

Case Study - Reshmi

This is the case of a missing sister from Udalguri, Assam whose brother struggles to find her with the help of the staff of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) and Assam Police. The brother had no clue where his sister was. He just had one link, a number of one Sanju. He reported this to the police and got the First Information Report registered for his missing sister. But when he got no response from police he came to BBA and after interference from BBA, the case got the speed. Assam police with BBA team and Virendra (victim's brother) came to Delhi. Till then the local activist of Delhi office did the complete identification of the trafficker's address and discussed the case with police officials of the area. It was expected that the girl would be there with Sanju. BBA team reached the local Police station next day with the Assam police and when they reached the location, they found Sanju but Reshmi (the missing sister) was still missing.

Sanju was then taken into custody. He told the rescue team that he had placed Reshmi at a house where he would take them by car. He wasted one hour in the car loitering here and there with the rescue team when he was interrupted and asked of Reshmi's whereabouts. He then told the team that the girl had been given to Manju. Manju had placed that girl somewhere. The team was given a phone number which was not available when called. BBA activist traced the number, and found out the address which belongs to Model town, but the challenge here which BBA team has to face to trace the location as the same house no. was there in 3 blocks there in Model Town.

It was now troubling the people because it was really hard to trace that single house where Reshmi worked but the BBA activists were successful in finding that home after a long struggle. They disguised as employees from "Airtel" connection. The staff, so as to survey about the maid working there, asked for some water from the owners. The owners asked their maid to bring a glass of water. As soon as the maid brought water for them, they very politely asked her name. She was scared a bit and in a very low voice she said that she was Reshmi.

The team went back and reported the police about Reshmi. The team along with police and her brother went to that place. The sister was expected to be happy but she had tears in her eyes when she saw her brother. She surely was pleased to see him but was heated at the same time. She didn't expect him to come so late to take her back but she said that she didn't want to go back with them. The Assam staff then had the first counseling with Reshmi. She then told the police that she didn't want to go back because she would be termed as "Delhi return" which means that any girl who has returned from Delhi has surely done some dirty job there. She cried and made her brother promise that he would go back and tell everyone that she had not done any disrespectful job in Delhi.

She was assured that she would not face any such stuff at her village. She packed her bags and was ready to come back with them. She hadn't received any salary but was kept in a very good condition at that place. When she was leaving she hugged the

owners and other members at the house. She had tears in her eyes and the owners were sad too.

When she was counseled next, she said that she didn't want to talk in Assamese. She was willing to communicate in Hindi. She told the police that a man, Phoolchand forced her and two other girls to come to Delhi with him. They always denied but he lured them. He had totally brainwashed the little girl and told her not to tell anybody about it. One day he called them to a tea garden and took them to Delhi from Guwahati. He then handed over the girl to Sanju. Her previous employers lived near India Gate who also were from Assam. They used to torture her. They made her wash clothes and utensils all the time. They didn't even give her proper food to eat. They also used to beat her up. She also came to know that Reshmi's brother had molested Phoolchand's wife and therefore she was furious about that.

She said that she wanted to go home but she was scared that people would talk ill about her. Her brother then assured her that nothing would happen and that she could come back with him without worrying. Sanju had been taken into police's custody. They took him to Shahadabad Dairy but no other workers were found there. It was already 2 in the night so they couldn't find a lockup there so they kept the person with them, and then produced him before court, Reshmi was produced before CWC and later she was handed over to her brother and sanju was taken to Assam on transit warrant. The FIR has been registered under section 370 of Indian Penal Code, 1860.