying to keep people from being rescued from any kind of trafficking we will be looking into it," said Ambassador John R Miller, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In a letter dated September 9, the office of AVERT, a joint project of USAID and the Indian Government, informed SANGRAM of the termination of funding. The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the US State Department had received reports about SANGRAM's role in "thwarting rescue efforts".

The US embassy in India and USAID are reviewing a batch of grants to examine if the grants are being used to fund work that is contrary to the US policy on trafficking or HIV/AIDS. It is reliably learnt that funds could be cut off to four or five more NGOs in India. It is said that four or five more NGOs in India are being monitored by the USAID to check if their work is contrary to the US policy. The US embassy is also assessing the grants to see if the funds are being used to fund work that is contrary to the US policy on trafficking or HIV/AIDS.

The rescued minor girls have been handed over to their parents who, it is suspected, might have been complicit in their trafficking, as indicated by the statement of some of the girls to RI members. With widespread fears that the rescued girls might be forced back into the sex trade, the US government is not amused. "If the US is going to play a leadership role in abolishing this modern-day slavery in the 21st century, then we need to ensure that US funds go to support that effort and not frustrate it," says Ambassador Miller.

Foreign funds hamper values

In the city of Sangli in Maharashtra, a voluntary organization, formed an association with those who were convicted as brokers and Madams and started to agitate for legalizing and licensing of prostitution. Certain inland organizations, receiving Government funds are in course of giving training teach the trainees that there are benefits on licensing of prostitution. In view of the fact that their training manual contains the emblem of the Government one is left to imagine if the Government also support the revolution. Other foreign organizations spending crores of rupees in the name of advocacy and lobbying are trying to persuade the M.P.s and M.L.As that licensing of prostitution, yields good benefits like eradication of HIV/AIDs and help better the lives of Prostitutes and to secure legitimization of prostitution. On the whole our country is going to face a peril. The nations culture sovereignty, solidarity human values are at stake. There is a greater need for every citizen to condemn the evil.

Prefers not to ignore the high-handedness of RI members during the raid, and instead, got his organization in US, Restore International to complain to SANGRAM's international supporters.

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voice of the voiceless

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voice of the voiceless

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