

BANGALORE, INDIA

THE PROBLEM FORCED LABOR SLAVERY

Bangalore is the technological center of India. But there is a hidden problem beneath the progress: forced labor slavery is rampant in and around this booming metropolis. Outside Bangalore's high-tech sector, children, women and men are held as forced labor slaves on farms, rice factories, brick-making facilities, textile mills, construction sites, and other industries. We have met forced labor slaves who have been beaten, gang raped, locked in tiny rooms and starved for attempting to escape. India's laws clearly ban forced labor, but enforcement has historically been weak, with very few convictions or meaningful sentences.

IJM BANGALORE PROGRESS SINCE 2006



2,550+

children, women and men rescued from slavery



1,350+

survivors restored through aftercare since 2014



15,000+

police, government officials, NGOs and others trained by IJM



THE FACTS



40.3 million people are estimated to be held in slavery worldwide.¹

1 in 4 victims of modern slavery is a child.²

South Asia has the largest number of people in bonded labor slavery: an estimated 15.5 million ³

Karnataka (the state where Bangalore is located) has the **third highest trafficking rate** of any state in India.⁴



“We had to work or they would beat us and scold us.”

—Malleth, set free from slavery on a rose farm

How IJM Bangalore Combats Forced Labor Slavery

We rescue children and families by identifying factories, farms and businesses where they are trapped as forced labor slaves. We partner with government officials and police to enter the worksite, conduct interviews, and ensure each victim is legally emancipated under the law.

We bring criminals to justice. We begin by advising officials on how to file protection reports that will keep families safe from owner's threats. We help public prosecutors press charges and pursue justice in local courts by collecting evidence, researching laws and legal precedent, and helping survivors prepare to share the truth.

We restore survivors by providing a two-year aftercare program developed by IJM social workers. We begin with Freedom Training, a three-day series of seminars and life skills training. Social workers then provide counseling, facilitate monthly group meetings, visit survivors in their homes, and help families achieve their goals (like opening a bank account or buying a house). We help adults pursue dignifying jobs and ensure children can enroll in school.

We strengthen justice systems by providing hands-on mentoring and training for government officials combating forced labor slavery. Our current System Reform project started in 2013, and we are equipping district officials to identify and rescue forced laborers, and police to investigate and properly file charges against perpetrators.

IJM BANGALORE MILESTONES

2006

IJM BANGALORE OPENS

2011

IJM'S FIRST TRAINING

We are invited to train police and government officials on the Bonded Labor (Abolition) Act.

2012

LANDMARK RESCUE

Government officials call IJM for help with a massive operation in multiple locations to free a total of 100 forced labor slaves.

2015

SUPREME COURT RULING

The Indian Supreme Court upholds the conviction of a powerful slave owner from an IJM case—a groundbreaking decision for the work of justice.



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS INDRAJEET PAWAR

Indrajeet (aka Inder) joined IJM in 2017 with 22 years of experience in project management and leadership roles in churches and businesses throughout India, Europe and the Middle East. Today, Inder oversees IJM Bangalore's work to engage with the state government on ending bonded labor in Karnataka. For him, this role is an extension of over two decades of commitment to serving transformed lives.



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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

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