

Raghav

When two strangers offered Raghav a job in the next district, the 14-year-old identified the risk of being trafficked and protected himself and his peers



The Situation

Located near international borders with Nepal and Bangladesh, Bihar is one of India's biggest trafficking hubs. Young boys, often under pressure to drop out of school and work so that they can contribute to their family's income, are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked on the lure of well paying jobs in other cities.

The Solution

Aangan's *Chauraha* programme works with boys in dangerous situations, like hazardous working environments, violence and abuse. By creating community support systems and supporting and mentoring adolescent boys through individual and group life skills training, they are empowered to plan for a safer future.

After getting beaten up in a fight with his brother, Raghav ran away from home, and went to the railway station near his *basti* in Bihar. He wanted a moment to himself, to gather his thoughts.

As he sat there, two men approached him. They spoke to him about employment opportunities available in a neighbouring district and urged him to come with them, promising he'd get a job that paid him Rs. 2,000 along with meals at a restaurant.

Raghav refused.

In the Chauraha meetings that he attended – where adolescent boys from vulnerable communities come together to identify protection risks and plan for a safer future – he had discussed trafficking for labour with his group, and learnt to recognise the ways in which young boys like him are at risk of being trafficked by the lure of well paying jobs.

The two men who had approached him had set off alarm bells.

As he started walking away, Raghav noticed a group of six young boys at a distance on the platform. Worried that the two men might approach the boys next, and knowing how vulnerable they were, he went up and spoke to them. He warned them of the lure of employment and the risk of trafficking, and urged them to return to their community with him.

Being aware and alert to risks, Raghav was able to ensure that he and boys like him were safe from being trafficked.