



A Destiny Foundation Report

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 -2019



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I. Introduction

Destiny has integrated a for-profit and nonprofit model, which disrupts the cycles of exploitation that countless girls and young women in Kolkata face.

Destiny focuses on every step of the process of human trafficking, provide prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

When working with our beneficiaries, we seek to keep them out of the cycle of trafficking while helping them to build a new life. Our approach provides our beneficiaries with the following three critical pillars of support:



We use these principles to serve girls and young women from their date of arrival to the moment that they are ready to move out on their own.

This focus on ensuring care from childhood to adulthood lowers the potential for re-trafficking while also fostering prevention of common exploitative scenarios.



At Destiny we often say “one life at a time” because we believe in the power of investing in long-term support.

II. Human Trafficking: Facts and Figures

The Situation Today

Human trafficking is one of the most exploitative and violent problems facing societies around the world today.



Human trafficking can be defined as: “the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.”

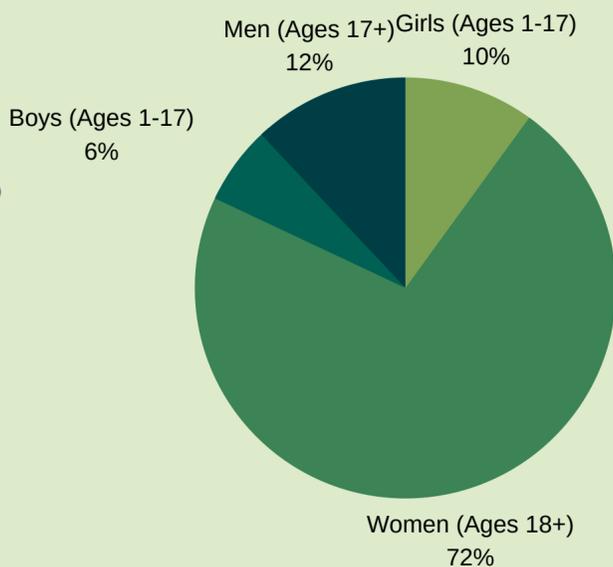
Trafficking is on the rise for many reasons such as:



This has resulted in an estimate that **40.3 million** people are currently entrapped in a form of human trafficking today.

Demographics

Of the 40.3 million people entrapped in trafficking, **20% are children**. Experts warn that the number is most likely **much higher**.



Destiny has stepped in to provide economic empowerment, social care, and safety.



West Bengal

In West Bengal, the situation remains dire. Anywhere between **20 to 65 million people are imprisoned** in human trafficking

42% of victims in West Bengal are children

The borderlands between Nepal, Bangladesh, and West Bengal have become a **global hotspot of human trafficking**, with Kolkata at the epicenter.



III. Board of Directors and Members



Smarita
Sengupta



Sanjoy
Sengupta



Snigdha
Ray



Raju BuddhedeB
Kayal



Shayoni
Dasgupta



III. Board of Directors and Members



Jayeeta
Bhowmick



Indrakshi
Banerjee



Nilakshi
Sengupta



Phil
Bennett



Martine
Boleson



Anne
Edwarsons

III. Board of Directors and Members



Rebecca
Bavinger



Sharan
Dhanoa



Ishita
Paul

III. Volunteers and Interns



At Destiny, we have developed long term relationships with institutions and volunteers to continue effectuating our mission. Our interns and volunteers are one of the best aspects of our work at Destiny.

In 2018-2019, we hosted several interns from our partner universities. They used their skills and energy to improve our operations and run programmes for the participants. We also were able to catch up with some familiar faces at conferences throughout the year!

IV. Programmes

Destiny has designed its programmes with the sole purpose of assisting our women and girls in achieving sustainable independence

Our motto is to end modern slavery.

We work to free women from sexual exploitation and the potential for falling prey to re-trafficking by fostering empowerment and rehabilitation. To do so, we use a three-tiered model:



We implement this model in our three main projects:

Group Home Programme



At just 18 years of age, girls are often forced to leave the government shelter homes. Many lack the necessary support structures of family, friends, or employment, and thus struggle to live on their own for the first time. This project provides shelter, job training, and basic necessities for young women who have been rescued from human trafficking. .

We run a community centre in the heart of the Munshiganj Red Light Area in Kolkata. We offer a variety of social and wellness events, such as sewing training, literacy classes, and business workshops. The purpose of this programme is to improve general well-being in the community with the goal of strengthening their empowerment.



**Khidderpore
Community Center**

Government Home Project



The Indian Government provides hundreds of shelter homes in West Bengal children have been rescued from a variety of traumatic situations, including sex trafficking, child labour, child marriage, domestic violence, and homelessness. We provide enhanced social services in one government shelter home for girls. We provide arts and crafts programmes, as well as literacy and job-skill training.

Living Proof: Sonia's Story

Originally from a village in Northern India, Sonia was the oldest of her three siblings. Unfortunately, her father was an abusive alcoholic who would mercilessly abuse her mother and his children. Being unable to bear this abuse, Sonia's mother ran away to protect her children. When Sonia turned 13 years old, she began work in a factory. This same year, Sonia was introduced to her future husband, who would frequently visit her family and provide them with assistance.

At just 13 years old, Sonia was married and brought to her husband's home in Bihar. When she arrived, she realized that she was his second wife. Her husband abandoned her with his family, who then forced her to do all of the household labor and starved her and beat her. She was forced into prostitution in the village.

Sonia escaped, but was not safe. As a vulnerable child, she became entrapped in human trafficking through three fake marriage schemes. She was finally rescued during a CID raid from a brothel in Bihar. It was at this time that she joined us at Destiny.

Even in the safety of Destiny, Sonia still faced many difficulties. She struggled with her mental health and had poor physical health. Sonia received the care of our trustworthy community and overcame her pain to successfully complete our empowerment training. Her hard work and strong spirit are a testament to the work of Destiny and our beneficiaries.



V. Operations: Events and Activities

2018-2019 were big years for Destiny as we worked to expand our event offerings in order to reach more participants. Each year, Destiny holds a series of consistent events to enact our goal of delivering safe social connections, security, and empowerment to our beneficiaries.



2018

Santa Clara Global Fellows

SCU marketing students helped us update our online presence and worked diligently in the community center.



Mama Hope

In April, Mama Hope, an organisation based in the USA, began a partnership with Destiny.

Marriott Craft Fair

In November, Destiny produced and showcased a beautiful collection of festival gifts for a craft fair hosted by the JW Marriott.



Amazon India Saheli

We began a partnership with Amazon India's Saheli programme, which is aimed at empowering women artisans in India.





Global Advocate Visit

Mama Hope Global Advocate Kalie Marsicano and other SFU students have been hard at work, supporting Destiny Reflection in their effort to support women who've been subjected to human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

“I took on this work because I deeply believe that **people should feel confident, empowered and worthy of love.** I’m approaching the halfway point of my time with Destiny, and I can confidently say that **every single staff member and volunteer holds these same values dear,** and works to cater an environment where everyone can gain **life skills, confidence, and access to a caring community.**”



-Kalie Marsicano, Global Advocate

Be the Face of Change

Destiny and the ALL hosted Professor Tanya Monsef, the Director of the Santa Clara global fellow program for an educational collaboration on topics concerning women in leadership roles for sex trafficking victims.



Annual Birthday Celebration



Every year we celebrate Destiny's birthday with an event for our beneficiaries! We held the event at the Kidderpore Community Centre. We had lots of games for everyone to play and it was wonderful to catch up with all of the Destiny staff and supporters from all of our projects. We look forward to another year at Destiny!

New Playground

Destiny partnered with Amity University to build a new playground for the children at a shelter home, bringing joy to the children's lives!



Fair Trade Federation Conference

For the first time, Destiny Reflection attended the Fair Trade Federation's Annual Conference. It was a great opportunity to meet other social enterprises, engage with new potential customers, and start the process of joining the fair trade community. Great connections were made and much was learned from other vendors and presenters alike!

Clothing Drive



Destiny raised enough funds to provide 500 new outfits to residents at the government shelter home and All Bengal Women's Union. Both shelters are for women under 18, most of whom do not have guardians, so having this volunteer support is an incredible gift for the children.

Destiny in Canada



This June, Dr. Robert Hogg organized Smarita Sengupta's visit to Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Canada for her first time, where she met the SFU President, Andrew Petter, Dr. Robert Hogg and Dr Rochelle Tucker and several past volunteers!

2019



Holi celebration

Destiny celebrated Holi with our beneficiaries and community members. Our interns joined in for the opportunity to enjoy Indian culture and to make the day even more colourful.

Kingsland Church Visit



In January, this church group visited our Lake Gardens Office as well as Khidirpur Community Center. The volunteers gave community lessons for for both learning and enjoyment.

Consular NGO Fair

In March, Destiny participated in a fair held at the American consulate



where we sold our handicrafts and educated the public about the essential work that Destiny undertakes to protect survivors of trafficking.

Amazon Conference

Destiny Reflection, was invited to participate in the Amazon Conference at Westin Rajarhat in June.



All Ladies League Fair

Later that year, in July, Destiny participated in the All Ladies League fair at ICCR.

Christmas Bazar



Destiny Reflection was invited to the German Consulate in Kolkata in December to display their products for sale at a Christmas bazaar.

VI. Destiny in the Media



INDIAN WOMEN BLOG



FEMINA



LOOK WHAT SHE DID



ONE INDIA: REPUBLIC TV

VII. Impact

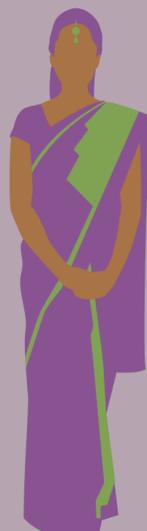
The programs of 2018-2019 had a large impact in our communities. With our monthly programs and our events, we have provided employment and built a strong network of partnerships with the following universities:



By using our three pillar model of fostering a (1) trusted community, (2) safe accommodation, and (3) economic empowerment, we have seen incredible results for the women with whom we work. Our reach has grown and we are achieving our goal of lowering a participant's probability of being re-trafficked.

Thus far, we have reached **1,314** participants.

The following figures demonstrate our overall impact on both the well-being and continued security of our beneficiaries.



Destiny has provided **120 jobs.**



95% of our beneficiaries felt optimistic about the future.



98% of our beneficiaries were not re-trafficked.