



PRAJWALA HAPPENINGS

Knowledge → Reflection → Action

Volume 4

Monthly Newsletter

April 2026

This Month in Impact

40 At-risk vulnerable children successfully passed their regular 10th examinations

28 At-risk women supported through employment/self-employment

11 Survivors secured employment and moved towards sustainable and dignified livelihoods

2 Transgender persons exited street-based prostitution and secured alternative livelihoods

22 Survivors safely reintegrated with their families (1 child included)

₹3.8 Lakh Immediate Relief Fund and Interim Compensation accessed by 5 survivors

118 Sex buyers counselled and pledged to not buy sex again

5.4 Lakh+ Community members reached through prevention and awareness programs

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

What allows exploitation to continue?

Could society itself be sustaining the very exploitation it claims to condemn.....?

What if no single factor explains exploitation because every factor is connected to all the others?

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"WHAT BEGAN AS INFLUENCE, ADDICTION, AND HARMFUL CHOICES SLOWLY BECAME A PATTERN HE NEVER QUESTIONED... UNTIL ONE INTERVENTION ASKED HIM TO CONFRONT THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS."

[Read his Journey on Page 4](#)



Sex buyers Counselling



Official New Mobile Phones for key staff for enhanced data security



Survivor reunited with her kidnapped Brother after 1 year



"Rise and Shine" Summer Camp for child survivors



THE WENDY WOOD KJELVIK WOMEN MAKING HISTORY AWARD

SAFE LIVING SPACE RECOGNIZES

Dr. Sunitha Krishnan

For her contributions to advocacy and research for survivors of human trafficking who have experienced traumatic brain injury.
March 2027.



Sara Dworzen

S. Dworzen

Our Founder
selected for 'Women Making History' Award



Annual Progress Record Card of the children at our Learning Centres



International Transgender Day of Visibility



FOUR SEX OFFENDERS PUNISHED

EVERY CONVICTION MATTERS.

In the first quarter of the year, through our collective efforts four cases of sex crime were successfully prosecuted.

- 1 convicted for Life Imprisonment
- 1 for 20 Years Rigorous Imprisonment
- 1 for 5 Years Rigorous Imprisonment
- 1 for 2 Years Rigorous Imprisonment

Convictions received in Quarter 1



Survivors Access to Justice through Victim Assistance Unit



1st Quarter Appraisal of all interventions conducted by Governing Body Members



Community Based Prevention Programs in Visakhapatnam-Andhra Pradesh

What Allows Exploitation to Continue?

A survivor is rescued. A life begins again.

Yet exploitation continues. Not because it exists in isolation, but because multiple systems, silences, and choices allow it to survive.

Often, conversations around trafficking focus only on those who are exploited. Rarely do we pause to examine the conditions that sustain the system itself.

Demand does not emerge suddenly.

Nor does exploitation survive through one individual alone.

It survives when there are spaces that enable it, systems that fail to interrupt it, and societies that slowly begin to normalise it.

In many ways, exploitation survives through silence.

Through what is ignored.

Through what is tolerated.

Through what is repeatedly seen but no longer questioned.

When commercial sexual exploitation begins to be viewed as “normal,” the humanity of those trapped within it slowly disappears from public consciousness. What remains visible is the transaction. What disappears is the violence, coercion, vulnerability, and exploitation behind it.

At one level, Vulnerability continues to feed exploitation from one direction.

Poverty...Conflict...Family breakdown...

Gender discrimination...Case-based exclusion...

Abuse... Displacement...Despair...

For many vulnerable women and children, exploitation does not begin with force alone. It often begins with unmet needs, emotional isolation, manipulation, false promises, or the search for safety and opportunity.

Where vulnerability exists and systems fail to protect, exploitation finds space to grow.

There is also a need to reflect on how ideas around masculinity, entitlement, and relationships are shaped over time.

What young boys see, hear, consume, and internalise influences how they understand power, intimacy, consent, and women. Peer influence, objectification, exposure to exploitative content, and the normalisation of transactional relationships gradually shape attitudes

**“Not always consciously... But gradually.....
Silently.”**

At another level, systems themselves often create space for exploitation to continue.

Weak enforcement, poor accountability, low conviction rates, and social tolerance collectively strengthen impunity. When exploiters and buyers believe consequences are unlikely, exploitation becomes easier to sustain.

Spaces such as hotels, lodges, placement agencies, spas, massage parlours, and entertainment establishments become enabling environments when there is little monitoring, weak compliance, or absence of accountability mechanisms.

“The question is not only who exploits. But also what allows exploitation to function so openly.”

Perhaps this is why addressing exploitation cannot be limited to rescue alone. It requires a holistic approach that confronts the interconnected forces that sustain the cycle.

**Accountability...Gender sensitisation...Conversations with men and boys...Stronger systems...and
Communities willing to question what has been accepted.**

Note: This article offers only a bird's-eye view of the many forces that converge to sustain this cycle. Each factor is a story in itself - layered, powerful, and deeply interconnected. In the articles ahead, we will discuss these layers one by one to reveal how each force shapes, fuels, and perpetuates the cycle.

From Influence to Introspection

A Journey Through ICCST **(Integrated Centre to Combat Sex Trafficking)**

Rathod (name changed), a 20-year-old B.Tech student from Andhra Pradesh, comes from a financially vulnerable family now living in Hyderabad. His mother works tirelessly as an attender to support his education, while his father, an alcoholic, frequently subjected the family to domestic violence.

Like many young people, Rathod initially found comfort in friendships outside his home. After college, he began spending increasing amounts of time with older boys in his colony. What started as casual outings gradually exposed him to unhealthy influences. Although he initially resisted smoking and alcohol, repeated peer pressure slowly drew him in.

"Over time, his habits deepened"

He began skipping classes, secretly drinking, smoking, and spending money irresponsibly. His academic performance declined, and he eventually failed his semester examinations. Despite warnings and concern from his family, the cycle continued quietly.

One night, under the influence of alcohol and in the company of friends, Rathod was introduced to the idea of buying sex. What began as an impulsive act driven by curiosity and a desire for fun gradually developed into a repeated pattern of behavior.

Overtime, this became a regular habit.

Eventually, during a police patrol intervention in Hyderabad, Rathod was apprehended while attempting to solicit paid sex and was referred to our ICCST (formerly Vikalp) Centre - a unique demand-reduction intervention working in collaboration with the Telangana police department.

At Vikalp, Rathod underwent intensive counselling through individual sessions, family counselling, faith-leader engagement, and behavioural reflection processes. During these sessions, he began opening up about his life, family situation, choices, and emotional struggles.

For the first time, he was encouraged to reflect not only on the consequences of his actions on himself and his family—but also on how demand contributes to the larger system of trafficking and exploitation.

He was in absolute tears.

The counselling process became a turning point.

Realized, Rathod discontinued in buying sex. He resumed focus on his studies, cleared his academic backlogs.

"What makes his journey especially significant is that he later returned to the Vikalp Centre - not as a beneficiary, but as a peer counsellor."

Drawing from his own experiences, he began interacting with other young men referred to the centre, encouraging them to reflect on their choices and consequences.

Today, Rathod is pursuing the final year of his B.Tech and remains as a support to the team. His journey talks about how timely intervention, accountability, and emotional support can help redirect young individuals away from harmful behaviours and towards responsible choices and meaningful futures.

If You Would Like to Support

Your support helps create interventions that go beyond rescue—addressing the deeper cycles that sustain exploitation. Through counselling, rehabilitation, prevention, and demand-reduction initiatives like Vikalp, lives are redirected towards safer choices, dignity, and accountability. Together, we can work towards a future where exploitation is not only responded to, but prevented at its roots.

To support, **Donate at <https://prajwalaindia.com/donate>**