Travellers win your trust by giving money or provisions for your family. They target poor girls who belong to families that can barely make their ends meet.

**Social boycott**
Like Serina, 28-year-old Meher-un Nisa, from the village of Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas, is also a victim of trafficking. "My return from Pune in early September, 2017 was a great relief, almost like a victory for my family," she says.

Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas have emerged as hubs of trafficking. Owing to their proximity to Kolkata and some of the biggest cities of the country, women from villages such as Madhyamgram, Alipore and Womens' Centre, Sundarban, have emerged as hubs of trafficking.

While Laskar is sharing case studies with some of his friends, another girl, Serina from Madhyamgram, was put on a train on February 2, 2017. She had been trafficked from her village to a brothel in Delhi. "I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. "I came to know that the girl had been sold in Delhi and that she was drunk."

"When the mother turned away, the boy started crying and calling out to her daughter," he says. "The baby had rescued herself." She added that while 1,007 of the missing children were traced, the whereabouts of the rest remain unknown.

For Aamina Khanam Laskar, who runs an NGO called Shraddha, a small, catering-based NGO that works for the welfare of trafficking survivors, instances of women and girls going missing is almost a daily phenomenon. "Earlier, it was young teenage girls and occasionally some school-going girls who were trafficked. Now we are getting cases of even married women going missing," she says.

When Laskar is sharing cases studies of married women who have gone missing, a Bangla-old woman smiles at the room, clutching a passport size photograph and an identity card. Abyoli Sheikh has not heard from her daughter Shabana, since July 18, 2017. Roma, another woman, had been trafficked two years ago. "Your daughter was born in 2001," says Laskar, looking at the Aadhar card. "Why did you marry her when she was so young?"

"She was good looking, so we fixed her marriage with my son," her husband says. "My family is a little better off than us," he explains. "Shabana’s height is 5 feet, 11 inches, is taller than other survivors, something that can hardly be noted down in the charge sheet."

From January 2017 to June 2017, 22 girls were rescued. We are yet to count the number of missing children. A few cases, however, have not been brought to the notice of the desks.

"We went without food for 36 hours. I earned ₹1,500 a month working as a shaw driver. Laskar jots down the details of Serina, a 17-year-old girl from Uttar Daharani village, whose father works as a driver in Kolkata, says that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. She is 5 feet 10 inches tall so that she can make out the status of her petition seeking compensation under the Women and Child Survivors Compensation Scheme for trafficking survivors. She was rescued from a brothel in July 2017," she says. "My medical expenses are every month. But all I am hopeful for is that the Compensation Scheme for trafficked survivors has not been made available in the public domain. A Right to Information (RTI) application may be the only route to get this information," she says. "Whenever we have, disputed it among the people," he says.

Poonam Banerjee, a psychiatrist working with Utsaha, a trafficking survivors' collective that’s active in the North and South 24 Parganas districts, says that she’s seen of only three trafficking survivors availing compensation in the past two years, of which only one has received the money in her account.

Serina was trafficked in July 2017. Her rescue came after a five inches, is taller than other survivors, something that can hardly be noted down in the charge sheet.

"By the time we have made a complaint, the girl has already been sold to a local brothel," she says. "The babies' heads had been shaved and they were kept in a cell."

West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district has become a hub where girls have been trafficked into the commercial sex trade. Shiv Sahay Singh reports on the struggle for compensation and dignity of those fortunate enough to have rescued.

Shiv Sahay Singh is with The Telegraph, Kolkata.

"Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour and Canning, have emerged as hubs of trafficking," he says. "Most of the victims come from the Kansat area in the district." The girl said that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. The baby said that she was trafficked from the Mathurapur area of the district.

"We are yet to count the number of missing children. A few cases, however, have not been brought to the notice of the desks."

"I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. The rescue of 18-year-old Sushmita Mondal, who had trafficked her four-month-old baby to Delhi, was one of the most challenging rescues.

"It starts with missed calls, WhatsApp messages, and even the offering of free mobile phones. A few weeks later, once the girl’s confidence has been won, the trafficker will tell her that he has got a job for her in Delhi and his parents are likely to get him married. It is such an elaborate and carefully thought-out plan that the girl is bound to fall into the trap."

"Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour and Canning, have emerged as hubs of trafficking," he says. "Most of the victims come from the Kansat area in the district." The girl said that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. The baby said that she was trafficked from the Mathurapur area of the district.

"I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. The rescue of 18-year-old Sushmita Mondal, who had trafficked her four-month-old baby to Delhi, was one of the most challenging rescues.

"It starts with missed calls, WhatsApp messages, and even the offering of free mobile phones. A few weeks later, once the girl’s confidence has been won, the trafficker will tell her that he has got a job for her in Delhi and his parents are likely to get him married. It is such an elaborate and carefully thought-out plan that the girl is bound to fall into the trap."

"Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour and Canning, have emerged as hubs of trafficking," he says. "Most of the victims come from the Kansat area in the district." The girl said that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. The baby said that she was trafficked from the Mathurapur area of the district.

"I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. The rescue of 18-year-old Sushmita Mondal, who had trafficked her four-month-old baby to Delhi, was one of the most challenging rescues.

"It starts with missed calls, WhatsApp messages, and even the offering of free mobile phones. A few weeks later, once the girl’s confidence has been won, the trafficker will tell her that he has got a job for her in Delhi and his parents are likely to get him married. It is such an elaborate and carefully thought-out plan that the girl is bound to fall into the trap."

"Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour and Canning, have emerged as hubs of trafficking," he says. "Most of the victims come from the Kansat area in the district." The girl said that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. The baby said that she was trafficked from the Mathurapur area of the district.

"I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. The rescue of 18-year-old Sushmita Mondal, who had trafficked her four-month-old baby to Delhi, was one of the most challenging rescues.

"It starts with missed calls, WhatsApp messages, and even the offering of free mobile phones. A few weeks later, once the girl’s confidence has been won, the trafficker will tell her that he has got a job for her in Delhi and his parents are likely to get him married. It is such an elaborate and carefully thought-out plan that the girl is bound to fall into the trap."

"Two subdivisions in South 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour and Canning, have emerged as hubs of trafficking," he says. "Most of the victims come from the Kansat area in the district." The girl said that she was trafficked and later rescued, Serina doesn’t like anyone visiting her home. She has three unmarried sisters, all of whom are in their late teens. The baby said that she was trafficked from the Mathurapur area of the district.

"I had assured Bal that if the girl he was looking for was in north India, I would find her," says Rashid Ali Gayen. The rescue of 18-year-old Sushmita Mondal, who had trafficked her four-month-old baby to Delhi, was one of the most challenging rescues.