



# The Exodus Road®

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## **Nonprofit Helps Rescue 14-year-old Girl from Roadside Sex Trafficking**

**INDIA** — A trafficked 14-year-old girl from a rural village in India is now free due to the efforts of local police and the nonprofit organization The Exodus Road in Operation BRIGHTSIDE.

Namita\* had been held in a roadside brothel for less than a week when the raid took place. According to field reports, tears filled her eyes as she told police she had been brought there by her boyfriend to serve customers against her will. The brothel was a roadside restaurant in which the owner had built rooms for paid sex.

Namita was one of four survivors rescued, three of whom were minors between 14 and 16 years old. The girls lived in a locked room in the back of the restaurant where they would serve several customers every day. Operatives reported that each of the girls were being sold for sex for just ₹3,000 INR (\$46 USD).

The Exodus Road's operatives worked on this case for a total of 28 days before the rescue could take place. Local police were able to raid the location, free the girls, and arrest offenders because of the extensive investigative work and evidence collected by The Exodus Road's team.

Law enforcement arrested four male perpetrators in the operation. Namita's boyfriend, who had forced her into prostitution, was one of the apprehended men.

Upon Namita's rescue, she was complaining of severe abdominal pain to the investigators. Namita was taken to the proper medical facility for examination.

Today, Namita and the other survivors are recovering in government safe homes where The Exodus Road's social workers will continue to follow up with them as they transition into a reintegration process.

Operatives said that despite what she had been through, Namita was a "humble and positive girl" who now has a bright future ahead of her.

The Exodus Road is a nonprofit based in Colorado Springs, Colo., that provides support to local authorities to find and rescue victims of human trafficking in India, Thailand, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. The Exodus Road has 63 active operatives on its Search & Rescue teams and has supported 894 rescues and 378 arrests in the past six years.

*\*Namita is a representative name meaning 'humble.' The names of people and locations are changed to protect survivors, operatives, and future raids.*