

# 94 child workers rescued from Jaipur sent to Bihar

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JAIPUR: 13-year-old Mohan (name changed) was forced into child labour by his family to repay the debt taken for his mother's treatment.

He narrated his sordid story to the counsellors after being rescued from a bangle manufacturing unit, where he was working for past few months. Mohan was one of the 94 children who were rescued in Jaipur. All of them boarded the Bikaner-Gawahati train on Monday morning.

Mohan belongs to a village in Gaya district of Bihar. His mother had developed complications in uterus as she had given birth to six children over the past few years. His father did not have money for her treatment. Mohan's father came in touch with an agent involved in child trafficking.

He offered Mohan's father financial assistance for his wife's surgery. "The cost of the surgery was Rs 23,000. Mohan's father had borrowed the money on interest. But, he did not have any source of income to repay the money. So, he decided to send his son to Jaipur," one-stop crisis management centre for children in-charge Vijay Goyal said.

The agent told Mohan's family that he will learn how to work and will study in Jaipur. "The agent gave Mohan's father Rs 10,000 when he brought Mohan to Jaipur. It is just like selling a child for some money," Goyal said.

Mohan is not the only one, 93 other children aged between 6 -16 years were rescued in Jaipur.

Most of them were brought to Jaipur and forced to work as child labourers as their parents had borrowed money on interest

and could not pay it back. In return for sending their kids to Jaipur, they got money from the agents.

The children had been engaged in bangle and pen manufacturing units. 57% of them were below 10 years of age.