

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP
FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION
OF ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF SURVIVORS
OF TRAFFICKING (ERST) PROJECT**



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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August 2006



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PROLOGUE

International Organization for Migration (IOM) has designed and is implementing the project, **“Economic Rehabilitation of Survivors of Trafficking (ERST) in India”** to facilitate the successful social reintegration and sustainable economic rehabilitation of the rescued victims of trafficking by creating avenues for economic development. This is being achieved by organizing possible employment opportunities and extending micro-credit and business support for setting up of viable group enterprise activities. Through its co-ordinated multi-stakeholder approach in the implementation of the project, IOM has been successful in involving different stakeholders on mutually beneficial terms and conditions thus creating a unique initiative.

In the course of its activities in India, IOM has successfully rehabilitated 492 survivors of trafficking based in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal and Orissa during the period from January 2003 to August 2006 through the ERTV and the ERST projects. This accomplishment is the result of strong functional partnerships forged with the NGOs, exceptional patronage accorded by the government authorities, spirited efforts made by the corporate houses towards alleviation of the problem in focus and the indomitable zeal of the participants to bounce back to a life of dignity and independence. A landmark achievement was made by involving Indian Tobacco Company (ITC), a premier corporate house in the country to co-fund the setting up of retail food kiosks. This is the first time a corporate house has come forward to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are highly influenced with the ERST concept and are deliberating the means of integrating the elements practised under the ERST project in their state policies of rehabilitation.

By implementing the ERST project, IOM intended to create a model which could be taken as a base and replicated by the multiple stakeholders engaged in reaching out to the survivors of trafficking for their rehabilitation. As such, the Regional Workshop for Sharing Experiences and Information of ERST Project was organized to take stock of IOM’s performance, share experiences and draw conclusions on the best practices, drawbacks, salient features, bottlenecks and learnings of the ERST project.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshops aims:

- To create a common platform for sharing experiences and disseminating information on the ERST project
- To discuss the processes adopted in the course of the ERST project’s implementation and the results achieved
- To share with the stakeholders, handbooks, which could serve as learning and reference tools for individuals and organizations interested in initiating similar activities
- To deliberate on the post-ERST scenario and explore mechanisms to enhance coordination amongst the regional anti-trafficking interventions, thereby lay the foundation for stepping up to the next level of rehabilitation measures for the survivors of trafficking.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The one day Regional Workshop for Sharing Experiences and Information of ERST Project was held on 24th August 2006 at Hotel Central Court, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad.

(Refer to Appendix A for a detailed Workshop Schedule)

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by representatives from the State Governments (Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra), Law Enforcing Agencies, NGO Fraternity, Corporate Houses, Training Institutions, Donor Organizations and Funding Agencies, Survivors of Trafficking (IOM refers to them as participants, for they have the most important part to play in the process of their rehabilitation), Media Personnel and IOM (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh and India offices).

(Refer to Appendix B for a detailed list of participants)

INAUGURATION, WELCOME ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The day began with Mr. Mizanur Rahman, National Programme Officer and CT Focal Point, IOM Dhaka introducing himself as the moderator of the workshop. Ms. Hema Thapa, a budding entrepreneur (involved in fashion garment making in Mumbai) was invited to light the lamp and inaugurate the workshop.

Mrs. Rajul Furia, Coordinator – Resources Management, IOM Hyderabad welcomed the guests and the participants and briefly elucidated the objectives of the workshop – to share the processes and successes of the initiatives with all concerned parties, the lessons learnt, the challenges and more importantly the response that is required from the various stakeholders.

This was followed by a round of introduction by all the participants, wherein most of them also specified their reasons for attending this particular workshop.

WORKING SESSIONS

WORKING SESSION – I: INTRODUCTION TO IOM AND ERST PROJECT CONCEPT

Introduction to IOM

Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, Azerbaijan:

- ▣ Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. It has 118 member states, a further 20 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries.
- ▣ IOM firmly believes that migration is a very positive phenomenon and if regulated properly yields benefits to all concerned; it helps by offering services in contributing to the prosperity of the destination country and by sending back remittances to the source country.
- ▣ Mr.Dash further elucidated the main areas of IOM’s interventions and said that the ERST initiative in India is a part of the Targeted Assistance under the functional area of Migration and Development of IOM.

Introduction to ERST Concept

Mr. G. Nagarajan, Programme Co-ordinator, IOM Hyderabad: He shared the project objectives, the basic assumptions on which the project has been designed, the project approach which hinges on the multi-stakeholder partnership, the roles and responsibilities of the various partners in this set up and highlighted the achievements made by the project.

(Refer to Appendix C for a brief presentation on the ERST Project)

WORKING SESSION – II: TRAFFICKING SITUATION IN THE REGION AND INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC FACTORS

Overview on South Asian Human Trafficking Situation

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, National Programme Officer and CT Focal Point, IOM Dhaka:

- ▣ He elucidated on the phenomenon of trafficking – the causal factors, the vulnerable groups, the modes adopted by the traffickers and the reasons for the unrestrained incidence of trafficking.
- ▣ He emphasized that trafficking is not a “number game” (not to be blinded) as it deals with human misery and exploitation. Numbers indicating the magnitude of this menace have been generated time and again, but these numbers do not hold much significance for they vary greatly across different sources and it is difficult to get a realistic picture from them. As such, it is important to develop an ethical and rights based framework for research on the trafficking phenomenon to get an insight into the real status quo and also to ensure that this process does not lead to trauma and further abuse. Information sharing and knowledge building should be progressive and contribute towards the empowerment of the survivors.
- ▣ The following are the existing country based programs being implemented to address trafficking in South Asia:
 - Appropriate, targeted RESEARCH
 - VULNERABILITY reduction
 - Targeted anti-trafficking PREVENTION efforts
 - RESCUE (working together with government)
 - RECOVERY (Psychosocial recovery: Rebuilding life)
 - INTEGRATION (Community and institution-based)
 - PROSECUTION
 - PROTECTION of survivors
 - ADVOCACY and POLICY reform
 - Supporting NGO/CBO CAPACITY building
 - Strengthening anti-trafficking NETWORKS

The ERST Project for instance comes under the purview of Recovery and Integration.

- ▣ The three dominant Counter-Trafficking practices/models that have emerged to address this issue:
 - Prevention Oriented Model*: promotes primarily preventive measures
 - Prosecution Oriented Model*: promotes counter trafficking programmes that emphasize prosecution of traffickers.
 - Victim Protection Model*: promotes programmes that emphasize on human rights of victims of trafficking.
- ▣ There is a need to develop a new strategy/model on the basis of the above models which could also include the following elements:
 - Rights Based

- 4Ps - Policy and Advocacy, Prevention (Supply and Demand), Protection and Prosecution
 - Addressing the demand side
 - Collaboration and cooperation both national and regional level.
- The challenges faced in addressing this issue are as follows:
- Ambiguities and confusions in the thematic understanding of trafficking (migration-trafficking nexus)
 - Research gaps:
 - Inadequate study on demand side
 - Unverified or old data and unsatisfactory analysis
 - No national level baseline database
 - Absence or/and inadequate policy regime
 - Inadequate implementation mechanisms
 - Overwhelming focus on trafficking and the sex industry
 - Absence of functional and effective regional cooperation and collaboration in managing flow across borders.
 - Lack of government and civil society collaboration
 - Lack of political will of stakeholders
- Speaking on the stringent laws that are being drafted and implemented in the South Asian countries, Mr. Rahman commented that Bangladesh has issued death penalty to three traffickers. This denotes the graveness of the crime committed and also the pro-active stand taken by the judiciary in punishing the wrong doers with the worst form of penalty.

Trafficking Situation in the State of Maharashtra

Mr. C. B. Turkar, Deputy Secretary and State Co-ordinator UNICEF, Women and Child Welfare Department: He highlighted the prevailing scenario of trafficking and the efforts being made by the government agencies to tackle this challenge -

- There is lack of adequate information on the issue of trafficking even amongst high level bureaucrats and law enforcing personnel. As such, there is a great need to sensitize government personnel on all the aspects related to trafficking.
- A Child Rights Cell has been initiated to promote interaction between NGOs and the government. This has helped in overcoming the animosity that existed earlier between these two fraternities and has created a common platform for team work and sharing.
- NGOs have been working in their individual domain; the results produced shall lose their essence if these activities are not scaled up adequately because the problems are not confined to the work area of the NGOs – they have larger dimensions and magnitude. As such there is a need for better networking amongst the different stakeholders striving towards a common cause. Similarly, unless the NGOs and the INGOs consolidate their efforts along with the government agencies, it would be difficult to collect data, analyze it and disseminate information.

- ▣ The enhanced interaction with the NGO fraternity helped the government personnel gain insights into the issues of Child Rights, Women Rights and over a period of time has helped them in preparing the protocols for rescue, rehabilitation and prosecution, in drafting the rules under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) and the State Action Plan.
- ▣ The state of Maharashtra is at the receiving end – it is primarily a destination place. When the individuals who are rescued are restored or repatriated as is the case, the government rids itself of all responsibility pertaining to them. There are no processes of follow-up, no tracking systems, no MIS and no means to check re-trafficking.
- ▣ The greater challenge lies in continuously evolving and exploring mechanisms of co-ordinating the efforts of all parties and capitalizing on their strengths to fill in the existing gaps in the system.
- ▣ In one instance, when a petition was filed by Prerana, the judiciary pitched in and ordered the setting up of ‘Prerana Monitoring and Guidance Committee’ in the State run shelter home. This initiative led to a change in the government’s attitude – it now believes in involving NGOs in pilot initiatives and taking over the responsibility of scaling up these initiatives in cases where the projects have delivered results. On these lines, since the committee constituted by Prerana in one of the state homes facilitated in ensuring a better environment at the home, directives have been issued to set up such cells in all State homes.
- ▣ The State Department is also currently exploring mechanisms of partnering with IOM and taking these initiatives further.

The Influence of Economic Factors

Ms. Amita Joseph, Director, Business Community Foundation (BCF): Ms. Joseph was involved in designing the pilot economic rehabilitation initiative of IOM. She shared that it was a conference of women in prostitution that she attended years ago in Kolkata which changed her perspective towards this issue. The participants of this conference were courageous, beautiful, battled all odds, had entrepreneurial abilities and were looking for options and answers from the ‘civilized’ society. This gave her the idea that this entrepreneurial streak in these women could be positively directed towards their own betterment. These women have handled different people and their worst perversions and so it was felt that they will be able to cope with the stress and the challenges involved in running enterprises on their own. According to her, IOM has understood these basic parameters, has made efforts to catalyze the skills inherent in these individuals and has tried to provide real alternative opportunities to them.

- ▣ The survivors of trafficking need to be considered as whole entities and an environment needs to be created wherein they can come to the centre stage.
- ▣ There is also the need to look beyond the traditional occupations whilst scouting opportunities and options of the survivors.
- ▣ The National Human Rights Commission and many other agencies have conducted a number of studies, but very little has been done based on the findings of these studies. It is time the government agencies, the NGO fraternity and the civil society come together and move beyond the studies to intervene and correct the prevailing situation.

- ▣ It is observed that in some cases, the NGOs themselves become the stumbling blocks because of their unwillingness to change their mindset and become facilitators instead of doers. The response of the NGOs has to be situation specific – not every individual needs protective support, some of the survivors are willing to take the lead, build on their existing skill base and move on with little support from others.
- ▣ Networking and linkages between various stakeholders have to be established and strengthened
- ▣ There is also a great need for efforts to be made on changing the gender perspectives and on influencing the demand side.

Mr. Roop Sen, Regional Director - Groupe Developpement, felt that it is important to consider the opinions and aspects related to the traffickers who at an earlier stage in their lives were trafficked victims themselves. He also expressed that there is a need to create economic opportunities for this segment of people – pimps, brothel madams, traffickers, etc, whilst addressing the issue of trafficking.

In response to a query, Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan replied that a larger proportion of the funds that are allocated to counter trafficking are used for lobbying and advocacy efforts, organizing sensitization and awareness workshops. There is very little that is actually used directly for the survivors or for the benefit of the vulnerable groups. IOM's intervention has sought to rectify this situation, the model adopted by it has ensured reduction in management and operational costs and initiated processes whereby the survivors have assumed ownership of the enterprises set up for their rehabilitation.

WORKING SESSION – III: THE ERST MODEL – MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

The Entrepreneur's Perspective

Ms. Hema Thapa, an entrepreneur involved in a Fashion garment construction unit at Mumbai (which has been set up by IOM in partnership with Prerana and National institute of Fashion Design) shared her views about the ERST project. She spoke of the journey she has traversed from Nepal (years ago) to India (till date) and her troubled past. She was illiterate, lacked skills and unwilling to undertake any vocation. When the opportunity of getting involved in the garment construction unit came up, at the instance of the home staff wherein she had been staying till then, she went for a pre – induction visit organized by Prerana. Though apprehensive about her own abilities to imbibe skills, as she took a liking to what she saw during the pre-induction visit, she got involved in the training program. She shared that her teachers have been very supportive and with their help, she has learnt a variety of skills. To sum up, she says she has no more fears, she has imbibed skills, she loves her work at the unit, she has changed from her earlier self and is a more confident person which is reflected in the fact that she spoke at the workshop.

In response to queries, Ms. Thapa mentioned that the unit will be run by all the girls who have undergone training as a group enterprise; they shall divide the work amongst themselves and carry out their respective responsibilities. She also shared that in addition to the skill of making clothes, they were also taught the skills of marketing, procurement, handling customers, interacting with suppliers, ensuring minimum wastage and efficiency in the production process and adhering to quality standards. She shared that she had no problems in being involved in this unit and that she does plan to go home (for a short duration), but only after earning enough and productively contributing to the enterprise that has been initiated by them.

The Role played by NGOs

Mr. Jacob Bhatti, Co-ordinator, Prajwala spoke about IOM – Prajwala partnership which resulted in the setting up of AMUL food parlours and Prajwala Enterprises which was involved in book-binding activities. Over a period of time Prajwala has expanded the scope of its enterprises' wing and has brought vocations like printing, screen printing, lamination, welding, fabrication, carpentry etc. under its fold. Mr. Bhatti also shared the various efforts initiated by his organization in this process to ensure economic alternatives to the survivors of trafficking who were referred to their shelter home.

- ▣ In most cases, the survivors feel shattered, helpless, hapless and option less. They lack trust, in their own self as well; have a very low self esteem, suffer from acute psychological and physical trauma, have to handle their substance abuse and other medical ailments and also live under the continuous threat of their traffickers.
- ▣ The survivors need literacy and numeric skills, a space of their own, physical and spiritual healing, care and support and efforts to build their trust and self-worth.
- ▣ Prajwala is currently ensuring the training of the survivors in the following – numeric skills, literacy, technical skills, work ethics, marketing, quality control, management of time and resources, entrepreneurship skills.

- ▣ Along side, with due attention to the psychosocial component, Prajwala is involved in providing ongoing counselling support, in supporting the individuals in crisis management, in grooming the survivors and extending sex education to them, in organizing spoken English classes, computer literacy classes, exposure visits and recreational programs.
- ▣ The following are some of the challenges that the process of rehabilitation of the survivors poses – enabling the survivors to overcome their trauma and minimizing the probabilities of a relapse, continuous up gradation of skills (of the staff members as well as the survivors), creating a sense of ownership amongst the participants, handling issues related to the survivors’ sexuality and physical needs, creating a competitive edge in the market, ensuring quality production and service standards and above all ensuring the mainstreaming of these individuals into their families and the society.
- ▣ Though the spectrum of efforts required for economic rehabilitation and reintegration is large, it is quintessential because **Economic Rehabilitation assures the survivors a core identity and a tangible form of dignity.**

Ms. Juliana Lohar, Programme Manager, Anyay Rahit Zindagi (ARZ): Ms. Lohar introduced her organization ARZ which has been working for 8 years in Goa and has been involved in prevention, rescue operations, protection, prosecution, rehabilitation efforts in the State government run homes. ARZ has never been involved in economic initiatives for survivors of trafficking earlier. It was the ERST project which triggered their current activities aimed at providing exit options for those women who were in search for economic alternatives and to restrain their re-trafficking.

- ▣ The ERST project initiatives at Goa involved women who were highly affected post Baina displacement. The challenges of working in a destination place are many. Since the survivors are still based here, involving them in initiatives and bringing them out in the open facilitates easy access to their perpetrators and they are continuously under the threat of being identified and exposed at their work places.
- ▣ ARZ experienced great difficulty in accessing government support to these initiatives because the women originally hailed from states other than Goa and so were not considered an integral part of the Goan society by the government authorities.
- ▣ The ERST was a completely new concept, since it required handling finances and setting up businesses involving survivors, who had minimum skill base. ARZ felt a great responsibility to ensure the optimum utilization of the capital support extended for these initiatives by IOM.
- ▣ In the first phase of association with IOM, a great deal of time was spent in exploring business ideas. A core committee was formed to take up this activity and the support of media personnel was sought to get oriented to the manner of approaching and convincing potential corporate partners and for garnering support form relevant government agencies.
- ▣ IOM had suggested the setting up of Coffee Day’s X-press kiosks. There was difficulty in accessing suitable locations because of the cost factor. ARZ also felt that the arrangement only ensured better profits to the corporate house and the survivors may not be able to earn adequately.
- ▣ As regards employing them in Petrol bunks, since there were no company owned outlets, the dealers were directed by the top management to recruit the women suggested by IOM and ARZ.

The dealers felt this as an imposition and were very reluctant to engage the women. In certain cases where the women did find employment, they got identified resulting in hostile behaviour from their colleagues and higher ups at their places of work and so had to finally leave these vocations.

- Setting up food-kiosks interested the women, but the inherent problems of getting exposed, which could adversely affect the business of the outlets and inability to access safe locations at reasonable prices discouraged ARZ to implement this idea. Though a book binding unit had good market potential, lack of affordable backward linkages made this idea unviable.
- Finally two ideas – employment in beauty parlours and setting up a laundry unit were decided upon to provide livelihood options for the women.
- The second phase constituted the processes of setting up, drafting the rules and regulations, creating an identity for the initiatives, setting forth the process of moulding them as separate entities, planning the finances, looking into the legal requirements, acquiring the required permissions and procuring the required machinery.
- The beautician training was organized in collaboration with Neomi's, a very reputed beauty parlour in Panjim and after the training, the participants were absorbed into Neomi's own facilities.
- For the laundry unit, after an exhaustive search mission, the required space for setting up the enterprise was taken on lease in an industrial estate. This was a conscious decision because the industrial estate would provide the required professional backdrop and the facilities required for running the enterprise.
- In the third phase of training, ARZ organized interactions for the survivors with people from different walks of life, to give them an exposure to different perspectives and conducted market visits as well.
- The fourth phase which would be the commencement of business activities involves drafting the operational guidelines, mobilizing orders, setting up collection points, beginning the services, ensuring adherence to minimum quality standards and ensuring revenues to the enterprise.
- Ms. Lohar opined that there was a need for more flexibility amongst line heads in the project budget and that the project period of one year was too little time for ensuring successful initiatives as the processes of exploring business ideas, checking the viability of these ideas, preparing the survivors for economic initiatives, accessing suitable locations, getting the required permissions, procuring the machinery etc. were all time-consuming. A provision should also be created for unexpected expenses and increase in costs due to unanticipated time delays.
- It is better to get inducted into the process of implementing economic initiatives by concentrating on one enterprise idea and focussing all energies towards it initially.
- It is also advisable to draw upon the experience and expertise of professional and technically qualified individuals in setting up these enterprises.

The Involvement of Corporate Houses

Mr. Vijay Vardhan, Regional Manager – South, ITC – Social Development Initiatives:

- ▣ Mr. Vardhan spoke about the social development initiatives of the Indian Tobacco Company (ITC), which cover the following activities:
 - Waste land development
 - Soil and moisture conservation
 - Improved agricultural and animal husbandry practices
 - Non-farm income generation
 - Community based training (on leadership, accessing government schemes, formation of thrift and credit groups)
 - Micro enterprises with market linkages (agarbatti making, chikankari, dari weaving, chunari making, compost production etc.) - Wills Lifestyle and Johnplayers help rural women in producing garments; linkages have been established across states for agarbatti making. These activities have helped in generating employment at home for approximately 1,500 women.
 - Primary education support: Infrastructure support, rural library network, roaming laptop project and learning centres in schools
 - Sanitation
- ▣ ITC believes in harnessing public-private partnerships for the greater good and aims at expanding the scope of its interventions.
- ▣ Kafe Khushis: ITC has partnered with IOM to set up retail food and beverage kiosks for survivors of trafficking in Bhuvanesar in 2006. ITC has extended the entire financial support required for setting up these outlets; IOM has pitched in with its technical expertise and co-ordination skills and Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra, the local NGO is implementing the program. The first outlet has been inaugurated and is running successfully adjacent to the State Museum and four more kiosks are in the pipeline.

This is the first time a corporate house has co-funded a rehabilitation initiative for the survivors of trafficking in the country.

The Role played by Government

Dr. (Mrs.) E. V. Swarnalatha, Project Director, Women and Child Welfare Department, Hyderabad District elucidated the initiatives being undertaken by the AP State Government in addressing the issue of trafficking:

- ▣ Andhra Pradesh is the first state to have a State Policy on prevention, rescue and rehabilitation in 2003
- ▣ A core committee has been formed with the Chief Secretary of the State as its head and district level committees have been formed in all the 23 districts with the District Collectors at the helm of affairs to ensure the effective implementation of this policy.
- ▣ District level campaigns have been organized across the state with the support of UNICEF to create awareness among adolescent girls, anganwadi workers and mother's committee members on the mode and magnitude of trafficking and to caution them against this evil.

- 66,600 vigilant groups have been formed constituting anganwadi workers, political persons, local leaders, mother's committee members, women and adolescent girls to keep a tab and counter the incidence of trafficking in their respective areas.
- The various provisions of the State Policy are being implemented with the support of the police personnel and the NGO fraternity. Since the police personnel have expressed difficulties in conducting raids and rescue operations in the evenings, the NGOs have been requested to deploy their women staff members to accompany the police in these operations.
- Sensitization of the judiciary to the issue of trafficking, to the hardships of the victims and to the need for fast trials is being organized under the TAHA project. AP Police Academy has also been roped in to organize awareness workshops on this issue for the police personnel.
- Swadhar homes are being sanctioned to the NGOs for providing shelter, care and counselling support to survivors of trafficking.
- Efforts have been made to place some of the survivors who were literate in Tata Indicom centres as customer service executives, to re-unite them with their families, to ensure the survivors access to other schemes and provisions through the BC, SC and ST Corporations.
- Houses have been allotted to some of the survivors and locations for setting up outlets in association with IOM have also been provided – one outlet in the secretariat premises for an AMUL food parlour on no-cost basis and one food and beverage kiosk space at Necklace road adjacent to Eat Street. The process for sanctioning another five outlets – one in the Hyderabad District Collectorate and four in Mandal Revenue Offices has been initiated.
- Initiatives are also being currently undertaken in 14 districts across the state under the TAHA Project in association with United Nations Development Program and Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society.

WORKING SESSION – IV: INTRODUCTION AND RELEASE OF RESOURCE MATERIALS

In sync with the objective of the workshop which was to disseminate information about the successful replicable model created by the ERTV and ERST projects, IOM shared the following four books (resource materials) with the participants:

- ▣ Facilitating A Viable Transition (towards economic self-reliance and reintegration):
(Consultant: *M. Nivedita*)
Released by Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan

- ▣ Resource Directory on Anti-Trafficking Activities in Hyderabad
(Compiled by: *Help, Ongole represented by Mr. N.V.S. Rammohan*)
Released by Mr. R. V. Chandravadan, IAS, Collector, Hyderabad District

- ▣ Counselling – A Strategy for Entrepreneurs (A field based analysis)
(Authored by *Ms. S. K. Kanchan*)
Released by Ms. Anjana Chatterjee, Political Specialist, US Consulate General – Chennai

- ▣ Economic Rehabilitation of Survivors of Trafficking in India: External Evaluation Report
(Evaluator: *Ms. Lacey Ilene Ruben*)
Released by Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan

After the release of the books (which were introduced by the respective authors), the distinguished guests shared their perspectives on the project, the efforts of IOM and on the various initiatives being undertaken to check the problem of trafficking.

Mr. R. V. Chandravadan, IAS, Collector, Hyderabad District:

- ▣ Emphasized the need for partnerships similar to the one forged between the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Hyderabad, IOM and HELP for bringing out the Resource Directory. Suggested that such partnerships help in capitalizing on the strengths of each of the stakeholders involved in the process and as such yields better results.

- ▣ He was keen to ensure that the Resource Directory gets updated every year – for the next year he said they would include the various schemes, initiatives and policies of the government relevant to the individuals affected by trafficking.

- ▣ Welcomed the NGO fraternity to suggest methods of co-ordination, gaps in the processes being currently followed which need to be filled in. He also invited them to submit a list of survivors who could be provided houses under the Jawahar Nehru Housing scheme.

- ▣ He also assured that for survivors who are interested in taking up economic initiatives, financial support could be routed through the BC (Backward Classes) Corporation or the SC (Schedule Castes) Corporation or through the PMRY (Prime Ministers Rojgar Yojana) scheme.

- ▣ The government is also interested in offering land sites (for undertaking farm activities) in rural areas and outlet space in urban areas on no-cost or subsidised cost bases.
- ▣ The government is also willing to extend training facilities at no cost by referring the individuals to government run / aided premier training institutions.

Ms. Anjana Chatterjee, Political Specialist, US Consulate General – Chennai: She spoke of the US Government’s initiatives to counter trafficking and explained the role played by the consulate. The consulate collects information from the NGO fraternity to understand the work being undertaken to combat trafficking. The consulate also closely works with the state governments to explore ways of partnering with each other to counter this problem and sends inputs to the US government which then extends financial and technical assistance based on these reports.

Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan: He shared the following comments and recommendations mentioned in the evaluation report:

- ▣ The Evaluation report appreciated the flexibility and adaptability offered by the project to the implementing partner and to the participants, the multi-stakeholder approach and the cost effectiveness of the project.
- ▣ It recommends IOM’s participation in the beneficiary selection process to a greater extent, better structured training programs, consistent assessments of the progress of the survivors and their economic initiatives, comprehensive monitoring and information systems for tracking the survivors post restoration and reintegration and longer tenure of support for the initiatives.

Ms. Aruna Ranadhir, Relationship Consultant: She emphasized the importance of creativity and innovation in exploring viable economic options for the survivors of trafficking and the need for creating an image make over for the survivors, imparting them new skills (English speaking, computer literacy), going beyond the traditional occupations generally associated with women and low-income groups, creating opportunities in less trodden paths.

Ms. Roma Debabrata, President - STOP commented that new boundaries have to be ventured into but it should be the employment potential of these options that should govern the decision to involve the individuals in certain vocations and not the uniqueness quotient associated with the job that should influence the decision making process. She cited her own experience wherein some survivors who were illiterate but eventually trained in basic computer courses are still finding it difficult to find jobs for themselves based on these newly acquired skills despite the support of STOP in exploring opportunities.

WORKING SESSION – V: PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD.....

Panel Members:

- Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM-Azerbaijan
- Mr. Pravin Patkar, Founder and Chairperson, Prerana, Mumbai
- Mr. S. Umapathi, Dy. Inspector General of Police (Crime Investigation Department, A.P)
- Mr. Mizanur Rehman, National Programme Officer and CT Focal Point, IOM Dhaka
- Mr. Vijay Vardhan, Regional Manager – South, ITC Social Development Initiatives
- Mr. S. Ramesh, General Manager – BASIX
- Mr. Roop Sen, Regional Director, Groupe Developpment, Kolkata

The following were the insights shared by each of these panel members:

Mr. S. Umapathi, Dy. Inspector General of Police (Crime Investigation Department, A.P) who also looks after the Crimes Against Women / Women Protection Cell quoted that amongst 15,000 cases registered with the cell, approximately 400 cases are pertaining to survivors of trafficking. According to him, the following initiatives are being undertaken to address the issue of trafficking by the law enforcing agencies:

- ▣ In the recent years there has been better co-ordination with the Women and Child Welfare Department personnel and the NGO fraternity. They now share a rapport, wherein support is being sought even at the operational level; information is being shared across these stakeholders without any restraint. This has enabled prompt action in many cases, thus leading to prevention, rescue of survivors in certain cases and has also facilitated the prosecution of traffickers.
- ▣ The police personnel have also started interacting with and seeking the support of members of the Juvenile Justice Board, Prisons Department, Probation officers, Remand Home Superintendents in handling the issue of trafficking.
- ▣ The Additional Deputy General of Police, Andhra Pradesh has been nominated as the State Level Anti-trafficking Nodal Officer, who in turn has empowered his subordinates at all levels to closely work on this issue.
- ▣ The police personnel have received directives to consider the women rescued from trafficking as victims of fate / witnesses and not as accused. The efforts to bring about a paradigm shift in the attitude of the police officers are slowly bearing fruit. Out of the 185 cases registered during the current year 2006, only 15 cases have been booked under Section 8 of the ITPA. The rest of the cases have been lodged against the traffickers under Sections 3,4,5,6 and 7 of the Act.
- ▣ The AP Police Academy is organizing regional workshops to sensitize Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors over a period of time.
- ▣ In association with United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), efforts are being made to sensitize South Central railway personnel based at Vijayawada (considering the crucial role played by railway stations in the transit process inherent in most modes of trafficking) and make them aware of the role that they can play in checking this menace.
- ▣ The AP Judicial Academy has also taken up the sensitization of first class magistrates and the judiciary on the issue of trafficking and the ITPA.

- A synergic approach is being adopted amongst the personnel involved in the Police Department, the lawyers involved in the prosecution process, the staff in charge of prisons and the judiciary to address the issue of trafficking holistically.
- Under the standing order 538 in the police manual, the role of a police officer in a trafficking case has been clearly elucidated.
- Since Sections 372, 366A, 366B of the Indian Penal Code provide for fast trial, the police officers are being recommended to include IPC sections along with the ITPA provisions to expedite the prosecution processes.
- The police sub-inspectors study the Indian Penal Code for one complete year. As the ITPA is a special act, it remains out of the police officers' focus areas. Since the police sub-inspectors study the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for one complete year, he suggests the inclusion of the ITPA in the IPC (*similar to the Sri-Lankan government's move to include the ITPA under their Penal Code*) for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.
- He emphasized the need to provide the financial assistance for Victim Protection, Witness Support and Rehabilitation Processes and to constitute special teams to tackle the issue of trafficking.

Mr. Pravin Patkar, Founder and Chairperson, Prerana, Mumbai: He began by saying that rehabilitation of certain marginalized communities, victims of wrong policies of development (implemented by the government), exploited and deprived individuals was almost an ignored issue. The ERTV and the ERST initiatives spearheaded by IOM were the first comprehensive and professional efforts made in the direction of addressing this issue. He shared that Prerana's experience of being a part of this project has been quite fulfilling and that they are confident of making the enterprises successful. He had the following comments on the rehabilitation processes being followed:

- Despite being promising interventions, the short duration of the projects negatively affects the process of rehabilitation and does not ensure efforts to bring the processes to a logical end.
- The project has given good ground for urging the law enforcing agencies to carry out rescue operations and rescue trafficked individuals by creating options and opportunities, which would moderate the extent of re-trafficking, thus putting an end to the mockery of their activities. Instead these initiatives are giving effect to the efforts being put in place by the police personnel.
- The linkages with the corporate houses have helped in orienting the NGOs to the concepts of business and profit making and have contributed to the sustainability of the enterprises.
- At the state and national levels, the Directorate of Employment, Directorate of Technical Training, Directors of IITs, Directors of IIMs ought to be involved to ensure systematic analysis of the option-less situation, evolve effective strategies and put forth a pragmatic approach to rehabilitate the survivors of trafficking.

- ▣ The state and central governments could be influenced to create reservations for the voluntary sector; it could be made mandatory for these governments to procure earmarked products and services only from the enterprises initiated by the NGO fraternity of the rehabilitation of the marginalised and deprived communities.
- ▣ It is observed that most small scale industries have succeeded only because they have been set up as ancillary units for large scale players. As such, it is essential to explore similar opportunities for survivor-run-production enterprises.
- ▣ Efforts ought to be made to ensure technical training and vocational training programs which are in sync with the locally available resources and the potential market demand.
- ▣ The survivors should be extended extensive psycho-social counselling prior to their involvement in economic initiatives. Sound Post Rescue Operations should be put in place to ensure their transition and integration into the mainstream society.
- ▣ It needs to be well understood that the survivor's attitude, preparedness, zeal and co-operation play a very significant role in modulating and directing the process of rehabilitation.
- ▣ The pressing need as on date is to ensure the continuous sensitization of the government personnel, judiciary and the personnel involved in the management of shelter homes.
- ▣ The process of rehabilitation poses inherent challenges because of the stigma, discrimination and isolation of the survivors of the trafficking meted out by the society, which is not allowing them to live their lives on their own in peace. The bigger challenge lies in making the communities conscious to the grave issue of trafficking and in sensitizing them to accept the survivors of trafficking.

Mr. Roop Sen, Regional Director, Groupe Developpement: He highlighted the aspect that economic initiatives ought to be considered not only as curative mechanisms but also as preventive measures. Since in most cases, it is lack of viable economic options that triggers unsafe migration and trafficking, such opportunities could also be extended to individuals who are vulnerable and are at high-risk of being exploited.

- ▣ There is a vacuum of initiatives for youngsters in the age group of 14 to 18 years and strategies have to be devised to capacitate them, to create opportunities for them and reduce their vulnerability.
- ▣ The process of facilitating and regulating migration and ensuring that it is safe and sans elements of deception and exploitation should be disseminated to all the stakeholders.
- ▣ IOM should pitch in to provide inputs to other organizations as regards the mechanisms of creating corporate linkages; it would also be very beneficial if interested NGOs and INGOs are given the opportunity and the required support to capitalize on the linkages already established by IOM with the corporate houses.

Mr. Vijay Vardhan, Regional Manager – South, ITC Social Development Initiatives: Speaking from the corporate houses' perspective, he spoke of the lack of awareness and education about the issue of trafficking amongst the business houses. As regards the way forward, he emphasized on the need for:

- ▣ Sensitizing the corporate houses adequately to the issue of trafficking and exploring means of involving them in the source areas (identified) and devising economic options as the means to prevent trafficking
- ▣ Involving the corporate fraternity in lobbying with the government for extending its infrastructure and faculties for addressing this issue (for prevention as well as for rehabilitation).

Mr. S. Ramesh, General Manager – BASIX: He once again emphasized on the need for the government to play an important role in tackling the issue of trafficking. The ERST project provides a workable model which could be adopted by the government, adapted to suit the circumstances and requirements of the individuals and scaled up to reach out to more survivors. This initiative has amply exhibited the abilities of the NGO fraternity and the willingness of the corporate houses in exploring opportunities for initiating rehabilitation processes. The onus now lies with the government to bring these stakeholders under its fold, put forth an inclusive process and capitalize on the multi-stakeholder holder and multi-pronged approaches to effectively address this menace.

Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission, IOM-Azerbaijan: He reiterated the primary reasons behind organizing the workshop, which were to share the experiences, learnings, challenges faced, the failures and the success achieved by the ERST project and to disseminate information on the model which IOM believes can be replicated to reach out to many more survivors of trafficking.

- ▣ A Technical Resource Centre could be set up to ensure continuous technical support, professional advice, guidance and co-ordination to the different stakeholders involved in addressing this issue.
- ▣ IOM has gained valuable experience in approaching the corporate houses and exploring viable opportunities with them. IOM shall continue to build rapport and strengthen its relationship with these business houses. IOM is willing to introduce these corporate partners to other organizations who are interested in getting involved in such interventions based on the elements of mutual trust and transparency.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, National Programme Officer and CT Focal Point, IOM Dhaka: Speaking on the way forward and the impact created by the ERST project at the regional level, Mr. Rahman shared that IOM Dhaka, drawing upon IOM India's experiences and learnings in implementing the ERST project, was initiating a project on similar lines to reach out to 175 survivors of trafficking in Bangladesh in the second half of 2006.

Ms. Sudha Gooty, Program officer, UNDP: She drew attention of the participants to the challenges and concerns that the replication of this model of rehabilitation poses:

- ▣ There are basic differences in the characteristics of places of destination and transit and the source areas – these play a significant role in influencing the type economic activity that could be undertaken in these areas. Also there are differences in the needs of survivors who are based in shelter homes, those who have been reunited with their families and those who are not accepted by their families. All these aspects ought to be adequately analyzed before embarking on initiating enterprises for the survivors.

- ▣ Entrepreneurship is a great skill to possess, however not every individual is adequately equipped to become an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship involves initiative and risk-taking abilities and it has been observed that most of the survivors are not keen to pursue the enterprise option for earning their livelihood because of the inherent uncertainties in this system. As such, it is imperative to focus on generating employment options which offer safety, security and an assured income to them.

 - ▣ The greatest challenge lies in mainstreaming these initiatives, in bringing them under the fold of the government schemes and policies so as to ensure wider coverage – efforts ought to be made to lobby with the government authorities and ensure the required support for the rehabilitation of the survivors.
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APPENDIX A: WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

TIME	PARTICULARS	PRESENTERS
9.00 – 9.30	Registration	
9.30 – 10.00	Inauguration, Welcome Address and Introduction of participants	Mrs. Rajul Furia Coordinator – Resources Management, IOM Hyderabad
WORKING SESSION - I		
10.00 – 10.20	Introduction to IOM	Mr. Sarat Dash Chief of Mission - IOM Azerbaijan
10.20 – 10.40	Introduction to ERST Concept	Mr. G. Nagarajan Programme Coordinator, IOM Hyderabad
10.40 – 11.00	Tea Break	
WORKING SESSION – II		
TRAFFICKING SITUATION IN THE REGION AND INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC FACTORS		
11.00 – 11.10	Overview on South Asian Human Trafficking Situation	Mr. Mizanur Rahman National Programme Officer and CT Focal Point, IOM Dhaka
11.10 – 11.20	Trafficking situation in the state of Maharashtra	Mr. C. B. Turkar Deputy Secretary and State Coordinator UNICEF, W & C D Department
11.20 – 11.30	Influence of Economic Factors	Ms. Amita Joseph Director, Business Community Foundation (BCF)
11.30 – 11.45	OPEN HOUSE	
WORKING SESSION – III		
THE ERST MODEL: MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH		
11.45 – 12.00	The Entrepreneur’s Perspective	Ms. Hema Thapa PRERANA, Mumbai
12.00 – 12.30	The Role Played by NGOs	PRAJWALA and ARZ
12.30 – 01.00	The Involvement of Corporate Houses	Mr. Vijay Vardhan Regional Manager – South ITC – Social Development Initiatives
01.00 – 01.30	The Role Played by Government	Dr. (Mrs.) E. V. Swarnalatha Project Director, W&CWD, Hyderabad District
01.30 – 02.30	Lunch Break	
WORKING SESSION – IV		
INTRODUCTION AND RELEASE OF RESOURCE MATERIALS		
02.30 – 02.45	ERST Do-It-Yourself Handbook	Mr. Sarat Dash Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan
02.45 – 03.00	Resource Directory on Anti-Trafficking Activities in Hyderabad	Mr. R. V. Chandravadan, IAS Collector, Hyderabad District
03.00 – 03.15	Counseling – A Strategy for Entrepreneurs	Ms. Anjana Chatterjee Political Specialist, US Consulate General, Chennai
03.15 – 03.35	Economic Rehabilitation of Survivors of Trafficking in India: External Evaluation Report	Mr. Sarat Dash Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan
03.35 – 04.00	Tea Break	
WORKING SESSION – V		
04.00 – 04.45	Panel Discussion on the Way Forward	Representatives from Government, NGO, Corporate, Training Institute, Donor Agency, IOM
04.45 – 05.00	Wrap Up	Mr. Mizanur Rahman
05.00 – 05.15	Vote of Thanks	Mr. G. Nagarajan

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APPENDIX C: RESOURCE MATERIALS RELEASED BY IOM

Facilitating A Viable Transition (towards economic self-reliance and reintegration): A Handbook for conscientious individuals and organizations interested in partnering in the sojourn of the Survivors of trafficking. This Handbook documents IOM project's concept and design, the basic premises of the project and the project strategies that have been put in place in the course of its implementation. It also presents individuals case studies of the enterprises supported by the project as well as insights into the transition brought about by these initiatives in the lives of the participants. The Handbook seeks to highlight the best practices and lessons learnt, successful case studies as well as failures and finally, the Do's and Don'ts that would guide and streamline the future replication of such initiatives. *(Consultant: Ms. M. Nivedita)*

Resource Directory on Anti-Trafficking Activities in Hyderabad: This Directory was the result of the joint collaborative efforts of IOM and the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Hyderabad District. The Resource Directory has been conceived to put all facets of the problem on record so that it becomes easier and convenient for any interventionist to design a strategy for taking up anti-trafficking measures. The Directory indicates the high risk locations in and around Hyderabad and the services and resources available within the city for protection and redressal. It also lists the existing protocols pertaining to rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation and proposes certain modifications and additions which would ensure effective implementation of the counter trafficking measures. *(Compiled by: HELP, Ongole represented by Mr. N.V.S. Rammohan)*

Counselling – A Strategy for Entrepreneurs (A field based analysis): The referral handbook focuses on information on psychosocial factors and needs management process plan, in specific reference to trafficking related traumatic life situations. The primary objective of this handbook has been to introduce counselling as a strategy for economic empowerment, and put forth the essential elements of counselling, communication etc. The simple premise that underlies the book is that if the holistic management skills and economic empowerment skills can be grasped and then honed, they would bring about a transformation in perceptions on economic empowerment issues. The book has also made an attempt to redefine the role of counsellor from a pain reliever to a more contemporary context of vibrant, dynamic, holistic empowering agent. *(Authored by Ms. S. K. Kanchan)*

Economic Rehabilitation of Survivors of Trafficking in India - External Evaluation Report: This report evaluates the overall performance and achievements of the ERTV and ERST projects of IOM against the established project objectives and purposes. The focus has been on detailing the intervention strategies, including the selection of tools and the field of activity, on the collaborative efforts between the stakeholders in terms of their respective contribution to the economic, social and psychological rehabilitation of the survivors of trafficking. *(Evaluator: Ms. Lacey Ilene Ruben)*