



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dreams “To Become a Teacher” -Sarika Kamble

Mumbai: My name is Sarika Kamble. I am 23-year-old. I have cleared my class 12th in Bhambed (Maharashtra). My father’s name is Suresh Kamble. He is a farmer and my mother is a home-maker. My family lives in Bhambed.

We are seven members in the family. We can barely feed ourselves. Hence, I decided to shift my base to Mumbai. I’ll be able to shoulder the financial burden of my father, as he makes annual income of just around Rs 20,000.

At present I live in Kamathipura (Mumbai) with my aunty. There are seven members in my family. My two sisters got married and the brothers are studying.

Since past two years, I have been working in a company of packing handkerchief boxes and earn Rs. 4000 per month. I migrated from Bhambed. I came to continue my further studies and use this money for my studies.

With my friend, I came to know about various courses conducted at Apne Aap Worldwide. I have joined MS-CIT computer course here. The teachers are very friendly.

I am inspired from the teachers. And now I want to become a Computer teacher in future.

I believe there is no age limit to learn. I will strive to succeed in what ever I do. I have mouths to feed.

Najafgarh girls in boarding hostel

—Prachi and Anisha/ as dictated to Garima Bastola

Delhi: My name is Prachi. I live in Najafgarh. I am aged six and admitted as a prep student at Shanti Gyan International School this year. I want to learn, continue my schooling and become a doctor. It’ll give me the opportunity to treat my grandmother and help others in our locality. I enjoy writing ABCD, swimming and skating. There are many activities in school. In hostel, I often think of my mother and my grandmother.

My mother and grandmother told me not to cry, when going to the hostel, so I didn’t cry. **But when I am alone in hostel, I miss mummy a lot. I cry alone. There is not a day that goes by without remembering her.** Sometimes, I am allowed to talk to her when she rings on the hostel’s

landline number. I like my school, made many new friends. They all treat me with love and care. We are learning a lot of new things; I am also learning to write. There are a lot of activities in my school that I enjoy like swimming, skating, dancing etc.

Anisha

My name is Anisha and I am nine-year-old. I study in the same school with Prachi. We, four girls from Najafgarh were enrolled in this school on the same date. I am associated with Apne Aap since some years. I know the social workers. They used to visit our house quite often. Later, I started coming to Apne Aap’s centre.

(Continued on page 6)

Kingpin trafficker Gainul’s wife arrested

— Praveen Kumar/ inputs by Mohd Kalam

Bihar: My name is Praveen. I am associated with Apne Aap Women Worldwide based in Forbesganj, Bihar. Time and again we have been demanding for the traffickers arrest from red light area since many years. Last year Gainul’s arrest was a big leap for our struggle against trafficking and to protect the girls and women from them.

This month, however, Apne Aap team was overwhelmed to have received the news that trafficker Gainul’s wife Biwi Jubaida along with a male accomplice from Nirmali in Madhubani were arrested by police in Araria. It was a joyous moment for all of us.

Jubaida is from a Nat community.

She was prostituted at a very early age. Later she moved to brothels in West Bengal. It is alleged that she kidnapped few girls from the brothel and moved her base to Forbesganj red light area. This was eight years ago. Since that time, she acted as a pimp for these girls and hired Gainul as a protector from the local goons. However, Gainul used her for his own purpose and both were an accomplice in many criminal act that they have pulled together. It is also claimed that Jubaida alias Belijan kidnapped her sister-in-law from Siliguri to push her into prostitution.

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“World Leader in Fight against Human Trafficking brings campaign to Maine”

The article was published in the Portland Press Herald written by Dennis Hoey during Ruchira Gupta visit to the University of Southern Maine

Since arriving in Maine this week, one of the world’s most vocal leaders in the fight against human trafficking has been asked how countries should deal with trafficking and prostitution.

People want to know if legalizing prostitution should be considered, Ruchira Gupta told an audience of several hundred people who gathered on the campus of the University of Southern Maine on Thursday night.

“I tell them, ‘Absolutely not!’” Gupta said.

“Prostitution is actually an absence of choice. Nobody chooses to be poor and vulnerable, and nobody chooses to be a woman.”

Gupta, an award-winning journalist from India, has become a global force in the battle against human trafficking.

Her 1996 documentary “The Selling of Innocents,” which examined the sex trade between Nepal and India, won her an Emmy Award for outstanding investigative journalism. The documentary followed the flesh trade from its source in the poor mountain villages of Nepal to brothels in two of India’s largest metropolitan areas – Mumbai and Calcutta.

Gupta said her investigation began after she noticed that a large number of young girls were missing from villages. When she started to probe deeper – she was on an assignment unrelated to trafficking – she discovered that individuals in the villages were buying girls from their parents and selling them to traffickers in India. Most of the girls were between 9 and 13.

While working on the documentary, her life was threatened when she was at a brothel and a pimp put a knife to her throat. He released her after being surrounded by 23 women who worked for him, Gupta said.

“They told him, if you kill her, you have to kill all of us,” Gupta recalled. “The documentary was a life-changing experience for me. I couldn’t just walk away.”

Eighteen years later, Gupta travels the globe in her pursuit of justice for girls who are forced into the sex trade. Though her efforts have brought some progress, human trafficking continues in the United States, including in Maine.

Nationally, between 100,000 and 300,000 minors in the United States are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, according to the Greater Portland Coalition Against Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that most children entering the commercial sex industry in the United States are 12 to 14 years old.

Gupta describes human trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery. Federal law defines human trafficking as anyone under the age of 18 who is induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud or coercion.

“Human trafficking is a global issue, but it’s also a reality in the United States and in Maine,” said Peter Pitegoff, dean of the University of Maine School of Law. Gupta was invited to speak Thursday evening at the law school’s fourth annual Justice for Women lecture, held at USM’s Abromson Community Education Center.

Pitegoff introduced Dianne “dee” Clarke to the audience as a local advocate and mentor for victims of human trafficking. Clarke told the crowd that she became a victim of sex trafficking when she was 12 and worked in Boston’s Combat Zone for 12 years as a stripper and prostitute. It wasn’t until her mid-20s that Clark said she started coming out of “the life.”

“I was an emotional wreck. I had no idea I was being oppressed by my own shame,” said Clarke, who credited Gupta with giving her the courage to speak freely about “the horrendous way I used to live.”

“It’s because of the work you’ve done, Ruchira, that survivors are starting to speak out,” Clarke said.

Gupta is the founder and president of Apne Aap Women Worldwide, which has helped thousands of women in the sex trade access safe housing, education, job training and other resources.

More than 600 people registered for Thursday’s lecture, which was attended by Maine Attorney General Janet Mills, Chief Justice Leigh Saufley of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and Sen. Justin Alford, D-Portland.

During her weeklong visit, Gupta also spoke at Deering High School and Bates and Colby colleges. On Monday, she received the key to the City of Portland from Mayor Michael Brennan.

Diary of a Social Worker

Hindol Dutta

Kolkata: My name is Hindol Dutta. I studied MSW at Visva Bharti University. I graduated six years ago and have been associated with Apne aap for three years now.

As a social worker, working with Apne Aap in a red light district In Kolkata really made me see the problem in a new light. Earlier, I was working with a concept of professionalism, where I only maintained professional relationship with our beneficiaries, and worked as a representative of the NGOs, with a target, but I never tried to think about the people for whom we were working.

After I joined Apne Aap, I started visiting the red light areas and interact with the girls there. **Sadly, I observed that how vulnerable the women and children living in the red light areas are and how they were systematically neglected by the society at large.** They have very low self-esteem and do not interact freely with the outsiders. Most of them are apprehensive, suspicious and even rude towards people who try to help them. I do not blame them for such a behavior. They have been made to feel this way. All that they have been put through is inhuman. The constant torture, mental and physical harassment.

The orientation in Apne Aap and knowledge sharing with the senior colleagues, working in the red light areas, made me realize how these women and children need a humane touch. **I feel the need to bring them closer to us and integrate them in our society.**

It can be achieved by providing them equal opportunities to leave their place of misery behind where they have been raped or tortured and faced different kinds of humanly unthinkable violence.

It helped a great deal to change my perception about

social work at grass root level.

Three years of working with Apne Aap have helped me grow both spiritually and professionally. It made me understand the importance of being sensitive in this area of work. It helps in developing an understanding and easier interaction with the targeted group.

The experience of working in Munshiganj and Sonagachi red light areas, helped me to come closer to some of the victims, few of who lovingly address me as 'bhaiya' and I called them 'didi'.

It is one of the best feelings, to make someone feel secure and give them smile. to have happened to me and I am really glad to have been working here for three years. **I hope I can continue to make a difference, howsoever small it may be, through my work.**

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Did You Know?

In India:

- There are 2.3 million women and girls in prostitution
- A quarter of 2.3 million are under the age of 18
- There are 1,000 red-light areas

Globally:

- About 58 % of all cases of trafficking detected globally are purpose of sexual exploitation
- About 75 % of all trafficking victims detected globally are women and girls
- About 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold for commercial exploitation
- About 1 in 10 men in the world have bought commercial sex

My First Day at Apne Aap

—*Sushmita Das/ as dictated to Sangeeta Singh*

Kolkata: I am Sushmita Das, residing at Munshiganj Road in khidderpore. I am 21- year- old. I have two daughters-- Deepsikha and Ipsita, having ages 5 and 2 years, respectively. My husband name is Sujit Kr. Das. He is a worker in a Tea Godown near to Khidderpore area.

Recently I joined Sanitary Napkin Unit of Apne Aap Women Worldwide. I am associated with this organisation through Uma, who is my neighbour.

On the first day, I was very nervous. I thought I will fail. I did not know much about it, as the work was absolutely new for me. But now this place feels like my second home.

On the very first day, I took my little daughter, Ipsita along with me at work. Uma also accompanied us. We reached office sharp at 9:30 am. The first person I met was Sangeeta di, who took initiative to introduce me with other staffs and gave me an orientation regarding the organizations work, goal and achievement. It also explained me about the sanitary napkin unit.

Later, I started with the production process. Uma was the trainer. I slowly and carefully tried learning step-by-step. Because the entire work process is very mechanical and with my one mistake, it might prove dangerous for me and other team members as well. The training

continued for four more days.

Generally, on second half, the staff members provide meal for me and my daughter. And then we continue the training till 5:30 pm.

At this age, I still believe that 'day' was a new day in my life. I felt reenergized. My confidence level has increased manifold. I feel proud to be able to work outside the redlight area and can proudly tell people about it. I am skilled. I am getting myself trained, which will earn me some money and also automatically give a hand for the financial stability of my family.

Unlike others, I never had a big dream. My only concern was to be live and look after my children. Now I have a job. I love to work together with my team mates. They are like my friends now.

We are elated when we receive a huge consignment order for the sanitary napkin from some people or organizations. The napkins are affordable, in compare to the one available in the market. I purchase it for my personal use too.

I heartily thank Apne Aap for giving me and others for providing me the platform for this income generating learning opportunity.

Get yourself involved!

Be a part of the campaign!

Click a selfie and share it with us on the Facebook Page 'Cool Men Don't Buy Sex' <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cool-Men-Dont-Buy-Sex/624526271001934> with #CoolMenDontBuySex #Selfie #ApneAap.

The Cool Men Don't Buy Sex Campaign is a call to end demand for sex trafficking which highlights the role that men play in fostering the sex industry.



Apne Aap's "Cool Men Don't Buy Sex" campaign was born to draw attention to the demand side of sex trafficking - the traffickers, pimps, and purchasers of sex. Apne Aap advocates for the criminalization of these individuals – they are responsible for maintaining sexual slavery and continue to exploit women and girls every day in India.

RLA girl receives dance completion certificate

—Uma/ as dictated to Sangeeta Singh

Kolkata: My name is Uma. In 2012, I got an opportunity to join Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) class organized by Kolkata Sanved. It was 2 years of amazing training. At first I got the chance of learning different kind of dances, trained by our respected teacher -Bonny madam. She was so energetic and full of happiness; always used to divert our mind towards positivity around.

It was not only a dance class but package of various meaningful workshop and activities for the past two years of my journey. There were about 25 girls along with me in the training. I used to go for the class at Dhakuria, Sanved office on Saturday. It was a five hours rigorous learning session.

I realize that after completion of this training that Dance is not just only an activity; it's also a unique therapy of releasing stress and sadness from our life. To perform a soulful dance, it does not require music all the time, we can feel the burning energy from our inner-self too. And it also not necessary to have the perfect steps. It can be the slow movement of the body, feet and hands. It is for all. Even a deaf or blind person should be able to dance.

The students were not only from Kolkata, but also came from Cooch Behar and other places. During our 10 days continuous training at IITD, Joka. This was usually held once in a year.

We also got opportunity to learn from famous dance

teachers Pappan Sir and Sohini Chakraborty (founder of Sanved). There were lots of warm up activities. There were various kinds of dances we learnt like Kalaripie, Kathak, Oddisi etc.

I also got training on how to convince a sad person to participate in dance therapy, to release the stress. During our learning session we also given an examination about all things related to this DMT.

But the Most memorable day in my life was April 29, 2015. That day I received my DMT completion (880

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hrs) certificate and was complimented by Sir Aftab Debo, a great Kathak Teacher.

Now I can take the learning forward by training other girls as a specialist DMT trainer.

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contact@apneaap.org**



Applique Class and Achievements

— Shaloo Khatoon/ as dictated to Bhawana Joshi

Bihar: My name is Shaloo Khatoon. Using scraps, I have learnt a variety of techniques that will help me in all my future appliqué projects. This is a very thorough class that includes everything from choosing a pattern, appropriate fabrics, the best tools for the job and techniques for success. This workshop is excellent for the beginners.

Initially, I was nervous and hesitant as I had to redo the entire appliqué work in case of even the slightest mistake. But with the passage of time and three months grueling training under the tutelage of our appliqué trainer Seema Kumari, I am on cloud nine. And, the biggest moment of my life was when from the month of April 2015 we were being paid stipend for all the hard work we have done.

Combining the best from the best and techniques of her own devising, our appliqué trainer Seema di has designed a workshop full of tips and techniques to make our project successful. Workshop includes original pattern.

So far I have learnt the secrets of perfect points, smooth curves and plenty of tricks to make appliqué fun and beautiful. The program covers all the aspects of color from the color wheel and color schemes to the various

types of contrast.

Techniques in this workshop include, but are not limited to, needle turn appliqué, inside curves, outside curves, outside points, tight curves, tiny circles, bias stems, fine outlining and border repeat planning.

Having finally found an art medium that suits my personality and style I enjoy speaking and sharing, hopefully to inspire and encourage others to find their light and follow their passion.

A brilliant class, so many handy tips to make it all seem so easy. And, an excellent tutor, lots of great hints and tips.

I am thoroughly enjoying the whole experience, learning heaps.

If you love to look at appliqué, you'll enjoy this program!

“Everything You Want to Know About Appliqué But Are Afraid to Ask!” - A wonderful world of the A word!

Continued from page 1

I love my parents a lot. Initially, it was emotionally tough for me to adjust in the hostel. I was not used to staying away from my mummy. I cried a lot on my first day in the residential school. I was sad that I won't be able to see my mummy, aunty and other family members for quite some time. But, now I have made few friends and I feel good.

I am engaged in various activities in school. Every day is like learning something new. We are never made to feel bored. There are so many things to do—swimming, dancing, singing, studying, playing etc. One day from school, they took us to Fun and Food village where there was a huge swimming pool and we could rent swimming costumes and were taught how to swim.

That was my first time to visit such a place. I was thrilled and I know this day will be remembered for a very long time.

Also, once I was very disturbed when my senior hostel mate punched me in the eye and it was black for a few days, I was in pain so I cried out to my mother she told me the next time she comes to my school, she will talk to the girl and ensure that this will never be repeated in future, I was comfortable after that. On my return to

home, my father threw a surprise party. They made chicken for me that day because it's my favorite food.

However, I was little scared. Not everything was smooth at home. My mother and grandmother were not talking with each other. There was a fight near my house where a man broke a glass bottle on my uncle's head. These incidents are so common here and it upsets me. When in hostel, I don't have to encounter with such problem.

I am aged nine and just in fourth standard. I have years ahead of me. I don't know my goal yet, but I am sure when once I realize it. I am going to put my heart and soul to achieve it.

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The World Outside

—Suhana/ as dictated to Gautam Wadhwa

Delhi: My name is Suhana. I am nine- year- old and I live in Dharampura. I have been coming to the Apne Aap head office, located in Lodhi Estate for four months now and I love coming here.

I have learnt various subjects like Hindi, English, Maths, computers etc. There are so many activities happening. I love to dance and draw and I really like it.

I enjoy coming to the Apne Aap centre everyday with my friends and we get to study and learn and have so much fun. The sisters from Apne Aap usually take us for a monthly education and fun trip to different places in Delhi.

Last week, Apne Aap took us to see India Gate in central Delhi. My home is in Najafgarh. It is located in South West of Delhi, still I had never seen India Gate before and was super excited.

Many a times, I had heard my friends talk about it and I had also seen it in movies. I always wanted to see it.

We went in the office vehicle and parked it nearby. Then we walked to the garden. There was a water pool nearby. We went into the water and played for about half an hour. Afterwards, we went towards India Gate.

I was wondering why it so famous and why people from different places across the country visit to see these monument. Nana di explained to us that India gate is a war memorial, dedicated in memory of those soldiers who died during the First World War.

Then we read the names of the soldiers written on the memorial. And also was informed that the fire which was lit in the middle of the gate is in memory of the soldiers. We got our pictures clicked in front of the Gate. It was a moment captured. Each one of us got a

copy of it. We showed it to all in the community and I preserved it as my property .

Later, we had a small picnic in the park where we had momo, chicken and noodles.

When I realised why the flame was burning there and the history behind the India Gate, I was filled with pride. I am proud of my country and I am glad to be born here.

It was my first visit. I would loved to visit this place with my family next time and I would also recommend my friends to so.

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Continued from page 1

Gainul was a ruthless trafficker. He used to kill parents before trafficking their daughters. He was very well protected by the police and the political parties on both sides of the border. Before forcing vulnerable girl to prostitution, he was into robbery, murder and other criminal activities.

It is due to persistent effort of Apne Aap that both Gainul and his wife are behind the bar at present. Together they have trafficked more than 50 girls and killed many people in relation to trafficking.

We have been complaining against the Gainul and his wife for the last five years. But the police were not taking any action. Meanwhile, we also filed a PIL seeking for the arrest of Gainul. Whereas, he was arrested, Jubaida went underground until this month when she was planning to leave for Nepal.

Even the arrest of single trafficker is triumph for us and we ought to celebrate it. Because, every time we feel that a pimp or a trafficker is arrested. We see more joining them. We hear more stories of vulnerable girls and women who are tricked, bought and sold, over and again. The fight against them is tough, as many a times the police work in collusion with them.

But, we are always ready to assist those people who seek our help. **And we will continue to provide safe house to the survivors, victims and girls who are vulnerable to prostitution.** We will continue to pressurize the police personnel so that people will be fearful and restrain themselves from buying or selling girls as if it were commodities.

Poems

Tears

Walking through the rain,
I try to forget my pain.
I try to ignore the sting within my eyes,
Because I know a strong person never cries.
I begin to run from my tears,
But I am followed by the even after years.
I want to leave this familiar face,
And somehow get out of this maze.
But where will I go?
What will I do?
All I know is that I have to get away,
Even though I know I'd have no place to stay.
But, something keeps me here,
And I am left, crying one last tear.

Name– Khushi Priya
Area: Forbesganj, Bihar

Teacher

Oh teacher! You made me learn,
Oh teacher! You taught how to earn.
You gave me knowledge,
You were with me throughout school and college.
Oh teacher! You always guided me through my error,
Oh teacher! You show me, my true image in the
mirror.
To make me better, you had me punished,
For all the naughty deeds I did.
We formed a real relationship,
You caught me if I ever did slip.
Thank you my dear teacher! For being so kind,
Thank you! For developing my soul and mind.

Name– Khushi Priya
Area: Forbesganj, Bihar



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Organizing communities to end sex trafficking—every woman free, every child in school