



INDIA - NEPAL BORDER

Pattern making at the sewing class on the India-Nepal border

In the north of Bihar, the border of Nepal is one of the largest corridors for human trafficking on the planet. Children here are surviving in red - light communities, extremely vulnerable to trafficking, forced labour, prostitution and sexual abuse.

Partners - Tatvasi Samaj Nyas (TSN)

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Objectives

- Provide vulnerable migrant and Dalit children with security, support and education about their rights.
- Pave the way for them to find a life beyond the confines of the red light district.

Activities

- Together with TSN, established **two education centres in the heart of two of Bihar's most renowned red light areas.**
- Provided a **sewing skills programme** which provides preparatory job training to 15 adolescent girls at each site.
- Enabled **65 school-aged children to access basic education.**
- Teachers have been trained to work with the students to create a **safe and caring environment** where the children are free to express themselves. They also use skits and role play activities as a means of discussing challenges the children face in their daily lives.

- Special effort is also made to emphasise the **intrinsic value of each child.** As migrants or members of the *Dalit* castes, these children feel scorned by the society around them.

Achievements and Performance

- The sewing skills programme has provided a **critical way out of prostitution for 30 young women** this year, and a method to support themselves. Without this type of training, the girls report that the overwhelming expectation upon them is to work in the sex trade by age 18 or younger.
- The Centres have become places where **children feel secure** and have been begun to **engage with a world outside of the red light district.**

Future plans

- Build the capacity of each Centre to move beyond skills training to provide lessons to children ages 5-16 in subjects like reading, writing, maths, and hygiene.
- Offer a more intensive training programme for teachers in the coming year, to address the challenge of developing lessons for multiple age groups and learning abilities.
- Connect programme staff from the Centres with other COTE partners in Bihar who are finding great success in their education work with marginalised children.