



### **3AN Nepalgunj Station Update – July to September 2017**

To the PAPSDA community

I'm excited to share with you the wonderful impact that has been made over the past quarter in the Nepalgunj region that you fund. You will notice the numbers of interceptions and community programs are less than previous quarters. The reason for this is due to the lead up of the elections in Nepal. During this lengthy time, mass gathering are prohibited and there is a general feel of uneasiness. Often election dates are not given until a week before which is why people travel less. Because this particular election is covering 3 different areas of government, it has caused a lengthy disruption to regular work for a few months now. The federal, parliamentary and provincial assembly elections are slated for November 26.

During the July - September quarter;

- **160 girls and women were intercepted.** These women were taken aside, interviewed and questioned about where they were going. After questioning, the staff concluded that it was highly likely these girls were in the process of being trafficked. These girls were educated on what was likely happening, counselled where necessary, and either returned home or picked up by their families.
- **1 girl was rescued from a hotel.** You can read this story on the following page.
- **8 female teenage community groups were formed.** These groups meet regularly and discuss issues that are relevant to teenage girls while also watching out for signs of abuse or possible trafficking. These groups form a safety net for these young girls.
- **2 local watch groups were formed.** These groups were informed about Human Trafficking and it is their role to aid 3AN in the community. When they encounter suspicious behavior or find out about someone in their local community who needs help, they will contact 3AN. Part of 3AN community awareness programs include engaging and equipping the local communities to be able to watch out for and take care of their own.
- **Clothes, hygiene supplies and food** were distributed during the flood disaster to 54 migrated people due to the floods in August.



*Photo 1- Clothes, hygiene supplies and food distribution to 54 flood victims.*



### **Rescued in a hotel**

Ranju, 17, was married after a month-long love affair to her boyfriend. She married him against the will of her parents due to the caste differences. He said that his village is near the Indo-Nepal border.

After Ranju eloped with the guy. He told her that he would take her to his home, so they travelled from Kathmandu and stayed in a hotel in Nepalgunj. After a few hours of being in their room, another guy came to the hotel. From his appearance, Ranju said that he must be Indian.

Her recently married husband and his friends went out of room for a while, telling Ranju to sleep and he would return soon. After an hour, her husband did not return but surprisingly his friend returned. The guy went to Ranju's room and slept with her. Ranju was raped ruthlessly. When she tried to scream, the guy told that her husband sold her to him for fifty thousand rupees [NZ\$680]. He also said that she has to go his home in India the next morning.

Helpless and hopeless Ranju cried for help so loud that other people in the hotel heard her cry. The man immediately ran away from the room as the crowd gathered.

The hotel phoned 3 Angels Staff in Nepalgunj and briefed them about the case. Then the 3AN staff called police and went to the hotel along with them. Her parents were called and Ranju was reunited with her family. Her parents told 3AN staff that they had warned her about these dangers but Ranju wouldn't listen. Ranju's parents are grateful that 3AN were there to save their daughter.

### **Trafficker uses Facebook to lure women**

Achal [name changed] is 15 and her close relative Daya [name changed] is 21. They both became friends with a man through social media who assured them a good paying job in a company in another district of Nepal. When the two women came to Nepalgunj to travel to another town, the 3AN staff asked them about their travels. When the young women told the name of the company, it was found



*Photo 2- Achal & Daya at the Nepalgunj help desk*



that it did not exist. After the police were called to investigate the case further, the man was arrested and jailed.

### **Sakhi is now safe**

Sakhi [name changed] is from a poor family. She was found by the Nepalgunj staff while she was travelling with an Indian man to India through Nepalgunj. The man said that his home is in India and Sakhi is going to marry him. 3AN staff at Nepalgunj, with the help of police, called her parents and found that they were not informed about the marriage and they did not know the man.

Sakhi was counseled about human trafficking in India. The staff told her how other girls are seduced in similar ways and sold into brothels. It was also explained to Sakhi what it is like to be in a brothel and the torture they face. Sakhi agreed to go home with her parents, leaving the Indian man.

Sakhi told that her to-be husband promised her that he would provide a nice job so that she could even support her parents while working in India. He also promised her that he had beautiful home which he showed her on his mobile phone. This attracted Sakhi to this man. Traffickers usually use the attraction of jobs, houses, and money. These things commonly lure young girls who have difficulty to earn a living and who are poor.

Sakhi's parents have taken the contact number of 3 Angels Nepal to contact if they find her daughter or anyone in their village in such risk.



### **Message from Captivating's Chairman of the Board**

In October, I had the privilege of visiting the Captivating work in Nepal. To be honest I was tired after a long trip through Asia and did not have the best attitude as I was looking forward to going home. I met with our team to continue our planning towards combatting the incredibly unjust practice of human trafficking.

After a day of meetings I went with the team to visit a monitoring station. This station is situated at one of Nepal's most active bus terminals. People from all over Nepal flow into this terminal and then transit to other buses to their ultimate destination. We walked around and I could see how easy it is for traffickers to





prey on the most vulnerable in our world. Surrounding the bus terminal are numerous ultra-cheap hotels and brothels. The team has chosen well by placing themselves right in the middle of the most dangerous of places.

As we walked, our local partner showed me the hotel where just last month two groups of young girls (20 and 25) were rescued from where they were packed into cramped hotel rooms. The girls had been promised work in a sewing business. When they arrived they were locked in the rooms pending distribution to the various brothels in the area. Following a tip off our staff along with local police raided the hotel and rescued the girls. The girls have now been returned to their communities and next month our micro finance staff will be visiting to assist with income ventures aimed at avoiding the need to travel to earn a living.

At the end of that day, I reflected on my attitude. I had been tired and looking forward to the end of the trip. These girls had to risk everything to survive. These success stories challenge me to look beyond my personal comfort and be part of a solution for the most vulnerable people on earth.



Because of your amazing community at PAPSDA, all these lives were impacted and changed. I look forward to updating you again next quarter. If you have any questions or would like further information on anything about your station, please let me know.

Kind Regards

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