

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, June 14 - Despite rising awareness and increase in anti-trafficking measures, the number of women in Nepal landing in Indian brothels continues to grow.

According to Maiti Nepal, a partner organization of STOP, Delhi, working against trafficking and sexual abuse of women, 25 to 28 cases of women trafficking are lodged in the capital alone every month.

Around 7,000 women are trafficked to Indian brothels every year, claims the organization.

Communication officer at Maiti Nepal, Sarita Baskota, said monthly records on trafficking in the capital suggest that the situation has not improved much.

"Our records show that around 15 percent of trafficked women are educated and aware enough to avoid getting trafficked," said Baskota.

Given the social taboo on trafficking and commercial sex, women activists suspect that unreported cases of trafficking might be higher. With increasing in-country migration in search of employment, more women could be victimized by traffickers, said Baskota.

However, she claimed that trafficking has declined in some sensitized communities.

Each year, eight Boarder Surveillance Teams against trafficking stop around 2,000 women suspected of being trafficked to India. "But due to the open border and people's right to migration, we cannot stop the trafficking completely," she added.

Källa NGO Maiti Nepal