State Governments have also enacted specific legislations to deal with the issue. (e.g. The Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012) of Human Organs Act, 1994, apart from specific Sections in the IPC, e.g. Sections 372 and 373 dealing with selling and buying of girls for the purpose of prostitution.


Legal Provisions

The burden of proof for these offences is also reversed: the commission of the crime shall be presumed unless otherwise proven.

Other provisions enable the confiscation, forfeiture and designation of property when offences are committed under Sections 13 and 17 under Sections 373 and 375 of the IPC. In addition, the Bill empowers specified prosecutors to be appointed as special public prosecutors.

Rescue & Rehabilitation

The Bill provides for a “National Trafﬁcking Commission” to be set up for the victims of human trafﬁcking where they will be provided with all necessary care and aid. Victims will also be provided with long-term institutional support for their rehabilitation.

Schemes and Programmes will be implemented to facilitate safe integration of victims into the mainstream society, especially for women rescued from prostitution or any other form of sexual exploitation.

Courts and Procedures

The Bill provides for the establishment of Special courts for the prosecution of traﬃcking of persons, especially for women and children in any other form of sexual exploitation.

Areas of possible involvement as a Church

1. Prayer and Advocacy
2. Identifying and education about government schemes for rehabilitation of bonded labourers & illiteracy.
3. Networking with civil society organisations that work on issue of bonded labour
4. Awareness - Education and prevention
5. Involve in rehabilitation
6. Networking with government schemes
7. Nurture and support those who are rescued
8. Identify & educate about government schemes for rehabilitation of bonded labourers & illiterate women and children
9. Involve in rehabilitation

In the Indian context, bonded labour or debt bondage is the modern slavery that feeds on a cycle of indebtedness, exploitation and abuse. Bonded labour or debt bondage, is the least known yet most widespread form of trafficking and is being used to exploit people today. Victims become bonded laborers when their labor is demanded on a margin of expense for a loan or service for which terms and conditions have not been defined or as such that the victim’s services are not applied toward the liquidation of the debt. The debt is never paid off except the victim’s work.

Bonded labour is most widespread in South Asia to connect it to India and Sri Lanka, milk, tea, brick, construction, mining, agriculture etc. Families are forced to work to pay off the debt, with no right to refuse. Sometimes, the debt can be passed down from generation to generation and children are tied in debt bondage as their parents’ next victim. In India hundreds of men, women and children are forced to work as bonded laborers often in extreme exploitation and abuse.

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Bonded labour can be termed as ‘modern slavery’ that feeds on a cycle of indebtedness, exploitation and abuse. Bonded labour, in India, is a form of slavery that is often passed down from generation to generation. The burden of proof for these offences is also reversed: the commission of the crime shall be presumed unless otherwise proven.

Legal Provisions

Both the Centre Government and State Government have enacted Anti-Trafficking legislation that cover all forms of trafficking in persons and are in consonance with the International Conventions. Article 3 (a) UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The Convention-Government shall set up a committee in a few weeks to supervise the implementation of the Act and also mandates a Special Agency for investigation of offences under the Act.

Provincial Governments shall be set up for the victims of human trafficking where they will be provided with all necessary care and aid. Victims will also be provided with long-term institutional support for their rehabilitation.

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