

Making Red-Light Areas Child-Safe

Implemented in 5 Wards of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation

Three Red-Light Areas - Kalighat, Ward 83;

Munsiganj & Adjacent Slums, Wards 75 & 76

Sonagachhi, Ward 18

Two Quasi-Red-Light Areas -

Lakar Math, Ward 84, and Tollygunge, Ward 89

Red-Light Area Programmes

Ward 18: Sonagachhi



Rongchong: Colours

Making Red-Light Areas Safe for Children



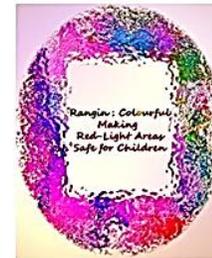
**Making
Red Light Areas
Safe for Children**

Ward 83: Kalighat

Rainbow Lives



**Enabling Young People
To Make
Red-Light Areas
Child-Safe**



Ward 84: Lakar Math

Ward 75: Munsiganj

DIKSHA works with adolescents and youth living in red-light areas to end forced entry into the sex trade for girls as service providers and boys as pimps.



Rangoli
Making Red-Light Areas Safe for Children

Ward 89: Tollygunge

Defining Red-Light & Quasi-Red-Light Areas

- Red-Light Area

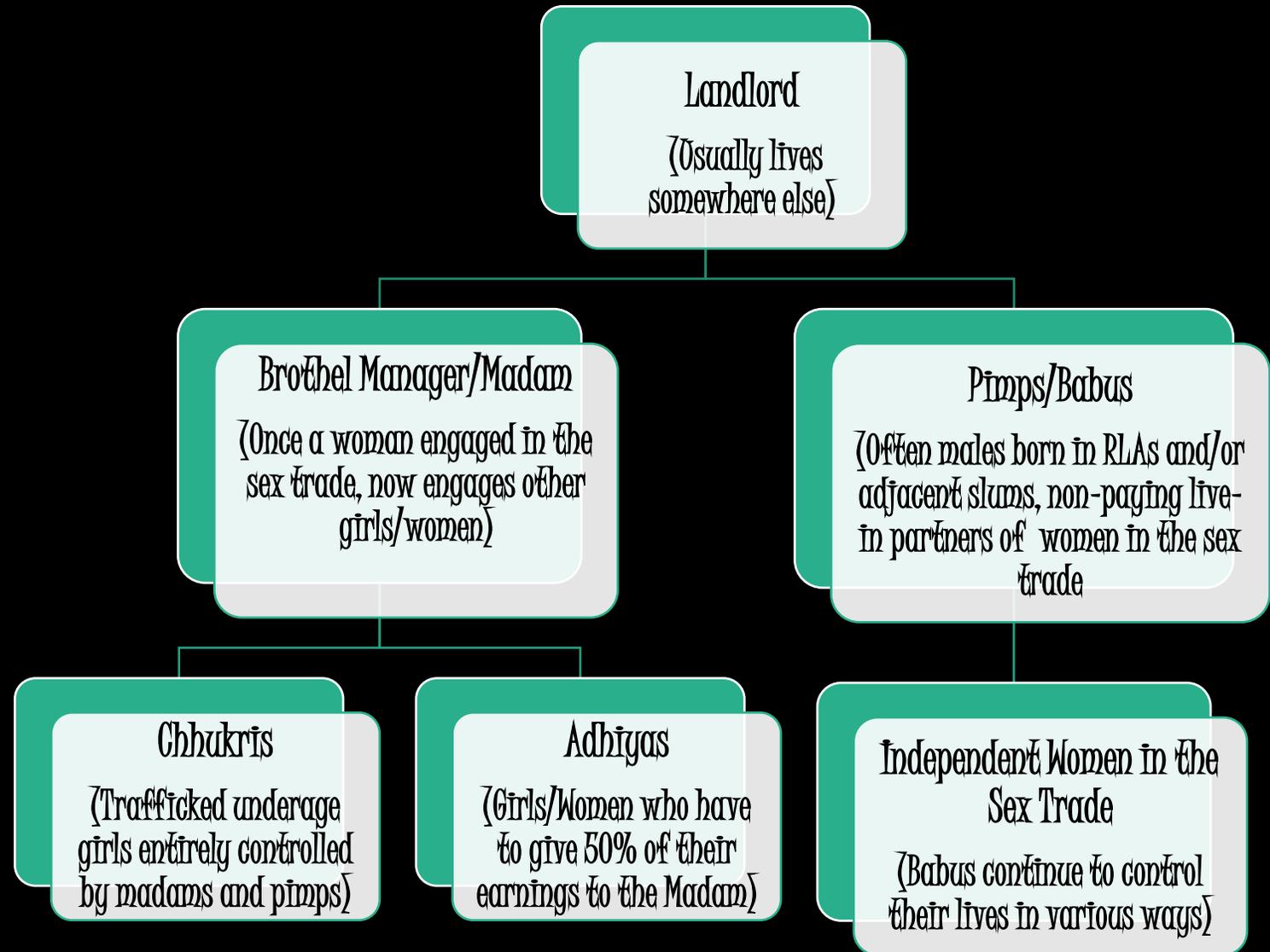
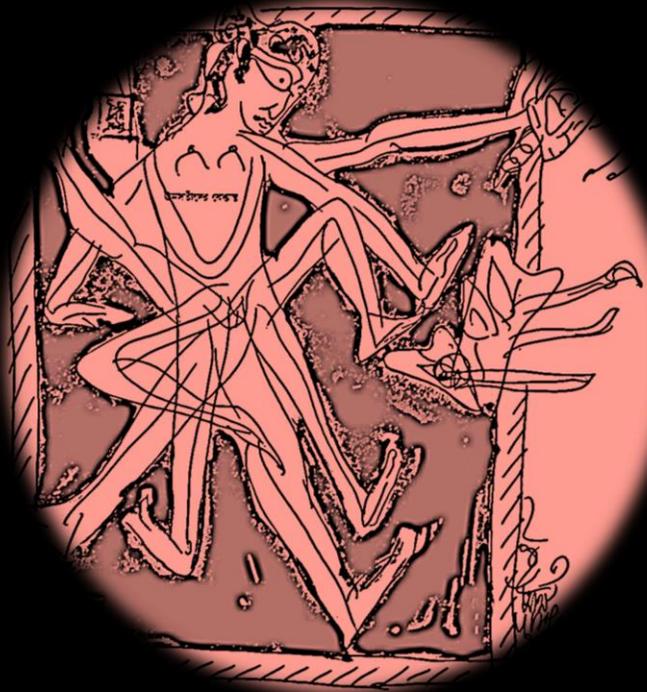
- Where women engaged in the sex trade live and also service customers.

- Quasi-Red-Light Area

- Where women engaged in the sex trade live, but service their customers somewhere else - mostly in rented rooms in full-fledged red-light areas



Overall Structure of Red-Light Areas



The Problem

- Children of all genders born in red-light areas have their destinies pre-determined
- Girls and male-bodied children with so-called 'feminine' qualities end up as paid sexual service providers.
Males will end up being traffickers / pimps / babus (non-paying live-in partners of women in the sex trade)
- Social stigma results in low self-esteem and lack of self-belief in these children - they accept these destinies as inescapable
- Children born in quasi-red-light-areas have the same vulnerabilities - girls get married to be forced into the sex trade just like their mothers, and boys become pimps and babus
- Early exposure to substance abuse is the rule rather than the exception

DIKSHA's Three-Pronged Solution

DIKSHA's CBRTs

We empower the youth to evolve as Community-Based Resource Teams (CBRTs). They act as 24x7 watchdogs and crisis interveners to prevent attempted cases of child abuse. They are also enabled to take the steps necessary for legal redress through prosecution.

Our Three-Pronged Strategy

Share
Information
about their
Rights

Build their
Leadership
skills

Link Them
with Bodies
of Power



Hear Us,
Heed Us,
Create Safe
Spaces for
Us:
Children
Speak



Incredible Stories of Change

From the two areas where we have worked for some years for transformational change to happen:

- Kalighat - Where It All Began

- No madams, no pimps, no underage girls in the sex trade, no intergenerational FORCED dependence on the sex trade economy
- No in or out trafficking of girls and women into the sex trade
- Kalighat market - no child under 14 gets employed there

- Munsiganj - Where No Other Organisation Works

- No underage marriage in the last 4 years (DIKSHA has been working there for 6 years)
- No chhukri system
- Community alert and active against child sexual abuse attempts

