

“ Heal Me, O LORD,
and I will be healed.
Save me and I will be
saved.”
– Jeremiah 17:14

Disha Foundation's focus is to help families, girls / women, senior citizens or emerging Church Leaders.

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FALLEN FROM GRACE

I was astounded to see her! Barely 18, of small built and petite, holding a two year old. Her child, I was told. Trafficked at the tender age of 15, she was abused, assaulted and abandoned on becoming pregnant.

This young girl had forgotten to smile, I was told. And not even when her toddler looked up to her and smiled, I noticed. Her trust had been broken by none other than her own family who sold her for a pittance. Brought across the borders of Bangladesh, she is one among thousands of girls who are trafficked and brought to West Bengal, an Eastern state of India.

In my recent visit to Kolkota, often referred to as the City of Joy, the girls / women are weeping tears of blood. I discovered that there are as many as 23 areas actively engaged in commercial sex trade. Most of them have been trafficked as minors from across the border of Bangladesh and Nepal and kept in cages where they service as many as 12-15 men per night. Most have been tricked by men they thought were in love with them or have been given promises of jobs.

Eager to get out of the clutches of poverty, most of them have fallen prey to tempting offers of a better life in areas beyond or have been sold by their own parents, brothers, family members or friends. Their trust totally broken, as well as their bodies from multiple abortions, many have children who grow up in the same locality and are sexually



A site where goddesses are being readied for the big Worship in Kolkota.

abused at tender ages, even as most of them grow up right under the bed of their mothers who service customers. Many are HIV infected. Most of the brothel managers are women and the pimps are men, most sons of sex workers who have grown up in the same environment.

Violence is often accompanied by sexual assault and marks of severe injuries are covered by heavy make-up and yet have no respite from work. Unless, of course, a customer has vented his fury on the weak and vulnerable woman causing her grievous injury resulting in

RADIO PROGRAMS THROUGH ALL INDIA RADIO



A phone counsellor speaking to listeners calling in after the radio programs.

- Every Tuesday at 3.45 p.m – Baat Pate ki (Subject of Importance) Creating Awareness about trafficking.
- Every Wednesday at 4.15 p.m – Khush Khabri Good News) Advocating Gender Equality.
- Every Sunday at 8.30 a.m – Aashar Alo (Ray of Hope) Real life stories of girls who were tricked into trafficking.

profuse internal bleeding because of which she is rushed to the doctor. Yet, this is one part of India where goddesses are worshipped and revered. Very much like the rest of India where goddesses are created, decorated, adorned and made to sit on a pedestal. A point to be noted is that the soil used to create a goddess is taken from the garden of sex workers!

As long as the women like the goddesses are beautifully adorned and not open their mouths, they are revered.

Disha foundation (www.dishafoundationindia.in) has taken the real stories of these girls and women and put them in the form of a radio program that is broadcasted every Sunday from FM Kolkota. The cries of these girls had led to the birth of this program, for they said, "PLEASE tell the other girls and women to not fall into any trap." The listeners are calling from Bangladeshi border and from all parts of West Bengal to appreciate the program as well as share, in confidence, their life stories.

Vinita Shaw, CEO

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS - On 25 December Mrs Vinita Shaw shared the Good news about Christmas in Hindi and English. Also being a Wednesday, a special episode of Khush Khabri was broadcasted in which Mrs Vinita shared from John 20: "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you seeking?" She emphasized that Jesus cared and He cares when women cry, and that He came for all, loves all, died for all and rose again from the dead for all men and women alike.

On 25 December Mrs Vinita Shaw shared the Good news about Christmas in Hindi and English.



Vinita Shaw on the right

RADIO LISTENERS RESPOND TO OUR PROGRAMS

PRIYA

“ I believe girls should always remain very careful. Secondly, they should never treat themselves like second grade. They should avoid going out after dark, And if girls must go out, they should not venture out alone. We must always keep the helpline numbers that government has released so we can ask for help. ”

“ We should not stop girls from going out but should train them in self defense. I always motivate and guide my sister and cousins and we all listen to your program. ”

FIROZ TAHIR

MOHAMMAD AYUB

“ We should give confidence to our daughters that they are no less than boys. We can do this in our families as you said in the program. ”

LISTENER

“ We should not put fear in the hearts of girls but we should make such a secure environment in our society that they feel safe. Also, they should come home and tell the truth about what they are doing and where they are going. Then the family can help them be safe. ”

“ Due to poverty there are many parents who themselves push their children into child labour. I have talked to many such children and they are reluctant to speak against or complain against their parents. We all should stand against this evil in our society. Pankaj is from New Delhi. ”

PANKAJ KUMAR JHA

SHIVAM MISRA

“ I think in every village and city there should be a building where such children can be fed, supported and educated. They are the future of the country. We should counsel and help them. ”

“ We do not send our daughters out of the house, unless for studies. ”

WORRIED PARENT

LISTENER

“ Because of the increasing crimes against women, it would be foolish to send daughters and sisters out alone. ”

“ I live in Kanpur. Thank you for your advice through your program. I share with my elder sister and she guides me and keeps me safe. ”

LISTENER

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACHES

At St Michael hostel, Disha foundation contributed towards new warm clothes and special dinner. A special CD produced by Ms. Aimee Smith was released by Bishop Sunil Singh, of Diocese of Delhi. It contains Hindi and English songs sung by the senior girls.



Girls in their new dresses singing



Bishop of Delhi, Rt. Rev. Sunil Singh, Diocese of Delhi, CNI, releasing the CD 'My God will hear me', seen with Rev. Timothy Shaw, Manager of St Michael hostel, and Ms Aimee Smith.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH AT TIHAR JAIL IN NEW DELHI

Our team shared the Good News of Christmas and Disha foundation gave away sweaters to the prisoners of the age group (18-21). Among them were the rapists of the Nirbhaya gang rape that happened in a moving bus in Delhi in the December of 2012.



With Jail Superintendent



The young prisoners

Mrs Seema Jason, Board member distributing sweaters to 100 beneficiaries of our Vocational training project in Delhi where Mrs Vinita Shaw shared the Christmas message.



WOMEN LEADERS' CONFERENCES

Mrs Vinita Shaw was invited as one of the Speakers at the National Women's conference of Evangelical Fellowship of India in Kolkata in the month of January.

She spoke on gender crimes from the Book of Judges, Chapter 19, and emphasized on the need to network just as all the tribes of Israel had come together to seek the face of God in the very same situation as India finds herself today.



Rev. Richard Howell, General Secretary, EFI with the Resource persons, women leaders of EFI

KOLKOTA WOMEN RETREAT

Mrs Vinita Shaw was invited to minister to 25 women who are working for the rehabilitation and restoration of sex workers.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for Holy Trinity retreat to be held on February 8, 2014
- Pray for the Born2fly team that is working on the pilot program. This will be our fourth weekly program.
- Pray for Mrs Vinita Shaw as she prepares to lead a workshop at United Nations 58th commission on status of women, entitled Violence on pregnant women with particular emphasis on female feticide
- Pray for the girls/women who are learning vocational skills so that they can earn a living
- Pray for the listeners of our radio programs and the follow up that is done for them

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATED WITH ST MICHAEL, NEW DELHI

On January 24, 2014, National girl child day was observed by Disha foundation at St Michael hostel. A time of reflecting about the increasing crimes, prayer and fun time was organised with particular discussion and reflection on the gang rape of a young girl in West Bengal by the village administrative body as punishment for falling in love with a young boy of another caste.



Donations to be made in the name of DISHA FOUNDATION - 44, Charak Sadan, Vikas Puri, New Delhi - 10018, India | All donations will be exempt from Income tax under 80G.
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