

Prevention of Child Trafficking

Second Year Results

September 2019



World's Children is funding a three year **Prevention of Child Trafficking Project (PCT)** to educate men, women, and children about how traffickers dupe young women and snatch unwatched girls. The total population of the target area for the project is 151,000 people. This is a particularly vulnerable area in India for trafficking. Over a three-year period, the Franciscan Sisters and their team of six staff members will educate, organize and train 30,000 people living in 48 villages including 10,000 school children. WC Operations Director Andy Gillihan and Executive Director David Purviance met with the PCT team while visiting India in February 2019. (photo below)



Never underestimate your ability to change a bad situation or correct an injustice. If you ever doubt your ability to do that, just remember the example of a group of six people, five of them women, who have effectively stopped child trafficking in their part of India.

These brave people aren't burly and they don't know any martial arts, nor do they carry weapons on their dangerous mission to put a halt to the third largest criminal activity in the world. They just want to protect children from the horrors of sexual slavery.

Thanks to your support, the PCT team is finding success in their mission.

In this newsletter you will learn more about their very smart, thorough approach to creating a safe haven for children that covers 48 villages. We tend to think of traffickers as cunning men who kidnap or trick families in order to get children they can sell. And while that is often true, the roots of this problem are deeper than that. Many times a relative – even a parent – is willing to sell a child in order to make some money.

The state of Telangana (where the PCT operates) had the third most trafficking incidents in India in 2017. —Trafficking in Persons Report USA

A True Story of a Life Saved



Sister Regina (shown speaking with a Child Club) is the head of the PCT team. She told us this appalling story that illustrates just what they are up against.

Sharadha lost her parents when she was nine years old. Due to a marital dispute both parents committed suicide. A grandmother took Sharadha into her home after her parents' death. Things went relatively well for the next four years until the grandmother became sick when Sharadha was 13 years old.

A relative offered to help by having Sharadha live with her and work in a nearby home doing cleaning and cooking. The grandmother was not well and needed some financial support, so she agreed to the arrangement. Shortly after moving in with her relative Sharadha was sold by the relative to someone from the state of Rajasthan in north India where child marriage and child trafficking are very common.

While she was being transported by the trafficker on a train, she managed to escape and got onto another train. She got off at the next railway station with no idea where she was.

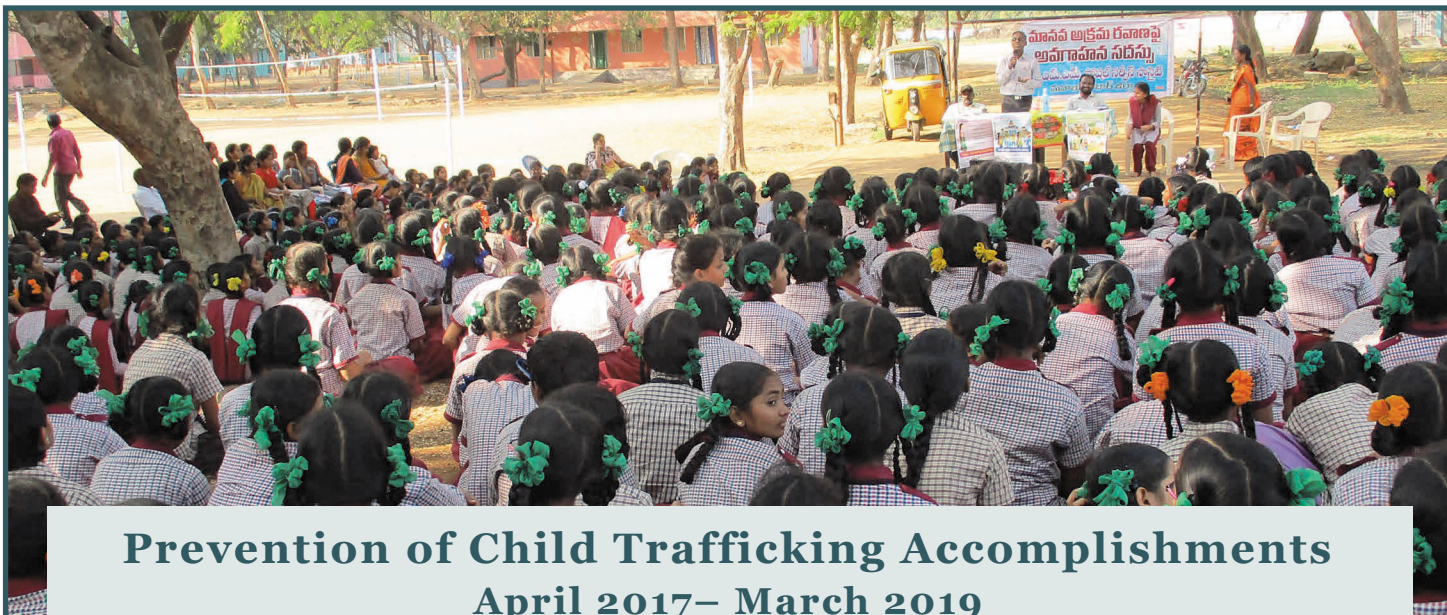
The railway police found her huddled against a wall, crying and frightened. Social workers from the national child abuse hotline – called Childline – learned where she was from and brought her back to her grandmother.

The PCT team heard about her during one of their awareness programs in a school, where a teacher told them Sharadha's story. The team visited Sharadha's house and learned more about the terrifying events that took place in this young girl's life.

After counseling both the grandmother and the child, the team put Sharadha in a residential school where she is studying in ninth grade. The school staff along with the PCT team have offered to send her for vocational training after she completes her schooling. Sharadha was lucky to be saved by the railway police and rehabilitated with the help of the PCT team.



During a school awareness program, like the one pictured above, the PCT team learned about Sharadha.



Prevention of Child Trafficking Accomplishments April 2017– March 2019

- **51 girls** were rescued from trafficking.
- **36,246 villagers in 89 villages** watched two trafficking awareness videos featuring rescued women.
- **15,000 children in 68 schools and colleges** were trained to recognize traffickers, how they operated, negative consequences of child marriage, and how to dial 1098 Childline to reach police to report child abuse or child marriage.
- **96 women's self help groups comprised of 9,213 women** were trained in preventing trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- **84 Community Vigilant Committees** were formed. These committees identified 116 school drop-outs who were returned to school. Fifteen child marriages were reported to authorities.
- **60 child clubs were formed.** Each group comprised 11 students, one teacher, one PCT staff, and one member of Childline. The children identify other children who have dropped out of school or have been married. Over the past year child clubs identified 37 drop-outs who were brought back to school, and seven child marriages were reported to Childline.
- **180 sex workers** were contacted to motivate them to give up business and help them take up other occupations.
- **345 taxi and bus drivers** received training because they could be used either wittingly or unwittingly in the transportation of trafficked children.
- **96 police officers** were contacted because rescue can be a real challenge due to threats and lack of shelters for those rescued.
- **342 various members** of farming and youth groups also received training.

Objectives

The Prevention of Child Trafficking team has established these project objectives:

- Make villages safe for girls
- Educate communities and school children on human trafficking
- Make every community responsible for preventing trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and adolescent girls
- Empower child clubs and community vigilant committees to watch for trafficking and missing children
- Help rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficked women and girls
- Train girls in self-defense using swaraksha (self-protection) knowledge
- Promote involvement of media, police, health personnel, government officers and policy makers in preventing child trafficking



A village meeting for fathers.

Because of You

Without the funds many of you have given to this project, the PCT team would not have been in that village and would not have learned about Sharadha's situation. **Thanks to you, 51 girls were rescued from traffickers** and thousands of children and parents now understand how to prevent traffickers from stealing and buying children.



A student speaks during a Child Club leadership training course.

A Thousand Square Mile Safety Zone

Because the project has proven to prevent child trafficking, the **PCT team plans to expand into a new area** for the next three years. In April 2020 they will have finished the first three-year project covering 151,000 people in 48 villages. The next three-year stage of the project will reach even more people.

Over the course of six years, they will educate a total of 462,000 people living in a thousand square mile area known for high trafficking activity.

With your help the team will continue their bold mission as they expand into this new area where traffickers operate with impunity.

We thank the sisters for their bravery and dedication to end child trafficking in India. Please donate whatever you can to keep this vital project going.