

## **India Resources for I Kick, and I Fly**

### **Definitions:**

#### **What is child sex-trafficking?**

##### **Indian law:**

Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals specifically with the offense of trafficking of persons, including trafficking of children, for the purpose of exploitation. It defines trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power, for the purpose of exploitation.

The exploitation referred to in Section 370 of the IPC includes:

1. Prostitution
2. Forced labor or services
3. Slavery or practices similar to slavery
4. Removal of organs
5. Any other form of exploitation

Other Indian laws, such as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, also provide for the prevention of trafficking and for the protection and rehabilitation of victims.

##### **United Nations:**

In addition, India is a signatory to the United Nations Protocol to end Human Trafficking, especially women and children, in which the UN recognizes that certain children are more vulnerable to trafficking, including those who are poor, female, living in rural areas, displaced or refugees, or have limited access to education or health care. Other factors that increase vulnerability include gender, disability, and belonging to a marginalized group.

The UN emphasizes that countries address the root causes of vulnerability in order to prevent child sex trafficking, including poverty, lack of education, discrimination, and violence while at the same time strengthen their legal frameworks and law enforcement capacity to investigate and prosecute individuals involved in child sex trafficking. The UN also highlights the need for support and protection services for victims and survivors.

#### **Ways that young people can get involved to combat human trafficking.**

1. Educate yourself and others: Learn about trafficking and exploitation and raise awareness among your friends, family, and community. Share information on social media, organize awareness events, or start a conversation about these issues with your peers.

2. Support anti-trafficking organizations: Volunteer or Donate to organizations that are working to combat trafficking or volunteer your time and skills. Even small actions can make a big difference.
3. Advocate for change: Use your voice to advocate for stronger laws and policies to prevent and respond to trafficking. Write to your elected representatives, sign petitions, or join advocacy campaigns.
4. Be a responsible consumer: Avoid purchasing goods and services that may be linked to trafficking or exploitation, such as products made with forced labor or sex tourism.
5. Look out for vulnerable individuals: Be aware of signs that someone may be a victim of trafficking, such as poor living conditions, restricted movement, or signs of physical abuse. If you suspect that someone may be a victim, report it to the appropriate authorities.
6. Support survivors: If you know someone who has been affected by trafficking or exploitation, offer them support and empathy. Survivors may need a safe place to stay, access to healthcare, or legal assistance.

**Some resources to learn, support, advocate:**

1. Apne Aap Women Worldwide is an NGO that works to empower women and girls who are at risk of or affected by trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of exploitation. The organization operates in several cities in India, including Delhi, Kolkata, and Bihar and provides a range of services to women and girls, including education, food, livelihood skills, community organizing and legal support. ( [www.apneaap.org](http://www.apneaap.org))
2. Childline India Foundation: Childline is a 24-hour, toll-free helpline that provides support and services to children in need of care and protection. The helpline can be accessed by dialing 1098, and it is available in over 500 cities and towns across India.
3. Child Rights and You (CRY): CRY is an organization that works to ensure that children in India have their basic rights met, including the right to education, healthcare, and protection from abuse and exploitation. They provide a range of services, including advocacy, capacity-building, and direct intervention programs.
4. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR): The NCPCR is a government body that is responsible for the protection and promotion of the rights of children in India. They provide a range of services, including monitoring and evaluation of programs, policy development, and advocacy.
5. Your local community resources such as social workers, teachers, counselors, or NGOs, if they need support or assistance. These resources may be able to provide individualized support and assistance based on their specific needs and circumstances.

**Discussion topics:**

1. The book is written by an Indian author and primarily takes place in India. Do you think the issue of sex trafficking is specific to India or do you think it is a global issue?
2. Explain how the following themes crop up in I Kick, and I Fly:
  - a. Coercion and exploitation:
  - b. Vulnerability:

- c. Human rights violations: (Clues: right to freedom, the right to education, the right to health, and the right to be protected from violence and exploitation).
3. What themes in *I Kick and Fly* connect with your own life?
4. Explain how the following themes crop up in *I Kick*, and *I Fly*
  - a. Bullying
  - b. Body Shaming
  - c. Discrimination
5. What did you learn from the book that you didn't know before?
6. How can martial arts be used as a tool for social change and empowerment?
7. What is the significance of the title *I Kick*, and *I Fly*?
8. How does the author's personal experience as a feminist activist shape her perspective on prostitution and trafficking?
9. The author states that "prostitution is not inevitable." What are some of the societal and systemic factors that contribute to the perpetuation of prostitution, and how can they be addressed?
10. Ruchira Gupta writes about the importance of education for girls and how it can help break the cycle of poverty and exploitation. Do you think education is a key factor in reducing sex trafficking?
11. How does the book explore the issue of power and control? Who holds power in the story and how do they use it? What are some ways that power can be abused and how can we work to prevent it?

**Activities:**

1. research a local organization that works to prevent human trafficking and exploitation. Invite a representative to speak to the class about their work and how students can get involved.
2. Divide the class into small groups and have each group create a public service announcement (PSA) to raise awareness about human trafficking and exploitation. Be creative and use different media formats such as video, audio, or print.
3. Write a persuasive essay or letter to a local or national elected official, urging them to support policies and laws that help prevent human trafficking and protect victims.
4. Host a classroom or school-wide fundraiser to support an organization that works to prevent human trafficking and exploitation. Brainstorm different ideas for fundraising activities and involve students in the planning and execution of the event.
5. Join the author in her campaign against sex-trafficking by signing and sharing her pledge on [www.ruchiragupta.com](http://www.ruchiragupta.com).