Victims Voices: Shiva

Shiva received assistance through the NGO 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' in India

Shiva, 14 years old, belonged to Samastipur District of Bihar which is one of the main districts from where a large number of children are trafficked every year. Shiva was brought to Jaipur by his distant relative on the pretext of teaching him various skills which could help him support his family. Belonging to a family of six members (four siblings, mother and father), Shiva had never been enrolled into a school as his father was a daily wage labourer and the only breadwinner of the family. When this proposal came, the family was overjoyed as this would help them improve their financial conditions. After he reached Jaipur, he was employed in a bangle producer. When he was rescued by BBA, he was found to be working in very unfavorable environment. When asked about the working environment and the conditions at work, he said that he was working for more than 12 to 14 hours every day but was paid only INR 1000 per month ($ 15 USD). His task was to decorate bangles with stones. He was majorly exposed to toxic fumes of chemicals such as thinners, used in manufacturing bangles. He was physically and verbally abused by his employer as well as other senior staff. He was also not allowed to move out of the premises during the working days and was given only half a day leave on Sundays. During his stay at the Ashram, he was provided with all care and protection which helped him recover from the traumas he faced at work and was also given an opportunity to study. As he had never been to school, the staff at the ashram encouraged him to understand the importance of education. He has also gradually started picking up in his studies and shown immense interest in participating in various recreational activities such as sports and culture.