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TRAUMA OF THE TRAFFICKED

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**Abstract:**

Human trafficking is the forced bondage/slavery of an individual at the hands of his/her captors. The lack of independence, harassment, physical and mental abuse that an individual face in these situations leads to depression, anxiety and mental instability in the victim. Young children are trafficked from neighboring countries. They come to India with the hope that their life will become better. Their dreams are shattered when they realize that they are trapped in the sinister web of human trafficking. South Indian states are targeted as the most sought-after states for trafficking. As per the National crime records, children disappear overnight, one child in every eight minutes. "Jayanta Choudhury in Trafficking women and children discusses the efforts taken by UNDP, UNICEF, UN agencies for protection of woman folk" (Choudhury 48). NGOs and other concerned governmental organizations are working throughout the country to rehabilitate the victims of human trafficking. Under Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, human trafficking for sexual exploitation is penalized.

**Keywords:** trafficking, child, crimes, captors, exploitation etc

Sold is an eminent work by Patricia McCormick where she brings us the plights of a thirteen year old girl Lakshmi. Trafficked, isolated, and being brought into India from her homeland Nepal, she was not able to rely at any point as India was alien to her. Rainy seasons were cruel to Lakshmi when she was in Nepal as these rains soaked their family constituting of her mother and stepfather under water. Her mother was the symbol of love and affection and their dream was to have a tin roof. Their stepfather was of no use to them as he sits relaxed playing cards in the teashop.

Get up early in the morning before anyone else in the house and be the last one to bed at night. Never sit down in the presence of your mistress or her husband or even in front of the children. And never eat your meal until they have gone to bed. This will prove what a hard worker you are. 'Hide your wages

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inside your blouse. That way,' she says, 'you will fool anyone who thinks you keep your money in your waistcloth. 'Do not eat any food that comes in a paper wrapper. You do not know who has cooked it. 'Put a pinch of cardamom in the rice,' she says. 'This will make it more filling. 'Stay two steps behind your mistress if you are helping her with the marketing, and keep your head bowed when you are in public so that the city men cannot see your face.(Maccormick 50).

Lakshmi's mother wanted her to be in school, but their life situations and lack of money prevented her from continuing schooling. Her mother even amidst the chaotic situations took care of her and Lakshmi enjoyed the happiness and bliss of the trees, the environment that surrounded her made her smile. Little things in life made her look at life with a cheerful face. Lakshmi recalls her friend Gita often as she had good memories with her. They use to brush each other's hair and pinch their noses.

They use to throw mud at each other during afternoons and all the memories Lakshmi had with Gita is etched with in her heart. Lakshmi shares her autumn day's experiences with Gita where she was filled with zeal and energy. "And in autumn,

when the goatherds came down from the Himalayan meadows, we hid in the elephant grass to catch sight of Krishna , the boy with sleepy cat eyes, the one I am promised to in marriage"(Maccormick 8).Gita has gone to work as a maid for a wealthy woman in the city. Monetary power plays a key part that made the girls in Nepal reach India.

Extreme poverty made their life miserable and even the imagination of having a tin roof into reality was aloof to them. Lakshmi was filling a void in the absence of her dear Gita, with whom she shared some good memories. Even in the middle of poverty, Lakshmi was enjoying life. Lakshmi was a girl helpful for the family as she loved to do all the household chores, helping her mother at all walks of her life. She showed maturity beyond her age as she behaved with practicality and happiness bounding together. She had a goat, her plaything and friend and she was too humane that she even talked with animals; a girl with warmth in her heart was what Lakshmi was. They prayed to the mountain Goddess "The people who live on our mountain, in a cluster of red mud huts clinging to the slope, worship the goddess who lives there, on the swallow tailed peak. They pray to the goddess, whose brow is fierce and noble, whose breast is broad and bountiful, whose snowy skirts spread wide above us"(McCormick 15-16).Her stepfather is a person who doesn't take care

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of the family, he goes up the hill, play cards there and drinks tea, talking politics all the time.

The bread winner of the family is her mother and all the pressure of the family is vested in her shoulders. The presence of stepfather was considered as lucky as they live with a man so that they won't be disturbed by rogues roaming around. Lakshmi always stood as a dutiful daughter performing all the duties at the right time and the routine activities that she has to do was never interrupted. Even if she use to do everything that she is bound to, her stepfather always says "A son will always be a son, they say. But a girl is like a goat. Good as long as she gives you milk and butter. But not worth crying over when it's time to make a stew"(McCormick 33). Sometimes, Lakshmi had the wonder within her as how the world outside her village will be.

All the amazement and enthusiasm that a girl of that age need to have is filled within Lakshmi. It is the mountains and the work of the women pays off and feeds their stomach. The woes that these women undergo, the struggle that they face with is evident through Lakshmi's mother. It is the socio cultural consciousness that places women at certain roles and points within the milieu of the society. A girl who enters the period of puberty was being looked up by them as a festival, the ripening of the

tender body is what they usually comment about it. They were supposed to stay during those days. The humiliation that a girl child undergoes right from the age she attains her puberty is another fact of sadness that circumnavigates.

The girl, being considered as an untouchable brings a lot of trauma and aloofness. As they say, "Even the sun cannot see you until you've been purified" (McCormick 49). The psyche that cries deep inside every girl child including Lakshmi begins there. Marriage was considered as a plethora where the girl has to submit herself totally, being vulnerable to the needs and satisfy not only her husband, but everyone in the family bowing before them. The practices that are taking place following conventions must be burnt down to rise out as a phoenix. If husband burps at the end of the meal, it is a sign that he has been satisfied. The way our society considers a girl child is really heart wrenching.

The challenges that she has to face in different phases of her growth innately points out the difference shown while raising a girl and a boy. Lakshmi's mother always tells her that Simply to endure is to triumph. The endurance that she signifies in her life is evident. The sacrifices, the one and only life gifted to her by God almighty is thrown towards her fellow beings. During her menstrual period, Lakshmi lied in the

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darkness of goat shed; the life in the mountainside again was becoming adverse to her as they had to stay sixty days even without water.

Their culture was that they had the practice of making offerings of marigold petals, red kumkum powder, and precious bits of rice to the Goddess. The sacrifices they have done and the rituals they do never brought complete solace to them as their life was quenched in deep despair day by day. The situation within her family was getting worse as poverty started making life sick. When rain stricken the place, it was about eighty days and nights that it has rained without any stop. The rain was so strong and adverse. The food, the climate, and the survival of them, everything around there began to question them. "My stomach churns with something bitter. I do not know if it is hunger"(McCormick 44). The insecurities that life is putting forth Lakshmi shows the kind of trauma that she is filled with.

Poverty and hunger when coming together as part to part into the same soul distorting the family and taking away all the happiness and bliss that occupied that place. The harvest at this point was a bitter to them. Even her stepfather did struggle for a loan from his brothers. The hungry stomach that Lakshmi had, the situation of nothingness alleviated her. Lakshmi has not

ever talked to anyone who comes from a city background.

Anything other than her mountains was strange to Lakshmi. They used to have festivals, where they put offerings of rice , where they honor crows, dogs. "We dot their foreheads with red powder and place marigold garlands around their necks because dogs are the guides to the land of the dead"(McCormick 40). Vibrant festivals form a part in Nepal and the festivals are those of diversity too. It was the time when the hearts like that of Lakshmi goes through a different facet of an experience which is different from that of the routine life.

Witnessing the festivals it gives a symbol of happiness into hearts. They had great belief in the Goddess Lakshmi and they pray that the Goddess Lakshmi will see their lights and bring them good fortune. They wait to have a better fortune patiently to get out of the depth of poverty they are immersed in. Amidst the festival, Lakshmi comes across a city woman who is wearing a dress of yellow cloud fabric who smells of amber and night flowers. This woman tells Lakshmi "City girls have pretty dresses and they eat oranges, dates and mangoes every day. It is the easy life"(Maccormick 53).

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She was trying to impress the little Lakshmi convincing her that life in a city is a matter of privilege and she would enjoy it to the utmost. Lakshmi runs back to her mother to tell about this woman who smells of amber and jasmine. Amidst then, her stepfather has received money from the same woman she saw in the festival and he said her to go to the city to work as a maid. Lakshmi's life started facing all the misfortunes right from the moment she left her hometown. She was crying inside her because it was too tuff to her to leave her mother and move to a totally strange place. Her heart was filled with distress and utmost pain, but she didn't show it in her face and she tried to look bold and she told them that she will send her wages home.

All that they dreamt for, in their lifetime was to have a tin roof and she wanted to make that dream come true. Lakshmi's mother reminded her to not look at city men's face , to bow her head when she is in public and to pray every day and to make them feel proud. The small little girl who is just thirteen years old struggles

within her mind. The detachment from her family was the utmost form of trauma for her. She had a face which was so good at hiding her feelings with that beautiful smile with all charm. She then leaves the city with the woman giving adieu to her place for time sake and when she reaches the end of the village, she just looks back, one last look that she ought to remember.

Moving away from her place is the firsthand experience to her which she has not had before. Even in the midst of poverty and dilemma, Lakshmi's happiness was alive. But moving away from the village with a strange lady was in fact a question mark to her life and laughter. They had a tiring walk as they were walking a whole day. They travel through several places, several people and the woman was holding Lakshmi's hand so tight with a fear that whether she will run away from the place or not was a question for her. The world ahead of Lakshmi was naive and she saw many visuals which was new to her on the way including a man with teeth entirely of gold. Ama has packed for Lakshmi a bowl, hairbrush, her notebook and rest of the carriages that Lakshmi has in heart. Her heart sobs deep inside.

They walked through several villages and up and down hills and at some points, the take a stop to take rest and again continue their journey. She inquisitor the woman about how a city looks like and she

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plainly told her that you have to see it in order to understand it for yourself. Lakshmi's eyes always had an excitement which was hidden inside and she had carried out a hundred questions in her heart. Moving from a small village to a great city had a great transformation and the tiny bits of doubts she had was a part of it. They travelled in a bullock cart for a distance and travelling in to the city, she saw dirty road for hours and she entered in to the bus for the first time, it was uncertain for Lakshmi and she had so many confusions that creped inside. She has not seen bus, car or any other vehicle till now and travelling in them was a new experience to her. The market places smelt of onions and cigarette smoke. She saw many girls while was travelling and her eyes was searching amidst the crowd for her loving one, Gita. She didn't have any idea about the world which she is going to be thrown in to, the world of traffickers and the physical and mental abuse that this children had to undergo was unexplainable.

Giri mentions that "identification and seduction of the victims and abuse throws them into pervasive measures of physical and mental torture and recruiters and victims are unknown to each other" (Giri 107). It is a serious human rights violation and these children are becoming vulnerable to their exploitation. The woman who was with Lakshmi arranges an uncle husband for Lakshmi in order to cross the

border. He tells her that he will be her uncle, but she should call him husband. The woman tells her that the border is a dangerous place and to cross the place without harm, it is required. They catch a train and for Lakshmi, experiences after experiences were becoming new. This was Lakshmi's prior train journey, and she was seeing train for the first time. She saw women squatting like crows in the open ground and she felt ashamed. She saw different kinds of people, different behaviors and attitudes that they had on their journey. She was walking with her new shoes when she got down from the train and walking with it was hard for Lakshmi. She saw children who were playing at the sides and stray dogs walking around the gutters were another sight for her eye. She also saw beggars on the street side who were physically handicapped. Finally, the woman told Lakshmi that they were getting close to their destination and reached near a metal gate which was locked with a heavy chain.

Beyond the gate, a man lies sleeping in front of a door. Uncle nudges him with the toe of his boot. The man rises, lets us in, then locks the door behind us. This place is dark as a cave, and it smells of liquor and incense. As my eyes adjust, I see a dozen sleeping girls, some in the corners, some on rope cots. 'What kind of

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place is this?’ I ask Uncle. ‘Happiness House,’ he says. ‘Aunty Mumtaz will explain it all to you. (90)

Lakshmi felt the place as intensely dark and the place holds the smell of liquor and cigarettes. The woman told her that they have reached the happiness house and she told they will meet the owner of the house Mumtaz. Every brothel will have an owner who punishes and keeps strict rules and disciplines and the harsh behavior of them makes all the rest of them fearful. The punishments they have to undergo when breaking the rules is so severe and in the brothel of Mumtaz, very small girls are abused, and with the harshness, if the children die, they even hide the dead body inside the premises of the brothel that the outer world will never know about it and nobody would come to the place searching for them.

Once a girl gets inside this place, she will never get a chance to escape. Chandnaprakashini in Trafficking women and children claims that “the local people at the transit points provide whole support for the trafficker, to help them enter in to the destination country”(Prakashini 230). The dark fate that girls undergo at their small age for a life time is really heart wrenching. The lust and sexual satiation of men kills the girls living inside, taking their lives, hopes and their families away from them

for a life time. They say that after long, even if they get back to the society to live as a normal human being, the society will brand them with a tag where ever they go and being mocked and satirized by the people around makes it much more difficult to survive.

So many prefer to stay there and continue their work. Lakshmi saw around many girls in the place with colorful dresses, bangles, earrings, and those with lips like red chillies were also there. They got inside the house and they saw a fat woman in purple saree with the face plump as an overripe mango. They had some bargaining talks around .Lakshmi couldn’t realize that she had been sold to Mumtaz and the kind of business that they had was totally something that Lakshmi was unaware of. They bargained in some other language that was difficult for Lakshmi to understand. She felt some kind of protection under uncle husband and she felt like he had the responsibility to keep herself safe. She saw insidethe place posters of movie stars .Mumtaz had given to Lakshmi a ring in her hand and she felt so happy as she thought that the place that she reached is full of kind people. She saw the corners of the rooms curtained off with clothes from old sarees. Lakshmi began to memories her lovely mother, her goat and every beauty that she had enjoyed in her village. Lakshmi was not knowing the

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language they spoke and she didn't know the city words.

The city air was totally different for Lakshmi, and she always heard the fighting voices of men and women around her. She saw much number of men visiting her place and the day she met Mumtaz, she didn't know why they locked her inside the room. She cleaned the place and two girls came later to unlock the door. "There are young girls dressed to look old and old girls dressed to look young"(McCormick 140). The character Mumtaz had stricken her and there were also babies in the place. Lakshmi saw different kinds of people there. "There is a woman scrubbing a pot, shaking her head. Then there is a man hitting a ball with a paddle. Then a school girl drinking coco-cola. Then back to the woman in the gold pants"(Maccormick187).

She calls the fat woman as aunty Mumtaz and the women correct it as Mumtaz. All the girls within the brothel were sold to her and they all work to meet the targets which Mumtaz sets forth. Mumtaz told Lakshmi to get ready to work and she took Lakshmi down a hallway lined with tiny rooms. Lakshmi can't even recollect the day as an old man started to take control over her and Lakshmi, with all her might bite down and ran away.



It was at those dark moments of night that she understood the kind of business that she has been pulled into. While running, she was caught by the gundas of Mumtaz and she was beaten up severely. Lakshmi begged Mumtaz to let her go back home, but Mumtaz told Lakshmi that she belongs to her as she had paid ten thousand rupees for her.

"I'm wiping the makeup off my face when the dark-skinned girl comes in. 'What do you think you're doing?' she says. 'I'm here to work as a maid for a rich lady.' 'Is that what you were told?' Then Mumtaz arrives at the door, huffing, her mango face pink with anger. 'What do you think you're doing?' she says. 'Leaving,' I say. 'I'm going home.' Mumtaz laughs. 'Home?' She says. 'And how would you get there?' I don't know. 'Do you know the way home?' 'Do you even have any idea where you are?' My heart is pounding like the drumming of a monsoon rain, and my shoulders



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are shaking as if I have a great chill.(Maccormick105)”

Lakshmi was filled with tears as she had understood the horrors that is awaiting in her life. Mumtaz abuses her and says that if she is not obeying the rules of happiness house, she will slice her throat. Mumtaz slapped Lakshmi and the mental pain that she had was going up. She was denied food for many days and they didn't even gave her water. When she was in her village, she was in the extreme of poverty and it was not the first time that Lakshmi was denied of the privileges of having food. They brought her a cup of tea and Mumtaz was behaving quite arrogant with Lakshmi. Lakshmi's voice couldn't come out as if some thing had stricken her throat. These days with abusive people made her world worse and even her voice crumbled. Shahanna, a girl who resided in the happiness house, began to be a solace for Lakshmi. Shahana said that if she violates Mumtaz, she would be beaten up, being denied of food, and life will totally fall out of control for her. She told Lakshmi that she will be provided food, clothes and they won't be thrown in to the streets.

Days and nights passed by her and she couldn't feel anything better around. They gave Lakshmi Lassi, which had sedatives in it which put her in to deep sleep. She was forced to be with a man, named Habeeb and she was half conscious

and she couldn't resist. She started to realize that she has become one among them. The practice of giving Lassi to her was continued by Mumtaz forcefully. It was more than dreams to believe in and Lakshmi started to think it as a nightmare as reality was becoming unbearable. She heard music and various sounds from the adjacent rooms and she thought that it was Gods who can only hear her plight. Some girls in the happiness house used protection to prevent themselves from sexually transmitted diseases .It was in the intoxication of Lassi that Mumtaz had send many men to Lakshmi , but she can't remember any of the faces.

Her deep faith in Goddess Lakshmi had kept her alert in her mind telling herself that she will escape from the place soon. The punishment that is given by Mumtaz was too frightening that she used to put hot chilies in the private parts of girls who tried to run away. Lakshmi had seen girls younger than her in the Happiness house, and many of them belonged to her place, Nepal. Kitchen of the house was handled by a fat, toothless woman who behaved so arrogant with a cigarette smoke. Lakshmi felt too many things so strange there. Shahanna was a point of solace for Lakshmi as she was the one who had real eyes there. There were also woman who willingly comes to this place after the death of their husbands. The name of the woman was Pushpa , a pretty girl. Extreme poverty

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would have brought girls willingly into such nasty places. She had severe health problems that she always kept on coughing. The David Beckham boy, Pushpa's son was always remaining as a piece of happiness and comfort for Lakshmi, just like a small brother.

The fun that he made around and the playfulness of the boy was one thing that made Lakshmi cheerful. Even in the midst of tuff atmosphere, Lakshmi tried to be friends with girls around her. The children from the happiness house goes to school to study and that was the only point of comfort for Lakshmi's David Beckham boy. Shahana was someone who she found reliable and Lakshmi studies from Shahana that Mumtaz charges money for the daily rice and dal, and takes money as rent from them. Monica was a noticeable girl in the eyes of Lakshmi.

She felt something odd with Monica. Monica was an exceptional girl, as she was the boldest, and most of the men pointed to Monica. She loves movie magazines and she once told Lakshmi that she will be going home as she had already earned what Mumtaz the amount kept as her target. The girls in the happiness house also needed liquor and Cigarettes. Anita was another character in the house who was really tuff to understand as she was angry almost all the time and kept on frowning. The way the customers behaved was too

brutal. They were afraid of them as well as submitted to them out of fear that the resistance only brought them cruel punishments which they were unable to bear. Life was teaching them the hardest lessons ever.

They are old, young, dirty, clean, tall, short, dark, light, bearded, smooth, fat, thin. They are all the same. Most of them are from the city. A few are from my home country. One day, a customer addressed his friend in my language as they left. 'How was yours?' he said. 'Was she good?' 'It was great,' the other one said. 'I wish I could do it again.' 'Me,too,' said the first one. 'If only I had another thirty Rupees.' Thirty rupees. That is the price of a bottle of Coca-Cola at BajaiSita's store. That is what he paid for me. (Maccormick 146)

The goondas of Mumtaz once has beaten Anita with a metal pipe that made one side of her face dead that took away all her smiles. It was the policemen who are supposed to stop people like Mumtaz from selling girls. But Mumtaz gives them money each week and they are the customers of Happiness house too. She realizes that the city Kolkata is too much of filth and the people who are supposed to be good are terrible. David Beckham boy

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started to teach Lakshmi letters in English and it made her very happy. There was a street boy who sells tea to them every day and he always showed an urge to talk to Lakshmi, but she didn't. Shilpa, the close spy of Mumtaz drinks liquor heavily. Lakshmi always dreamt of flying far away from the place that she was right then, climbing out of the windows and sneaking through the streets. Pushpa, the coughing woman was terribly ill and Mumtaz warned her that if she didn't work, she will be thrown in to the streets. Mumtaz had created a misconception among them that the American customers will receive them by telling that they will help them to escape, but instead of saving their lives, Mumtaz says that their kidneys will be sold and they will strip them naked, throwing stones at them, calling them a dirty woman in the streets.

It was Monica who was infected with the virus and she was dying every day. When she went to her parents, they were not ready to accept her and she came back to the Happiness house. "Here at Happiness house, there are dirty men, old men, rough men, fat men, drunken men and sick men. I will be with them all. Any man, every man. I will become Monica. I will do whatever it takes to get out of here"(Maccormick148). That deep conviction of escaping from the house always alerted Lakshmi and she had a foreign customer who gave her a card. He promises Lakshmi that he will take her to a

clean place, where they will provide her shelter with other girls and then he took a digital picture of Lakshmi. He tells that he will come back for Lakshmi, with other men, good men from the country who are not friends of the fat woman Mumtaz and will rescue her from the place. She was waiting for the hope that was a lightened before her in the form of the American man. She was waiting for her pain to bloom into smiles that kept on waiting.

Lakshmi heard the voice of the American man calling her. She couldn't even believe her ears. She saw Mumtaz, being her arms pinned back by the policemen and she spits in the direction of Lakshmi and by the time she became fourteen, she was rescued by the American man along with the policemen. The unspeakable horrors that she had experienced till that point of time was incomparable and finally she had escaped out of the horrors that life had brought to Lakshmi. The escape which she had thought of, the wait for her better life had finally bloomed in the life of Lakshmi and she started to believe that the world is lustful and Goddess Lakshmi, her deep faith will never strangle her forever.

Emilia: The story of a trafficked poetess tells about a girl Jaya who was born into a rural background and the girl had green coloured memories about her childhood. Rainy school days, fun around

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with friends, games all surrounded her. Her family was blissful one comprising of her baba and mother. Ill fortunes crept into her life very early that she lost her baba as he fell prey to the hunger of a crocodile. He has gone a little deep in to the water and that met him with his end and the end of the happiness of the family. Her close friend was Durga and she shared everything under the earth with Durga. After the death of her father, family was just Jaya along with her mother. Everyone around the village was giving them consolation and she started to face tough times in her life. Her mother worked as a maid in the nearby farm and she continued going to school. Schooling was not denied to her and her mother fostered the dream of making Jaya a school teacher.

Durga was a true friend of Jaya as she was able to eventually point out the dull and bad moods that Jaya had. She had strong command over Bengali language and had a poetic heart that made teachers attracted to her as a strong student. She had great influence of Swami Vivekananda and always was fond of his sayings and quotes. Sadhan Mridh, ShyamiliMridha and Jaya Mridha comprised of their happy family. The death of Sadhan or her baba remarkably brought great changes into their life ultimately ending up in haunting trauma of their own. A strange man began coming to Jaya's home, her mother introduced him as BadalKaku, as one of her father's distant

cousin. He had brought her new dress and a handful of sweets.

“Many restless days and nights passed, I lived the moments of suspicion and insecurity. Mother's inclination towards Badal was no longer a secret to me. Her behavior had changed, the things that she cared for was sending me to school and making me to sleep early. I caught her many times donning in new sarees. She didn't know my following upon her activities”(Richard 12).”

She felt suspicious about the new person who had came into their family. She saw her treating him so well that she finally realized that her mother is having bad affair with Badal and she felt so weird inher mind. She threatened her mother and slowly, but steadily, people around began to discuss about this stranger that made it very difficult for Shyamili, her mother to survive there. She met this man at their farm and he remarkably noticed Shyamili. He told their family that he will take care of them and will protect them. Shyamili thought that she will go with him with her daughter as her daughter will get an opportunity to continue her studies and live happily and she will live rest of her life as his wife.

Shyamili convinced Jaya and both of them packed upto go to Kolkata where

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Badal told them that he lived. Jaya told adieu to Durga and it was a painful separation for both of them. After the deep sleep in the car, and she felt like sedatives are pulling her eye back in to sleep, she didn't realize that they were trafficked. Destiny has deserted both the mother and the child. When she opened her eyes, she realized that her mother was not with her anymore and she is somewhere in an unknown place. She couldn't freely move her body, her body was chained.

Within a day, the space that she has been moved in to was beyond her borders. She heard a loud female voice and she was surrounded by kids with torn clothes. The woman named herself as Gulaabi Aapa. She kept on chewing betel leaves and had a cruel look. She told Jaya that she is her property from then on and she has complete power over her. She understood that she has been sold by Badal Kakkuto this woman and she thought about the plight her mother would be going through at that point of time. The slave trade and child labour about which she had studied in her books was what she saw with her real eyes.

The racket that made children beg and earn money, the mafia who cruelly punished them, she couldn't even believe her eyes that she has been pulled in to the mafia. The mafia is where human beings are sold as commodities just for money and they are utilized harshly for their monetary

benefits. It was street life that awaited Jaya. "The street lamps started glowing and the platoon of the beggars began to fall back to the den". They are inflicted with wounds and if they are not able to meet up with the targets they set forth, they are denied of food for days and they starve and makes their situation more pitiable. They are denied of their basic human rights which they ought to enjoy in our country as a child, but justice is denied to them.

They uses drugs to keep them sedated for hours, the woman who pretends them to be their children brutally abuses them, inflicts pain upon them and doesn't give anything to eat or drink and puts them in unhealthy and unsafe life situations. Unclean hygiene often causes them diseases and they won't be treated and they will have a brutal and hectic life all together. Organs of children are trafficked and they leave the children out as destitute taking their life and health for the sake of money. Even children with their own parents are forced to beg and the parents live at the cost of them. Right to Education is the basic right which every human being should enjoy, NGO s are working all around to save this trafficked children and bring a better future of goodness and hope for them. There are many charity organizations that run in and around to save the children who are in distress. If the children grow up with this mafias, they will never be a boon to the world as they themselves will turn

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out to be criminals with harshness and arrogance. Because they have been fed with hatred and anger from their childhood. They end up as professional beggars or criminals who wont dare to do any criminal activity. Some mafia owners make children physically handicapped in order to make people more sympathetic so that they can get more collection out of them.

The mental and psychological stability of the child even breaks at the childhood and the simple tender feelings inside the heart of the child starts deteriorating and the child will never become what he proffered to be. They will turn themselves in to anti socials and will start using drugs, smuggling, thefts, and other malpractices. It is so disheartening to see that in an educated society, still children are abused and are denied of the privileges that they have to enjoy. Children care and Protection act, 2000 called Juvenile act is the act that is in existence for children. Rehabilitation centers are working in and around to bring back children in to the optimistic life that the world has to offer. The children who belonged to the streets were trained to use abusive words and Chutki, Rangili, Shalikh, and Mina were closer to her at the beginning of her begging period. The stories that the other children have is not different. Many were born in the slum and their parents had left them with Gulaabi Aapa. She cursed her mother frequently as her greed was the

reason that has shattered all the dreams of Jaya.

When she goes to Gulaabi Aapa to give her collection, she slapped her telling her that she has not met her targets. Gulaabi Aapa told for the first time to her that her mother was in a brothel and her heart began to cry deep inside, it was not the pain of the slap, but the motherly love that she had vexed her in deep chaos. She was called as Tia and Mynah was her best friend over the place. Mynah was an experienced beggar and pickpocket as he knew very well to act blind.

People have sympathy for him once he enters in to streets and he will make much more money than everybody else in the wing. So he always experienced a place of respect among the beggars of the area. He told Aapa that Tia will accompany him and from that day on, she was about to meet the targets which Aapa fixed or even more than that. She told him about her mother and her quest to find out her in order to save her. Sonagachi was a dreadful place that Mynah tells her and says that may Allah protect you and your mother from the hell on earth Sonagachi. He told her to escape as soon as possible before she has been sold into auction.

She was sensible and had better determination in heart that she will definitely risk anything to escape from the

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clutches of the brutal people that she is surrounded with. Mynah introduced Salamat Begum to Tia who can help Tia to find out her mother. Begum, herself was a prostitute and was saved by one of the clients, but the client who saved her began selling her for money.

“She was brought there by some agents and sold to the brothel. She lived by selling her flesh to the sex starved predators in the brothel for seven years. Fortune smiled, when a most wanted political assassin visited the brothel and lost his heart to her. The lady being clever, grabbed the opportunity and got herself freed from the brothel(Richard 66).”

People cannot be trusted; this was the word that had struck Tia again and again after hearing several stories related to the place. Everyone around there was deceived one way or the other by the traffickers and had been brought in to the place. The place had a lot of stories of deception to narrate. It was Mynah who saved the life of Salamat Begum as he took her to hospital when she lost her sense following an accident. He stood there waiting until she got her consciousness back. Mynah had the concept that everybody in the world needs a job and begging, likewise is also a job, he pickpockets and he didn't feel any guilt

doing any of these as it was the part of his job that made him do it. The friendship with Mynah did some help to her to persist in even the tuffest situations.

She saw a middle aged man with a scar and he had a haunting look upon her which made her really afraid. She shared it with Mynah that she is getting scared to be there and Mynah told her that till Durgapuja, she will be safe as it was the time that they get maximum collection and they will take advantage of all the kids there. It was the day when GulaabiAapa promised her that she will never sell Tia, but it was fake as she was a lady of changing colours. “What is her name? asked the stranger. Tia! Replied Gulaabi Aapa, mouthing another paan. She is fresh, how much for her? The words boosted my adrenaline level and I tried to release myself from the grip, but his grip proved to be mightier to my will.

Finding no other way, I began to cry”(Richard 33).”All that the stranger wanted was the young flesh of Tia and he kept on asking GulaabiAapa to give her and she promised him that when the exact time reaches, she will hand over her. Durgapuja time came in and Mynah accompanied by Tia was near the famous temple in the place and a girl missing card was noticed by Tia. Her parents had given their address to her and when she came back to her street, she identified the same girl there. Allthat she

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wanted was to inform that kid's parents and tracing that address, during their working time, they went to meet their parents and told all the details they knew regarding their daughter. They dropped both of them near the street, and by that time, the spies leaked the news to Gulaabi Aapa and they were retreated brutally, and Tia was given to two men to prey upon, one is the stranger man who comes to GulaabiAapa and the other one is Baadal , who disguised them into this Kolkata city and who deceived here and her mother.

“ Jaya sobbed the night.. Her voice ripped the blue but no angel came to her rescue. Her body froze with the failing temperature. The nocturnal agents drew nearer, yelped for minutes, and moved away. She sobbed again; the very female emotions were now torn. The devilish canines left its ark...the wounds recited the elegy of her plundered dignity. None but the silence listened to her, faith deserted and courage breathed its last. She tried but could not rise and collapsed to the dust. She closed her eyes weeping, breathing questions in the air (Richard 63).”

It was one last time that she saw Mynah and she prayed for him. She was brutally handled by both men taking away all her charms and killing her inch by inch,

feasting upon her body, every day and night. She couldn't resist anymore. One day, she searched the almirah near her and got a gun from that, she decided that she will somehow escape from the place killing both traitors who had destroyed her life. Badal Kaku told her that your mother is wife now, wife to every new husband she gets in the brtohel, and she killed both of them with the gun.

The judicial system exhibited sympathy and send her to the rehabilitation centre, she found many other girls out there who couldn't resist the kind of atrocities which they had to go through and they were rescued by the forces and was brought there. NGO volunteers, Parthasarathi and social activists, priyadarshini Mukherjee , a popular author and anti human trafficking activist came to see her often and took care of her. Priyadarshini Mukherjee had informed her that she has adopted her legally and she is named Emilia from then on.

She couldn't resist her tears as her joy was beyond the stars. All of them regarded her as a brave girl who had crossed all the iron bars that stood strong in front of her. Priyadarshini was a strong activist and raised many issues against women and the violence they are going through in many fields of work and she believed that Emilia will carry out these struggles following her path. Light began to



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fall upon her painful and stagnant experiences and she began to feel fresh as her life started to get better colors out of the street life and perils that she had gone through. She had great schooling time and she had learned many languages including English, Hindi, Espaniola, French, besides Bengali and she got into Vishwa Bharati, Shantiniketan with English Lit.

From the distressing life she had in the streets, her life began to have better choices and she started to lead a life bold and strong and every good thing started to touch her turn. Vulnerability is not what girls are made of, she is made of strength, of power and unending will to succeed is what Emilia teaches. India has the largest child population in the world and it's a sad fact that our kids are not getting a proper childhood. Children should get proper education, safe and secure accommodation and healthy food and hygienic atmosphere around. The mafias that work behind threaten the survival of children at the forefront. The rights of children have to be protected by all means.

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