

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



STREETS CALLING: THE REITERATING HOLE IN THE DARKNESS

Sandhya George

Mannuthy

Thrissur, Kerala, India

Radhika's story is a heart wrenching real life story, and cannot be reduced to mere fiction by Sharon Hendry. It is her first work and the story is taking place at both Nepal and India. Both the places are being described as places of extremes. The victimization that Radhika has to undergo at the hands of human traffickers is evidently written with in the work. The bruises that she bear is evident in her body even after years. After reading through the work, the greatest question that strikes our hearts will be that whether a human being will be able to succumb to this hard a life that Radhika has had. Truly, she is a survivor. Her story is a traumatic one. Radhika had a deep belief in Goddess Lakshmi, who is the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. Radhika belongs to the Phuyal family, a thoroughly rural upbringing is what she had. She is a member of high caste Brahmin farmers in Kavresthali in Nepal. Agriculture was the main source of income for their family.

Her story is an exceptional one as it fills other's eyes with tears deep inside. Kavresthali is situated in the northwest of Kathmandu. The importance of the place is that there is always something like a spiritual silence that exists in that place alien from that of the city surroundings. Noise never takes hold of this place, vehicles alien and the calm, peace and energy that a rural place can bring forth is serenely placed with in kavresthali. They had done small business related to agriculture for their survival. Biblical geography is attributed to the landscape of the place and they had endless fields. Tranquility is all that we can attain at the heart and soil of the place. Landslides happen at monsoon in the same place when electricity and water supply is limited.

This is a place where they entertain tourists and the beauty and serenity of the place is inexplicable. The place is not surrounded by enormous shops, but they only have a small shop which is at the heart of it, where everything they require is available. Radhika's family is the natives of that place, their three generations were almost in the same place and their life is circumscribed around the agriculture and livelihood of kavresthali. Their grandmother is 102 years old, who is the main member of the family who dictates the rules. Hariprem rules the

family at this age and she follows the strict rules and disciplines that generations had passed onto her. The story of generations is the foundation of the Phuyal family. They had seasonal harvest for the maintenance of their family and they have cooperated well, everyone in the family to go forward with agriculture and life, so the girls including Radhika have not continued education.

In Radhika's case, her family was particularly financially vulnerable. The Phuyals eked out a humble existence, working hard as Himalayan hill farmers to grow such crops as spinach, peas, and pumpkin on their collective farm land. Their livelihood and well being owed much to the elements and how well a crop would perform annually. They worked hard to support Radhika and her siblings, but they were also aware of how important it was to settle Parvati, their first born daughter, well, especially in a family with several daughters and only one son. Parvati was beautiful and a rare prize, but good looks alone cant guarantee a good marriage partner. Money, in most cases, matter. And it was that issue that brought undue stress on the Phuyal family. My parents were forced to take out a loan from a village collective to finance my sister Parvati's dowry when she entered in to an arranged marriage, 'Radhika recalls(Hendry 49)''

In many places, girls getting educated is considered and placed as a taboo whereas in her place, as they helped their parents in their day to day endeavours, they lacked education. The hillside had greenery, which was calm and beautiful, and they had a three room mud house, but still it is not very bright inside as they lacked electricity. Their house didn't have furniture or decorations and they used wooden blocks instead. They had two goats and cow and they had their own milk, cheese, yogurt for everyday. They are Brahmins and belong to the priestly class, above kshatrias. Even at that point of time, shudras were treated in a horrible manner as they had to work and undergo severe repercussions. The kind of traumatic experiences they have to undergo is different. For them and their religion, intercaste marriages is again a taboo that they will not be allowed to be inside the family and be considered as an outcast. The blood line of Radhika were also considered as a proud one as they had Hariprem, who kept all the spirit of her patronage, together with the rules, which was even reflected in her blue eyes. The most important decisions in their family were undertaken by Hariprem, thus making herself the backbone of the family.

Her father and mother loved her and her siblings. She had elder sisters and a younger one and Maiya, Radhika's mother was a woman who was so hard working together with her father that constituted their household. Radhika had an elder brother too, who had died when he was so small that darkened the family background and the smiles of her father too. Her mother was too

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



slim and Radhika too looked like her mother. Parvati was her elder sister who married a big factory owner who then heads a cosmopolitan life in the central Kathmandu. Parvati had always been a a great source of support for Radhika and her deeds are reflected throughout, as it showcases the sisterly love and affection that she had for Radhika.

Even though Parvati was not so close to her when they were small, later on at the crucial points where she seeked help, when Radhika’s elder sisters got married, there they experienced a void in the family, the same void they had right from the death of Radhakrishna Phuyal, the brother of Radhika. Radhika had great love for Radhakrishna and he died from falling off the edge of a crevice when they were together at the top of the hills. It had marked a traumatic mark at her heart from then on. Radhika, when she was a kid always had the dream of pursuing better education , but she had to help her struggling family in the farm, and her mother in the day to day chores with in the kitchen. She luckily had known to read and Bollywood stars, films had fascinated her to a great extend as her heart was filled with the kind of life of that of the celebrities. She dreamt of that kind of a life at the corner of her heart even though that was a dream far away from her.

She craved inside her about the fantasies that the Bollwood world had around. She was a goodlooking girl as she had acquired the beauty of her mother, which utmostly made her prey to the wing of human traffickers. Not only for the phuyals, but for everyone around, they believed that a good family comes around with the marriage of their daughters where dowry remains the main factor. The psychic, physical pain that the girl child had to succumb in the absence of dowry remarkably shows the pressing issues which our society faces at different walks of life. Everything concerning dowry is a serious business both in India as well as in Nepal.

Leaving them destitute, the girl has to go through severe pain, mental trauma clearly shows that the evading pain rules all walks of her life. The distress that she has been pulled into increases day by day that even survival becomes a hectic task for her to the utmost. The dilemma that she has to face ascertains the way our society has put the girl child under the chains of violence and depravity. This sad situations prevail everywhere, back and forth in our country. In case of marriage, everything with regard to dowry will be discussed first and foremost and then only will they finalize with the discussions of their marriage. “Parvati was beautiful and a rare prize, but good looks alone cannot guarantee a good marriage partner. Money in most cases matters.”(Hendry 15). Many families even around us becomes extremely poor as their financial status goes steep down.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



Radhika's home had gone through a lot of financial problems and it was very difficult for her father to afford to pay back the borrowed amount. It was in front of Radhika's eyes that her parents were struggling and she was at the ultimatum of humiliation and it was at that utter point of devastation that she decided to leave her home at the age of fourteen. At her tender age, she had dreams of working hard in order to support her struggling father in the way she could. "I boarded a bus from Kathmandu and rented a room in Khusibu, in the Balaji district of the city, for five hundred Nepalese Rupees per week. I began selling the family produce along the riverside". It was from then that she was drawn in to the dark perils of trafficking.

Sanjay Lama was the first man that she trusted, the first stranger whom she believed in. Balaju was the place prone to the kind of deception that Radhika had gone through. It was a populated place where a lot of people who quested for a better life reached there to begin with. There were lots and lots of traders who circumscribed the place, trade wars even happened at that place, even the psychological pain that Radhika goes through actually takes its first step from this place. It was the initial location of her trauma even unintentionally, as it was an internalized one. People around her had an eye on Radhika in the Balaji market as she was small, smart and a girl of gentle manners. In her intuitive mind, she felt attracted to Sanjay Lama like her lost brother Radhakrishna, so she found it



a reason inside her heart to trust the person who was totally strange to her. Radhika tells about him as "a dark and handsome Nepalese man approached me one day on the vegetable stall, after he had been watching me for some time. He engaged me in some polite conversation, which gave me the impression that he was from a well off family. He influenced her some way, even with the kind of thought she had in mind as it is Radhakrishna, and he began asking her about her life being wasted at the market, about the better life that awaits her at the outset.

He pictured himself before her as somebody she can rely upon, somebody who will help her to get better life prospects. A brotherly figure is what she felt for Sanjay Lama, but she was not

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



aware of the saddest reality that he was a wellknown human trafficker, who looks ahead for his next victim. He pretended like helping her, but his true aim was to get a new victim who wanted to meet the requirements of his clients. It was the huge boom of organ trafficking , the dark world behind the stage where money rules, and only money rules.

Trading human organs, tissues, transplanting them to the bodies which are in need of it, this mafia of organ trafficking bloom and takes forth the lives and places the donor's organs into the international market of organ traders. There is the black market that runs around the transplant, as the transplant tourism remain widespread. The illegalities related to organ trafficking is increasing day by day and the hospitals and the agents who stand in between gain financial and monetary benefits and general awareness is given to everyone related to organ donation. But the dilemma and the most powerful question is whether this organ donated is reaching the right person who seeks it or whether it is been sold into the international markets. It holds value, but the point when it takes the life and future of another human being is the point where all the negativities begins to creep in. Illegal organ trade is on the rise and Radhika too becomes a victim of it. Incidents may remain hardly reported too.

This business is being dominated by mafias and it takes different shapes on the outset. Some hospitals takes all the monetary benefits in the illegal transplant operations, where it wont be encoded or listed in any of their charts. It saves the lives of thousands of patients, but at the same time, when it harms many healthy souls, and when those of them die in a pathetic way, who are to be blamed? Who are priorly responsible for making their life worse? Traffickers not only take their organs, but they are also taking away the soul and spirit that lies inside the human body turning them into a living corpse.

Radhika believed that the world and the people whom she met are trustworthy and couldn't understand that they were playing with her life to make money out of it. She didn't realize in the beginning that the world is a cruel place where people are taking advantage of it, just for the sake of money. Sanjay Lama nicely played the elder brother's role and sponsored her a job as a housekeeper into a three storey town house, a perfect naive place for a rural girl like Radhika. A wealthy home, where she understood that they had a furniture factory. The mental impact that Radhika had when she came into the new home was that all her tuff times are going to end at this juncture of life where everything ahead will be on the right track. The huge rooms and furnitures around captured her attention , it was for the first time in her life that she saw television , where she felt the stories that she read about are coming alive.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



The humility of the family members struck her heart as all of them behaved so well with Radhika and they were extremely kind. She saw their sick mother and felt in her heart that she will help her to the greatest possible extent. Radhika never knew that it was her kidney which is going to be transplanted over to her body which will make her life better and the one worse for Radhika. When they took her to the medical clinic, she really smelled something fishy, they deceived her telling that it is the daily routine checkup that their family had all around and there is nothing to be afraid of.

Confused, Radhika continued to beg the doctor and nurses to tell her what had happened to her. It was difficult as none of them spoke Nepali and Radhika spoke no Tamil. They tried to communicate with her in a mixture of Hindi and English, neither of which Radhika understood. This, of course, made it much easier for the doctor, in particular, to often shrug his shoulders and pretend that he didn't understand what the young woman was asking. Radhika's movement was also restricted. She was taken for walks by the nurses but she wasn't allowed to move freely around the hospital. Alone and afraid, all she could do was wait. Control of her life had been taken away from her. She was a virtual prisoner and soon it became obvious that pariyar was her jailer. Matters came to a head one November. She woke to feel the warm winter sun beaming in through the window on to her face. The doctor began his rounds by asking Radhika to prepare herself for having her bandages removed. Without as much as a reassuring touch or glance, he peeled back the bulky strips of gauze and revealed the skin beneath. Radhika scared in shock at the raw scar now snaking its way around the left side of her abdomen and waist like a ravenous python. It was about 12 inches(30.4cm) in length and the stitches were red and angry(Hendry 159)"

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



The world was naive to her and traffickers found new ways to lure innocent hearts into the dark world of trafficking. Still she believed them as she had no other choice. It is the first experience that Radhika had that they bought her beautiful kurtis and they told her that they will go for a trip together. It was the beginning of the trauma that her life blinks through priorly. Life didn't give Radhika good surprises. The fate that was waiting ahead for her was so brutal. She had a train journey for the first time in her life and she thought that the fantasies of life are going to shower wonders upon her. But what happened was just the opposite.

As she opened her eyes from a deep sleep, she realized that she has been admitted in a hospital and sudden realization stricked her. She realized that something worse has happened to her. They told her that they are going to enjoy their vacations in India, a country about which she has only heard of in her lifetime. They didn't tell her about the exact location in India, on the way to India, another stranger whom she had met was Murari Pariyar, as the friend of her new employers. The consciousness she had attained in the hospital devastated her as it was very difficult to understand for herself as what was wrong with her and what was the factor that led her to that hospital "Radhika tried to speak but nothing came out. Her mouth felt dry and parched, her tongue numb. She swallowed desperately, and forcing the words through her cracked lips and whispered, 'where am I? Why I am I here?'"(Hendry 170). Her tensions and mental dilemma got doubled, as she didn't understand the meaning of everything that is happening around her.

Pain began to eat her, she literally couldn't even move her body, her senses got numb and she felt as if everything in her life was put into a standstill. The peril and utmost trauma, desperation that the girl Radhika had gone through is unfathomable. Murari Pariyar, the new stranger, is telling lies which she could understand clearly from his facial expressions. She felt it even difficult to breathe in and out. The vacations and enjoyment she had in the corner of her heart immediately turned into unbelievable pain and trauma. She felt shooting pains in the region of her lower left abdomen and she found bandage peered down in her body. She felt so weak and understood that she had gone through some operation and she is too far from her family now. She can't realize what had happened to her, even the doctor who treats her or the nurses around her was not ready to tell her the truth.

The worse faces of humanity were looking at Radhika prudently and she was at the ultimatum of physical and psychological trauma which is inexplicable. She belonged to a society where people were honest and truthful. Life style and the mannerisms were simple and she was the typical Nepalese girl who was totally innocent that it was difficult to internalize the pains that

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**



the world has thrown at her at this tender age. At the hospital bed, she was struggling for survival. The fading face of humanity is evident here as everybody around her was unwilling to reveal the reality to her.

Radhika always had good intentions in her heart and wanted everyone around her to be blissful and happy, but all the ill luck in life touched Radhika through the hands of human traffickers. The place where the hospital was is Chennai and Radhika had no tamil influence that made it really difficult for her even to talk with the strangers around her. The pathos that she had faced at that point of time cannot be explained and the bandages and scars that surrounded her body revealed it a very clear fact to her that she has been cruelly trafficked and future seemed ahead was very dark. The life, the dreams and everything she had in her heart had all tarnished away ahead of this brutal fate. When the frail mother that Radhika saw attained her strength, Radhika's body was going into the depth of total surrender and her emotional pain was ahead of it. Murari pariyar was the employee who held her in between and she was constantly under his surveillance that they never wanted the world to know about what happened to Radhika and she has to be silenced priory.

They silenced her music, her waves of energy and strangled her amidst the dark and horrible corners of life alone. It was the point where she had lost complete control over her life and dreams. Even it was a difficult task for her mind to contemplate about a normal life anymore. The unfathomable and uncorrigible pain that ate her induced her almost to the depth of sleep at one point and in the unconscious realm of her heart, she counted all the losses that she had. She felt inside her that her life has been spoiled and no ray of hope was in her arena as it was totally devastating for a girl like Radhika to accept what she had gone through in her life at this small age. "All the organ snatchers will have a careful eye on their investment. They couldn't allow the girl to just walk out of the hospital and into police station"(Hendry 79)

Even though punishments for traffickers and mafias exist in our country, those who have been caught and getting punished is very less. They take different forms and take different characters to deceive people to earn money and profits for them. Life didn't give Radhika good surprises. The fate that was waiting ahead for her was so brutal. Chennai city had great population of over 434 million and the city had great economic force and is the major centre for arts, movies, and is the hub of celebrities. The rights reserved for every individual is being violated in the case of every human trafficking survivor. With pariyar, she was moved into an apartment.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**



Everything that was happening to her was under his control and Sanjay, the younger son of her employees family came to see her with payment for Radhika continuing that she has saved his mother's life. Radhika says " I knew then for sure that this family had stolen a piece of my body . But what people couldn't see on the outside was that they had also taken a piece of my soul"(Hendry 133). Her mind began to be more complex and she began to experience the terrible events which was moving her emotionally in a very adverse manner which she even thought it very difficult to manage with. Injury was not only inflicted upon her body, but into her soul too where life had thrown the greatest shocks through unanticipated incidents.

"Radhika's eyelids felt heavy. She struggled to remember what had happened as she forced them open, rapidly blinking at the sudden brightness of the dazzling light. The sun? that would make sense. But as the glare faded and she became more accustomed to her surroundings, her gaze took in the whitewashed walls, she felt the highly starched sheets beneath her palms and inhaled the unmistakable smell of chemicals. She forced herself to concentrate. Wherever she was, she wasn't on holiday. She wasn't sleeping on an Indian beach somewhere hot. The smells, noise, feel of the place, made Radhika realize that she is in a hospital. But how? Why? Had she been in an accident ? all she could remember was being on the train with her new employers. What had happened to her since then? If only she could she remember. Out of the corner of her eye, she glimpsed movement. A man came in to view. A doctor?...No. Murari Pariyar. For a few seconds she was literally paralyzed by fear. She couldn't concentrate properly, her mind was woozy. She fought to understand what was happening to her. Was she dreaming? Was it a nightmare? One minute she had been on a train on the journey to the rest(Hendry 115)"

All these was thoroughly unexpected areas to cope up with in her life and a dark atrociating point of threat in front of her. Her heart was heavy and was too much at the depth of depression and the way she has been tortured was so intense. Being alone and isolated, she had her Nepalese family at her heart and always felt cherished by her parents. When life called forth for the ultimate moments of strength, not even a single soul was with Radhika who could comfort her. Her parents in her total absence were in search of her and they wanted to know that she is living happily somewhere. These dangerous experiences that Radhika had undergone , all her systems inside reacted worse. She wasn't even able to regulate her routine and cannot defend her bodily reactions. Escalatory levels of stress is what she goes through. Persistent trauma was the situation of Radhika.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



Negativity ate her and it was becoming unbearable for Radhika. The next journey she had was with Murari pariyar back to Nepal, but he doesn't want her to go away as he feared that she has the power to imprison him as he was part of the chain of traffickers. And he made sure that she didn't speak it to anyone else. She was forcefully married to Rajesh, one of Pariyar's distant relative and it was forced painstaking marriage as her everyday life laying there was beaten up and was violated. He was too harsh, a drunkard and has taken all the money that Radhika had in her hand. Radhika fell like a puppet in her master's hand as she couldn't take control over her life, and now even her marriage. She had endured too much of horror that girl of this tender age could go through. Life has been so displeasing to her.

She felt herself so exhausted that she couldn't even read what her surroundings were teaching her. A drunkard husband and the extreme poverty that she faced there made her more and more weak, malnourished and all that was simply beyond her comprehension. She never wanted to marry that man in her life, but life had thrown at her odd chapters, and distress one by one. The heartbroken Radhika suffered too much under the hands of Rajesh. Difficulties began to increase day by day and she felt like the whole world crushing around her and was dumb to her tensions and feelings. She couldn't even ponder about the havoc that the marriage had brought to her. She often made an effort to get this going right, but her husband behaved cruelly with her. She realized that she was pregnant. The malnutrition and the absence of kidney had pulled her body down at times, and nobody was there to take proper care of her, she had to stand fighting for her rights and the fights ended up in more and more cruelty. Brutal disagreements with her husband existed and as he had gone, she didn't have to bear any more beatings. "No more putting up with a man who abused her, both physically and mentally. No more worrying about the safety of her baby.

Then reality sink in. she was a destitute". She pushed out Rohan and he from the moment was a survivor. Radhika, from then on had a reason to live for, and to struggle for. Even though they didn't have any helping hand, and was in extreme perils of malnutrition and poverty, she went near Rajesh's mother Seti to spend time together with her growing peas, pumpkins and spinach. Radhika wanted Seti to protect her from her son's cruelty. Radhika went through difficult times to give birth to Rohan as her labour was a painstaking one.

"Radhika's labour was long, drawn-out and difficult, not just because she was so weak from malnutrition – on some days she could barely afford to eat one meal, although Seti helped out wherever she could – but also because the beatings that Rajesh had given her had taken their . on her already beleaguered body. Plus, she only had one kidney to rely

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**



on now. In mind – numbing pain, Radhika was in labour from 5 am until 11.30 pm, but she didn't care. All I could think about was seeing the child I had longed for so desperately. – someone who I could love and someone who would love me unconditionally and unquestionably in return(Hendry 170).”

No mother can escape the trauma of childbirth and after , it can bring in post traumatic stress disorders. The psychological and mental states that Radhika was going through kept on fluctuating, the illness and perils, the beleaguered body and the mind numbing pain that she had gone through made her desperately sick. The most moment of Radhika's life was when she heard her baby boy crying for the first time and it was the most beautiful sound that she had heard over the years. It was the triumph of survival that she was able to give birth to Rohan , even her body being physically too weak, but never ever left the mental strength. She had proved herself to be a survivor. Her life from there once again began to take a strange direction, but this direction brought Radhika to a stage where she couldn't return from the plights anymore. Two strangers claiming as Rajesh's cousins, Purne pariyar and Rajan Pariya came to her . They explained her that they came to the village to seek work and they are stranded in the village right then. Radhika found it strange and she told them that they didn't have a room for them to take rest. They returned next day morning telling Radhika that they will help her reach her sister Parvati's home.

It was the second time that she trusted a stranger. She took her little boy Rohan to see parvati, she knew that once she reaches Parvati's home, her son Rohan when grows up, will definitely get the education which was denied for Radhika. They were on the journey to Kathmandu placing the element of trust on the pariyars. They was nothing she had at her husbands place except the abuses and poverty that she had to succumb there. Travelling with them, Radhika felt something dreadful as they were not heading to Kathmandu, but to some other destination. Real fear had stricken Radhika and once again, she felt like she is turning out to be a virtual prisoner. They told her that they will help her to get a job at a grocery store in Biratnagar, which again was a cold lie as it was evident in the eyes of pariyar. Smell of citrus fruits touched her, she felt like she was under the control of another mafia for the second time in her life, and this time, life was even so unbalanced.

Even though she felt exhausted, she took good care of her son and had to keep herself alert for Rohan. Endless hours of silenced travelling, indicated that the journey had come to an end. Finally, she came to know that the place was Assam and they were heading to the town of Silchar ; a booming real estate market and the place which Indira Gandhi, India's former Prime

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



minister referred to as an ‘Island of peace’, as it was a place of tranquility . Pariyars lied to her and then she realized that she is been sold into a brothel as a prostitute. Prostitution is a booming business at the heart of silchar. Girls who are having venereal diseases also exist among them and families rejects them even after they come back home.

They remain ostracized by the whole community in which they belong and people who are not educated and even among the educated ones, they have a misconception that the infected virus will be transmitted. It was for the first time that Radhika came into a brothel and the owner of the brothel was Rupa Tawang. They gave her food, it was a dingy and dilapidated place, nothing seemed positive inside the place and a tinch of sweat surrounded that place and it mentally made her tired. Life was throwing upon Radhika one misery after another that she was fed up of her life in reality. The only reason that pulled her ahead was Rohan. Disturbing music had stricken her ears and it didn’t bring her a peace of mind. Radhika found the initial days in the brothel easy as she was not thrown into sex work.

She thought she was treated different from other girls and she was not blind enough to trust it. She felt suspicious, but for the time sake, she felt herself at peace. Rohan was safe with her and she was happy as she had Rohan near her. Radhika was fed a protein rich diet comprising of fish, meat, eggs and juice which was delicious, but initially it was very hard to digest after her enforced diet of endless vegetables. They taught her about various hair styles, makeups. She had a slight thought with in her as if her luck had slightly changed, but the niggling thoughts didn’t last as eight weeks of rest and silence was the time to equip her malnourished body ready for her new job as a prostitute. It was a totally destroying piece of game for Radhika. Rupa tamang who acted normally changed her colours very easily and began to show odd behaviour “Dhanda must begin – no matter how hard she might try to fight it”(Maccormick 167). In a place like silchar, where demands for prostitutes are high, Radhika couldn’t do anything other than obeying them. The demographics of the place even helped traffickers to remain safe. Even the police officials cannot be trusted as they were customers of many brothels and the wing and the line of control that the brothels had was really strong and long winded as prostitutes were transferred from one place to another with the maintained connections. The dark stories of the sold bodies and the lust hidden shadows are encircled in Silchar. They were to entertain thirty or above customers in a day in order to meet their targets with the brothel owners.

Her life was throwing itself in to a nightmare. She had to survive all this for her son , it was reverberated in her ears. But Rupa Tamang didn’t allow Rohan anymore with his mother. He had a traumatic birth and terrible upheaval, right from the moment when Radhika was pregnant, he

beated her repeatedly and had to go through pain staking domestic violence and abuse. She pleaded with them to keep Rohan together with her, but they told that they will bring Rohan frequently in to the brothel. She cannot control her tears, it was the first separation right from his birth and it is only for him that Radhika survives. Emotional turmoil took over Radhika's heart and the bright star of her life Rohan was separated from her. She felt the child's warmth near her always, and every morning began looking in to his small little eyes. She tried to be rational, and she prayed to God to keep him in a safe place, where he would be taken care of with affection and tenderness.

The brothel owner told Radhika that she would be killed if she didn't go along with the plan imposed upon. Radhika understood that there are no choices left for her and to endure was what she thought inside her. Radhika's body became frail and weak, she felt like her life has been blown apart, she wanted to kill herself, but she wanted to live for Rohan. From Silchar in Assam, she has been brought in to Kolkata, which was the hub of human traffickers. Rohan too accompanied her and Radhika was travelling from pain to a bit more of pain. She is now in Kolkata, which is the 8th largest urban conglomeration in the world. Fear becomes a part of her and smelled danger everywhere she walked through. Her experiences taught her that and she was literally moving from one hell on earth to another, where women are treated as slaves for sexual gratification of men, and for money.

“Examining the smooth contours of her slim figure, she saw the evidence of her forced trade on her body. Once, her pale olive skin had been flawless, now it bore the scars of human trafficking. Most prominent was the ugly tear that ran defiantly along her left side. It was a constant reminder of the terrible episode in Chennai that had resulted in her kidney being stolen from her. To Radhika, it was a symbol of her naivety and sheer powerlessness. And now cigarette burns and a disfigured patch of skin near her right shin, caused by a kick from a drunken client were testament to her gallery of pain and degradation. She sought solace in something one of her fellow prostitutes had once told her. ‘Scars are beautiful. They are a proof that you are a survivor.’ And that much was true. Radhika was certainly proving herself to be a survivor along with her son, Rohan.(Hendry 226)”

Sonagachi is translated in Bengali as golden tree and the busy place, Chittaranjan avenue was filled with red colour. She reached her new home which she felt as a prison in the slum, a much more dirty place than the brothel in Silchar. Maya Tamang was the owner and she had a horrible vacant look in her face, a more cruel looking woman. Rohan's presence made this brothel people disturbed, and all the worker's children were removed from them, and for the second time, her

son was taken away from her. Rohan followed his new surrogate mother and great tension surrounded Radhika whether they will take proper care of him or will be cruel to him.

Radhika learnt from the other girls that every one of them had pain staking and disturbing stories like that of Radhika. Tamang was a lady who was glad in punishing girls and she enjoyed it. The saddest that the owner had turned in to didn't surprise Radhika. The routine of the girls were shattering and they had to put make up after every customer leaves the place. For the slightest disagreement, Tamang inflicted their body with Cigarette burns and she dreamt like flying off to somewhere under the earth to escape from that beastly figure. She had another terrible experience that showed how brutal men can be that a man who came heavily drunk threw Radhika onto bed and kicked her hard with leather boots and that nasty scar still remain in her body. She thinks about Rohan often and thoughts about him made her a survivor. Radhika came across a customer Jigmi who was a piece of hope to her, who mingled with her softly and gave her attention and he was a good human being is what Radhika felt. He wanted to rescue Radhika from the horrors and he visited Radikha again and again.

At last, he rescued her and promised her that he will find out Rohan too. That was the first human being who did not deceive Radhika and her hope in humanity began to come back. But she was attacked by the gundas of Tamang in the house of Jigmi at the time when Jigmi had gone out to work and she was brought back to the brothel. She was severely punished by Tamang. A metallic smell filled her nostrils and she was severely hit, blood began to ooze out and every vein in her body was deeply strangled in pain. She couldn't even force her eye to open, pain began to eat her whole. She prayed for Jigmi when ever she got her eye lids open. She heard Rohan's cries close to her ears and from there, she was transported in to the capital, Delhi. After six months working there, brothel owner told Lakshmi that she will be transported to Mumbai. She felt all the bruises deep down her and travelled to Mumbai, where she spend time with her son while travelling. Rohan more over behaved like a stranger with Lakshmi, as the little child saw her once in a blue moon.

The psychological scars of abuse remained deep inside Radhika. The owner was not cruel like the other madam's and Radhika thought that this time, she will find a way out there to escape. Rohan lived together with Radhika in the brothel and she made friends with other girls in the brothel and they together well planningly made an idea to escape from the brothel. She believed in the words and thought that this would give her a world that she had hoped for. Clutching her dreams close to her chest, Radika, Laxmi, Riya and Reeta had woven the hopes of escaping from the place together and they made their dream come true. They left the place at midnight

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal

www.ijoes.in

Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019

ISSN: 2581-8333

Indexed in



and had a panicking heart hidden inside them, if they got caught, they will burn them off. But with Gods grace, Radhika boarded the train first saying goodbye to the other girls and had the deep prayer in her heart that all the three girls waiting for train in the station must be saved .

She then closed her eyes and then, taking a deep breath, screamed as loud as she could, careless of what anyone near her might think, venting all the pent – up anger and emotion of the recent years in captivity. The scream came from deep with in her and seemed to last an age. As she sat in her seat on the train carrying her away from Mumbai, Radhika sank her head into her hands. She could only pray that her friends were also on the road to freedom. The alternative was simply too terrible to contemplate(Hendry 230-235)

She felt extremely sick in the train and when she vomited blood, a man helped her to get the medical help and she once again in her life felt the smell of disinfectants, but this time, she knew that she has not been deceived. She told her story to Sushil , the last stranger in her life she believed and he told that he will take her home. He kept his word and took her home. The first stranger other than Jigmi who helped her reach her home land was Jigmi. She was so grateful to him and he told her that he did his responsibility. It was a heartwrenching experience for sushil, Radhka was back home, but Hariprem didn't allow her to be inside home, Radhika's parents were overwhelming seeing their daughter.



She lied to them saying that she was working in a factory and later with the help of parvati, she came to know about Mehti Nepal by Anuradha Koirala who stood as a shelter for the trafficked and abused. “The large iron gates of Mehti Nepal swung open and a woman of tiny stature, but great presence, greeted Radhika warmly. With outstretched arms, she beckoned Radhika and Rohan forward, grasping them both firmly but gently in a warm hug.Welcome.My name is Anuradha Koirala and Maiti Nepal will be your home for as long as you wish”.(Hendry 244) She reached there and put Pariyar, the man in the wing who was the beginning point of the sex traffickers. She put him under bars with the help of Anuradha koirala and is happily living in Mehti Nepal,with her son, who is also going to school , both of them finally having a better life forever. The greatest element in the work was not only showcasing the perils and trauma that

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019 ISSN: 2581-8333



Radhika had undergone through the inhuman traffickers that she had seen in her life, but her unending love for Rohan that made her survive under the dark paths of life. She had travelled through the thorny heartlands of darkness in search of light for Rohan .

References:

- Aggarwal, C.M. *Nari: Facets of Indian Womanhood*. Indian Publishers, 2000, p.97.
- Agnihotri, Vidyadhar. *Fallen Woman*. Maharaja Printers, 2001, p.69 .
- Allain, Jean. *Slavery in International Law: Of Human Exploitation and Trafficking*. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013, p.45.
- Almerindo, Ojeda. *The Trauma of Psychological Torture*. The Greenwood Publishing, 2008,p.115 .
- Caruth, Cathy. *Introduction: Psychoanalysis, Culture and Trauma*. *American Imago* vol. 48,no 2, 1991,p.98 .
- Caruth, Cathy. *Introduction: Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Trauma*. *American Imago*, vol. 48, no. 2, 1991, p.156 .
- *Explorations in Memory*. Hopkins University Press, 1995,p.156.
- *Trauma and Survival*. *Imago*, vol 2, no. 2, 1991,p.111.
- Choudhary, Jayantha. *Trafficking Women and Children*. Penguin Books,1997,p.48 .
- Giri, Mohini. *Kanya: Exploitation of Little Angels*. Gyan Publishing House, 1999,p.173 .
- Hendry, Sharon. *Radhika's Story*. New Holland Publishers, 2010,pp.1-300.
- 11. John, RP. "Children as Victims of Trafficking with Special Reference to Sexual Exploitation and its ill Effect on Psychological and Physical Health in Chennai City." *ForensicCriminol International Journal* ,vol. 5, July 2017.p.55.
- Jung, Elan. *Sexual Trauma: A Challenge Not Insanity: A Revolutionary Approach to Treatment Recovery from Abuse and PTSD*. Hudson Press, 2010,p.33 .
- Maccormick, Patricia. *Sold*. Hyperion Books,2007,pp.1-280.
- Mishra, Veerendra. *Human Trafficking: The Stakeholder's Perspective*. Sage Publications. (v)ol. 10, 2013,p.46.
- Nag, Moni. *Sex Workers of India – Diversity in Practice of Prostitution and Ways of Life*. Allied Publishers, 2007,p.113 .
- Prakashini, Chandna. *Trafficking women and children*,Sage Publications.p.230.
- Richard. *Emilia*. Notion Press,2017,pp.1-224.

SP Publications
International Journal Of English and Studies (IJOES)
An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal
www.ijoes.in **Vol-1, Issue-7, 2019** **ISSN: 2581-8333**

Indexed in  Directory of
Research
Journals Indexing  CiteFactor
Academic Scientific Journals

-
- Selma, Leydesdorff. *Trauma: Life Stories of Survivors: Memory and Narrative Series*. Routledge Publications, 1999, p.222 .
 - Spring, Carolyn. *Unshame: Healing Trauma Based Shame Through Psychotherapy*. Carolyn Spring Publishing, 2019, p.20.
 - Stolorow, Robert. *Trauma and Human Existence: Autobiographical, Psychoanalytic and Philosophical Reflections*. The Analytic Press, 2007, p.160.