

Assam2Delhi

March Against Bride Trafficking 2012



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March against Bride Trafficking

Finally, the community comes together to stand up against the Bride trafficking. Today there are about 500 community groups having more than 5,000 such community members. The high way of in-country trafficking especially for bride trafficking starts from Assam and West Bengal and goes down to the capital of the country. The mobilisation of the community is very encouraging outcome of the 16 day march started on 1st March 2012. The March had covered 4,400 odd km travelling through 21 districts of the two states.



Some facts, case studies and videos related to Bride trafficking were shared in the street meetings during the march. When these facts were shared in the street meetings during the march and when they were motivated to take charge of protection of their daughters, people found the right forum to come together. At times mothers of victim or two broke down in public as their daughters are still missing. They are sold by the known persons as brides far away from home.

Religious leader also came forward. They actively participated in the motor bike rally. Imams discussed the plight of

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victims in their meeting in the mosques. The social issues being discussed by religious leaders will go a long way in



combating bride trafficking. Some 50 meetings and two Anti-trafficking conventions with Muslim religious leaders were held. These meeting ended with the promise that the discussion over the issue on Friday khutba will be continued with inputs from EMPOWER PEOPLE on situation it will be taken up once a month.



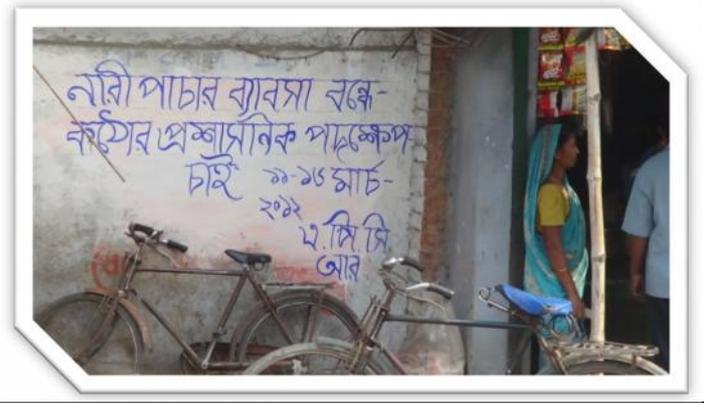
Similarly, Arya Smaj also has shown keen interest in taking up activities related to this social movement against bride trafficking. They have planned to start a campaign in their area with help of EMPOWER PEOPLE.



The support of the Community Based Organisation (CBOs) and NGOs was exceptionally good. They provided all the support for logistics to conduct the meetings and also brought in the local reality which has led to increased number of cases of trafficking for marriage. The common men, young and old were equally involved in the march. Children and women also have extended their support seeing it as their own cause.

Social movement has began. During the march more than 500 cases were identified. In few cases lodging of FIR was done and in other cases the tracing of victim is going on due to insufficient information and the level of corporation from the family. A lot more needs to be done beyond the awareness and formation of groups. The mindset of the family and community will change gradually, at the same time we must rescue the victim, we must prevent a single girl/ woman being sold into bride

trafficking.



Wall writing in Bangla language during March

The March was originally planned for 2 months and total 8000 km from Assam to Delhi but due to lack of resources and other support it is temporary on hold in Kolkata.

March against bride trafficking covered around 200 villages, 30 education institutions, 53 Block level markets and 50 religious institutions in six districts of Assam that are Barpeta, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, kamrup, Darang and Naogaon. And 12 Districts of west Bengal that are North and south Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, North and south 24 Pargana, Hugli, Nadia, Hawda, east and west maidnipur, and kuchbehar.

The March started from Kolgaisia Haat of Berpeta district on March 1st, 2012 and culminated at the historic metro city Kolkata March 17th, 2012 which covers a total of 4,432 kilometres.



The March was organized with an aim to shape a holistic mass movement against trafficking and violence against women.

civic anti trafficking unit visit our website www.empowerpeopleonline.org)



Caravan van on way of west Bengal

During this march we formed 446 civic anti trafficking units in two states are working for monitoring and prevention of trafficking in sours area they will also work on social stigma and community based rehabilitation of women and Girls who were rescued by police or any NGO. The unit are formed at village, Block as well as district level. Members of units are youths women and olders from community who are at risk of trafficking. Some members are illiterate and they came to fight with traffickers to save their daughters.

Religious leaders are also members of unit

In urban area, shopkeepers, drivers of public transports and workers of guesthouses are also involved in civic anti trafficking units. They will help in monitoring and tracking of trafficking. some immediate result have been seen in many place.

On 18th March two girls were rescued from traffickers by local unit on hadwan road of north 24 pargana when they travelled to destination. (for details of

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Ex. Army man and now working as bus driver in Kolkata during march



Teen age girls also came to fight



Founder shafique addressing the street meeting in Berpeta Assam

It is obvious that a grassroots and youth led organization can't organize such a huge event at the moment. where 4,432 kilometres were covered by 78 persons on two cabs and 60 motorcycles.

Our dynamic friends from Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand had started a bicycle march in December 2011 to raise the issue of trafficking with in community and fund raising for the cause.



(Oops! Printing Mistake, instead of 1st to 16th March, it says ...)

Plan of March :Assam to Delhi” and concept of “people’s network against trafficking” which is named as “civic anti trafficking unit” was actually result of the feedback from the concerned groups and targeted communities.

This march was fully funded by individuals and APCR (a human rights group)



People centric not for media to avoid pressers, expectations, and controversies related to media hype we decided to maintain a respectable distance from them. In fact this march is not for middle class and for those people who were already aware about this menace we are focused on victims of trafficking and those people who might be affected to trafficking. This march was initiation of a mass movement against trafficking.

It was really a drastic step when we decide to travel in source area of trafficking where we might killed or attacked by traffickers. because they are really powerfull in their area. even we had received threat to stop this march before we had started the march.

A long way to Go It is really ironic that we had to stop this because of lack of fund. We will continue this march as soon as resources are available and we would also like to collaborate with some agencies to continue this march and workshops, trainings and proper functioning of civic anti trafficking units and people's network against trafficking.

