

## A TRAFFICKER SPEAKS.....



*“Trafficking has a positive impact on our society. Suppose someone needs a kidney – where will the person get it? If prostitution is not there, then it will be a problem for young girls to be out in the street. I am providing a service.....”*

.....We collected the children from one of the local schools in Khulna. These schools have a fixed vanpuller who picks-up and drops off the school children. Sometimes these children are taken to parks with the school's permission. We contacted one of these guys and asked him to bring a few children to us. We agreed to pay him 60,000 Taka. One day, when the vanpuller found suitable conditions to abduct the children, he took them to the Rupsha River. He informed us to meet him at a certain spot to collect them. After collecting them, they were trafficked to India through the Bhomra border.....

.....We use different techniques and strategies to collect girls. The main things we are looking for are physical beauty, a young age and someone who is in a relationship with a boy. Most of the girls we traffic are from middle-income groups. To select our target, we usually observe girls going to school. After we have watched her for a few days and have decided to take her, we make our plan. For example, after the lunch break, when all the girls were returning back to school, we called her to bring her away from the rest. Then we forced her to get into our car.....

.....Sometimes we use veteran prostitutes as traffickers. A man is hired to pretend to be her husband. Then, as a couple, we rent a house. While living in that house, we become friendly with the community, particularly with the young girls. Then one day our prostitute asks one of the girls if she would like to go out with her to a movie or to a park. Most parents do not allow young girls to go out except to schools. So the woman working with us will lie to the parents. She then takes the girl to the brothel. As soon as she arrives there, she is surrounded and it is too late for her. Among this crowd there are young boys. They start teasing her and touching her until they ultimately rape her as an initiation into the trade. Once spoiled, her community will not accept her back.....

.....We sometimes go to other districts. In Madaripur we stayed in hostels and developed relationships with the local males. We then try to learn personal stories, especially stories about romantic encounters. Once we have a few, we lure the young boys and their girl friends with them by promising good jobs and marriage if they come to Khulna with us. We were able to convince some couples to do this. As soon as they arrived in Khulna, we separated the boy and the girl. The girl was sent to the brothel and boys were threatened to leave Kulna. If he refuses to go, we threatened to kill him.....

.....I plan to be a Member of Parliament sometime in the future. Although I only have a primary education, these things do not matter to be an MP. Anybody with money can become an MP these days.....

**(Based on an interview with a trafficker in the Dhaka jail by ICDDR,B researchers – September 2000.)**