

Philippines-Korea Internship Program

For the prevention of international trafficking
and the protection of the rights of Filipina migrants
-Filipino Women in Sex Industry and International Marriage

February 16, 2005

Du-Re-Bang (My sister's place)

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This report is sponsored by Asia Foundation

February 16, 2005

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The Meaning of the Korea–Philippines Internship Project

It is said that over 700,000 people a year becomes a victim of trafficking in persons. Especially, the reason why the women and children of the East Asian areas becomes the major target of traffickers for the following reasons. First, their home countries do not have the proper productive structures that makes domestic social labor possible, and this forces these people to look for chances to overcome poverty and obtain their daily needs outside their home countries. Also, these countries do not have the proper legal, structural protection for the victims. The problem is caused because of many complicated reasons.

The Asia Foundation, International Labor Organization for Migration, and USAID were actively uniting and supporting the East Asian countries, grasping the actual situations of trafficking in persons, and acting to effectively support the victims of human trafficking.

Few years ago, the countries of the Mekong River areas (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc) has made an agreement on MOU treaty, and through cooperation between the government and the NGO's, they have started the human trafficking eradication activities. The need for international solidarity in North–East Asian areas with Korea China, Mongolia and Japan has become

extremely urgent, but they were unable to do so until now. Because of this, My Sister's Place(Durebang) and the Asia Foundation Korea has agreed to make an attempt with the Philippines, the country where the most number of victims in Korea were from.

Through international conferences held in the year 2003 and 2004, the Asia Foundation Korea gave attention to Korea as a sending country, a transit country, and a receiving country. Because this matter was not acknowledged well to the public, and the recognition of the public was very little, the Foundation was very distressed by this fact. To this, the Asia Foundation Korea has made an agreement with My Sister's Place(Durebang), a field activist organization dealing with the problems of the victims of human trafficking, to practice a small research on the reality of the Philippine women that are being sent into Gijichon for the purpose of sexual exploitation, which one of the most serious type of human trafficking, and also about the reality of the women of the East Asia areas entering Korea through international marriage with Korean men.

Although this was only a small step forward, Korea and Philippine Asia Foundation and the NGOs has promptly planned and executed a project to exchange officials between the two countries. My Sister's Place(Durebang) has selected the Kanlungan Center Foundation as the partner organization because this organization have been actively working for the rights of the migrant workers, and are giving specific and actual help to the victims.

The officials from the Kanlungan Center Foundation were well trained women with rightful views and excellent work abilities. Within a short period of two months, these women interviewed 15 victimized women of the Kyonggido area.

My Sister's Place observed their activities with great interest, starting and ending relationships with the views of the Philippine women, with the women of the same nationality as themselves. This was because we thought that they surely will have different views, compared to ours.

Although we had some expectations, the reality of the victims of human trafficking in the Korean society, observed through their eyes, were more serious than we expected. Especially, because this was the first report on the victimized women that was caused by international marriage written with the viewpoint of the Philippine activists, the level of seriousness that was revealed about the problems, and also because the report contained the writers' compassion and the pain of observing the sufferings of women with same nationality as themselves, our heart also felt their pain.

As this report as a starting point, we hope that more structural and diversified public acknowledgements will be created, and also we expect this report to act as a detonator for further expansion of public opinions about this matter. Moreover, we expect that Korea will soon enact and execute the anti-trafficking in persons laws, punishing those who expect to gain profits in the human trafficking markets by buying and selling people. Furthermore, there must not be any type of international human trafficking at all, and Korea must not neglect the current situation of Korea being deeply involved in these acts of crime.

Because of limitations in time and resources, this report may lack in many parts. Also there may be some prejudices of the Philippine writers, which may have been caused by the insufficient understandings of Korean

society, but we did not make any corrections and kept the original draft as they were. That is because we respect their decisions.

We give many thanks to the Philippine and the Asia Foundation Korea and especially to the Kanlungan Center Foundation who made this project possible. We also greatly thank the Korean Migrant Workers Organization who helped our Philippine activists to carry out their research, and also give thanks to the women who gave their testimonies about their difficult and painful experiences. We hope these hard efforts will continue on to actions for eradicating trafficking in persons.

February 28th, 2005

Director of My Sister's Place Young-Nim YOU

I . Internship Program Overview

1. Title

Internship Program for the prevention of international trafficking and the protection of the rights of Filipina migrants

--Filipino women in sex industry and international marriage

2. Interns from Kanlungan in Philippines

-Intern 1: Maria T. Madiguid, Local Coordinator

-Intern 2: Aubery A. Bautista, Case Manager

3. Background and Objectives

1) Background

According to the statistics of I.O.M., migrant workers consist of 3% of the world population and women constitute approximately 48% of the total migrants in 2000. The number of women migrants is increasing as the form of individual migration, not as the form to be accompanied by her husband or family. Also, women migrants are deployed mainly in informal sector concentrating the areas such as sexual entertainment, domestic works, and emotion labor which have been regarded as traditional women's field.

These kinds of trends and characteristics of women migration are also shown among the women migrant workers in Korea. A material published in

2003 by the Ministry of Justice in Korea shows that women migrants occupy over 35% of 367,000 migrant workers, and most of them cluster around traditional women's works such as labor-oriented works, domestic work and service jobs. In 2003, women constitute more than 80% of all migrant workers entering into Korea with Entertainer visa (E-6). The number of internationally married women is also increasing rapidly through international marriage agencies, which is becoming a new way of migration for women. These are indications of gendered migration.

In particular, the number of Filipina is the largest among foreign women involved in sex industry and is most plentiful among Southeast Asian women in international marriage (Korea statistics, 2002). With the increase of Filipino migrant women, we notice that Filipina women in sex industry and international marriage are becoming more and more visible and many of them are exposed in danger. We recognize that the process of migration is systematically operated by global mechanism in capital society. Sometimes the social and cultural blocks between two countries make it difficult to fully understand the interests and needs of Filipino women migrants.

Thus Filipino women migrants issue needs international network systems with close cooperation between the sending country (Philippines) and receiving country (Korea) to protect human rights of women migrant workers. Furthermore the trafficking in the process of inflow into Korea cannot be prevented without international joint activities with sending country.

In this context, internship program between Philippines' and Korean NGOs is a start point to build up the bilateral network based on close cooperation. It provides a possibility a way of building bridge between two countries in order to listen carefully to Filipino women's voice and to explore alternative policies for them.

2) Objectives

The goals of Philippines-Korea Internship program are as follows :

To increase the capacity of Filipino–Korean activists to grasp Filipino women's current situations in Korea, to protect their rights and to provide needed resources to them

To develop and advocate a bilateral strategy to protect Filipina victims of trafficking in Korea and prevent future victims of trafficking

To improve linkage and knowledge sharing between sending and receiving countries.

4. Activities of Interns

1) Visits of Korean NGOs and Filipino Communities

1. Organizations to visit

Miriam Center

Anyang Migrant workers' Center, WE HOME

Women migrants human rights center

Human rights Solidarity for Women & Migrants in Korea

Korea center for human rights of Migrants workers

Hyehwadong Filipino Migrant center

Ansan Galelea, Agabang

Suwon Parish, Emmaos

Inter congregational Mission for Migrant Workers

Friends Without Borders Counseling Office

Geomchon Foreign Workers Mission Church

We Move

Filipino–Korean spouse Association

Organizations related with Catholic Church

Sunlit Center

The House of Davita

Exposure trip : Entertainment streets in Paju, Dongduchon, Pyungtaek cities, Hyehwadong Filipino street and etc.

2. Effects

To get information on the activities of Organizations and share perspectives on women migrants in Korea

To widen the understanding of both positions of Korean NGOs and current situations of shelter for foreign women in Korea

To enhance the understanding of Filipina victims' current situations and their experience

To participate at the programs of organizations and get chances to meet Filipino women and make networks

2) Research

1. Filipino Women married with Korean Men

Assignment intern: Maria T. Madiguid

Interview with 15 Filipino women who married with Korean men

Contents of interview: the reasons and the process of inflow into international marriage, the conditions and difficulties of marriage life in Korea, and etc.

2. Filipino Women in Sex Industry

Assignment intern: Aubery A. Bautista

Interview with 15 Filipino women in sex industry of Korea

Contents of interview: the reasons and the process of inflow into sex industry of Korea, the conditions and difficulties of work places in Korea, and etc.

3. Outcomes

Documentation and analysis of cases

Coming up with the bilateral strategies and policies

3) Support of Filipino Women in Korea

1.. Assistance of Filipino Women

Counseling of Filipino women

Empowerment for Filipino women by having dialogues and attending at programs of migrants centers

Connection to others/organizations for providing the needed resources

To Launch the signature collecting campaign to protect the human rights of foreign women in Korea

2. Media activities to inform the situation of Filipino Women
Hankyure21 (December 23, 2004)
CBS Sisa program (December 13, 2004)

5. Evaluation Meetings

1) Meetings on the level of Durebang

Date: December 14; December 27, 2004; January 14, 2005

Participants: Interns, staff of Durebang

Contents: Report on activities, the observation and feelings of interns, evaluation of this program, and discussion of future plans, so on.

2) Workshop for development of Internship program

Date: February 2, 2005

Avenue: the Meeting room of National Human Rights Committee

Participants: Activists, staff, social workers, lawyers and religious persons working for migrants /migrants centers

Contents

-Moderators: Elli Kim (Coordinator of Internship program)

-Short speech 1 the purpose of workshop: Young-nim Yoo (Director of Durebang)

Short speech 2 the significance of Internship program : Kyung-sook Lee (Asia Foundation)

-Presentation 1 International marriage of Filipino women : Maria T. M.(Intern)

-Presentation 2 Filipino women in sex industry : Aubery A. B. (Intern)

-Discussion : for evaluation of interns' research materials,
development of internship program,

establishment of network system in Korea and in Asia

**For more detailed, see IV. Reflections on Internship Program
(pp.74–79)

II. Filipino Women Married with Korean Men

Maria T. Madiguid (Local Coordinator, Kanlungan)

1. International Marriage : A LICENSE TO ABUSE

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines is a third world country and is facing economic crisis at this time. The rate of unemployment and underemployment are very high. Filipinos wanted to give the best to their families but could not do so because of the poor economic condition of the country. Filipino men and women want to work abroad to help alleviate their families' low economic life. Thus, there is what they call the American Dream for most Filipino people wanted to go to the United States of America which is pictured to be where the 'apple' is. And there is also what they call the Korean Dream. South Korea is a green pasture that provides better opportunity for work and higher salary for poverty-stricken Filipino Migrants. Many, if not all of them prefer to become illegal workers for better pay than that of a legal trainee. They just have to make not to be caught by the immigration

officers. If they do, they would immediately deport you back to the Philippines. There is continuing massive crackdown on illegal workers and it's become more of a game of Hide and Seek or like the movie of Leonardo de Caprio, Catch Me if You Can.

But, Korea is not just for factory or industrial workers. It is becoming a haven for women seeking prosperity through international marriages. According to the Korean National Statistics Office, from the figure of 619 international marriages in 1990, it has increased to 19,214 in year 2003. Of these international marriages, 22% of women come from the third world countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, Mongolia and Thailand. This indicates that there are an increasing number of women coming from third world countries entering Korea through international marriages. Women, coming from the third world countries, believe that marrying foreign men would be a gateway for them to escape poverty. Korea turned out to be harsh to these foreign women married to their Korean men. Brokers, friends and some churches are conspirator in the deception of these women. They greed for these women's suffering in the name of money.

Problems and concerns related to International Marriage

1. Issues on violence against women

Violence on the Rights of women is very rampant in cross-cultural marriages where there are unrealistic expectations on both sides. Differences in norms, values, habits and expectations often lead to tension and conflict. Social pressure such as discrimination also adds to the burden of the foreign women. Korea is a highly Patriarchal country and violence against women is relatively common in its culture. Foreign women are at risk of abuse not only because of their status as women but also to their position as immigrants who marry citizens.

Domestic violence: (Wife Battering)

Foreign women married to Korean men have the highest number of cases who suffer domestic battery in their lives more than the Korean

women. Though Korean women face domestic violence, situation with the foreign wives differ. For instance, there is no issue on the language and in differences in culture, unlike foreign women where linguistic and cultural differences hinder communication and understanding. It is very difficult for these foreign women to integrate with their Korean family. Since they could not communicate verbally with their partners, in most instances, resort to physical means of expressing displeasure and frustrations. Mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law also add to the burden of the foreign women, in most instances. There is the chain reaction in passing violence to other women coming in the family. These Korean women tend to treat these foreign women the way they were treated by their own in-laws and more so being foreigners and coming from third world countries.

Marital Rape: (forced sex)

After the physical battering comes sexual assault. Interviewed Filipina women say they are treated like animals in bed. They are treated as sex objects. Since they are men and had paid their brokers exorbitant fees, they do whatever they like with their wives. These women are forced to do oral and anal sex against their will and it makes them feel dirty. Young Filipina women, just out of their late teens and married to old Korean men are traumatized by these acts. Their Korean husbands do not see that sex is an intimate interpersonal relationship. To them, it is a kind of tension release. Women exist just to satisfy their sexual needs.

Multiple Burden:

Foreign women are not only married to their husbands but to their families as well. These women become the slave of the whole family. Foreign women who are able to find work are still expected to serve his family after the day's work. Couples not staying with their in-laws have to serve their husbands' well aside from the care they have to give to their children. Men are not expected to do their share especially in doing household chores for it decreases their manhood. Children are not also allowed to work for their mothers are expected to serve them, too. These women are expected to be superwomen. They are called lazy when they have to rest for the whole day's toil.

Economic Abuse:

Foreign women suffer from economic, too. They are not allowed to work outside since they are tied up with household chores or farm works. In some instances where these women are gainfully employed, their husbands' tendency is to stop working and depend on the women for support, including his whole family. Some of the salaries' are taken by their mothers-in-laws and are only given allowances for their transportation. They are not also allowed to send money to their own families even if they earn it. For non-working wives, they have to depend on their husbands economically. They have to content themselves with what is handed to them. Husbands remit their salaries to their mothers instead of their wives, they are only given allowances which the wife have to budget. In Korea, foreign wives seldom get hold of their husbands' salaries. For divorced foreign women, it is difficult for them to find work since they become illegal and are undesirable aliens. No financial support is given to wives and children who run away from their abusive families.

Psychological Abuse:

Aside from the physical and economic control of the women, they also suffer emotionally (psychologically). In some cases, their Korean husbands use their children as a means to control their wives. The Korean husbands' tendency is to separate the child from their mothers and this forced these women not to leave their abusive husbands. These foreign women have to suffer all the humiliations and battering just to be with her child/children. In other instances where their eldest child is a male, the mother is not allowed to interfere in raising him up. For divorced couples where the foreign woman is not yet a Korean citizen, children are taken away from them and are not allowed to see them. These foreign women are not even allowed to visit their children. In the case of the women I had interviewed, they have to leave their children in agabangs for a week, only to get them on Sundays. There are foreign women who were able to run away from their abusive Korean husbands together with their children. In their work places, their children are not allowed so they have to leave them behind under the care of other people who volunteer to take care of their children. Since they are not with their children for one week, these mothers though at work, always think about them under the care of a foreign person and it

also affect their performance in their works. These foreign women have to work for them to survive since they are not given any financial support by their Korean husbands, even if only for their children.

Besides, newly arrived foreign women were not allowed to make friends, especially with those coming from the same country of origin. Their mothers-in-law and their husbands prohibit them from making friends. These foreign women were told that they were paid for so excessively, so they have to work for them to repay for their expenses. Some foreign women who were not allowed to make friends were told that they might run away, so they have to lock them up or tie them to many works. Foreign women not allowed to meet new friends (even Korean females for friends) suffer from loneliness and depression. They also feel outcast due to the language differences.

2. Divorce: A dilemma to foreign wives

Divorce is one way for these foreign women to end their sufferings from their abusive relationships but there are still many women who opted to suffer and endure an inhumane environment. The reason is due to their pre-conditional statuses. Divorced foreign women could not apply for Korean citizenship and it would be difficult for them, to look for work in order to support their children they took with them. Once they are divorced, their names under the family registry of their husbands are erased making them illegal aliens and have to hide from the immigration. They are not given the equal economic opportunity to be able to fight for the right to custody of their children, since their economic capacity are questioned. The Korean husbands use the threat of deportation as their weapon in the abuse of their alien wives. These women are at the mercy of their husbands for their Korean citizenship. (pls. take note: there are also some women who wanted to have Korean citizenship to be able to find better jobs and stay long as they want in Korea not because of their marriage).

Some Reasons of These Foreign Women for Entering into International Marriages

These foreign women had given varied reasons for entering into international marriages and the topmost are the following:

1. Economic Rise from Poverty

95% of the women interviewed comes from poor families. They wanted to give better future for their families in the Philippines and so too, with the women coming from Vietnam, and other third world countries. These women, especially Filipinos, have the notion that foreign men are rich and marrying one of them could help them uproot their families from poverty. This, in addition to the promises of the recruitment agencies that their Korean husband would support their families with US\$250–300 dollar a month and a high paying job waiting for them in Korea. These women immediately jump into the wagon without further investigation.

2. Entry into Korea (and other European countries)

It serves as a passage way to Korea without paying exorbitant placement fees to recruitment agencies. Application for work in a recruitment agency bound for Korea needs a lot of money. Filipinos have to shell out Php 120–150,000.00 for factory or industrial works. Thru international marriages, it is the Korean men who pay these agencies for them to be married and for the processing of their papers to enter Korea. All they need are the documents to be sent by their Korean spouses. These women believed that once a Korean citizen, they can apply in any kind of work in Korea. By then, they could send money to their families in the Philippines. Also, it is a means to go to other countries. Some privileges of having a Korean citizenship are that they can enter Japan, Italy and other European countries without seeking a visa.

3. Curiosity

Women joined the Unification church and applied in agencies to answer their curiosity. What it's like getting married to a Korean man and forming an 'Ideal Family' or what is the Korean culture. These inquiries are answered once they are into the relationship. (Most of them had regretted it).

4. To Catch up with their age

Some of these women are getting old and they wanted to have their own families and raise their own children. They found their match through the Unification Church or the matching agencies. (If these women have known earlier that they would end in an abusive relationship, they would have preferred to remain old and single).

Why Love Match

Basically, old and disabled Korean men meet their partners through match making agencies. This is one reason matchmaking is a flourishing business in Korea and in other countries, like the Philippines. Match Making or Mail-order-Brides for profit, never minding its cost on the women's lives. Even some churches are involved into this in the guise of forming an ideal family and an ideal family life.

1. Korean men find it difficult to look for wives when they are in their 30's and over of age. These are the men who use Brokers/agencies to recruit women for them to become their wives. They can pay exorbitant fees to agencies/brokers or even their friends who looks for women for them to marry. From the data (the data here is from the interviews of the Filipina women) gathered, Filipina women who are in their late teens or early twenties are married to old Korean men (19 years old vs. 51-65 years old Korean men). There is a wide disparity in age. As they say in the Philippines, they have a husband, a father, and a grandfather at the same time.

2. Most Korean women prefer to marry Korean men coming from the cities, especially Seoul City or of their same level. Men residing and working in the cities are richer than their counterparts at the countryside. As informed by a Korean woman, for a Korean man to be able to marry a Korean woman, he must have at least 30M Won in his account. And Korean men getting married to foreign/Filipina women through matchmaking are most often those coming from the rural areas and who are considered the 'marginalized group' in Korea (marginalized; not able to finish their schooling, poor, does the blue collar jobs, low education).

3. The changing role of Korean women. (Many educated Korean women, wanting to get away from their old tradition either prefer to remain single or to be married to foreign men. Some Korean women also have dilemmas getting married to Korean men due to their tradition—the high patriarchal system which also puts the Korean women as second class citizens and as based on the latest Korean NSO office, most Korean women are married to Japanese men and Whites). Many educated Korean women prefer to delay getting married at an early age. There are also the presence of women organizations advocating for women's rights such as laws for Domestic Violence, etc.

4. Korean men physically or mentally challenged find difficulty looking for a wife. No Korean women wanted to marry them. There is one case where a Korean family paid highly an agency for their mentally challenged son to get married. Some of mothers— in—laws are also good to their foreign daughters—in—law. They shower them with gifts so they would not leave their sons.

The Different Modes of Recruiting of Women for International Marriages

Is it really possible to fall deeply in love to a person you had not met in your life? Or falling in love with a picture of a man or a woman you have no idea about and plunge into marriage after the day you've met? Would you not complain that after the marriage, you found out that you are not compatible? What would you do if you are in this situation? Foreign women are recruited in different ways, but most of them if not all entered a very chaotic life.

1. Brokers/Recruitment Agencies

The need of men looking for partners brought about the proliferation of recruitment agencies/matching agencies. These agencies and brokers use false promises to deceive the women. In cases of the Korean men, Filipino women are informed that they are rich in their own countries, have beautiful cars and big houses. They need not worry about work for these Korean men would give support to their families with U\$25–300 a month. They would enjoy a luxurious life in Korea. But in reality, all of these ended in a nightmare and these women have difficulty coming out of it.

In the case of Filipino women, there are so many agencies posing as recruitment agencies for factory or industrial workers. They use their agencies as a front to recruit innocent and unsuspecting women to be married to Korean men. Recruited women are made to line-up upon the arrival of the Korean men and these Korean men pick among the line-up of the Filipino women whom they wanted for their partners. After the selection, they go out with the men to well-known and expensive department stores (to make the women believe they are really rich) to buy new clothes for their wedding the following day. After the wedding (usually done at the 3rd day of their arrival), the Korean men go back to Korea, allegedly to attend to their businesses while the women are left behind to process their visas bound for Korea. The Korean men stay in the Philippines for only 5 days (to lessen expenses) while the women, after their wedding are not allowed to go back to their families. This, they (means the recruiters/brokers) say is to prevent them from getting pregnant or meet other men while their papers are being processed. They are actually made as domestic workers during their stay with the agency, though their Korean husbands pay these agencies for their board and lodging. The agencies receive 4M Won to 10M Won as payment in looking for their partners.

Once these Filipino women arrived in Korea, it will only be then that they will learn that they were deceived. Their husbands are not rich and are not educated. They live in small rooms or in the rural areas where life is difficult. Some of them are heavily indebted and these women would be forced to look for work. These men and their families asked them to pay back the money spent by their husbands to the recruitment agencies. The woman becomes the servant of his whole family and treated as a property due to the big amount paid to the agencies.

2. Introduction through friends

Like the recruitment agencies or the brokers, the Korean man's friend/s look for a partner for him. These 'friends' befriend foreign women and introduce them to their friends looking for partners. In some cases, picture of the Filipina woman is given to the Korean man. Once he likes her, the friend would serve as the bridge and set their personal meeting. If done in the Philippines, the Korean man also stays for a week and after their wedding, goes back to Korea. The Filipina wife waits for the spouse' invitation Letter and other documents to be able to process her visa and follows her husband to Korea. Like women who were processed by recruitment agencies, they also end in the same situation. The Korean friend is paid big amount of money '10M Won ~ 30M Won'.

3. Internet (Chat Room)

Through the internet, the couple could meet through the chat room. They talk with each other though the use of high technology. One Filipina woman interviewed met her Korean husband through this process. In this process, they could also tell lies about themselves, since they do not meet personally. They only meet when they agreed to see each other in person. In this process, the couple has the decision to marry or not and just stay as friends. More often than not, they end up in marriage.

4. Unification Church

The first and largest matching agency is the Unification Church. These are arranged marriages where the couples have no knowledge about the person whom they would marry until the day that they attend the public wedding or what they call the 'blessing'. In the process, pictures are given and the matching is done by the Rev. Sung Myung Moon and his wife through the use of computers (such as what happened to those who were matched in Hongkong). In the cases of those who were recruited in the Philippines, the matching is done by their 'Moksanim' in their church in Antipolo where the couples come to meet their partners in the actual day of the 'blessing'. The couples are not allowed to meet their partners prior to their 'blessing'. Based on the teaching of their Rev. Moon, they have to base their relationship on the internal aspect since they do not know each other. They could not complain since they were told that the matching was done in heaven. From the information gathered, this is also a money-making business in the guise of religion and ones' beliefs. Those who were recruited in Hongkong say they have to shell out HK\$250 just for the blessing aside from the payment done by the Korean man.

Those matched in the Philippines, women did not pay anything but were forced to sell products to raise money, aside from the fees collected from their Korean husbands for their board and lodging while at the Center (though they were made to fast- drink more water and eat less solid foods). As informed by the Filipina women recruited this way, it is a way to prepare them for their life in Korea; and also to save money since the funds to be raised would be used for the education of the youth.

After the blessing, the couples do not live together right away. The women have to stay away from their husbands for at least 40 days to 4 months abstaining from sexual contacts. The women said they were taught how to prepare and lead an 'ideal family life' with their husbands. There is also some orientation on their husbands' culture. But most of their trainings are more on the teaching of the Divine Principle of Rev. Moon. The Korean husbands do not join in the seminars but they are allowed to visit their wives at the center as though courting their foreign wives. If the women's stay to the Center/church comes to an end, their husbands have to pay an amount of 2M Won- 4M Won for the board and lodging and other expenses incurred by the church for their foreign wives during their stay in their church for the 40 days to 4 months seminar.

The fees collected from the couple (but usually, it is the Korean husband who pays) depend on the length of stay of the women in the center. Members of the Unification who fall-out from their membership complained that every time they attend their mass (Unification), they have to pay at least 10%–30% of their salaries. This is mandatory. When these women come to live with their husbands, their church's teaching on 'Ideal Family Life' is not true. They live in an abusive environment and they were not prepared for this during their long stay with the Center (As gathered from those interviewed, they were not actually informed of the actual situation when they live with their Korean husbands and their in-laws since they were only informed that they will have an Ideal family life. When they came to live together, they found out that their Korean husbands are wife batterers, alcoholics and they are even raped by their Korean husbands. It was very much different from the teachings given to them by the Unification church). If these women turn to their leaders for help, they are turned-away. They are told to solve their own problems since it is a family matter. But during the recruitment period, these women were told that they could run to them when faced with a problem.

Obstacles Faced by Foreign Women in International Marriage

As in any other relationships, there are impending obstacles, but for Filipina and other foreign women married to Korean men, they have to battle the following:

1. Language Barrier

Filipinos and other foreign women could not speak the Korean language. This creates isolation and less communication between the couples. The use of sign language could not compensate in the expression one's self verbally. Most of the women sulk and feel depressed for being misunderstood. For Filipina women, now fluent with the Korean language, they claimed to be in Korea for 4 years before they were able to learn to speak. They could not read yet in Korean. It is noticeable that couples who

were not able to communicate verbally, their husbands seem more likely to resort to beatings to express displeasure and frustrations. 100% of those interviewed had suffered beatings from their husbands and in-laws (especially from their mothers-in-law).

2. Differences in Culture

In the Filipino culture, families come first even if the Filipino women have to sacrifice their own happiness especially for the sake of their children. They wanted to share what blessing they have to their families. And this is also one of the reasons why most Filipino women go abroad to look for better work. They wanted to give better future and education for their children and younger siblings and parents. In the Korean culture, the men come first (filial piety). The men have to be served first before other members of the family. Also in Korea, the foreign wives are not allowed to join the men while eating or other festivities (Chusok, etc.). While in the Philippines, the men and women could join together.

Another cause of the misunderstanding is the non-fulfillment of the husband's commitment for support to her family. Or to an extent, she is prevented to give something for her family even if she had worked hard for it. Once the Filipina woman asked the husband, she gets beaten instead.

Another thing, these women, especially if they live with their in-laws have to serve them all. An excerpt taken from a Korean book says 'A woman, once married have to leave her parents' household permanently and then occupy the lowest position in her husband's family. She was often abused by both the mother-in-law and sisters-in-law at least until the birth of a son that gives her some status in her husband's family. The duty of woman to her husband and to his family is absolute and not to be questioned'. Though it is no longer applicable for the younger generation of Korean people, it is still followed for foreign women married to Korean men who are old. Patriarchal system is still very strong in Korea. The older the Korean man is, the more respect and obedience must be given to him and to think that the Korean men get wives triple their age. It is more difficult for foreign women in Korea to assert for their rights.

3. Sex Role Expectations

Korea is a highly patriarchal country where men are raised and portrayed as strong, aggressive, and dominating figures, while the women are raised to be passive and obedient. Men dominate the public life while the woman takes full responsibility of the family. Their women to be an able and careful manager of family finances. (said to be the reason why the husbands have to remit their salaries to their mothers, instead of their wives). With this kind of expectations, foreign wives are expected to do the same. Recruited Asian women, like Filipino women, are portrayed by the recruitment agencies to have these qualities. Aside from their being young and gullible. These women are manipulated and are treated as properties by their husbands and some by their in-laws for they were paid. These foreign women are their investments (Korean family due to the excessive payments given to brokers/recruiters/ churches) and are these foreign women are expected to do things under their (Korean husbands and in-laws) command.

In addition, their husbands still believe that the main purpose of marriage is to produce a male heir to carry on the family line and not to provide mutual companionship and support. Also, sex for the men is a means to release their tensions.

4. Discrimination

Filipina and other foreign women suffer from discrimination and unfair treatment. They find it difficult in integrating and interacting in their local community with the Korean families. Since most of them were married through agencies/broker, introductions or the Unification, they are accused of having false marriages. Some call them 'people who just married for money' or 'women who will run away from their husbands' or are even called prostitutes. These Filipina women would rather stay alone or try to make friends with other Filipino women if given the opportunity. But in most cases, these foreign wives are not allowed to mingle with other women coming from the same country. The husband and his family believe that their wives would be influenced by them and that they would run away. They had paid so much for them.

Some Factors Considered by Some Foreign Women

Which Helped Their Marriage to Be Work

All of the women interviewed had suffered from domestic violence in their relationships and are now separated from their husbands. Their relationships all ended in divorce. In the sharing, there were some Filipina women whose relationship with their husbands and in-laws went fine. They had joined in the discussion and were able to share some ideas which they say had helped them to make their relationships with their Korean families/ smooth. They shared that in the beginning of their relationship, they had also suffered the same fate but they had tried their best to look for possible solutions/ways to make their relationships work out. They still continue searching, though they stressed that it is the Filipina woman/foreign woman who has to sacrifice a lot if she wants her marriage to work.

She should not expect her husband to do the sacrifice since they have a very strong patriarchal society. If ever their husbands help, it is very minimal and they do not want to wash dishes or cook for it lessens their manhood. They prefer to assist in the cleaning of the house. They also seldom assist their wives in the care of their children since it is expected that these are their wives' concern. The women shared that the following factors had helped them improve their relationships, not only with their husbands, but also with their in-laws.

1. They tried to communicate with one (1) language.

The Filipina women had tried their very best to learn the Korean language. Communication is the best means to understand each other. They could not forever understand each other if they talk in different languages neither do sign languages in their entire life together. In talking with the same language, they could express themselves better.

2. There is also the learning of each other's culture.

The couples try their best to learn each other's culture and the Filipina explains to her husband that she could not just throw away her own culture. The Filipina or other foreign wives must be given enough time to adapt to the Korean culture because she could not easily forego her own Filipino culture. Cultural roots go deep and that people don't change easily or quickly. She asks for time to adapt and adjust herself to her new family, new environment and new tradition. In the other side, the Filipina also tries to educate her husband of the Filipino culture for him to understand her, too. In case of raising their children, the husband's culture dominates.

3. Others had tried to focus on what is positive.

The couple tries to avoid in their discussion about the past, especially the big expenses incurred for their meeting and eventually their wedding. They try to focus their discussion on possible business or work they could engage in, or about their future with their children. They tried also to look for what is common to both of them, the strength of each other. They try to avoid discussing things that are negative. The man especially since it is an insult to his manhood.

4. Others had obeyed what their mothers-in-law ask them to do.

The Filipina do her in-laws wishes without complaining. The mother-in-law has the biggest influence in her husband's life that the son would do everything his mother wants. They are very close to each other that to some extent made the man so dependent to his elders, even financially at a very old age. The woman has to win the sympathy of the mother to be able to lead a quiet and a more peaceful life together. If possible, they talked with their husband that they live separately from their in-laws. Most of the quarrels that lead to domestic violence are often due to the misunderstanding between their in-laws. Mothers-in-law who treat their daughters-in-law as rivals or competitor for the attention of their husbands have the tendency to fabricate stories and tell lies to their son which leads to manhandling of the wife.

Effect of International Marriages to the Filipino Women (Korea)

1. Resiliency and Resourcefulness

Though it took them a long time to adjust to their husbands' language and culture, these women had become resilient. Some women believed that their husband's culture is better than their own culture, i.e. the giving of the highest respect to elders (parents) and to the authorities. They attended Korean classes and learned the Korean language faster compared with other foreign women. Most of these women now teaches English or gives tutoring lessons to Korean children or adults wanting to learn English. Others had joined attended lessons on how to prepare Korean foods (Kimchi) and eat it too. They came to like it.

2. Care for other women

Aside from becoming resilient, these women show concern to other women, Filipinos or not. Many Filipino organizations are being organized with the aim to uphold each other and make life easier for them in Korea. (Besides these organizations, there is also the different Non-Government Organizations, churches assisting these women in crisis). On the negative side, less Filipinos run to the Philippine Embassy for assistance since no immediate responses are given to them. If ever any assistance is extended to them, it is to send them back home to the Philippines. The Phil. Embassy does not assist these people fight for their rights while still on site. Sending these people back home gives them lesser headaches and works.

3. Survivors

Marrying Korean men is also an issue of survival. Survival not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. Many Filipina women have become survivors of an abusive relationship. Filipino women have become fighters and continued to fight, especially for the custody of their children whom they do not want to be raised by their in-laws in a very traditional Korean way. Though, there are also women who were not able to stand for themselves and had succumbed to mental depression or even death.

LIMITATIONS

1. Not enough attention/feminist counseling is given to women in shelters (ex. Catholic Church) and other women centers (also due to language barriers, especially to Vietnamese who could not also speak in English)
2. Women are not economically productive during their stay at the centers (why not give them skills training, ie. Sewing, knitting where they can sell their products – occupational therapy)
3. No feminist lawyers to file and fight for their cases on a pro bono since these women have no money. (ex. Cases of women who were divorced without their knowledge)
4. No trainings given to women on how they could gain back their self-confidence/self-esteem.
5. Women are difficult to organize sine they are expected to stay home with their children and could only go out on Sundays on a limited time or for women who have works, they could not leave their works for the meetings

PROPOSAL/S; KOREA

1. Review of the Divorce law especially in marriages with children. It is suggested that a cooling off period be given to the couple while an investigation by a special committee (possibly composed of a social worker, psychologist, etc.) is being done. While investigation is

ongoing, counseling is given to the couple during the cooling off period for them to reconsider their decisions. Also, to impose a higher fee for the application/filing of divorce. Since the fee for filing divorce is very minimal, the divorce rate is increasing. The man filing for divorce should pay his financial obligation to his estranged family and provide them the security of abode. It was noted that divorced women mostly stay in shelters since they have no places to go nor have the economic means to pay for the high cost of rents.

2. Prior to giving of F-2 visas, foreign women should undergo 6 months or 1 year course on the Korean Language and culture; and the Korean men to learn their partners' culture. While learning each other's culture and language, they would have the ample time to think if they would push through with the marriage or not. They would also be given enough time to know each other better. Though learning each other's culture and language does not guarantee the end to domestic violence, it will give them time to re-evaluate their decisions. It was noted most cases of battering had resulted from the differences in culture and language. This added pressure to the relationship.

3. Passing a law on Marital Rape- Forced sex or marital rape is to be treated as a crime. This issue should not be taken lightly for it violates the woman's rights as a woman and as a person. It should not be considered just as a husband-wife issue.

4. Enforcing of the Human Trafficking Law- Foreign women lured to international marriages suffer much indignities. Recruiters- agencies or churches who does the recruitment should be charged of human trafficking. They had profited from these women's sufferings. Young and innocent women are not spared in these fraudulent activities. (This is observable in the age disparities in matching: 19 year olds getting married to Korean men with 55-65 years of age.

5. Review of the Domestic Violence Law - Implementation of the Domestic Violence Law should be enforced. Women running away from their abusive husbands are the ones penalized when they are reported by their husbands to the immigration. These runaway wives are turned into criminals and face deportation.

6. Review of the Naturalization Law for Korean Spouse – Application for Korean citizenship should not be at the mercy of their husbands. Foreign wives endure the inhumane environment due to their pre-conditional statuses. The pre-conditional statuses of these foreign wives are being used by their husbands as their weapon to abuse them. Also, foreign women could not have a fair fight for the custody of their children being non-Korean citizens.(It means that the foreign wives are not yet Korean citizens).

7. Provision of Equal Economic Opportunity – Foreign women faced the difficulty in looking for good jobs with competitive salaries. Being illegal after being divorced, they could hardly find work, if ever there is one, the salary is low and they could not complain. Also, their economic capacity is questioned when fighting for the custody of their children– providing their children good education, enough food and better shelter. The court questions them if they are capable to raise their children since they could not find work with higher pay since they are illegal aliens and fear that the immigration officers would catch them. If the foreign wives are not capable to provide all of these, their Korean courts rules that the custody of the children be given to their Korean husbands.

PROPOSAL/S; PHILIPPINES

1. Lobby to the Philippine government for the investigation of recruitment agencies/brokers and individuals recruiting women for International marriages and file cases of human trafficking against them

2. Lobby for the stoppage of issuing E-6 visas for Filipino women (they end up in prostitution dens)

3. To include in the PDOS (pre-deployment orientation seminar the culture of Korea

4. To include in the conduct of community education the prevailing culture and laws of Korea

5. If possible, come up with a survivor's kit to be given to Filipinos bound for Korea (possible contacts in cases of emergency, laws and policies, etc.)

2. Korea Internship Experience

First, I would like to thank the Non-Government Organizations in Korea for being there for the foreign women, especially the Filipino women. The more helpless they would have been without their presence. And also, for being accommodating during the visits and giving their time share what they do, their programs and services to these foreign women.

As for their services, I observed that they give the same services: Korean classes, Counseling Sessions, Arts Therapy and Computer Lessons (mostly internet), and the services of a lawyer for the legal aspects of their cases. These are all helpful for the women especially the giving of Korean class. Since verbal communication is the best way to express oneself, learning the language is beneficial for them. Maybe they could also include the discussion on the Korean culture for these women to understand their husbands and their families better. As for the Art Therapy, it is also beneficial since it is through the arts that the women, especially those who could not speak Korean could express themselves. As for the counseling, I suggest that they implement Feminist Counseling. It could be done on a one on one basis or as a group. In this way, the women could be helped (re)gain power their lives, their environment, and her body by becoming more autonomous and affirmative. Feminist Counseling would also help the women restore their sense of self-esteem which leads eventually in the promotion of social change.

In most of the shelters which I visited and had talked with the women (Filipina and Chinese), they felt that they are not being assisted at all even if they are at the shelter. It is true that their needs (basic- food and shelter and clothing) are given but it is not enough for them. They feel that most of the shelters help their husbands more than them. Because they said, they are being asked to go back to their abusive husbands/families after they were sent out and maltreated. They have the trauma and they know

that if they would go back to their husbands, the more maltreatment they would receive. Social Workers with Feminist perspective should be tapped to do the feminist counseling sessions. Maybe aside from the Arts Therapy, these women could be taught how to become more productive. Provide them skills training which they could use to earn a living to support themselves, ie.- sewing, knitting, food preparation so they could be tapped for catering during occasions, etc.(the ones feasible in Korea).

Many women also felt betrayed by the lawyers tapped by the NGOs to assist them. They are more biased with their husbands rather than really assist them with their cases. They are being assured that they would win their cases at the being of the case, but at the middle or at the end, they would be informed that they are unlucky. The volunteer lawyers do not explore other possibilities for the women to win their cases. They all feel that these Korean lawyers feel sorry for Korean husbands rather than the women who were victims of maltreatment, sexual assault and other forms of violence.

The temporary shelters provided also serves as a refuge for women to feel safe from their abusive environment and so with the provision for their needs but they have to check as not to promote dependency. As in the processing of their cases/documents, it should also be made clear to them in the planning stage that they (women) have to do their share (not the NGO staff doing everything for them, also to avoid dependency). I also suggest that they maintain a databank of the cases handled. It would help a lot for people who would do research work (profiles of the women and the type of cases). Can I also suggest that they come up with organizing of these women for mutual support and for Advocacy works. It is easier to tap members of an organization rather than the individuals (ie. Lobbying for a certain proposed bill for the protection of women, etc.) .

The visit to the different organizations had been very helpful to me since I was able to get more information on the situation of Filipino women living here in Korea and what are being done with their cases. And, I was given information on the policies and other laws affecting foreign women. Also, I saw that there are many Korean people who are cares for the welfare of foreign women/workers in Korea. In some way, I had also observed that

their situation made them become resilient and resourceful to be able to integrate in a Korean society.

Collaboration between and among NGOs and Filipino/foreign women's organizations be strengthen.

To come up with policies/and or amendments to existing policies for the protection of the rights of women.

Documents and testimonies of the foreign women could also be used as attachments to the proposed policies.

The internship program had been helpful for us in the gathering of data/information of the situation of Filipinas in Korea, aside for the fact that Kanlungan was also promoted in the Filipino Community. Besides, Kanlungan could also come up with its own advocacy work for the protection of Filipino women recruited for international marriages.

The information/data gathered would also be very beneficial on our education work especially for Filipinos who wanted to come to Korea. And since the migration of Filipino people and women to Korea could not be prevented, the data could also be helpful in the preparation of survivors' kit for Filipinos.

3. Cases of Filipino Women

1) Aloha (25 years old)

Background Information:

Aloha had been working as a saleslady at home prior to her coming to Korea. She had also worked as a domestic helper in Hongkong for 3 years. After her work in Hongkong had expired, she still wanted to work abroad to alleviate her family's low economic status. Her savings in Hongkong were

not enough to put up a small business. She has an older sister and is staying in Manila, married and could not help. Her priority is her own family. Their father is sickly and is being cared for by her mother who is also old. She just wanted to give them a good life. Her dream of giving a better life became a nightmare. Her sad ordeal had started when she came to know of Sun Recruitment Agency in Philippines.

Process of recruitment:

Aloha went to Manila to look for an agency where she could apply for an overseas work. She and her friend were able to see the advertisement for work in Korea posted by the recruitment agency owned by Mr. K and his Filipina wife. Their office had posted vacancy for factory work for Korea. Aloha and her friend had filled up forms for factory work. After accomplishing the forms, Mr. K's two (2) secretaries (2 Filipinas managing the recruitment agency) had informed them that they could go to Korea faster if they marry Korean men. They were told that their would-be husbands are good, rich and would also provide for their families US\$250 a month when they go to Korea. They were also promised good jobs in Korea when they get there. The recruitment agency had further lured them to enter marriage to Korean men by introducing them to a Filipina woman, allegedly married to a Korean man to be having a good life with her Korean family. When Aloha and her friend had agreed, the secretaries had informed them that they would be called when Mr. K would arrive (Mr. K and his Filipina wife, lives in Korea and goes only to the Philippines when they have recruited Korean men. They bring them to the Philippines if their recruitment agency in the Philippines had also recruited Filipina women).

Upon the arrival of Mr. K and his wife, Aloha and her friend were called and so with the other Filipina women who recruited and had also agreed and to be married to Korean men. These Filipina women were made to line up and the Korean men just pointed at the Filipina women they wanted to marry. After the selection, Aloha and the other Filipina women were no longer allowed to go back to their families or relatives or go out of the agency. The agency told them that they are not allowed to go out to prevent them from getting pregnant by other men. They have to stay at the agency until their papers are processed.

While at the agency, the Korean men had also stayed in the Philippines for a week to prepare for their wedding. A day after the selection, they were married the following day. They were not given any orientation about their husbands or their culture. The women had not made any complaint. Their marriage was officiated by a certain Minister allegedly a judge. In their wedding day, they have no relatives with them and those who acted as witnesses also came from the agency and the wife of the officiating officer. Aloha was married to her Korean husband on May 2004. They were married in E. But in the marriage license, it was indicated that they were married in Manila and the date of their actual marriage was also different. The fake documents were the ones entered in the civil registry.

After the wedding, the Korean men went back to Korea, to resume with their businesses. Aloha, and the other women stayed with the agency for a month waiting for the documents to be sent by her Korean husband (Spouse' Invitation letter and marriage license translated in English). She was given a tourist visa. During her stay with the agency, her husband gave her US\$200 for her food and her expenses for the processing of her papers (passport and tourist visa) for Korea. (This is more than 10,000 in Philippine money). Her husband had also paid Mr. K 10M Won aside from the money he spent for their wedding. The agency told her that the payment would be used to buy her plane ticket bound for Korea and for the preparation of other pertinent papers required for the marriage.

So, after a month's waiting at the agency, Aloha arrived in Korea. Upon arrival in Korea, she was overwhelmed. She has no knowledge about her husband or about his family, his language and his culture. It was their first time to meet during the selection. After their wedding, they were not given time to know each other. It was only when she was in Korea did she come to know that her Korean husband has no stable job. He works in a construction company and had finished grade 3. Even if he is already 40 years old, he still depends on his mother for financial support.

Life in Korea:

After their wedding in May, Aloha arrived in Korea with her husband in June 2004. She and her husband had stayed with his mother for a month. Her mother-in-law was married for the second time but she stayed with them. Her husband's 2 siblings (one male/1 female) were introduced to her

and had been good to her at the beginning, so with her mother-in-law. She had been allowed to use the washing machine and the telephone to call her family back in the Philippines. Her mother's in-law had been teaching her what to do. All of these changed in her second week with the family. She was no longer allowed to use the washing machine and was told to wash their clothes manually and to use cold water to save energy. She was not allowed to use the telephone to call her family. She had only used the telephone once when she had just arrived to inform her family that she is in Koo meet a Filipina woman, she was locked inside the house after their initial meeting. She was not given food to eat or money to buy her needs . She goes hungry most of the time even if she was told to do hard works. She was also told that she has to work hard and have to pay the money her husband had paid the recruitment agency and the expenses during their wedding. Aloha could no longer endure the daily beatings she receives from husband and mother-in-law. She started to retaliate and fight back. She is pregnant and does not want anything to happen with her baby. Her husband and his mother do not believe that the father is him. They kept telling her that she had sexual relations with other men. She had tried to reason out. How could she get pregnant by other men when she was not allowed to go out. The more maltreatment she had received and was being driven out of the house but she could not leave since she does not know where to go and whom to ask for help. Their Korean neighbor had known of her plight and had tried to help her. The Korean neighbor called up an NGO office providing shelter. The staff of the NGO went look for her and took her out when her husband and his family were out. She was taken out from their house in September, 2004. She was brought to the YMCA where she could be safer from the beatings. She was sheltered, but the shelter has its own limitations since they are so many women staying at the shelter. They could not give them all counseling. At the YMCA center, she met a Filipina with the same ordeal with her own Korean husband. Rose brought her to a shelter managed by a women migrant center which provides better alternative. It is this shelter where I met her.

Present Situation:

Aloha is staying in a shelter for more than two (2) months now and is 4 months pregnant but her husband and her family could not accept it. They

say that the father of the baby was not her Korean husband but instead the owner of the recruitment agency, Mr. K. They do not believe her since they say she got pregnant right away.

Another thing, the tourist visa issued to Aloha would soon expire since her tourist visa was only good for 6 months and she does not have her Alien ID. Her husband had not also processed her application for Korean citizenship. As of now, she is an illegal alien in Korea. Aloha wanted to look for work but is having difficulty since she is pregnant and has no valid papers to work. And since she is also pregnant, no one wants to hire her.

Aloha's family in the Philippines is not aware of her present condition and she does not want to inform them. She does not want to burden them, especially now that her father is very sick and was even brought out of the hospital due to financial constraints. Her husband never sent money to her family in the Philippines as he had promised prior to their marriage. Aloha's family is also expecting that she would send them money to for her father's medication. She had never sent money to her family since she has no work in Korea and her husband does not give her any. Actually, she never did have work but became a slave to her Korean family. Her husband's money is given to her mother-in-law and she was not given anything. Aloha also wanted to go back to the Philippines but she was thinking of her situation. She has no money to start with and soon she would be giving birth. There is no money to buy her needs and that of her baby. Aloha is so depressed with the condition she is in right now. She could not think well. All she could do is cry and pray for guidance. As for her Korean husband, he is now in jail for a month. He was accused of stealing. Aloha could not depend on him with the present situation. She could only stay at the shelter for 6 months.

Assessment:

Aloha is a Filipina woman who is at a loss at the moment. She is feeling so depressed for she never thought that something like this would happen to her. She had high hopes that she would be able to give her family a better life but this came to naught. She was a victim of deception and rejection. Her self-esteem and confidence is very low due to the abuses—sexual, physical, emotional and psychological—inflicted on her every day Korean family whom she expects to love her in return. Her thinking too

much would also have an adverse effect on her baby. Aloha fears for her and her baby's future. She is now a TNT and could not get her Korean citizenship since her husband and his family disowned her. Aloha also feels lonely although there are other women at the center with the same problem. She could not deal with them much due to language barrier (also Russians, Nepalese, Vietnamese). It has never crossed Aloha's mind that the cause of her present suffering would be her husband and his family. They are the cause of her sufferings at present. They had treated her as a slave of the family. Discrimination of foreign women is strong among them. Her husband is a no good man. He is a batterer, follows what his mother tells him to do with his wife. He has no decision-making on his own. He has no compassion to his wife, treats his wife as an object, a property whom he had paid. He thinks he could do whatever he wants. The husband is a very unkind person. A center for women migrant gives her support and care, free shelter but this would only be temporary. The Center would not be there for her at all times. They had provided some therapy sessions such as arts (drawing) as a venue for them to express their feelings. They also take turns in the preparation of food for all and in cleaning their shelter which in some way help them divert their attention and feel they could still give something from their efforts, though how small it is, they are appreciated. The center tries to bring back their old self after the humiliation and deprivation of their rights.

2) Ajas (41 years old)

Background Information:

Ajas has her own small business, selling frozen foods, in their place before she got married to her Korean husband. Her business was doing well and she had been providing for her parents, too. This had stopped when she was introduced to her Korean husband by a friend who was also married to a Korean man. After the introduction, the Korean man had visited her at least three (3) times before he had proposed marriage to her which she had also readily accepted. There were no promises done for

they had mutually agreed to get married. They had a civil wedding in the Philippines in a civil rites in 2002. Right after, she had worked for the processing of her visa. She was given an F2 visa and is allowed to stay for 6 months.

She arrived at Korea in 2004. During the courtship, there was no gathering of information about her husband. She just knew that she loves him. She did not try to ask about his culture, nor how would they be able to understand each other since she does not know the Korean language. But when in Korea, she had tried to learn about the Korean language and could speak and understand a little now. What she knew only about her husband is that he is 61 years old and a widower. She had come to Korea for her marriage. She had not planned to find work in Korea or to get a Korean citizenship. This is her first marriage and had put in her mind that it would be for keeps no matter what happens. Marriage for her is a sacred vocation and she would do her best to keep it.

LIFE IN KOREA:

Ajas arrived in Korea and lived with her husband in his house. They do not live with her in-laws but they live with his daughter who is 30 years old from his first marriage. At the start, this daughter had been good to her but had eventually changed. Her husband has 3 children in his previous marriage. She and her husband have no child of their own. Her husband had been widowed twice (2x) and had been divorced once before marrying her. At present, he is also having an affair with another woman. He had also been contacting the woman whom he had divorced but had denied this. Her husband has his own business, selling cosmetics in subway trains but his sales were low.

He had been bugging Ajas to look for work in Korea so she could help in the provision of their needs. He had been asking money from Ajas but she could give nothing to him since she still has no work at that time. He had been asking her of the repayments of his expenses in going to the Philippines to visit her and the phone calls he made while courting her. He is also telling her to pay for the expenses here in Korea such as the use of toilet paper and their food.

In the first two months of their married life, most of the abuse she had received is done verbally. She was shouted at and scolded even with the

slightest mistake. In their third month of marriage, Ajas had already experienced maltreatment from him. She was beaten black and blue. He also uses the buckle of his belt to whip her and does not care whether this goes to her face or any part of her body. She was punched, boxed and kicked and strangled but she was able to get away from him. There are other times when his daughter helps him in beating her up but she would not give up. He wanted to divorce her and had told her that he has no future with her. Her husband and his daughter had been sending her out of the house but she refused to do so. There was even a time when she was dragged outside the door but she had clung on the stairs. Her husband and his daughter had also changed the door knob 5 times so she could not enter the house.

She used diplomacy and tries to convince them that she loves her husband and does not want to leave him. Her husband and his daughter are both cruel to her but she had not made any complain nor reported any incident of beatings to the police or embassy. She had does not want to taint his name or for him to have a bad record.

Finally, Ajas was able to find work in a factory as a thread rewinder and she receives a salary of 800,000 Won a month. She had been giving her husband money, 200,00 won a month and at times she also gives him 300,000 won but her husband wanted to be given 500,000 Won instead. When he also saw her bank account and has money which is bigger than his, he beat her up. He wanted to get all of her money but she would not allow it. She had been maltreated and had also taught about her future. So to avoid misunderstandings about money, she does not deposit it in her account but had been sending it to her family for them to keep. She would use this as her capital to start with a business in the Philippines in case her husband wanted that they go to the Philippines. Her family back home does not ask her for their sustenance. Ajas had also stopped giving her husband some money when she had also observed that he had been using the money she gave him in womanizing. He uses her money to buy gifts for the woman she is having relationship with. Her remittance to her husband had also stopped when the company where she works went into bankruptcy.

She did try to find another one with a company selling mobile phones and she only works at least twice a week and her salary now is lower since

sales is low. She works from 8:30 in the morning until 6:30 in the evening. Her new job had started. Also, in their 3rd month of marriage, her husband wanted that she would sign the divorce paper he had thrown on her face. She did not sign it since she wants to be with him. It is her first marriage and does not want to end it this way. She was again beaten when she did not sign. When her visa had expired, she had gone to the immigration office twice to renew her visa but she was denied. She has to bring her husband along with her. She tried reasoning that her husband had been very busy and could not accompany her but she was not heard. Her husband does not want to renew her visa or give her seal so she could become a Korean citizen. At one time, her husband filed a divorce but she was able to find this out and had immediately made a complaint. Ajas had showed the bluish marks on her back and thighs to the officer. The filed divorce application was invalidated which made her husband and his daughter more furious. From there on up to this date, Ajas would receive beatings and berating from her husband and daughter. Though they treat her that way, she still treats them well for she does not want to be divorced.

Since Ajas's visa had already expired, she is feeling helpless now and fears deportation. She had tried to call for help. She had tried to call the number of an organization which was advertised in a Pinoy magazine. It is through this that she came to meet Fe Kim, president of the organization, a Filipina also married with a Korean but was able to iron things out with her own husband. Her husband coordinates with the Korean husbands to try to settle issues amicably or before making drastic actions. Fe Kim had referred her to Women Hotline. The staff of the Women hotline had intervened and this time the husband agreed to accompany her to the immigration office. Ajas and her husband were alone who went to the immigration office but instead of the immigration office, her husband brought her to another office. It was the office of his lawyer and she was asked to sign the prepared divorce documents. Again, she did not sign for she had sensed that something was wrong. All of the documents were written in Korean. The only thing written in English was her husband's written complaint. He wrote down the reasons why he is divorcing Ajas, things which she could not accept. He had written that she does not know how to cook, asks for money all the time. He had been spending too much

for her but she does not share in their expenses. She does not also know how to speak in Korean language even Korean books were bought for her. He had also written in his complaint that Ajas does not want to have sex with him nor does want to do things he wanted when they have sex.

After this incident, she tried again to go to the immigration for her visa renewal. She could not say anything but had answered the immigration that he loves her husband and does not want to be divorced from him. She also claims that her husband is a liar. When she was asked about her bruises, her husband had answered that she fell down but actually these were due to the beatings he did on her. The Korean officer at the immigration did not believe her but had believed her husband instead. This made Ajas not to trust Korean and she believes that it maybe due to them being both Koreans. The immigration officer has to agree with her husband than believe in her, a foreigner. He is making everything difficult for her. This made Ajas to think of revenge against her husband by not also signing the divorce papers he wants her to sign.

Ajas is two (2) years now in Korea and had met the required residency in Korea. The battle for her Visa renewal is still going on even if her husband and his family no longer wants her. Ajas prays a lot and had joined an organization, Federation of Korean spouses to have someone whom she could share her problems and ran to in cases of he emergency. She also calls her family to hear their voices but she does not tell them of her problems. She does not want them to worry about her.

Assessment:

Ajas is a strong woman and is determined to get what she wants and in what she believes in (sanctity of marriage). She is the kind of woman who does not easily give up or intimidated. She could also fight her own rights if she knows how to go about it. She is also the kind of woman who does not want to hurt other people. She does not want that nasty rumors or actions will come from her. At the moment, she feels down since she does not know how to fight for her right in a foreign country. She does not have the resources. Her lack of knowledge on laws and policies of Korea makes her more incapable. Her love for her husband is the only thing keeping her strong, though she suffers much pain in his hands. Her husband does not try to understand her but only does what he wishes to do, that is to divorce

Ajas to be able to be with other women. Her Korean family is abusive, though how much diplomacy she gives in dealing with them. They do not give her the chance to get close to them and treat them as her own family in a foreign country.

3) Allen (43 year old)

Background Information:

Allen, 43 years old (39 years old when she got married with her Korean husband) had been teaching in their province prior to her coming to Korea. She had been very much single and her life had been going on smoothly and had no worries then. She had also been working in other countries like Hongkong, Singapore and Malaysia and could face foreigners before getting involved with the Moonies. Her life had changed when she came to know her husband through the Unification (Moonies). Her friend had persuaded her to join the seminar. She was hesitant at first for she does not know what she is entering into but she was given assurance that the Koreans are good, rich and that she has nothing to worry about. She was also assured that she would also be paired to somebody of her level, also a professional. And that they would undergo a 4 months seminar. They could get out from the Unification church if they really would not like it. Because of these assurances, she did try.

Their leader, named Jimmy (does not know of his surname) had told them that they have to undergo a 3 days seminar on how to come up with an ideal family life. After the 3 days seminar, they were brought to Korea. Allen had not spent any single centavo in coming to Korea since their expenses were shouldered by the Korean men.

In Korea, they were brought to Guri where they were matched to their future husbands. Allen had been matched to different men coming from different countries but she had rejected them. She no longer wanted to join the group and she wanted to be brought back to the Philippines. Jimmy, their leader got mad at her and told her that she is not allowed to leave and that she has to accept a Korean man for her husband. In short, she

was paired to a Korean man, who finished grade 3 and has no stable job to support a family. After the 5 days of matching, all couples were married before the televised picture of Reverend Moon in a wide and big stadium. It was called the 'Blessing'. After the ceremonies, they were not allowed to stay together with their husbands but have to stay in Guri for another 4 months seminar. This is to supposedly to study and learn of their husband's culture and language and how to build a good family. The men have to go back home and could only visit their wives on weekends.

During her stay at the Guri, Allen observed the bad character/attitude of her husband. Her husband knows the room where she stays but he shouts for her name for her to come out. Also when he visits her, he comes in soiled over-all clothes. He had been doing this most of the time and Allen felt ashamed. The other women called her attention and asked her reasons why her husband is acting that way. Still, while in Guri, her husband brought her one big box of very, very old clothes for her to use and also a box of lotion. Other women suspect that he is insane.

On one occasion, she was also invited to attend the birthday celebration of her mother-in-law. She wore the clothes she was asked to wear and had tried her best to join the celebration to be accepted by his family. She had joined the family in the singing. Her husband got mad and pulled her arms until she got hurt. She tried to pull back her arm and tried to fight back. Her husband slapped her face and they were fighting hard and shouting at each other but her husband's family just watched them and did nothing. Allen felt so ashamed of what happened but her husband did not bother to apologize for what he did.

Allen went back to the Guri did not show herself to her husband for a week. She had complained to their leader but again she was told that everything will change and things would become better for them. Again she just obeyed and continued with what was asked of her until the 4 months was over. After the 4 months seminar, they are allowed to go home to their husbands but before doing so, they have to pay 2M Won allegedly, for the payment of their food and lodging during their stay at the Guri. She has no money and she asked her husband to pay for it which he did. Also, the couples were asked to pay of give big amount of money every time they have to attend their church.

Allen was brought to her mother-in-law's house supposedly for only 15 days. Her husband, being over of age should not stay with his parents, but this went on for 4 months. The mother was also supposed to stay with the eldest son, but in their case, it was the youngest son whom she selected to stay with. Allen's husband is the youngest and he has 2 older brothers and a sister. One of the brothers is also married to a Filipina woman, to whom she is being compared to by her mother-in-law. Allen learned that her husband is very dependent on his mother and he is very lazy to look for work. He always complaints of body aches every time he has to go out and work. Allen shared that she had only experienced a happy life with her husband for a month after their marriage. And that was the first month of their marriage. She was treated well and was taught on how to be a Korean wife. The rest of it was like hell. Her mother-in-law and her husband are in tandem hurting her physically and verbally. And they are also wise for they do not hurt her where bruises or marks could be seen. It was her long hair which they pull most of the time or kick her in the stomach. Her mother-in-law and her husband always tell her she has to pay them back for all of their expenses for she was paid excessively. They told her that they had incurred in huge debt in paying the Unification church. She was made a slave to the family. She has to wash their clothes, clean the house every day. She was not allowed to use the phone or go out to make friends, even Korean friends. She has to serve them well for them to be able to get back their money's worth.

In their second month together, she got pregnant. Everyday, she works for them, everyday she gets beaten by them. She was not given money for her needs and she did not complain. In their 6th month, she got pregnant but still she gets beaten by her husband and his mother. There was a time that blood came out from her vagina due to the beatings but she was not brought to the hospital. Her husband said that hospital is expensive and they have no money to pay for her hospitalization and her medicines. But when it's him, his mother or ay member of their family gets sick, they are immediately brought to the hospital for check-ups. She tried to look for work even if pregnant since she worries about the needs of her baby when it would come out. She was not allowed. She tried to persuade her husband to look for work since she would give birth soon and they have nothing to use. Her husband had worked for sometime but after that, he

has stopped working again. His salary was also given to her mother. He also borrows money from Allen's friend using her as his excuse. He also promises to pay them back at once but this he never did. Every time they receive phone calls demanding for his payments, he hides from them and asks Allen to face them. There are also some instances when she sees her husband stealing from his own mother. He ransacked her clothes looking for money. He had also stolen the gold earrings and necklace of Allen which were given by her employers when she worked in Hongkong. He used the money to gamble.

In her eight month of pregnancy, she ran away from their house due to the inhumane treatment. She sought the help of her Filipina friend who was also married to a Korean man. They had let her stay in their house but her husband went to look for her. Both of them were allowed to stay with them. But because of the daily quarrels and beatings, they were asked to move out of the house. Allen's husband asked her to go back with him and he also signed an agreement that he husband would never hurt her again. The agreement was never followed. They did not return to her in-laws but her husband had rented a very small room where they had stayed. Her husband tried to look for work.

When Allen gave birth, her husband had called all of his friends and relatives to inform them of their baby. He had been borrowing cellphones from her friends to do this. And again, her husband had used her present condition to borrow money from her friends which amounted to 240,000 won. He told them that this would be used to pay for their hospital bills and to buy needs of their baby. He did not use the money to pay for the hospital bills and needs of the baby, he used the money to gamble and he lost all the money to gambling. Allen was able to borrow money from her friends so she and her baby could go out of the hospital. From the hospital, Allen and her baby were brought to her mother-in-law's house. The husband was not able to pay the rent for their small room and the police was also looking for him for his unpaid debts.

Back to her in-law's house, even if she had just given birth, she was told to do household chores which are heavy. She had suffered from heavy bleeding but again, not brought to the hospital. She was not also given enough food that her breasts do not produce enough milk for her baby. When her baby cries due to hunger, she was scolded and her head is

banged against the wall. One time, her husband wanted to have sex with her. She did not obliged since she was still in pain after giving birth, but she was forced by her husband. She is being raped by her husband every time she does not want to have sex with him since she is recuperating from giving birth. She had also been bleeding but still her husband does not care. He even gets her bloodied panties and showed them to his mother and they both laugh. Allen observes that her husband and her mother-in-law have psychological problems. Allen also observes that her patience is being tested by her mother-in-law. She has her own keys of their house when she goes out of the house but she wanted that Allen opens the door for her every time she goes out. She does this at least 5-6 times a day and bangs the door. She wants Allen to open the door for her and bow at her also 5-6 times in a day. This is also difficult for her especially since she has a baby.

Also, during winter time, their house is not warm. Her mother-in-law does not allow to on their heater on a higher level even if the baby is very cold and all she could do was dress her baby with more clothes to get warm. Her baby got sick due to the cold weather but was not also brought to the hospital. Her stomach hardened and was having convulsion. Her baby was also malnourished. She was so desperate and helpless. She asks help from her friends who invites her to their place. She could only eat good food every time she visits her Filipino friends who give her food to bring home and some money. When her baby was 6 months, she felt that she would go crazy. Even her baby shows signs of trauma due to the maltreatment they receive from the father and grandmother. One time, she, her baby and her husband went out and it was raining hard. They were invited for a walk by her husband and feeling that everything was okay between them, she had obliged. They were in the middle of the road when her husband left them and they were soaking wet.

To make her life better for them and not to be always at the mercy of her husband and mother-in-law, she tried to look for work. She found one as a helper in a Filipino restaurant and she would be going home after her work. Her salary was not big enough but would help provide for her baby's needs and milk. Her husband and her mother-in-law were informed but they just laughed at her. She was insulted for the small salary that she would receive. She had been the breadwinner for the family for four (4)

months. Every time she receives her first salary, her mother-in-law wanted that she gave it all to her. She would only be given money for her transportation expenses. She did not give in to this demand that the more she was maltreated by them. While at work, she has to leave her baby under their care, trusting that they would take care of her and feed her. She was wrong. She comes home from work finding her daughter very dirty, hungry and very wet. She was also left outside the house and she is barely one year old.

She had decided to run away bringing her baby with her. She went to seek help from a non-government organization, a center for foreign women. She and her baby stayed here for four (4) months. All their needs were provided by the Center and it was also here where her baby was given her full vaccination and medication. She and her baby stayed there until her husband went looking for them again but she did not present herself and her child. This center asked her to go back to her husband but she did not want to. She fears that her life and that of her baby would be in greater danger when she goes back to her husband. Taking her baby once again, she went to seek help of the Catholic Center at Seoul. At the Catholic Center, Allen and her baby were taken in.

They could stay there until they wanted to. Allen is able to find work, but has to sacrifice not to be with her baby every night. Even her baby has to sacrifice. She leaves her baby in an Agabang, where volunteers and some Sisters take care of her baby. She only gets to see and hug her baby on Saturday nights until Sunday. She dreads Mondays, for again, she has to leave her baby under the care of another person. Mother and child have to make the best when they are together but they feel better that way, rather than be with her husband and every day is a hell.

Allen's husband had reported her to the Immigration but is not afraid. He had also cut their picture taken during their's blessing by Rev. Moon, have it reproduced and posted it on trees and offices as though she is a criminal. Allen and her baby stay at the Center when they are together. No one could separate them from each other. Today, her baby, Theresa, 2 years old still feels the hatred of her father and her grandmother. She tells her mother that she does not miss them. A child so young as her, it would be difficult to erase the trauma inflicted in her. Allen would be 4 years in Korea this 2005.

4) Almona (32 years old)

Background Information:

Almona had been working in a beach resort after her graduation from the university and at that time has a Filipino boyfriend. One of Almona's friends has a Korean friend and they went to the resort where she works to rest and relax. Her friend had introduced her to the Korean man, a travel agent. Her friend and the Korean man had stayed in the resort for a week and Almona, a staff of the resort has to entertain their customers well. The Korean man befriended her and invited her out. Here, she was asked by the Korean man of her tradition and concept about sex, which she had answered that it is done by couples after they get married. Right there and then, the Korean man asked her to marry him but she did not accept for she has her boyfriend. The Korean man informed her that he has his own girlfriend in Korea. The man had suggested that they break-up with their present relationships so they would be together but Almona declined. After this meeting happened in 1992, the Korean man went back to Korea but came back in February, 1993 and went to see her again. He had asked if she broke up with her boyfriend but informed him that she did not. He told her that he had broken up with his own girlfriend and had expected her to do the same. This time, Almona asked him to give her time, until December to think about his proposal which the Korean man accepted. This time, her relationship with her boyfriend was not going on smoothly. In this visit,

Almona was not aware that the Korean man had already been processing their papers to get married with the help of his friends in the travel agency where he works. He stayed in the Philippines but went back to Korea because of his work. In May, he came to the Philippines again and told her that he could no longer wait until December for her to give her final answer. He wanted them to get married earlier. Almona had informed her parents about these and were shocked to know that she was not getting married to her Filipino boyfriend but to a Korean man. Her parents were against her marrying the Korean man and warned her that she does

not know anything about his culture nor does have any background information about him. They tried to talk her out of the plan but they were able to give in when they saw him. They were married in May, 1993 and in a civil wedding in the Philippines and his family also went to the Philippines to attend to the wedding. Amona did not follow her husband to Korea right away when he went back due to his work. Almona stayed behind for a year and continued with her work at the resort and wanted to feel her being single for the last time. She had followed her husband in Korea in January, 1995.

LIFE IN KOREA:

Almona was not prepared of what kind of life she would be having in Korea that she suffered from culture shock. Her husband is the eldest child and a man at that and his family have to stay with them. She was not only married to her husband but to his whole family as well. She has to serve his whole family, not only her parents-in-law but also his siblings in the same manner that she serves her husband. In short, she became a slave to the family. Though Amona claimed that she had suffered less from physical violence, she had suffered most emotionally and psychologically. Her Korean family are very good in hurting her emotions, verbal abuse is very strong. There were so many restrictions and she has no freedom. She was controlled by the family. She was not allowed to be connected with the outside world, she has to focus her attention only to them. She has to disregard her own family who had raised her up. Being the wife of their eldest son, she was expected that she serves them well as payment for their service and care they had given to her husband.

In their second year of marriage, she gave birth to a baby boy which was cared for by her mother-in-law. Her baby was taken away from her. She did not have much intervention in the rearing of her son to the extent of being told that she does not know how to take care of her son. (Koreans love their grandson more especially if they are the eldest; girls are taken for granted; boys were not also allowed to work and the mother has to be a salve to her own son, serve him also like a prince/king). Her life in Korea is a torture that she wanted to get out and end it. The family lives in the 20th floor of an apartment that she had thought of ending it all by committing

suicide. She had wanted to jump from the building but it was her son who had prevented her from doing so.

They had stayed with her in-laws for nine years (9) and it was only recently that they had moved to another apartment without her in-laws. Her in-laws went back to their house in the province with her son. After her giving birth to her son, and her-mother-in-law was the one taking care of him, she has nothing to do but serve his family. She wanted to do something else to divert her attention and to become productive. Also, her husband does not give her money so she could buy something she wants. She was economically dependent on her husband and his family that her expenses were always counted and controlled. All of her expenses to the last Won is accounted for. Her husband gives all of his salary to his mother and she does the budgeting. They are only given an allowance for their needs. Aside from this, her husband, gives their church 30% of his salaries but could not give her money for her own use.

Her husband had suggested that she would study and learn the Korean Language. She did this and was able to get work as a teacher. She was earning money as a teacher but all of her salaries to go to her husband's family. His mother has to hold her salaries and that she could only ask from her for her travel allowance.

Also, her husband had stopped working for she is now working and is supporting his whole family. The welfare of the whole family depends on their eldest son. Almona had confronted her husband and expressed herself why she has to support his whole family when they are not even her relatives, not of her blood relation and that she was even allowed to support her own family in the Philippines. She could not even send money to her own mother who had sacrificed a lot to send her to college, fed her and took care of her all her life, and to think that it was her own money she would be sending to them. Almona stopped working as a teacher in retaliation to give her husband and his family a lesson. She had also felt so tired that after her work in school, she has to serve her husband's family when she gets home. Her strength was drained and wanted to give up on her marriage. She went back to her teaching work to get away from his family. She compromised with her husband and that her husband also looked for work. He also teaches now and also writes some article in a magazine. They stay alone in their new apartment and they visit their in-

laws and her son during the week-ends. At least, this time, Almona could move freer and not all of her movements are being observed and measured. Her husband could also help her in some household chores like clean their room but never to cook and prepare his own food or wash the dishes. This kind of chores makes him become a lesser man. Almona had been sacrificing a lot even to the present for her marriage to work. There are times that she wanted to divorce from her husband but is only thinking of the welfare of her son.

In her 9 years of her married life to her Korean husband, she could not still accept her being a slave to his family. During the holidays (Chusok and Sulnal, birthdays, death anniversaries) she has the obligation to cook and serve all members of his family and all of his relatives, especially since her husband is the eldest and her husband's father is the eldest. She has no enough knowledge in the preparation of the Korean food and she is not even allowed to buy these (she has to prepare them herself; the money to buy the ingredients are given by other members of the family but she has to do all of the preparations). In these festivities, all of the elder men are grouped together and are to be served first, next are the younger men, including her son and she has to serve the men and eat alone by herself in the kitchen. Women are not allowed to be with the men and mingle with them.

Almona's life in Korea had been all sacrifice and keeps on adjusting to save her marriage and keep her family. She has given up her rights and privileges to get something back for herself. Her Korean life was a nightmare and she keeps working on it get it over. At times, when she tries to look back and ask herself, what would have been her life if she was married to her Filipino boyfriend rather than to her husband now, would life been better or easier for her since they have the same culture and language? There had been times of regrets but she is trying to improve what she got now for she could not change the past, she could only learn from it. Almona enjoys her teaching work now to get away from her sad past and this is also her means to make herself sane and productive.

5) Allin (37 years old)

Background Information:

Allin had worked as a domestic helper in Singapore for more 3 years and went back to the Philippines when her contract had expired. She was trying to look for another work but this time she wanted to go to Hongkong. She wanted to try other countries other than Singapore. Here, she met a woman who befriended her for about 2 weeks. When the woman was able to get her trust, she enticed her to apply in an agency in Manila, which turned out to be a matching agency. She was brought to a Korean broker, named Mr. Kim, together with other 19 Filipina women. They were introduced to 3 Korean men who had just arrived from Korea. They were looking for Filipina women to become their wives. From the 20 Filipina women, Allin was the oldest, aged 35 at the time of the selection and the youngest was 20 years old. The 2 younger Korean men were able to select their partners. One of the Korean men, 51 years old, who had selected her wanted to marry a teacher but he was old, so they were matched according to their age. Allin had been adamant at first and wanted to back out, but she was convinced by the manager of the agency until she finally accepted the proposal. She was also hoping that through her marriage to the Korean man, their economic life would improve. She would be able to give her parents a better life when she comes to Korea for her husband and to ask him help her find a good job.

After the selection, they were made asked to sign documents which turned out to be readied earlier: fake marriage documents that indicated that they got married in February 00, 2002 although no wedding took place. These papers prepared by the agency were not honored in Korea so they have to process their documents when they arrived in Korea. In the 5 days that the Korean man was in the Philippines, they met twice before he left for Korea. He left her family 10,000.00 pesos but she used the 2,500.00 pesos for the processing of her visa. Allin was left in the Philippines to process her papers, and while processing her visa, she met with her Filipino boyfriend at least 3 times and had continued her relation with him. She had informed him that she agreed to get married to a Korean man and he got angry. Before they parted ways, they had sex but she did not know

that she was already pregnant when she arrived in Korea in 2002. If she knew it earlier, she would not have come to Korea and live with her Korean husband. Allin came to know that she was pregnant 3 weeks pregnant when she was only four days in Korea. She could not do the works she has to do and had not been feeling well and was brought to the hospital for consultation. The doctor told her in front of her husband that she is pregnant and that caused her to get tired easily. Upon knowing that she was pregnant, she asked her Korean husband to let her go back to the Philippines. She knew that the father of her baby is her Filipino boyfriend and not her Korean husband. The Korean husband became so cruel to her upon knowing that his wife is pregnant and that he is not the father. She was shouted at everyday and was also beaten. He would kick her. Daily, he tells her that he had paid big amount of money (8M Won) to the agency to get married to her. He was also asking that she pay back all of his expenses. He had been beating her up everyday so she would have an abortion. He also forces to have sex with him. If she would not want to have sex with him, he beats her up, tears her clothes off and forced himself to her. From then on too, she was also not allowed to use the telephone nor go out of the house. He wanted that the baby be aborted but Allin would not allow it.

Allin took the chance to escape from him when, after their biggest quarrel. She escaped the following day when her husband was not at home. Her husband went out looking for her but she would not present herself to him. She is no longer interested to live with him again. She had stayed with her Korean husband for only a month and a half. She said she could endure the daily beatings, but to abort her baby, she could not do. This is the main reason why she ran away from her Korean husband. She preferred to give birth to her baby and keep her. She was able to ask help from her friend, also married to a Korean man. Her friends helped her find work which is to pack wet tissue papers (wet ones) while pregnant. She had worked here for 6 months. She had stopped working only when her due date to deliver her baby arrived. She ran to the Catholic Center and was assisted by Sr. Juliet who had also accompanied her to the hospital. After her giving birth, she and her baby went to stay at the Catholic Center until her baby turned 9 months old. Their needs for 9 months were provided by the Catholic Center. After the 9th month, she has to look for

work to provide her and her baby's needs. She was able to find one, assembling of plastic folders which is her work to date. She receives a low and delayed salary but she has to continue with her work to be able to meet their daily needs.

She suffers mental torture also since she has to leave her baby for a week at the Agaebang and only gets her on Saturday evenings and leaves her again on Sunday night. Their situation is so pitiful especially during the time they have to separate on Sundays so the mother could work the following day. Both cry a lot. On weekends, they try to make up for the lost time they are away from each other. They hug each other so tightly and kisses so often and hoping that the day would not end. The baby also suffers from this set-up but they could do nothing of their situation. Both of them have to suffer to be able to survive. Sometimes, Allin is at a loss and does not know what to do and think. She usually cries at night when she thinks of their situation. She and her child, both of them are in a helpless situation but the mother does not want that they go back to the Philippines. Back in the Philippines, she could not find work and would be a burden to her family. At least in Korea, though illegal, she could still find work to support their needs. Allin pays at the Agaebang house for the care given to her baby. Her family in the Philippines are aware of her situation, but they could also do nothing, though one of her sister, also working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wanted her to go back to the Philippines. She would help her find work in the Middle East, but Allin did not accept the offer, for plight of women in the Middle East is not also safe. Her Korean husband is still looking for her to get her baby whom he wanted to be aborted. The Korean man had registered the baby in his family registry although he had filed divorce. Also, he is looking for Allin for her to sign the divorce papers. Her child is a Korean Citizen but she still is a Filipino citizen. She has an E-9 Visa. She wanted that her baby be given a Philippine passport but she could not do it since her Korean husband would not does not want to sign the documents. Allin and her baby are on the run for almost two years now.

Allin would be 4 years in Korea in 2005. Prior to the marriage, there were no orientation on the language and culture conducted by the agency. After the marriage, they were left on their own. It was also in Korea that Allin learned that her husband had been divorced twice, first with his Korean

wife; 2nd to his Chinese wife and has one child with her. This child is no longer included in his family registry. The third woman in his life is Allin, but he had also divorced her and at present having a relationship with another woman. Allin's baby is still included in his family registry, though he was aware that he was not the father of the child. In her arrival in Korea, they lived in his house without her in-laws (his parents are dead). She came to know that her husband met a car accident which burned his face and had caused damage to his left eye. One of his eyes is artificial and his nose bridge was also distorted, though he looked handsome in his pictures. Allin only wants now is for her baby to have a Philippine citizenship and a Filipino passport so she could bring her home and stay in the Philippines in the future.

6) Agnes (21 years old)

Background Information:

Agnes works in a pharmaceutical company as a checker for 6 months and her earning is good enough to support her needs and could give some to her family. In the company where she works, she came to know of a Korean man, Mr. M. This man asked for her picture which he sent to his Korean friend who is in Korea. He had also showed to her the picture of her future Korean husband. She was told by Mr. M that the Korean man wanted to marry her and she had accepted it though she had not met the Korean man yet. She thought that marrying a Korean man would help her improve her economic situation and that she would be able to help her family. Mr. M had also told her that the Korean man has a business on his own and is rich and would give the needs of her family and would also look for a good job for her once they arrive in Korea. With these promises, she was not able to hesitate. She was willing to sacrifice herself for the sake of her family. And another thing, the Korean man gave her mother a car worth 300,000 pesos which made her think that the Korean man is really rich.

One day, she went with Mr. M to meet the Korean man at airport. This was her first meeting with the Korean man. They went home directly taking

the domestic flight to arrive there at an earlier time. Agnes brought the Korean man to her home where he was introduced to her relatives. He was treated well. They got married in their house which was officiated by a Judge. After the wedding, her husband went back to Manila since he has to go back to Korea for his business. He left her US\$200 to process all of her papers such as passport, NBI clearance, VISA and also for her to undergo a medical check-up. The money left to her was not enough and her parents have to shell-out some money for her transportation expenses. She had also processed her marriage certificate at the NSO-Manila office and sent them to Korea. Documents/Papers arrived from Korea (Notarized marriage certificate, Letter of Invitation, etc.). She was given an F-2 Visa but her stay of sojourn is only 59 days. Her husband went back to the Philippines to visit her and make follow-up on the developments of her travel documents. After seeing that her papers are okay, he went back to Korea.

Agnes followed-up him to Korea in 2004. Agnes was not fetched by her husband at the airport. She was assisted by her Filipina friend who is married also to a Korean and would go to the same place where she was going. This Filipina friend had paid for her bus fare going to K city for she has no money. Upon arrival in K, she asked her husband to pay back her fare which he did.

Agnes was treated well by her husband and her mother-in-law in the first two days but their treatment had eventually changed. She had found out also that what Mr. M told her was not true. Her husband has no business on his own. He had not finished his schooling and has no stable job. They did not stay with his parents but they live near her in-law's house. They eat their meals at her mother-in-law's house. Everyday, she has to go to her mother-in-law's to clean her house, wash their clothes and do all the work for her before she cleans their own house. Daily, her husband and her mother-in-law take turns in hitting her and shouting at her. Every time her husband hits her, he was being pacified by his sister but he would not heed. Even if she does what her husband and her mother-in-law wants, she is still not treated well. Her head was being banged against the door or walls, being dragged and pushed to go out of the house. She was not allowed to use the telephone nor go out of the house and make friends. Everyday, she was also told to pay back the expenses incurred by her

husband worth 400,000.00 pesos or equivalent to 8,254,545 Won which he had spent during his visits in the Philippines and in the processing of her papers for Korea; and for the money he paid to Mr. M who had arranged their meeting and wedding.

Her passport was also kept by her bother-in-law and would not give it to her for her to keep it herself. This is to prevent her from running away from them. One time, she tried to ask her husband to give her passport to her so she could keep it but he got very angry at her and boxed her face, and her head was again banged against the wall. He also boxed her eyes which made her difficult to see clearly. One day, he tried to kill her with a knife but his brother tried to pacify him, so he beat her from head to foot instead. Her eyes were also boxed again which caused her to get black eyed an cause it to swell. She did not fight back thinking that if she would do so, the more she would get hurt by him.

After their quarrel, her husband, his brothers and other family members went out of the house leaving her alone. She took the chance to run away as far as she could the road. She kept on running even though she did not know her way and just followed the road. When she was thought that she was so far from the house, she stopped when she saw a house along the highway and saw people and asked them for help. She asked if she could use their telephone and she tried to call the Philippine Embassy but her calls were not answered. She tried to call the Catholic Center and luckily, she was able to ask them for help. The Korean people whom she asked for help also helped her to meet Fr. Glen. She was assisted and has stayed in the Catholic Center. Agnes ran away from her husband's house with nothing except the clothes she was wearing.

Agnes is in Korea for only 10 days but had suffered much from her husband and his family which she did not experience back home with her own family. Her family in the Philippines are not aware of her sufferings here in Korea. Agnes had been regretful getting married to the Korean man. Instead of a better life, it became worst. All Agnes wanted now is go back to the Philippines and to start a new life back home and pretend that what happened to her was a nightmare. Presently, she is staying at the Catholic Center and is being assisted by Sr. Michaela work on her case. They are also trying to look for a work for her here in Korea so she would be able to earn for herself and save some money for her to use when she gets back

to the Philippines. She also tried visiting the Philippine Embassy for assistance but her case was referred to a People's Organization assisting foreign women married to Korean men.

7) Alba (30 years old)

Background Information:

Alba had been staying with her 2 uncles in uncle's house which is nearer to her work place. Her family lives in different city. It was her uncle M who came to know of a certain woman named Nellie, a Filipina who was able to get her Korean citizenship, and her sister nicknamed Nic-Nic. They are recruiting Filipina Women and Korean men for international marriages. They have no agency but does this as their business. Nellie , with the Korean citizenship, recruits Korean men and brings them to the Philippines if her sister Nic-nic was able to recruit Filipina women.

Here, Nellie had lured her uncle M to ask her to get married to a Korean man since Nellie said they wanted to help Filipina women have a better life and a future. She did not tell them of the reality when they get to Korea and live with their Korean husbands. In short, her uncle M was able to convince her to get married to a Korean man. Her other uncle N, was not amenable to the idea. He fears of things that might happen to Alba , but she was able to assure him that nothing will go wrong. She did like to be married to a Korean man to be able to give her family a brighter future. She could send them money for their needs and her siblings' education once she is in Korea. She was promised a good job with high salary if she gets married to a Korean man.

They went to meet the Korean men at the airport, but before proceeding to the airport, they dropped by at a place in Manila to fetched other 3 Filipina Women who were also recruited by Nellie and her sister, Nic-Nic. At the airport, they were introduced to the 3 Korean men. The 2 other Filipina women were able to get paired immediately with the two Korean men since their pictures were sent to the Korean men earlier. As for her case, the Korean man does not like her and he wanted to be paired with a

teacher. She was only a High School graduate. The situation was reversed by Nellie, instead of telling her that the Korean man does not like her, she told her that the Korean man wanted her.

They were married in a civil rite which was solemnized by a certain minister. The wedding took place in her uncle's house. Her uncle N had spent his money for other needs in the wedding. The Korean man gave money to Nellie for the celebration but not all of the money was used for the celebration. Some of it were kept by Nellie. Both her parents and her sister were present but her parents were introduced to the Korean man to be her aunt and uncle. Nellie had fabricated her stories and told the Korean man that Alba and her younger sister were left under the care of their 2 uncles when their father died. And that their mother had ran away with another man. That is why, there is no reason for the Korean man to leave or send money to Alba's family once they are in Korea. (Alba came to know all about this when she was in Korea and came to understand and speak the Korean language and that her husband had also told her that these were what Nellie told him during their wedding day).

After the wedding, the couple stayed at her uncle's place for 5 days. And then her Korean husband went back to Korea to attend to his business. He left her US\$200 for the processing of her papers and for her to fix her teeth. Here, Nellie got angry for the Korean man had directly given her the money and had not coursed it through her.

In 2002, Alba arrived at Korea and was fetched by her Korean husband at airport. They went directly to his apartment and stayed there for less than a month. Their first weeks went on smoothly and her husband had been kind enough to be her tutor, teaching her to count and to read the Korean characters. Less beating also took place. Her life had turned upside down when her mother-in-law called them to stay with her and the whole family. She became the slave of the whole family. Here, she came to know also that her husband is not highly educated and is not a businessman. He has low educational attainment and is a farmer. He takes odd jobs when farming season is done. During the farming season, her mother-in-law tells her to work at 5:30 in the morning until 7:00 in the evening. But before she goes to the farm, she still has to prepare their foods and cleans the house that she has to wake up earlier even if her whole body is aching due to the hard toil during the day. These, she does

to avoid beatings from her husband and his mother. She was not also allowed to use the washing machine to wash their clothes during the winter time when the water is so cold. She has to wash their clothes in cold water manually. There are times she could not endure the pains, that she had tried to call Nellie and made her complains. Her Korean husband would apologize but when Nellie is gone, he started to beat her again even in front of his family. The family members do not do anything but just watched them, at times the mother-in-law helps her son beat her. Her mother-in-law also makes stories to her husband so he would just hit her. Even in public places like the market or inside buses, her husband hits her. She felt so shameful being watched by other people on how her husband treats her. Even though this is how she is treated she does not fight back for she knew that more beatings would come her way.

When she got pregnant, she was also told to work in the farm that even other Koreans pity her. When she was also pregnant, her husband did not stop kicking and beating her up. Still she made no complains. She tried to talk him out that she go home to the Philippines since she was craving for Filipino food. She was conceiving a baby at that time. She and her husband went to the Philippines where her parents prepared the foods she wanted to eat. When it was time for them to leave and have to go back to Korea, Alba wanted to stay behind to spend more time with her family and also thinking of her hard life in Korea, she was not yet prepared to go back with him. She had intentionally left her passport and plane ticket so she would not be able to go back with him. Here, he hit her again and banged her head against the wall. People at the airport kept looking at them that she has to cover her face. This was done in front of her mother and she came to know how she was treated by her Korean family. They had also prevented her from going back to Korea. But after a week, she followed her husband to Korea thinking that something could still be done to save their marriage.

She had given birth to her baby girl. She was brought to the hospital by her husband and watched her. When she just came out of the hospital, she had resumed her work in the house and also with her farm works. She was not given time to recuperate and gain her strength before working hard again. There are times that she had bleeding but she was told that she is just making it up so she could escape from working. Alba was not also

allowed to go out to attend mass or talk to others. She was always made to work for she was told that her Korean husband had paid much for her and that she has to pay them back in return. Her husband had invested his money to be able to marry her. He had paid 10M Won to Nellie.

He had not been giving her money to buy her needs and that of their baby but she never made complains. She did what they want her to do for she came to know that her father got very sick in June. She wanted to go home and visit him. She was allowed to go home but has to leave her baby behind so she would come back. When she had arrived at the Incheon airport coming from the Philippines, her husband was happy to see her and had even brought some food for her. But when they had arrived in their house, she was beaten black and blue again. Her husband had again told her of his expenses in her going home to the Philippines. When her father died, she was not allowed to go home nor given some money to send to her family for the burial of her father. But he gives all of his money to his mother. She was not given any money to buy her and her baby's needs. He told her that he gives her money but she uses the money to buy his needs and for his viand. The 5,000 won he gives her is not even enough to buy things for him. At one time, she was hit again when she used the money to buy bread. She was craving to eat bread since it was such a long time that she did not eat any bread. She got beatings again.

It was late this year that she felt she could no longer endure the beatings and the inhumane treatment she gets from her husband and his family. She started to fight back and tries not to obey what they want her to do. One day, she had answered back her mother-in-law when she was told that she cleans the chili. She went to lie down early and her mother-in-law told her that she could not eat for the night since she has no money to buy rice. She told her mother-in-law that the money her husband earns is also her money being the wife. The mother-in-law made stories to her son, and her husband had sided with his mother. While she was lying down, her husband stepped on her and kicked. He also slapped her face several times and he called Nellie.

Alba was braver now and she challenged him to have a divorce. She said that she would call the police and inform them of the beatings she receives from them. Her husband had also thrown out all of her clothes in the street. At night of November, she went to sleep at Nellie's place and

would not go back to him even if he has their baby. The following morning, she did not go home but instead went to find work. She was able to find one, cutting excesses from mushrooms. But before she could start with her work, a neighbor called her to inform her that her baby keeps on crying for the whole day and she was also untidy. Instead of reporting for her first day to work, she was forced to go back home and found her father-in-law with her baby. Her father-in-law was so drunk and could not take care of the baby. He has not given her baby her milk for the day. She returned to her in-laws that day just for the purpose of getting her baby. Her husband found her and asked her to prepare his meals. She did what she was told to do, so her husband would not suspect that she is planning to run away with her baby and that she was just taking her time.

She went to church and had asked the help of their pastor and told him of her problem with her husband. Instead of helping her, the pastor called her husband and that resulted to another quarrel. Her husband went to their apartment and took out all of her clothes and told her to get out of their house. When her husband went out, she took all of her clothes and her baby. She had called up Fr. Glen of the Catholic Center and asked for their help. She was told that she and her baby could go to the Center and stay there. She is determined not go back to him if he would not change his bad attitude; and she is also willing to give her baby to him if forced to do so but she would not go back to that house.

Alba had not also reported for work after the incident and had lost the job. At the Catholic Center, Sr. Michaela is the one assisting her. She is talking her out to reconsider her decision for the sake of their baby. She is willing to give him another chance if the battering stops, if she goes back to him and this happens again, she would finally leave him. She and Sr. Michaela are just waiting for the call from her husband. She wanted him to give his promise and to be witnessed by another person. If possible, she wanted it to be written in black and white.

8) Alma (30 years old)

Background Information:

Her friend had invited her to apply in the said agency since it was her friend who came to know of said agency for Korea. They had filled up their application and had submitted it to the agency which also turned out to be recruiting Filipina women to be married to Korean men. This agency is actually recruiting Filipina women who wanted to improve their lives by means of marrying Korean men and luring Filipina women. They deceive the women by telling them that the Korean men are investors, and that they wanted to marry Filipina women so they could also put up their business in the Philippines. The business would also be in the name of their would-be Filipina wives since foreigners are not allowed to own properties in their names in the Philippines. The agency said this also is an easier way to get to Korea and find a high paying job.

Due to low economic status and wanting to help her poor family, Alma had accepted the offer. She was assured by the agency that the Korean man is rich and has a high paying job in Korea. He has a big house and 5 cars. Her needs and that of her family would be provided and they would send their families in the Philippines US\$300 a month. They would buy them beautiful and expensive clothes, too.

The agency, when Korean men arrived in the Philippines, frequently calls the Filipina women to meet their Korean clients. The selection was done at the Bay View Apartment. This is located at the back of the Bay View Tower. After the first meeting with them, her future Korean husband told the agency that he liked her. Alma had accepted the offer and had believed that the Korean man who likes her is an investor when he had showed him his passport which indicated that he had gone to different countries. She really thought that he was an investor. After payments were done with the agency, they were married in the Philippines. The wedding ceremonies also took place at the Bay View Apartment. A judge had solemnized their wedding. Her papers were processed immediately that she was able to follow her Korean husband to Korea in 2004.

In Korea, they lived in her In-law's house which has 3 bedrooms. They occupy one of the rooms. Here, she found out that what the agency told her were all lies. Her husband is poor and has no permanent job. He had not also finished his education due to some problems. They had depended on her father-in-law. He sometimes works but he does not stay in his work

for long. He always suspects that other people are running after him, and that people do not like him. He seems to be paranoid of other people. She came to know also that he was not really an investor. He just loves to travel in other countries and his travels abroad were financed by his parents. She had also observed that her husband is irresponsible and acts like a ten (10) year old kid.

During the earlier days together, her husband would bring her to their church in the military base. After the mass, there would be food served and he would collect them all and bring it home. Alma felt ashamed of what he was doing that she refused to go with him when he invites her to go to mass again. He is immature and keeps on laughing and smiling even without any reason. She was becoming afraid of her husband. There was one instance where her fear was intensified when at the middle of the night, her husband took out all of his pictures and after looking at them had kept on laughing. She tried to pacify him but he looks at her blankly.

She had informed her agency about her observation but she was told that the Korean man was just overjoyed that he is acting that way. Back in the Philippines, Alma had also told the agency of her observation of the man, but she was also told that he was just happy. He would change once they would be in Korea and that he would be back to his normal self. Aside from him acting that way, he also hits her every time on her forehead. At times she would feel dizzy since he knocks her head hard. She had tried to fight back, but the more the husband hurts her. She had tried to befriend some Filipina women but she was not allowed to do that.

She lived with him for 2 months and was hoping that things would change but nothing had changed. Even his parents could not help her. She is beginning to suspect that her husband has mental ailment and that was the main reason that the father-in-law had paid the agency big amount of money so someone would marry him and take care of him, since he could not marry a Korean woman with his present condition. Besides, Korean women do not want to be married to poor Korean men. Again her fear had grown deeper when she saw her husband playing with a kitchen knife when they were sleeping. She fears that he would kill her while she is sleeping.

Due to this, she had ran away from her husband and sought the assistance of Durebang office (My Sister's Place) which is near to their house. She was brought to temporary shelter in Ansan. Alma wanted to be

divorced from her husband even if she does not get any compensation from him as long as she would be able to get work in Korea to provide for her needs and send some money to her family. She was able to get her Alien Card. Though her visa indicates F-2, her stay of sojourn had already expired which makes her a TNT or illegal now. To date, the Ansan shelter was able to help her look for work in one of the factories near the place.

She does not want to go back to her husband even if she would be forced to do so. She also wanted to file a case against the agency who recruited her. Her friend who was with her during their application is now the mistress of the Korean manager and also recruits other Filipina Women to be married to Korean men. Alma had informed her friend of her situation so she would stop recruiting other Filipina women but this friend suspects that Alma is just envious of her. They had separated ways and no longer communicate. Also, when she gets back to the Philippines, she would like to sue the agency there so other Filipina Women would not end in the same situation she is in right now.

9) Alcott (22 years old)

Background Information:

Alcott had been fond of meeting friends thru internet (chat) and it is here where she had met her husband. They had been chat mates for 2 years when the Korean man was in the United States. After her husband came back to Korea, he went to the Philippines to meet her and her family. He had visited her twice before asking her parents their permission that he would marry her. He had also asked his parents permission to remarry (he had divorced with his first wife, a Korean who is also now based in USA with her husband and their children). He had informed that they divorced when his Korean wife had relation with another man when he went to work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. After this, he went to the US and had stayed there for 5 years and it is when he met his Filipina wife thru internet. Both of their parents gave them their blessings and they got married in

2004, in a civil wedding in the Philippines. The husband had prepared all of the documents needed for her to come to Korea.

After 4 months, she arrived in Korea. Alcott says that her husband is very kind to her and tries to teach her the Korean language. She said her husband understands her situation and he tries to make things easier for her.

Her only complain at the moment is their culture. She is still suffering from culture shock. She had not known that the men in Korea had to be served like kings, when they could do things themselves. She could not easily adapt to him, especially since Korean men wanted to be served at all times. He also loves to drink alcohol and gets drunk. She gets tired doing this every day for she was used to Filipino men doing these things on their own. Her husband also expects that she cooks his meals always and to serve him his food even if she is also tired doing all the household chores during the day.

Another thing, she is not allowed to touch their computer. He gets jealous most of the time and gets really angry with her. He suspects that she is meeting male friends thru the internet, the way they met. Alcott got the scare of her life that she never attempted to touch the computer again. Alcott also tells that her husband is strict in teaching her to learn the Korean language. He gets mad at her when she could not learn immediately. But Alcott also is thankful for they do not live with her in-laws. They stay in a small apartment and she was also encouraged by her husband to meet other Filipina women so she would have friends. She had heard stories of Filipina women living with their in-laws and she was grateful.

Note: The interview was done in the presence of the Korean husband and he was tried to talk to about the Filipino Culture and he was also asked to adjust his wife's culture since it is so difficult for her to just adapt to their culture. He was willing to do his share.

10) Alupa (33 years old)

Background Information:

Alupa had been working as a domestic helper in Hongkong for 3 years and her work contract is nearing its expiration when she came to learn about the Seminar being given by the Unification church in Hongkong. Due to curiosity, she, together with a friend who is also a domestic helper, joined the seminars given every Sundays. In this seminar, they were asked to give their pictures to be matched to Korean men. During the seminars, she has a spiritual guardian who is a Japanese woman. In the seminars, they were told that they would be matched to ideal men to be able to form an ideal family.

It was only after one month seminar that she was able to see her future Korean husband through his picture. She was told that the picture given to her would be her husband. Her picture was also given to the Korean man. 2 weeks before the Blessing of the members of the Unification church in Hongkong, she met her husband in person for the first time. In this meeting, the Korean man told her that he wanted to marry her. Since her work would end and she would have nothing to do in the Philippines. And she felt the charisma of the man and had accepted the offer. So, after the blessing of Rev. Syung Mun Moon, a sign that they were married, she has to pay HK\$250 and her husband has to pay on his own.

After the blessings, the Korean man went back to Korea and she to her employers to finish her contract. While finishing her contract with her Chinese employer in Hongkong, her husband had also worked on their papers in Korea. After her contract had expired, she went home to the Philippines and waited for the papers coming from her husband (Spouse invitation letter, marriage certificate, etc.). She had only processed her visa since she already had her passport. She was given a fiancée visa (F-1) and her husband also sent her a plane ticket for Korea.

In Korea, she did not live immediately with her husband but had to stay in the Kuri (church for the unification members) and stayed there for almost 4 months to learn about the culture of her husband and his language and also about the Unification, its divine principles which they have to follow as members; one is that Rev. Moon is to be placed as the second messiah, the God of the world and the one who could unite the world through the marriage between peoples of different origin and cultures. Also, during this 4 months seminar, her husband could visit her but they are not allowed to

live together. After the 4 months, she was allowed to go to her husband and that they have to start with the 'ideal family life'. But before she was allowed to go, she has to pay the Unification 140,000 Won. This she said was to pay for her lodging and food during the seminar for 4 months.

She had lived in a rented apartment for 2 years. They lived alone without her-in-laws. Her in-laws had helped her husband provide for their things and she was not also prohibited by her husband to use the telephone to call her parents. This treatment was only during the first to 2 months of their married life. The following had become unbearable for her. If she was not prohibited in using the telephone before, she was no longer allowed to use it nor to go out of the house and make friends.

She was also tied to works. She has to go to her in-laws everyday to clean their house and help them with heir work. And since her husband is the eldest, she was expected to do the Choosuk. Everything her in-laws tell her, she has to follow without complaining. She tries to complain to her husband, but he sided with his parents. She had served as the maid for her husband's family. Her husband also drinks alcohol regularly and this result to her being beaten by him. Domestic violence is prevalent in their relationship but is seen as normal in Korea.

Another thing which makes her complain is her husband's giving of his salary to his parents, and they were just given some allowance to spend for his own family. This had caused their biggest quarrel. Her husband had beaten her black and blue and she had started to fight back and she became hysterical.

It was only in 1999 when she gave birth to their son, that some improvements in their relationship was observed. They were also able to transfer to their own house which was bought by her husband where they are staying to this date. She had also tried to win her-in-laws sympathy by obeying and doing everything that pleases them. In 2000, she went home to the Philippines with her husband and had a church wedding in her hometown. Again, she was able to go home to the Philippines with her son in 2002, and it is also in the Philippines where her son was baptized. For Alupa , she said that to be able to win her in-laws to like her, she has to do everything that pleases them. And not to make complains like what she did. Now, they treat her better. She does not also complains if her husband

gives his salary to his mother, since for the Korean culture, this is her husband's obligation as long as they are provided with their own needs.

The couple had also separated from the Unification church since they could no longer endure its teaching. They attend to the Catholic Church and was able to make friends with other Filipina Women also married to Korean men. Alupa had somewhat adjusted to the Korean culture and has come to believe in them and forgoing some of her Filipino Culture to be able to maintain her marriage which she also believes is sacred. Though there are some regrets, she has to sacrifice and be contented with what she has now. She also believes that her marriage life would even become better in the future.

Note: It was observed that she does not treat her son well. She slaps him and beats him even in front of other people. Maybe, this is one of her ways of coping with her situation with her husband. She could not fight her husband, thus she turns her anger towards her child. Even during the interview, she keeps on pulling his hair, pinching him and slapped his face hard that her hands made a mark on his face. Interviewer is not sure if her relationship with her husband and in-laws had really improved. As told by her other friends, she is a battered wife to this date, but she does not want to admit it to me.

11) Almina (28 years old)

Background Information:

Almina is a Social Work Graduate and had worked as an organizer in Philippines. She stopped working when the conflict had intensified in work area and her father had prevented her to continue with her work. Being a social worker, she wanted to help and thought that those doing 'mission' are from the NGOs. It was only when she was a member did she come to know that it is the Unification church. Being a social worker and wanted to help raise funds which they were told would be used to help other people especially the children, she had enjoyed doing it. They solicit funds from the big department stores and restaurants. They also prepare some

candies and sell them to people in the parks, or in parking spaces or any places where there a lot of people. They sell anything and everything that people like to buy. She did this for 4 months. They were not given anything for their works, they were just given their food and clothing.

Again, they were called to do 'mission' work again in another city, a place where they have a church. She also came to like the idea that it is better to get married to a Korean man rather than be married to a Filipino man who has no work. Also, Almina and the Korean man believed in the Moon's teaching which they think is good for them, and have a good goal for everybody. They were asked to submit their pictures and bio-data for the purpose of matching to be done by their moksanimor leaders. This was also the first time that they met but they were not introduced personally. It was only in 1999, when 18 Korean men arrived and their pictures were shown to the Korean men. The Korean men were also given of the women's background and other information. The women were never given orientation about their would-be husbands. They were also told to accept the person paired to them and not to make complains. They have no right to complain of what was given to them as this is also the teachings of the Unification church. It was only after the matching are they allowed to meet their future husbands personally. After the said matching, she had stayed with the center for another year (1) to help in the fund raising activity while the Korean man went back to Korea. The Korean men went back to the Philippines where the 18 pairs, them included, and were blessed by their church leaders (moksanim). This is a special ceremony served as their wedding ceremony where there was singing and holy wine were also served. After the ceremony, the Korean men had gone back again to Korea and the women have to wait for their invitation so they could also process their visas in the Philippines. Almina was able to get an F-1 visa and had arrived in Korea in 2001.

In her arrival in Korea, she was brought directly to the Unification church in Kyohme, and stayed there for a week. This is for them to prepare for the International Mass Wedding where millions of couples are to be married again in front of the televised picture of Rev. Moon. After the mass wedding, she has to stay in their church in Kuri for another 3 months to learn of the Korean language and the Korean culture and the Divine principles of the Unification church. Her husband had also stayed in a

church in his home town. After 3 months stay at Kuri, she was allowed to go out but her husband has to pay the church 1.2M Won. Again, for the payment of her stay and for the food served to them during their stay. When she went out of the Kuri, she went to live with his husband in their province. Being the eldest son, (her husband has 3 siblings who are also all men) they have to live with his parents. So, aside from serving his husband, she has to serve all other family members. She has to clean the house, cook for them all and also wash all of their clothes. She was hard up and tried to complain to her husband. Instead, she was told that she has to act like Korean women who do all the works and does not complain. She had also found difficulty, especially during the winter time, where she has to wash clothes manually and has to use cold water.

This time, her husband sided with her and had rented a small room where they had stayed for 2 years. Though separated physically from her in-laws, she still has to go to her in-law's house to clean and work for them. Her father-in-law was the one very strict and she was not comfortable with him. Her every movement is being measured and she receives negative feedbacks for the work she does for them instead of being thanked. After 2 years, she gave birth to their first son. They had stayed again with her in-laws and she was always criticized again by them. She was told that she does not know how to take care of her baby. And also, even if she had undergone Ceasarian operation, she is made to do the works at home. She could not find time to rest.

She felt better when her husband was able to buy a small house in Seoul where they had transferred. She stayed there and did not want to visit her in-laws. She reason out that she takes care of her baby as well as for the need of her husband. Her husband could not force her to go to them for she also said that she is not comfortable with them. Her difficulty had doubled when she had given birth to her second son. It was also through ceasarian. Now, she has to attend to her 2 children and to her husband. Her husband does not help her with their children. She can not find time to fix herself up. Also, when her children get sick, she is not assisted by her husband, even if she is hard-up talking with Korean doctors for she does not speak their language well. When things go wrong, her husband and his family blame her. Even with her second child, she has to go to her in-laws to serve them.

She also complains at times when they have nothing to use in the house. She could not buy milk or food for her children and other needs in the house and her husband looks for food to eat when he does not give her money. She was asked to budget the 10,000 Won for their one month's use which is hardly enough for them. Her mother-in-law is the one who receives her husband's salary and only gives them a 10,000 won a month budget for their needs. There were also several occasions that her husband reminds/tells her of the big expenses he incurred in marrying her and the expenses she incurred when she went home to the Philippines twice which usually ends up in big fights.

Almina also finds it burdensome not to be able to express herself and bring out what she wants to say. She could not tell it to her husband or to his family for they could not understand her. She felt heavy and finds difficulty in breathing due to this. There are only times when she met other Filipina women could she share her feelings but not all of it. Though she has other Filipina women as friends, she still have some reservations, for at times, her story is known to all and she does not want it that way.

Almina would be 5 years in Korea this coming January, 2005. She is still adjusting herself to her husband's culture which is difficult for her to understand. She has to serve him and his father-in-law as the kings, but she said that even kings do some work to help but not her husband or his brothers and especially her-father-in-law. Sometimes, she prays that her father-in-law dies first before her mother-in-law, for if this happens, she would inherit all the works of her mother-in-law being the wife of their eldest son.

Almina teaches her children to be able to keep herself sane and sometimes, she also calls her family in the Philippines and talks to her mother. When she also finds some time, she tries to watch TV. She is doing everything to be able to save her marriage and make it better everyday. She also tries to communicate with her husband often but at times, her husband does not answer if he is also tired from his work. She just has to turn her attention to her children to overcome her negative feelings.

12) Anna (19 years old)

Anna was working in a restaurant in Philippines when her mother brought her to the recruitment agency. Her mother is a friend of the agent who knew Jenny, the manager of the agency. At the agency, they were made to fill-up application forms with their pictures attached. After submission of their application, they would be called when the Korean men would be arriving in the Philippines. As in the case of Anna, the Korean men arrived in 2004. Here, all of the applicants were called to report to the recruitment agency and formed a line-up and were given numbers. As their numbers are called, they would come out and be inspected by the Korean men. This goes for all of the women. If the Korean men are able to select the Filipina woman he wants, they would be called out again for an interview both by the Korean man and Jenny.

After the selection, the Korean men together with their Filipina partners go out to shop for clothes they would use for their wedding the following day. Anna was selected by her Korean husband among other women. Next day, they went out shopping for their clothes to wear for their wedding. And after one day, they had their wedding under civil rites. The wedding took place at certain restaurant. It was officiated by a certain pastor. The wedding was attended by her mother, an older sister and her brother-in-law. Her husband had to stay in the Philippines for only 5 days, so after the wedding, he went back to Korea. But before going, her husband wanted to have sex first with her before going back to Korea but she did not allow him.

When her husband had gone back to Korea, Anna had to stay with the recruitment agency. They say that this is their way to prevent them getting pregnant by other men. She, together with the other women, stayed in a very small room where they were packed like sardines for a month. They were given not enough food to eat and were made to clean the big house of Jenny. They were only allowed to go out when they have to process their visas.

All the requirements had arrived and Anna's visa was processed. She was supposed to come to Korea at an earlier date, but she was held at the airport. She was questioned at the Immigration Office and was not allowed

to board her plane. Her agency was called and her flight was re-scheduled again. At the airport, Anna had observed that a man had escorted her and the other women until they had boarded their plane. They did not follow the protocol in going out of the airport. After their checking-in their luggage, they were ushered right away. They did not stop at the immigration officers checking/verifying documents before proceeding to the boarding area.

Anna had finally arrived in Korea. She has an F-1 visa and only allowed to stay in Korea for months. While in the Philippines, Jenny told them that the Korean men are very rich and have big businesses in Korea. They have big houses and beautiful cars. They need not worry about their families left in the Philippines since their Korean husbands would send them a monthly allowance of US\$300.00. So, before the Korean men left the Philippines, her husband left 10,000.00 pesos to Jenny for her mother but only P9,000.00 was actually given to her. The second time, her Korean husband sent another P10,000.00 but only P7,000.00 was again given to her mother.

In Korea, when she arrived, her Korean husband went to meet her at the airport. She was brought to his very small and dirty apartment. They lived alone and there were no in-laws to stay with them. Here, she came to know that what her agency had been telling her were all lies. The Korean man was not rich and he has no stable job. He works in a construction area and when he receives his salary, he uses it to buy his alcoholic drinks and would not even give her some money to buy for their food. She has to content herself with Gimchi for all of her meals.

She had described that her two (2) months stay with her husband is more than hell. He had been raping her every time she does not want to have sex with him. He beats her every time until she could no longer fight back. At times, she is even unconscious but still her husband performs sex with to her (oral, anal sex, fingering, etc.). He forces her to open her mouth and put his penis inside. At other times, after penetrating her with his penis, he uses his finger or some object to insert in her vagina. He wanted to have sex with her everyday and does it at least 2-3 times in one day. This is done especially when he is drunk. One time, she had refused him again since she was having her menstruation, but still her husband had forced her since it was still okay for him.

She had tried to run out of the house but he pulled her back. He kicked her and punched her stomach until she could not do anything to protect

her body. She tried hard to resist but the man was an animal. She ripped off her panties and tore her bra. She tried to run away from him and sat on a corner trying to cover herself but her husband pulled her again and did things to her.

The Korean husband told her that he could do things he wanted to her since he had paid the agency big amount of money. If she wanted to back out of their relationship, she has to pay him first. Anna had answered that it's the agency who should pay him back and not her. It was the agency who had gained from the set-up and she had not received money from him. Another thing, he had been using her to satisfy his sexual urges. She had tried calling her agency to complain but instead she was threatened that she would be reported to the immigration officer so she would be jailed. She has also threatened the agency that once she goes back to the Philippines, she would file a case of human trafficking against them. From then on, the agency had not been answering her calls. She had also tried to ask help from her mother but she could do nothing. Anna felt so helpless and fearful every time her husband arrives home. She does not want to continue with this kind of life.

She wanted to run away from it. She wanted to die rather than live with an animal. She was able to run away from him. She was assisted by a Filipina woman who came to know of her situation. She had let her stay with her for a month until they were able to look for a shelter where she could stay and be given protection from her husband. She has to go to a secluded place where her husband could not locate her. Her fear had intensified when she was told that her husband was looking for her in that place. Again, she was helped by another Filipina woman who had then referred her to the shelter which is difficult to find. She is with the shelter for more than a week and she feels safer.

Her experience had been so traumatic in her very young age. Anna's passport was also taken by her husband and is at the immigration she they are supposed to file for her alien card. She has no documents with her. She could not wait for her alien card to be processed for all she wanted to do was to get far away from him. She could not live another day with him.

She had been praying hard that things would turn better for her. All she wanted now is to have justice with what was done to her. She wanted to sue her agency and her husband but does not know what to do at the

same time, she has no money. She was also told that she would have difficulty in proving that her rights were violated since she has no proof. She also wants to go back to the Philippines but has to earn money first so she could sue her agency in the Philippines. If she goes home without money, she might lose her case and her recruiter would go scot-free again and she does not like this to happen. She wanted to see her recruiter suffering behind bars. She wanted that their business would stop its operation to prevent other Filipina women suffer the same fate she had.

13) Allyn (29 years old)

Allyn works as a saleslady in Philippines. While she and other salesladies were selling, they were invited by the leaders of the Unification church to join them. She did not know these people but she was able to join due to curiosity and that their sales talks' are very convincing. They were brought to A where the Unification church was located. This date was also the arrival day of the Korean men in the Philippines.

At one night of 1999, they were matched to the Korean men. She just went along with the activities and had not questioned the leaders of the Unification church even when she was already matched. They had a mass wedding which was officiated by the leaders of the Unification church (called moksanim). 2000 pairs were wedded that day. Prior to the 'blessing', papers were signed by them but she did not pay attention to what was the content before signing. The Korean version was signed by the men and an English version was given to them to sign. After the wedding, her Korean husband paid the Unification leaders US\$500.

The Korean men went back to Korea and the Filipina women were left behind. They stayed at the Center for 7 days for the seminar on how to form an ideal family and to pray. Aside from the seminar, they were forced to sell things to people. Those people whom she had approached to sell her wares (ballpen) were angry and they would not buy things coming from the Moonies. Since she could not sell her goods, she was the one who bought them and gave to her relatives as gifts. She had been a good

saleslady prior to her joining the Moonies, but when they were told to sell, she could not sell anything. One time, she met a Chinese lady who warned her that she would get beaten by her husband and that some even got killed. She did not mind the warnings. After the 7 days, she tried to go back to her family while waiting for her papers bound for Korea but she was not allowed. She has to stay at the Center for 3 more months. During their stay in the Center, they were made to fast. They were given little food and were told to drink more water. They are made to work hard as their preparation for a married life in Korea. She had followed her husband in Korea. Allyn, while still in the Philippines, wanted to back out she was not allowed by the Filipino moksanim, because they have to pay back the Korean man the money he had paid to the Unification Church. Upon her arrival to Korea, she did not go directly to her husband's house. She was brought to T where a Unification church was located and stayed there for 40 days. Here, they were made to pray and their husband visits her everyday, as though courting her. Allyn claimed that in her stay here, they were not taught of their husband's culture or language. They were taught that the Rev. Moon is the second messiah and his divine principles have to be obeyed. After the 40 days, her husband paid the church 200,000 Won before she was taken out. The payment is for her board and lodging, but they were made to fast and no or little food was again given to them.

She and her husband started to live together. They lived with her mother-in-law. It was when they started to live together did she learn that her husband is the only son and he is the second child and he has 2 sisters. He is a high school graduate and works as an employee in an industrial company and not the company president as he had claimed. He had told her lies when they met in the Philippines. He also has hearing impairment and that he uses a hearing aid. In her first day with the family, Allyn already felt that her mother-in-law is very aloof, very strict and does not like her. She had not been treated well even in her first few days with them. She was always made to work and not allowed to take a rest. Every time she tries to sit down for awhile, her mother-in-law shouts at her. She was not also allowed to use the telephone to call her family back home. The telephone was always kept inside her mother-in-law's room and she was not allowed to enter. She was not also allowed to go out and make friends. When her mother-in-law brings her with her to visit their relatives,

she always tells them that she was paid so dearly. The old lady also shouts and humiliates her in front of them.

One time, she could no longer endure the humiliation, she had cried and she was laughed at by them. Every time their friends visit them, she was berated and becomes the laughing stock. Her mother-in-law had never tried to talk to her nicely every time she wanted to tell her something. She throws or drops things instead of handing it to her. She bangs everything she holds which frightens her. Allyn could not also talk with her husband when he is at home for he is always at her mother's side. The mother does not also allow her to be alone with her son. The husband would not also talk with her. During the night, he sleeps right away after talking with his mother. Allyn had felt so alone and is an outcast in the family. Her mother-in-law also tells her that she has to work hard since they had invested big money in her and has to pay them back. Since she has no money to pay them, she has to work hard and do things they tell her. She was told that they had paid the Unification church more than 4M Won. Allyn told her that she was not aware of such payments. Allyn was never given money to buy what she likes. Her mother-in-law also fabricated stories to her son, which causes their quarrels. He would slap her face several times. She would try to explain her side but her husband would not hear her. She told him that he should have married his mother instead of her.

Even when Allyn got pregnant she was still made to do work hard. She had never complained but still tries her best to please her mother-in-law and her husband thinking that by doing so, their treatment would improve. This never happened. Before she had given birth, her mother-in-law told lies to her husband. Her husband got mad and he kicked back and slapped her hard on the face. Less beating was done on her due to her pregnant condition but they always pull her hair instead. Allyn gave birth to a baby girl. She thought, the mother-in-law would like her but she was wrong. The treatment had never improved. After giving birth, she had also become so sickly. When she could no longer endure the pain, she ran to her older sister (also in Korea and also married to a Korean but her husband is kind). She left her 6 months old baby to her husband.

Her sister and her husband brought her to the hospital and tried to talk to her husband but they were not heard. While at her sister's place, she had been calling her husband and asked about her baby. The phone is

dropped when they hear her voice. She also went to their house to visit them but she was not allowed to enter. Her mother-in-law had been hiding the baby from her. When the first birthday of her daughter, she bought a very beautiful and expensive doll for a present to her daughter. She went to her in-law's but she was not allowed to enter again. She stayed outside trying to take a glimpse of her daughter. The gift to her daughter was thrown outside and her baby was brought inside the room. Even if she was being driven away by her-in-laws, she did not go away. She had stayed outside for the whole day and slept outside during the night to be able to see her daughter. She never saw her daughter.

From this time, she took it as a challenge and went out to look for work. She has to have money to fight for the custody of her daughter. She was able to enter in a factory and her salary was good. So She tried again to talk with her mother-in-law that she be allowed to see her baby. Since she has money, she also tried to give her, but her sister-in-law had threatened her. She got the money and gave it back to her and told her to go away. She was threatened that if she would not go away, they would call her husband. She did not go away, so her husband was called. He came and beat her and dragged her out of the stairs. This time, Allyn had the fear of her life. Her husband would really kill her. She was able to run away from him. That was the last time she did try to visit her baby. Since then, she became so depressed and was not in her normal self. She had not been eating and she keeps on crying. For 6 months she had been in and out of the hospital. She also developed a heart ailment. She had become very thin and needs to be hospitalized. The psycho-social impact of her being away from her baby affected her so much physically, emotionally and mentally. She was so depressed that she has to stay in the hospital for 15 days and her hospital bills had grown big. Her sister sought the help of the Catholic Center who paid for her hospital bills. She had also tried to ask help from the Philippine Embassy but no assistance was given to her.

One day, due to severe pain in her abdomen, she was again brought to the hospital. She come to know that an IUD was inserted in her organ. This just came out with her menstruation. This had also caused some infection that had caused the severe pain. Allyn had suspected that this IUD was inserted after she had given birth to her baby. She remembered that she felt so much pain in her abdomen after giving birth and could barely when

she went out of the hospital. She felt her privacy was invaded. It was her body but another person had made the decision for her in putting the IUD. She had kept the IUD that fell off from her for her evidence.

Another shock came to her life when she came to know that she was divorced by her husband. She came to know about this when she went to the immigration office. Her name was signed in her husband's application for divorce, though she was not made to sign anything. Her name was erased from the family registry of her husband. Upon knowing this, she filed a counter complaint. She had questioned the validity of the divorce since she did not sign any divorce papers. She also came to know that it was her mother-in-law who had signed the papers for her. Also, it was her mother-in-law who paid the filing fee of 4M Won. The case has reached the highest court of Korea and Allyn would not give up. She is very much willing to be divorced from her husband as long as she would get her daughter. She no longer loves her husband and is not hoping that they get back together. She had suffered much from their hands, but she did visit him in the hospital when she learned that he was sick and was hospitalized. She was thinking of who would take care of her baby when her husband dies. She does not want her mother-in-law to be the one to take care of her. She does not want her daughter to be influenced by her mother-in-law's bad attitudes.

At present, a social worker from the Department of the Social Welfare of Korea is assisting her and a lawyer was also provided by the Catholic Church to handle her case. Allyn is willing to do everything to be able to get her daughter, especially now that her husband is sick. Allyn had been attending the court hearings and she was told that they have to wait until January, 2005 for the final decision of the court. She is hoping that she wins the case.

While waiting for the result of the case, she works in a factory for plastic injections to divert her attention from her heavy problems. She keeps herself busy to earn money for sake of her daughter at the same time to keep her sane. Also, she is initiating the formation of an organization of Filipina women married to Korean men in the Hyewa-dong community. This, she said is one way of helping other women having problems with their relationships. She wanted that they form mutual support group where they could share and learn from each others' experiences.

14) Angie (39 years old)

Angie is a college graduate and comes from a well-respected family. She was still studying in one of the popular universities in the Philippines when she came to meet her Korean husband. The Korean man was introduced to her by a common friend. They fell in love and had been dating for sometime but her parents and her whole family was against this relationship but she had defied them. Since she felt that she loved him, she had decided to marry him when he had proposed to her. Her husband went ahead of her to Korea to prepare for their marriage while she processed her papers. She was questioned of her going to Korea by the Korean Embassy and she was only given the visitor's visa. The couple was married in the Korean tradition and after their wedding they went back to the Philippines. The couple had stayed in the Philippines for 3 years and the Korean man had adjusted himself to his wife's family. He was treated well and was considered as a real son, being a husband of their daughter. After 3 years of staying in the Philippines, the couple decided to go back to Korea so her husband could also find work there.

Angie's life in Korea had become difficult. Her husband's attitude had changed abruptly. While he was kind and helpful to his wife in the Philippines, he had become so cruel to her in Korea. She receives beatings and had also become a slave to his whole family. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law had not also been kind to her. Her husband is also treated like a child by his mother. At the age of 35, he was still being bathed by his mother. His mother's decisions had to be followed. She had sacrificed a lot and had also tried to act like a real Korean wife, being submissive and docile just to win the love and respect of her in-laws. She never was treated kindly by her Korean family. She had tried to adjust herself to the new twist of her life to save their marriage from breaking up.

Before coming to Korea, she had given birth to their eldest son, who is now in the fifth grade. Her son was the witness to the mauling she received from her husband and his friends. Her husband had been drinking

with his friends and came home very drunk. One time, she was not able to prepare food for her husband and his friends since she was attending to her son who was very sick at that time. He was high on fever and she, too was sick. She was talking to a Angie friend asking for assistance when her husband and his 3 friends arrived and all of them were drunk. Her husband shouted at her and tried to pull long her hair and dragged her upstairs. She tried to resist and to run away from him but his friends caught her and pinned her down. While lying on the floor and held by her husband's friends, her husband beat her and punched any part of her body. Her husband and his friends took turns beating her up. Her head was banged against the wall and the steps. She was pleading for her life. She pleaded that they stop the beatings but all of her cries went to naught. The air was filled with their laughter, looking at her bloodied. Since she could not yet speak Korean, she had shouted for help in English but no one came to help her. Their room was filled with her blood and that of her husband when her husband hurt himself after kicking the glass wall. This was the only time that his friends called 911 for help.

She took the chance to snatch her son and ran away. She was able to call her friend for help. She and her son, who was only 6 months old, stayed with her friend for the rest of the night. Her friend had called other Filipinos to assist her and her son and they were brought to a hospital in Seoul. After checking out from the hospital, she went to the Philippine Embassy for help. They were placed in the government shelter for 2 months to recover. After her stay with the Center of the Philippine Embassy, she went to the Catholic Center where she had stayed longer. She was counseled and was taught how to speak Korean. She was able to learn fast that in span of 2 months, she could speak and read the language. She also came to hate her husband's place, for it was where she had experienced the worst in her life, she was advised to go back to the Philippines. She went home but her son was left behind.

After recovering, she had decided to come back to Korea and prove to her husband and her in-laws that she is not a loser. She wanted to get her son and the only way she could do that was to return to Korea and get a Korean citizenship to have a fair fight. She also wanted to go back to her husband's place and try to erase the sad memories it had brought to her. It

is also thru this way that she could overcome her hatred of husband's place.

She went back to live with her husband and tried to patch things up and was willing to give her husband a second chance. They made an agreement and they had also decided to live separately from her in-laws. She was able to find work as an area manager for an export company and she receives a high salary and her husband tended to rely on her. He had stopped working since she could support their needs. His mother had also made her demands and she had provided it all without complaints. One time, his mother had demanded for a big refrigerator to stock kimchi and a DVD player. She paid for the appliances and for other things taken by his mother. Angie never heard any thanks from them. She did not complain. Angie became the Korean wife again and had been so obedient to get close to her in-laws. She tried to serve them well even if she was tired from her work in the office.

Angie talked with her husband that she could take the beatings but she would give up their relationship if she would come to know that he has other women besides her. Her husband had been denying this. She had discovered that he was having a relationship with another woman when her husband had stopped working. She found out that the woman her husband was having a relationship with was also married. This other woman had been asking him money which he could not give. She is using their relationship to blackmail him. He had decided to quit his job and hide away from her. She gave a different reason to Angie. After this, he did it again the second time. His second relationship with another woman is still going on.

Angie was able to tolerate the first one but she could no longer endure the pain this time. She had been giving in to her husband's demands that she serve him well and put aside her own needs but she does not do his part. From being a submissive and a docile woman, Angie became a fighter which made her husband wonder. She changed the way she dress and the way she carries herself. If before, Angie serves him well, now she does not do that for he keeps her waiting to serve him. He asks his family to wait for him for supper but he does not come home. Now, she gives more attention to her 2 boys who are both talented and active. She is a freelancer, giving lessons to her students thru the phone or goes to their

offices before they start with their work and goes back home at 9:00 to be with her children. She had economic control now and does not depend on her husband to survive. Her husband seldom goes home to see his family. He also makes decision by himself or at times with his elder sister and does not include them. Their marriage is on the rocks, but Angie believes it is better this way than living together and just being civil to each other when they are together.

She sees the negative impact to her two children and she does not want them to be affected too much. She still serves him when he goes home and she also greets his friends who mauled her when she see them around the neighborhood. She had forgiven her husband and his friends for what they did to her and she felt lighter and at peace with herself now. Angie wanted that when she part ways with her husband, they would still be friends. She could not deny his right to their two children.

This December, before Christmas, Angie intends to have a heart-to-heart with her husband to resolve their differences. She wanted to give his freedom and for her to have a clearer direction of her life and that of her 2 kids. Her two children wanted to stay with her and all of her endeavors and sacrifices now are for her two lovely children. Angie is a survivor and a strongly determined woman. Angie, together with other Filipinos had initiated the formation of their organization which aimed to extend help to other women, Filipinos or not. They had been in the same situation before and they do not want that other women suffer the way they did. With the guidance of the Lord, she believes they could do it. I wish them luck for their success.

15) Aalice (19 years old)

Aalice was a working student in the Philippines before she was introduced to a Korean man. She had a brighter future with a given scholarship to pursue higher education. She works at the same time to be of help to her grandmother and an aunt who had taken care of her since her childhood. Her parents had separated when she was still only 5 years

old. She was under the custody of her mother while her older brother was taken by her father who now stays abroad with his other family. Alice's mother had died when she was 5 years old and since then was under the care of her relatives (grandmother and aunt). Her family is poor and she tried to look for work while studying to help provide for their needs. She was a saleslady in a department store during the day and attends school in the afternoon until evening.

Alice has a friend who is married to a Korean man, but they live in the Philippines. Her friend's Korean husband was the bridge for her meeting with her Korean husband. Her friend's Korean husband had sent her picture and telephone number to one of his friends in Korea and since then, she had been receiving phone calls from him. They had communication constantly which went on for 2 months even if she had not seen him personally or even in picture.

Finally, her Korean phone pal went to the Philippines. They were finally introduced to each other by her friend's Korean husband. She saw that he was old but they still proceeded with their wedding in a civil rite. Her husband had stayed for another one week in the Philippines and had their honeymoon. They had no sex for the first and second night, but on the third night, she was forced by her husband to have sex with him which she had obliged.

After one week stay in the Philippines, her husband went back to Korea and left her Php 24,000.00 to process her documents. She had attended the CFO (an orientation to Filipinas getting married to Korean men). She was also able to process her visa- F-2 and her stay of sojourn is only 3 months. This will expire on January 2005. Alice was not aware if her husband made payments to her friend's husband for looking a wife for him. Her husband did not also leave any money to her relatives since her mother is dead. She was just promised that a good and high paying job is waiting for her in Korea. It was in Korea that Alice had knowledge about her husband. He is a bus driver and divorced from his first marriage to a Chinese woman whom he has (1) child who is with his mother. She is the second wife. Her husband's parents are now dead. He and his two (2) siblings were also raised by his relatives.

When Alice arrived in Korea, she found that her husband lives in dingy place, a small room which is old and looks like an old comfort room. The

plates and other kitchen wares were placed near the toilet bowl while some of his things were placed outside. She had cleaned these all during her first day in Korea.

In her 8 days with her husband, what he wanted them to do is to have sex. He wanted that they have sex at least 3–4 times in a day. He does to her things which she could not do such as oral sex (forced to take in his penis in her mouth and play with it) and anal sex. She had felt that she was treated like an animal and not a person with rights, too. One time she had refused due to the pain she feels having sex thrice or four times in a day, her husband got mad at her. She wanted her to get out of the house. She asked him for forgiveness and they made an agreement. She could not complain if they engage in sex 3–4 times in a day since she does not know where to go. Every time she refused, she is being sent out of the house by her husband. She was also being compared to his friend's wife, also a Filipina who does everything her husband tells her to do, especially when it comes to having sex. He wanted her to be like that. She was always on the mercy of her husband.

She could not speak the Korean language and not allowed to make friends or phone calls to her family back in the Philippines. She was not given any money and the only money she has with her is the Philippine money which she could not use while in Korea. In her fifth day in Korea, her husband got angry again with her for she could not eat the food given to her to eat– raw fish. He was forcing her to eat this which she could not still do being new in Korea. He threw a thick book on her face and all she could do was cry in a corner. She was asking him to give her some time to adjust herself with their food. Still pleading, she was boxed and punched at the back instead. Her things were also thrown out but she still pleaded for his forgiveness. For 3 days, she was not given any food. She was only given some fruits which have different taste.

Prior to this, her Korean husband called up his friend who could speak English and discussed with her about the Korean food and some of their culture. She had told him to ask her husband to give her sometime to adjust herself. One day, his friend's wife called her up asking that she accompany her to buy something in a department store. It was the first time that she was allowed to go out. But before she could get out of the house, she was searched by her husband, as though to make sure that she

has not stolen anything. She was search all over and all of her pockets were searched. She also has to remove her shoes to show him that nothing was inserted inside. While she and the other woman were in the department store, she saw that her husband had followed them. She tried to look for him outside the department store but she could not see him, there were so many people and she was lost. She tried to look for her friend but she could see her, too. Then she saw her husband asking her friend to go ahead. Her husband did not come back for her but instead left her behind. She was running and crying at the same time not minding the people looking at her. She was so desperate. After sometime, her husband came back for her and before proceeding back to their house, they bought some meat to cook at home.

He taught her also how to use the stove to cook their food. Her husband also bought some fish and she washed it. She asked him how to cook it but she was not given an answer. After eating, her husband wanted that they have sex again but she refused for she was tired. Her husband was mad at her and let her get out of the house. For that night, she had stayed outside for she does not know where to go. She had pleaded to him to let her inside the house but was not heard.

The following day, her husband told her to call her friend and her Korean husband in the Philippines. She was able to talk to her and tell her what was going on and that she wanted to go back to the Philippines. The Korean husband was also able to talk to his Korean friend but nothing happened. After talking, her husband gave her 16,000 Won to use to buy her plane ticket. She said that it was not enough and that she does not know her way. All the things he bought for her like her clothes and shoes were taken back. The clothes she was wearing was also being force to be removed but she would not allow him to get it. That night, she stayed outside the gate crying since her husband had locked their house.

A Korean lady got pity on her since she had been crying. She was brought to the police station where she was interviewed. She had tried to tell them her story but she was not understood. The Police brought her to the Immigration Office but nothing was done. She was asking for help and she was asked how much money she has and when she showed them the 16,000 Won, she was told that nothing could be done with her case. She was dismayed at the Immigration Officer when she was told that her money

was not enough and that she could not be given help. Again, she asked the immigration officer to take her back to her husband even if she would be abused again.

The Immigration took some pity and called up a hotline. The immigration officer gave the taxi driver a sketch where to bring her and when she arrived at a center, they had paid her taxi fare. She had stayed there for a week before she was again referred to a hotline in other city, where a Filipina volunteer could talk to her. Aalice is at women's hotline for almost two weeks now. Her food and shelter is provided for free. She no longer wanted to go back to her husband. She fears that her life is in danger if she gets back to him. All she wanted now is to go back to the Philippines or find a work in Korea to be able to provide for her grandmother and her aunt who raised her up.

Aalice , though young and unprepared for a married life, had consented to be married to the old Korean man with the hope of giving her family in the Philippines a better life. She was willing to sacrifice her own self. She said that she was just being practical but she was not aware of the perils she had entered. The eagerness to provide her family a better life had brought her into this situation. She had thought that marrying a foreigner would bring her some luck but her dream went sour. Hopefully, Aalice would be able to recover from the trauma her marriage to a Korean had brought her. She is so young to undergo such an ordeal.

III. Filipino Women in Sex Industry

Aubery A. Bautista (Case Manager, Kanlungan)

1. Analysis and Recommendations

1-1. THE SITUATION

1) Situation in the Philippines

Almost all women interviewees came from poor/very poor family aggravated by abusive family member/s, broken relationships, single parenthood. They were forced to leave the country to be able to have better lives, to escape abusive situation in the family and to support her family. The community has also big impact on the decision of the women because of its high regards to people earning dollars and colonial mentality. Adding to these factors is the Philippines' economic situation. The government has no clear program for developing its economy and in fact has put greater percentage of its national budget in paying for the interest and the principal debts. The social and economic services were given less priority. In the end, the most vulnerable people got affected, and these are the women. Women bear all the consequences of all these problems. Instead of improving the Philippine economy, the government program is focused on the labor export.

Women met recruiters from anywhere. They were blinded by the sweet promises of these recruitment agencies. The women began to dream for their families. They applied at promotion agencies. The promotion agencies are the one who find the final booking for those women and link up with Korean promoters based in Korea. The women went through skills training like voice lessons for three to six months and the recruitment agencies hire voice teachers. After the training, the women were brought to TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) for audition. TESDA is a government agency in the Philippines who issue certificate of qualification or the ARB (Artist Record Book) for entertainers. But since September 2004, the POEA (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration) took over responsibility of issuing the now called Artist Accreditation Card (AAC). After passing the audition at POEA, the women applied for visa at the embassy of Korea in the Philippines. From

completion of documents like NBI certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate if married, passport size pictures, etc., needed in applying for passport to application of visa, skills training/voice lessons, medical check-up were all charged to women. The expenses did not include their transportation to and from their homes. The women had option to stay in the promotion agencies where they were charged large amount of money to be deducted from their monthly salaries. Usually, While Waiting for the departure, they were asked to do errands in the office of the promotion agencies or do household works in the house of the owner of the promotion agencies. The women waited for three months to two years. Promotion agencies require women to stay-in to avoid back-outs, pregnancies, to earn more money and/or prevent them from transferring other agencies. Women were subjected to indebtedness to the promotion agencies even before their deployment to Korea.

Other non-legal ways, the recruitment agencies paid for the TESDA ARB to make the process shorter and this was again charged to women. Not all women who apply for ARB or AAC pass the audition. Others need not have ARB because they were deployed with tourist visa and were being escorted at the airport immigration in the Philippines. The employment contracts were just signed a day before or during departure dates. The recruitment agencies do this so that women could no longer question about the contract contents. Usually the contracts bear agreement which is different from what was forwarded to POEA, if registered. Or different from what was agreed at the time the women were just applying or processing. But women were left with no choice because they were so indebted not only to their recruitment agencies but also with other people. And the family and the community had already expected from women, it's a shame if they quit.

2) Situation in Korea

Women were fetched at the airport in Korea by their Korean promoters. They were immediately brought to the clubs. But the clubs they were brought were different from the one stated in their contracts. They usually stayed there for three days and one month if complained about contract agreement. Some women were brought to the Philippine embassy in Korea for verification, if the Korean promotion agencies are licensed. At the

embassy, women were given orientation on the 'should be' condition of work, if indeed it can be called work. But verification at the embassy did not spare them from being victimized to trafficked and abused by the promoters, the club owners and/or the customers.

Women were transferred from one club to another, did not perform as Singers, required of drink quota, being penalized if quota on drinks is not reached, forced to prostitution, and salaries were unpaid if not delayed. They were also restricted to go out from their quarters during their free time. Many times, they were not also allowed to have day/s-off. They were not provided enough food and the accommodation was very poor. Some told that they developed food allergy because of the food provided by the club. There was also no enough heat especially during winter. When they got sick or needed medical treatment, they asked help from GI customers because the club did not give any medication. Some of them went to monthly medical check-ups. This medical check-up should be paid for by the club owners but others deducted it from women's salary. These women were treated like commodities by the people involved in this business.

Most of the women chose to run away from the clubs if they could not bear their conditions. They were subjected to abuse, being raped or harassed by their customers usually Koreans. They said that these happened inside the VIP rooms or when they were bar fined. They made them drunk, danced or anything that would make Korean customers enjoy. And worst, they would be forced to do sexual activities. Club owners or promoters did not believe and /or ignored women's complaint about the abuse. This was one of the reasons why women ran away. To save their lives and dignity from the abusive customers, that's what they want.

Some women resorted to have relationship with GI soldiers. They thought that GIs could save and help them from the hands of abusive club owners and promoters. GIs were considered the knights of shining armors by these women. Women thought that GIs help them reached their drink quota, able to escape from being taken out by many different customers and/or took them away from the clubs permanently.

When women ran away from the clubs, their E-6 visa ended and the club/promoters reported them to the immigration. In this case, women were the one penalized with maximum penalty of million won and deportation. Most of the women did not want to be deported to the

Philippines, they still want to earn money for their family. And they also worry about their debts.

To avoid maximum penalty, some women married their GI boyfriends. Marrying them would lessen penalty and usually pay the maximum penalty of ₱500,000. After paying the penalty to the immigration, they can already get SOFA (Statement of Forces Agreement), this is only given to wives of GIs. GIs married to Filipino women get additional salary and monetary allowances from the US military. There were some women/interviewees married to GIs and suffer from abusive relationship also. Extra allowances were not given to their wives. GI husbands still date with other women, women were expected to serve them in their house. But there are some good relationship of women to GIs. They allow their wives to work but not in the clubs. Women once married to GIs are not anymore allowed to work in the clubs.

1-2. THE ANALYSIS

Since 1974 ' the Philippine government has developed the labor export industry as one of the pillars of the country's economic development, if indeed, it could be called development. Almost 8 million Filipinos are scattered in 193 countries and destinations. 288,155 newly hired overseas Filipino workers were legally deployed in 2002, 73% of these were women.

Top Ten Destinations of Women New Hires:

1. Japan – 70,123 – Entertainers
2. Saudi Arabia – 26,285 – Domestic Workers, Nurses
3. Taiwan – 25, 409 – Production Workers, Building Caretakers
4. Hong Kong – 22,638 – Domestic Workers
5. Kuwait – 13,890 – Domestic Workers and other related household workers
6. UAE – 13,819 – Domestic Workers
7. UK – 2,931 – Nurses
8. Qatar – 2,619– Domestic Workers
9. Israel – 2,611 – Caregivers, Caretakers
10. Canada – 2,214 – Caregivers, Caretakers

11. Others – 27,822

We have now a trend of continuing feminization of migration.

In the long term, the financial benefits of labor export will be outweighed by the social costs of the export of our valuable resources: human resources. Among the social costs include:

1) The negative socio-psychological effect of long-term separation from the family and the community. It is the greatest anxiety for women who have children in the Philippines to leave them behind. Women can only communicate with their families in the Philippines through cellular phones. It is a form of long-distance mothering for them. Not being able to give enough financial support or most of the times none, are part of women's guilt feelings. The long-term physical and emotional separation from their husbands lead to marital infidelity that cause marital strain and break-ups and irresponsibility of the husbands. This happens because the husbands cannot face the challenge of a role shift in the absence of their wives. The society has expected men to provide for their families.

2) The effect on the health and well-being of the entertainers. Women are vulnerable to developing sexually transmitted diseases because of the nature and condition of their work. Their mental health is also affected because of the guilt, shame, loneliness and anxiety.

3) The breakdown of families. There are already studies on the effects of migration of women. One of these is the breaking up of families because of the long physical separation.

Women workers who are mainly entertainers, domestic workers and caregivers/ caretakers are in extremely vulnerable situations. Their oppression and exploitation is based on:

1. Class. Women are exploited and abuse because they belong to the third world country and rely on what the rich countries can contribute. In the Philippines, women who are deployed come from poor family.
2. Race. Women belong to brown race are discriminated.

3. The inferior position of our country in the international geopolitics.
4. Gender. Women are treated and considered second-class citizen and are less valued.

Many women are victims of VAW (violence against women) experiencing various forms of physical, verbal and sexual abuse, including rape. Being deprived of food, of mobility and security.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3-1. Durebang and other Korean NGOs

1. Databank system

- to have records of cases being handled
- reference for statistics
- can be used when lobbying for the passage of a law

2. Develop Filing System

The office should keep and systematize filing system of each case. This will be useful for assessment and planning for the programs and services. It is easier to follow-up in case of the absence of a case handler, anybody from the staff can answer in case a woman makes follow-up of status of her case in the office. It is also less stressful for the case handler and other staff.

3. Develop empowering methods in handling cases of women

Women victims of trafficking are still capable in making decisions. They just need to be guided, process with them their traumatic experiences and help them assess their options. At the start of the helping relationship, there should be memorandum of agreement and instill partnership in case management. Encourage counterpart like asking them to clean computer room and office/rooms

4. Develop team approach in case management

Handling cases of women victims of violence is very stressful. Case handlers, remember, are also human. They get stressed, tired and

pressured. Each one has her own style and perceptions about handling a certain case. This is not the case of a case handle.

5. Handling cases should be timely, efficient and gender sensitive
6. Develop system of network with other NGOs and other professions like lawyers, doctors, etc.
7. Develop gender sensitivity/feminist perspective in the program
8. Have regular stress debriefing
9. Regular education and training
 - Gender Sensitivity Training
 - Basic Migrants Orientation Seminar
 - International Labor Migration
 - Feminist Counseling
 - Etc.
10. Lobby for the passage of laws that would benefit the women.
11. Develop volunteerism, paralegal service and tap students in schools/universities to help raise their consciousness on issues related to women.
12. For NGOs/institution with shelter program, develop livelihood programs for women staying in the shelter and for those who returned or want to return to the Philippines.
13. Continue networking and linking up with NGOs in the Philippines especially with women.

3-2. Kanlungan

1. Investigate on the immigration escort system

2. Submit report to Philippine government agencies responsible for deploying entertainers to Korea and have investigation of their process.
3. To assist in filing cases of women trafficked to Korea.
4. To include in the training/education manuals situation of entertainers in Korea.
5. Develop bilateral agreement with Durebang on Trafficking Cases.
6. Link up/network with funding agencies for the livelihood program of women victims of trafficking.

2. Korea Internship Experience

I have never thought in my entire life about life in Korea. I only knew about products from Korea sold in the Philippines for a bargain price. But when this internship program was offered to case managers in Kanlungan, it got my interest. First, because trafficking case is increasing it said. Handling trafficking case is very interesting to me. In Kanlungan, there has not been case of trafficking filed because the law on Anti-Trafficking has just been enacted on May 2003. Last year, June 2003, we helped three women filed case of Illegal Recruitment in Large Scale against their perpetrators. We were not able to file case of trafficking because the act happened a year before the law on trafficking was enacted. When I heard about increasing number of trafficking cases to Korea, I thought Kanlungan with Durebang could already try and test the law in the Philippines.

Application for visa at the embassy of Korea in the Philippines is very easy. I was even asked by the consul, during my interview, to join him in interviewing women applying for E-6 visa. It was very clear to me when the consul told those women that they are SINGERS, they are not supposed to join or sit with customers. And when that happen, he said, report to the police. I even added that women should also report to the Philippine embassy in Korea or in some cases to Kanlungan or Durebang office. After the interview, the women never looked at me anymore.

During my stay at Durebang, I met many women working in the clubs near the office. And many of them are trafficked, I said to myself, not only by the recruiters, promoters or clubs but also by our government. I felt so much pain when I saw their unhappy faces inside the clubs entertaining GIs. I know it is hurting them, I know that they don't like to be there but the conditions pushed them to be there. I felt anger when I saw Korean mamasan shouting at them and restricting in everything. I felt at that time and wished that these women have other options. I wish I could do powerful things to help these women. But who really are behind this crime against women. What do they do with money they earn from selling these women? Why are they doing it? Maybe if there is no war, no GIs in Korea or in any country, no need for entertainers.

The internship program has opened my eyes more about the situation of trafficking and helped me feel the need to make myself better person to effect changes in our society. The problem does not only affect women becoming victim, this is not only problem in the Philippine system or the Korean system, I believe it is Global problem. The wound is so deep that everyone needs to heal physically and spiritually.

3. Cases of Filipino Women

1) Kelly (37 years old)

Kelly came to Durebang to seek help in getting her unpaid salaries at E Club. She said that she was not paid of her salary for more one month and that it was always been delayed. She wanted to go back to the Philippines after her salary is paid to her. The club owner did not want to

pay her salary because she did not reach the quota on drinks which is 1,000,000 won per month. Drinks are sold \$10 - \$20 per order and she only gets \$2 - \$4 per order. She could not reach the quota because she knew that it was not her job. She was recruited as a singer. The following day, she called up intern and told that she was able to get her salary because she insisted. That she wanted to stay in the club since the owner gave her salary already.

After a week, she came to Durebang again and complained about the club owner. She was not anymore allowed by the club owner to stay in the club. She was even told to run away and that club promised not to report her to the immigration. She did not want to believe what was told to her so she decided to seek help from Durebang. She said that she even tried going to the club but the owner would just push her away. She decided not to sleep at the club's quarter because the club owner might do harm her. She slept with a friend's house the night she was thrown away.

Intern helped Alice process her sad experience in the club. She was made to express all her options and assess the outcome of each condition. She said that she wants to go back to the Philippines but wants to claim her unpaid salaries. Intern told her that the only thing she could claim her salaries was that if the club owner is pressured. That she could ask for the help of the Philippine embassy and assist her to the immigration while the club owner has not reported her to the immigration. Her visa also will expire on December 2004. Intern assisted her to the Philippine embassy to get some assistance in getting her unpaid salaries, reporting the illegal activities in the club, demanding for her return ticket from the promoter and for her visa. She was interviewed at the embassy and was assured of assistance she asked. She was also offered to stay at the shelter in the embassy. She did not make decision whether to stay in the shelter or not. But she was so sure that she wanted to go back home. She was worrying about the money she could bring when she returned to the Philippines. She felt so shame if she couldn't bring anything with her. She was also thinking of looking for a work in the factory while waiting for her return. Intern told her that there is a massive crackdown in Korea. That immigration is clearing out all factories with illegal foreign workers. That since it's also peak season, she might end up staying in the immigration's jail. She said that she was also so scared about her condition, her club owner and

promoter might get her back when they learn about reporting to the embassy. She was also worried about where she could stay because she was not comfortable living with friend's house.

Kelly sent email to her GI boyfriend who has left for USA four months ago. She was assured of help but not on her financial needs at this time because her boyfriend said that he had no money left. Alice felt so anxious about her situation, she had no money for her food, no secure place to stay with. She was able to ask another Filipina married to GI to allow her to stay in their house overnight.

The following day, she took all her things from the house of a friend where she first stayed. She heard about an job offering in a factory at A city to a Filipina. She wanted to try her luck. She also tried applying in the stores but did not succeed. She was assisted by a Filipina friend to apply in the factory at A. Then she came to Durebang again and told intern that she was not comfortable at A. She said that there was no women except her. That she was not comfortable living with a Filipino worker. That Filipino is also illegal worker but she felt that her was trying his best to make her feel at ease. She said that she felt so sorry for not feeling so secured in her place. Intern told her to follow up her case at the embassy. She learned that the embassy has already contacted her promoter and the promotion agency in the Philippines. The two promoters promised to give her return ticket to the Philippines and that they would work out for her unpaid salaries from the club. Alice felt so scared again because she was not so sure what the two agencies would do to her. Intern told her that she should not be the one to be scared because these agencies have legal liabilities on her. She was trafficked to Korea and that she could file case against them.

Intern assisted Alice again to the embassy because she was asked by the embassy to come over. She asked intern to go inside the embassy first and find out for update about her case while she waited outside. After ten minutes intern talked to her again and assured her that the embassy would not do harm her. So, she went with intern inside the embassy and talked to D. She was told that she would be assisted to the immigration office to help her extend her visa while waiting for her return ticket from promotion agency. Intern did not go with her since embassy representative already assisted her. The following day she informed intern that she was able to

get extension of her visa for two weeks. She is scheduled to return to the Philippines next month. She said that the immigration called up her promoter to verify her report about why she wants to be repatriated. The promoter came to the immigration office. She was able to hide from the promoter. The promoter called her up that night and was so angry at her. She told the promoter that she could not be threatened again because there are people helping her.

In the Philippines, Alice applied at Ash Manpower as a singer. She went through a rigid process from application to the audition at TESDA and processing of her documents. She said that she was a bar singer in the Philippines so she had to stop singing at the bar when she was accepted by Ash Manpower. She signed her employment contract a day before she was deployed by Ash Manpower. Her contract states that she is a Singer, to receive \$500 every month, with 150% overtime pay, with provision for food and accommodation and medical insurance. But all these were not given to her when she was at the clubs. She was first brought to Y club, not in H club as what was written in her contract. She only stayed at Y club for one month. She was transferred to A club in A city where she only stayed one month. She said that she, along with other Filipina in the club was forced to dance in her sexy lingerie. She was crying because of shame and pain. She was also required drink quota which was 1,000,000 won otherwise she would be penalized by the club owner. Her next transfer was at the C club. Here, her salary was always delayed, drink quota was required and was forced to go out with customers for a bar fine. But she said that she never went out with her customers, the reason maybe why the club owner did not want her to stay anymore in the club. The club owner even told her that he was not earning from her. Alice also said that the club's accommodation has no enough heat and that food given was only noodles and eggs. There were times that she had to ask from her GI customers to buy her foods and other personal needs. She met her GI boyfriend in C club but after a month the GI went to America. Then she met another GI boyfriend in November but again was assigned to the USA. She said that second GI boyfriend is still married and in the process of annulling his marriage. She was promised marriage by this GI boyfriend after his marriage to his wife is annulled. But Alice doesn't want to rely on

the sweet promises of her GI boyfriends. She still wants to make her own life better even without marrying GIs.

Kelly is a single parent of two children who were left behind their grandmother. Both children are in high school, the eldest will be in college by next year. The reason why she tries hard to work to give better future for her children. She said that she doesn't want her children become like her. She did not finish her studies because of poverty. Her parents could not support her education. She lived-in with a married man at her young age. The man provided her and her children a house before he died in 1997. She said that the family of the man did not allow her to even peep during the wake. Only her children were able to visit during the last night. When her partner died she realized heavy responsibility she has to face for her children. She had no choice but to work as Singer in the clubs in the Philippines until she got the opportunity to apply at Ash Manpower. Her income as a Singer was not enough to send her children to school so she tried her luck in Korea.

2) Kosaldo (27 years old)

Kosaldo did not want to reveal her legal identity during the interview but wanted to share about her experience when she was an entertainer in the club. She was recruited by a certain Malu Bactican when she was working in P. Her earnings were not enough to help her family. During the interview, she painfully recalled traumatic experience in the club. She said that she only had a tourist visa when she left the Philippines in 2001. She and along with other women, was escorted at the immigration in the Philippine airport. She was asked to go to a man who would say Korea. She was told that never approach anybody inside the immigration except the man she was told about.

She also said that she was enticed by the sweet words of her recruiter. She was told that she would be earning \$600 a month excluding her tips from the customers. She was recruited as cultural dancer to Korea and would be deployed as a group so she would not worry about loneliness

and adjustments to Korean culture. She was not asked to pay for anything like passport, ARB, medical check-up. All she did was to use a passport bearing others' name. But she said that it took her nine months before she was deployed to Korea. She was about to quit but her recruiter kept on promising her that sooner she would leave. She had already given up her hopes in going to Korea to earn dollars. She even had asked her employer in the bargain store to employ her again because she needed to work since it was Christmas season. After one week of working at the bargain store, her recruiter went to her boarding house and told her that she would be leaving two days from that day. Angie was deployed on the day the recruiter told her.

She was so excited specially when she reached the airport of Korea. At last she said her dream come true. She, with other women, was brought to a club in T on the day she set foot in Korea. She was surprised when the club owner told her and the other women to wear two-piece. She did not want to but she was threatened to be thrown to the mountains. She followed what was told of her. She was teary-eyed, felt so ashamed and felt like a fish being sold bargain in the market. She was also required to join customers and at times was forced to go out otherwise her salary would be deducted. She chose to be deducted of her salary rather than force herself into selling her body with many men. At the club, she met Filipino customers who later on got pity on her and helped her escape from the club. After one and a half months in the club she decided to run away. A GI customer also helped her escape. She was brought to a ceramics factory where she worked for two months. Then eventually got a job in another factory. She was legalized as worker during the registration last year. Her visa will not expire soon, but she said she is decided to go back to the Philippines. She is marrying her Filipino boyfriend she met in the factory. She doesn't know yet if she wants to go back to Korea.

3) Konny (26 years old)

Konny applied at Ash Manpower owned by Mr. R, in 2003. She said that it was Ash Manpower who spent for all her documents like passport, ARB, medical but her salary was deducted. She applied in Ash Man as a Singer and even got her ARB in the shortest time. She signed employment contract' at Ash Man office a day before she was deployed with her mother as a guarantor. She said that Mr. M required her guarantor to avoid problems in the future. She was deployed along with four other members of her group. The agency deployed them as group so that they would be responsible for one another.

They were immediately brought to H club and not in the club that was stated in her contract. She started to feel nervous and question about the place where they were brought. She (with group members) stayed in the said club for three nights. She felt so angry because they were asked to wear sexy dresses and also to dance by the club owner. She kept reminding her group members about the contract they signed in the Philippines. But others told her that there was nothing they could do but to follow what was instructed of them.

She complained at the embassy about the violation in her contract. That was during the orientation in the embassy office. The embassy staff talked to their promoter about the complaint and put the agency to embassy's watch-list. After the orientation, they were immediately brought to M club. The promoter got angry at them because of the report to the embassy. They immediately started to work. She realized that she was not really a singer in Korea because the club owner required them of drink quota and were asked to join customers. She also noticed that some women were forced to go out with customers for a bar fine. The bar fine was \$250 to \$350 but only \$40 to \$70 was given to the women. She did not receive any salary on her first month at the club because she was told that the club paid to the promoter. She only was able to get money from customers who gave her ladies' drinks. She said that she never went out with customers. She experienced harassment from the club's disc jockey (dj). The dj was getting her drunk one night, when he thought that Konny was drunk he followed her at her room. Konny already thought about the intention of the club 's dj so she was able to ready herself for what would happen. She was able to fight back and ran outside the room. She told about the incident to her close group member.

The following day, she heard the mamas asking one woman to change her clothes because there was one customer who wanted to date her. The woman, she said, was only a minor (not her legal age). She realized that someday the mamasan would force her to go out with customers. She and her closest friend started to think about running away from the club. And besides she could not bear the long hours of work, from 5 p.m. until 1 a.m. the following day. There was no overtime paid if they worked extra long hours. The situation in the club became worst when her salary got delayed and commission on drinks was not paid to her. Her other group member ran away from the club one day. Then she and her closest friend managed to run away from the club.

They went to a Filipino friend who was working in the factory in V city. They stayed there until they were able to have communication with their GI boyfriends. She said that the experience was so traumatic that she just had to be so strong to survive. She was left with no choice but to marry her GI boyfriend, almost one month after she ran away from M club. She married GI to avoid being deported to the Philippines. She and her GI husband rented an apartment at Kosan-dong area near Mustang Club. She was able to find work in a phone card store. The club owner went to her work and was very angry and degraded her. She was so scared at that time so she was not able to fight back. But the US soldier noticed about the incident and reported the case immediately to their superior. She learned that the club owner is also a soldier's wife. The soldier was penalized because GI's wife should not be allowed to work in the club. The incident changed Konny's life, she became assertive she said. She felt protected and secured.

She and her GI husband went to the immigration to apply for a SOFA visa. She was asked to pay 100,000 won as penalty. She asked the immigration if they could pay dollars. The immigration asked for 100,000 won, not dollars. She and her husband went out to the bank to exchange their money. When they went back to the immigration, they were already asked to pay 500,000 won because she was a ran away. At that time, they didn't have that amount of money with them. They asked the immigration that they would come back if they already have the amount.

Konny has three children in the Philippines she left behind with her mother. She said that her eldest child is already 8 years old, the second is

5 and the youngest is 3 years old. She has been away from them for almost one year and she misses them too much. She said that she live-in with her Filipino partner when she was 18 years old. Her partner was abusing her physically and emotionally and has no permanent job. There were times that she had to feed her second child with rice soup because she had no money to buy them food. She could not ask help from her parents because they were also jobless and were also dependent on support from relatives of her father abroad. Their condition got worst when her partner got hooked on drugs. She tried selling cosmetics but earnings were not enough to sustain for their basic needs. Until one day, she got the chance to apply at Ash Manpower. She said that going abroad was her last option. She also wanted to help other siblings because they were eight in the family. She said that she was just trying to compensate for her lost by giving her children what they need. But it seems that her family has great expectations of her, financially. Three of her siblings got separated from their partners and their children were left behind also with her parents. They are all depending financial support from her that keeps on pressuring her everyday. Members of her family would call her every time they need money. She said that she never tried complaining about her loneliness and problems she encounters with her family. She feels that her situation is better than her family in the Philippines. She can eat whenever and whatever she wants, she lives in a better house. She feels so guilty for leaving her children. Her children and her partner have no knowledge of her relationship with a GI. She said that she is afraid because her partner might keep her children away from her. Her partner calls her also and is demanding for financial support but she never gave him.

Konny wants to file a case against her recruitment agency, Ash Manpower because the latter demanded for \$1,000 as payment for the violation of contract agreement. Intern helped her process her experience and explained about her case. She said that almost all women in the clubs in Korea experience the same but she can only count those who want to complaint. She was asked to draft her affidavit/sworn statement and have it notarized at the embassy. She said that she would try to convince her friend to also file a case against their recruiter.

4) Kosanna

Kosanna came to Durebang to assist her Filipina friend. She also consulted the intern about her problem with her club. She said that she ran away from B club a day after she and her groupmates were transferred. She said that Elvis was the third club where she was brought. She could not anymore bear the condition she was into since her arrival in Korea.

Kosanna , together with her group members, was brought to C club on her first day. She was never asked to sing any song like what she was expected. She said that she signed a contract in the Philippines, her job as a Singer, to receive salary of \$500, one year contract, with provision for food and accommodation. She did not receive her first salary because she had to pay for the placement fee to the Philippine agency. After a month at C club, she, together with her group mates, was transferred to another club, N club. Like in the first club, she was not a Singer and was also given quota on drinks which was \$1,500 per month. If she could not reach the quota she would be penalized. She stayed at N club for three months and the club owner deducted \$100 from her salary each month. She was told that deductions were part of her contract. After N club, she and her group mates were brought to P City where she and one of the group members stayed for only one day because they ran away. She said that she got tired of being forced to dance in her sexy dress in all those clubs. She met her GI boyfriend at Club whom she married. She said that she opted to marry the GI boyfriend because she doesn't want to go back to the Philippines. That it is hard to get a job and life is hard too.

Kosanna is a third child among the four siblings. Her mother already died when she was in high school. Her father has been abroad since she was in grade one. Her elder sister is married to a Hong Kong national. She was not able to graduate in college because her father asked her to stop for reasons not explained to her. She thinks that marrying a GI is her way to independence from her father. Despite, she knows that even if her father is in abroad their life is difficult in the Philippines. She wishes to go to the US in able to find a job which will eventually make her independent also

from her GI husband. She knows that her marriage to her GI husband is not her guarantee for a long good life.

Kosanna has not applied for a SOFA visa yet because she has to pay the maximum penalty to the immigration in the amount of 500,000won. She said that such penalty is big amount for them to carry.

5) Kamanta (28 years old)

Kamanta arrived in Korea in 2004. She, along with other three women, was escorted to the immigration at Airport in the Philippines. She did not go through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. She was asked to produce her video recording to show that she is a professional singer. That such video would be shown to the Korean immigration. She was made to sign the contract during her departure. She realized that she would be entering Korea illegally but could not do anything because she had spent so much. When her Artist Record Book was handed to her it had no stamp bearing her legality. The agency staff told her and the rest that they would be escorted.

Kamanta was brought to the club immediately after her arrival. She never thought that she would end up sitting besides customers, entertaining them and asked for drinks to reach quota required. Worst of all, her salary was always delayed. She tried demanding for her salary from the club owner but the latter told her that she had already paid the salary to their promoter. She also learned that the club was paying \$1,200 every month for each talent but she said that she only received \$450. Her passport and her ARB were taken by the Korean promoter. She also tried getting them but the promoter told her that she would not need them. The promoter told her and the rests that they would be transferred to another club. Kamanta insisted to stay in the club because transferring another club was not included in the contract she signed. She also requested for a day off because she was only allowed one day off in every month. The promoter told her that she had no more time to take her day off because another club was waiting for them. She again insisted to be brought to another club

the following day. The promoter agreed and told them that he would go back the following day. On that night, Kamanta and two other women ran away from the club and went to a friend's house in E city. She met a GI boyfriend in E city who wants to marry her but she told that she is not ready. She is scared that her promoter would harm her if he learns that she marries a GI. She also heard that the promoter already reported her to the immigration.

Kamanta was an entertainer in Japan before she applied for Korea. She has two children and she is separated from her live-in partner. She left her two children with her mother. She said that she wants to go back to the Philippines with her GI boyfriend.

6) Ketty

Ketty ran away from E club, almost four months after her arrival to Korea. She said that one of her Korean customers had almost raped her, she was only able to run. She told her promoter about what happened to her but the latter did not believe her. She was also scolded and was grabbed on her arms. She did not want anymore to experience the same abuse the Korean customer did. After hearing same stories from fellow entertainers in the club, she already decided to run away.

Ketty decided to go to Korea to help her family. She said that she applied at Nenika Inc. in the Philippines but it was Tenth Story who deployed her to Korea. She applied as a Singer and while waiting for her departure she spent two months for her training. She also prepared for her video recordings which would be shown to the Korean embassy in the Philippines. She said that this was required of her to be able to get a visa. In the Philippines, she signed a contract with a salary of \$600 every month, one day off every month and working hours from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Upon her arrival to Korea, she was brought to E club. She realized that she was not a Singer, she would entertain customers and worst she was forced to join customers in the VIP room. She was also given quota on drinks. She did not receive her salary from the club.

Ketty wants to sing. She was a band member in the Philippines before she came to Korea. She said that she already performed in Philippines. Her sister is also a good singer and a member of the band before she went to Japan. Her sister was able to go back to Japan because she got married to her Filipino boyfriend. There are still four siblings that Ketty want to help. Her mother is a laundry woman and her father died already only last year. She said that their life in the Philippines is very hard. She remembered selling sampaguita (Philippine national flower) when she was in high school. Her father was a military before he died of liver cancer. She also said that her father was abusive, beaten up their mother whenever he was drunk. Ketty was also employed to a rich family to be able to finish her high school. She said that the family was abusive but she managed to stay with them for three years.

She said that she doesn't want to go back to the Philippines and will just try her luck in Korea. She is at present employed as a caregiver to three children of a Filipina married to GI. She receives \$300 every month with free food and shelter. She is scared that her club owner and the Korean employer would take her back. Her passport and ARB card are with her club owner.

7) Kesera

Kesera came to Durebang to seek advise about her situation in club. She said that it has been two months since she has not received her salary from the club. Their living condition in their quarters is miserable, no enough heat and they are not allowed to entertain visitors. Food being provided are always noodles and eggs that some of them including Kesera developed food allergy. She and the rests of the entertainers in the club, is required a drink quota in the amount of \$1500 every month. If she doesn't reach quota required of her, she will be given deduction on salary. They also errand works like carrying cases of beer from the delivery trucks to the club's warehouse.

Kesera's recruitment agency is Ash Manpower. She applied as a Singer but realized that she is not to sing in the club. She said that it took her several months before she was deployed by Ash. She was an entertainer in Japan and had been there seven times. She just had trouble with a yakuza customer who gave her money for her noselift. Part of her earnings in Japan she saved for her only child who is already 11 years old. She decided to work to Korea in able to save for her board examination for Physical Therapy. She is a single parent and gets no support from the father of her child. She said that she got pregnant when she was in third year high school by a fellow church member. But the situation did not make her quit school. She continued her studies even if she knew people were judging her. Her mother was very supportive of her. Her father did not know anything about her pregnancy at that time because he was in the Middle East. She also got support from her teachers and encouraged her because she was an honor student. She graduated with flying colors and at that time her child was already two years old and was the one who handed the award to her. She continued her studies in college. The relationship with her child's father did not last long because he married her best friend. The situation did not make her life miserable. Instead, she tried her best to finish studies in college and she graduated. She never thought that her father would be as understanding as her mother. Her father accepted unconditionally her situation. Because of the support she got from her family, she promised to herself that she would give back what her family gave her. The reason she went to Japan and to Korea. She never thought that she would be in difficult situation in Korea. She heard a lot about going to Korea is a great experience but she failed. Now, she has no choice but to bear the consequences of her decision. She wants to go back to the Philippines with her GI boyfriend but she doesn't want to get married at this time. She believes that marriage is a life-long decision to make.

8) Kristine (28 years old)

Kristine came to Durebang to seek help regarding her contract in the club. The club is already terminating her contract with her and wants her to go back to the Philippines before December ends. She expressed to the club manager that she didn't want to go back yet. She was told that the club would renew her contract if she could get the marriage contracts of her two group members who are married to GIs. She did ask her two members of their marriage contracts but the two did not want to give her. After the consultation with intern, Kristine was able to realize that she has many options. One, her boyfriend offered her money to start her own business in the Philippines. Her GI boyfriend wants to marry her in the Philippines but she is not yet decided. She said that she has two children in Philippines, who are all dependent on her support. Second, if she marries her GI boyfriend, she can go to the US and find job there. Or she can just stay in the club until March 2005. She was undecided whether she wants to stay in the club.

9) Korason (27 years old)

Korason ran away from E club, almost four months after her arrival to Korea. She said that one of her Korean customers sexually abused her inside the VIP room of the club. She told about the incident to the club owner but did not mind her. She was even told that she came to Korea to work and that she should know about condition in working in the club. She was not allowed to explain anymore and even became stricter to her.

Korason was recruited by Tenth Story. She said that she was deployed one year after she first applied at the agency. She stayed at the agency office while she was processing her passport and ARB. She went through rigid training on voice because she was told that she would be professional singer in Korea. She was promised a salary of \$600 per month and only one month salary deduction as payment for her deployment to Korea. She, together with other members of her group, was escorted to the immigration at the Philippine airport.

She was brought at E club when she arrived in Korea. She realized also that she was not a Singer. She was given quota on drinks and was forced to go to customers at the VIP room. Her working hours started at 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. the following day, Mondays thru Sundays. She was not allowed day-off. She was not able to get her last salary because she already ran away. She said that she did not want to be abused again. She felt that the club owner permitted customers to abuse her for a bar fine.

Korason did not want to go back to the Philippines because she said that she wanted to help her family. She has no chance to help her family if she stays in the Philippines. She wants to find work in a factory even if she knows that there is massive crackdown in Korea.

10) Kenny (24 years old)

Kenny ran away from E club because one of her Korean customers had almost raped her inside the VIP room. She said that the club owner scolded her when she reported to him. She felt so unsecured and anxious so she decided to run away from the club. She went to a friend's house, who also lives near the club. She wants to get her passport and her ARB from the club. But the club told her that those were already handed to the promoter. She has not tried negotiating with her promoter since she ran away from the club.

Like other women in the club, Agnes Fe also was given quota on drinks, her salary delayed and was forced to join customers at the VIP room. She said that she was recruited as Singer but realized that she was fooled by Tenth Story, her recruitment agency in the Philippines. It took her almost nine months before her deployment to Korea. She had almost quit from the promotion agency in the Philippines but she was encouraged to wait. She was also escorted in the immigration at the Philippine airport. She was only holding her passport when she was deployed. She doesn't know also if her ARB is authenticated because she never went to TESDA for audition.

11) Kimmy (26 years old)

Kimmy came to Durebang to seek advise on how to get authenticated birth certificate at the National Statistics Office in the Philippines. She said that her mother has applied for a birth certificate since October. Intern told her that birth certificate, in case of marriage, should be requested at NSO Manila office. She said that they don't have relatives in Manila to help her in request. She was told by intern to contact NSO Manila and request for said document.

Kimmy was recruited by Ash Manpower and was deployed to Korea in 2004. She said that she applied as Singer but did not sing in the club in Korea. She was verified at the embassy so their entry to Korea was legal. Even though, the club still violated her contract she signed in the Philippines. She was given quota on drinks with only 10%–20% commission per drinks she was able to sell to customers. Her first club was N club where she stayed only for one month. Then she was transferred to W club. She was asked to entertain customers. Her salary was also delayed and her commission on drinks was not given. W club held her passport so when she got the chance to go out to the Philippine embassy, she applied for a lost passport.

12) Kofe (29 years old)

Kofe was deployed by Ash Manpower. She was brought at T club when she arrived to Korea. She never thought that she would be forced to dance in the club because she applied as Singer. She stayed at T for three days after she, and her group members, had orientation at the Philippine embassy. She reported to the embassy about the club's activities. That they were forced to dance in sexy dress and required of drink quota. The embassy then called the attention of the promoter and put him to watch-list. After the orientation, they were immediately brought to G club. Like at T club, she never sang any song at G. Instead, she joined customers and

served them drinks. The club also forced women in the club to go out with customer for a bar fine. She said that she only went out with one customer who is now her husband. She felt so unhappy about her condition in the club. She woke up one day and heard a mamasan forcing one of the women to go out with customer. The woman she said was crying. She got pity on her but couldn't do anything. She was also forced by mamasan to go out with other customer but she immediately called her GI boyfriend to help her. The GI went to the club and asked the mamasan that he would be the one to pay for the bar fine.

Until one day, she could not anymore bear the situation in the club, she decided to run away with her close friend. She did not know where to go but she really wanted to leave the club. She was able to reach a friend's house where she and her friend lived for few days. Her GI boyfriend called her up and they agreed to get married. They also got married in the Philippines. Her husband went back to Korea alone. She followed after four months of stay in the Philippines. She said that she was always denied of visa from the embassy of Korea in the Philippines.

Kofe belongs to family of six siblings. She said that she decided to go to Korea to help her family. She never thought of marrying a GI and she is not ready to have a child. She still wishes to continue her studies and have her own job so that she can give greater financial support to her family. She and her husband are renting an apartment at the Kosan-dong area. She only was able to get SOFA visa last December when she already has enough money to pay for the penalty of 500,000 won to the immigration.

13) Kinas (27 years old)

When Kinas came to Durebang, she was crying because of so much pain and anger to the club owner. She said that she already wanted to go back to the Philippines because her salary has always been delayed. She has been in the club for eight months and that she could not anymore bear her condition. She felt so small because she was doing a job against her will. She said that she signed contract in the Philippines on the day of her

departure. It was stated in the contract that she is a Singer, to receive salary of \$300 and one year contract. She told the embassy that when she was applying she was offered \$600 per month and not \$300. And she was only given a visa period for only six months. The agency told her that she would just be applying for visa extension when she arrived in Korea. She had no choice but to leave at that time because she too had waited for two years before she was deployed.

She said that she had work in the Philippines as hotel receptionist. She graduated in college with a degree related with this business. She decided to apply for Korea because of her friends. She said that her income as hotel receptionist was enough for her. She said that she had already given up until one time the agency called her up and told her that she would be leaving in a few days. She resigned in her job but few months had past, the agency had not deployed her. She went to the agency's office and demanded to pay her back her placement fee. The agency promised her again and told her that Korean promoter has back-out. She waited but after three days, she was deployed to Korea.

Kinas has already returned to the Philippines on December 2004.

14) Kotty (28 years old)

Kotty came to Durebang to complaint about her delayed and unpaid salary for almost two months. She said that she tried demanding for it but the club owner told her that the club has no enough income. She also said that their living quarter is too small for them and has no enough heat. She and the other women in the club's quarter were not given enough food. So at times they had to ask customers to buy them food since their salary also was delayed. She pities herself, and was anxious on about her situation. She never realized that living in Korea is as hard as living in the Philippines. At least she said, she has relatives in the Philippines she can turn to when needed. In Korea, she is on her own. She felt so miserable but she did not want to go back to the Philippines yet. She said that her GI boyfriend wants to marry her but she has not committed yet. She wants to make it on

her own without the GI because she heard sad stories of Filipino women married to GIs.

Kotty said that the club owner doesn't allow them to go out even during their free time. She was only able to escape because the mamasan went to the market. She said also that mamasan buys clothes for them and deducts from their salary. So when payday comes, she has little money left and sends it to her family in the Philippines.

15) Karen (25 years old)

Karen looked anxious when met by intern at Y club. Intern asked her if she was all right. She said that she was not fine because she just called her mother in the Philippines awhile ago and learned that her husband has other woman. Aloha said that she already wanted to separate from her husband in the Philippines because since they got married they never left in-laws home. She tried negotiating about independence from her in-laws but her husband did not want to be away from his mother's house. This was the reason why she left for Korea, to be able to have her own income and start anew with her only daughter. She felt that her husband would never stand on his own feet. And that her husband would never take his responsibility. Aggravated by this problem was her condition in the club. She said that she has not received her salary for almost two months. She could not anymore send money to her family in the Philippines. She worries about her daughter's needs. She doesn't want to rely on her husband's capability in taking care for their daughter.

Aloha has a GI boyfriend she met in the club. She said that she had to do it in able to survive even for her daily needs. Her GI boyfriend wants to marry her but she told him that she is still married to her husband. She said that she resented now that she married her husband

IV. Reflections on the Internship Program

1. Reflections on the three levels involved

On the level of Durebang, Korea

1) The internship program was the first of the kind between NGOs of the two countries, the Philippines and South Korea.

It is first time that NGOs of the Philippines and Korea worked out an internship program together for addressing the problems that Filipino migrants have faced. There were international workshops and visiting programs for woman migrants, but they were of a short duration, about 1-2 weeks. But, this program was the first attempt that Filipino activists had stayed and actually worked for 2 months in Korea. This program may possibly create a good ground for making strong networks between the two countries as well as among other Asian countries, and therefore, should be developed further.

2) The internship program was an action of cross-border solidarity beyond national perspectives.

Woman migrant issues require cross-border strategies and joint activities with global perspectives. The implementation of internship program was in this context and can be evaluated as a way of carrying out such a goal. We should further explore other ways in which material and personal resources can be better systematized for anti-international trafficking.

3) This internship program provided us with a chance to reflect the activities of Korean NGOs from Filipina activists' perspectives

Filipina activists came to Korea and had an opportunity to observe the activities of Korean NGOs, Filipino communities and the lives of Filipino

migrants in Korea all together. Their reports reflect what they have observed and how they felt of it. This gave us (Korean activists) a chance to reflect our own activities.

But, their observation and analysis are at some distance from full understanding of Korean culture and "Korean" characteristics of Korean organizations, owing to the writers' short stay in Korea. This seems to be related to some simplified observations in some sections in the report. This makes a point for us that we should have invested more time and energy to discuss more deeply with the Filipina interns. But their two-month stay was too short to do it.

4) The reports of this program are published in both Korean and English versions.

Interns from Kanlungan are trained well as activist and they produced good outcomes surpassing common expectations. Their report with all the contents and analyses of the interviews is published in both Korean and English versions. These will provide researchers, policy-makers and activists all over world with data and information on Filipina migrants in Korea.

5) This internship program was a tool to enhance the understanding of Filipino women for the closer sense of solidarity.

The meeting with interns gave us a chance to deepen our concerns and widen our understanding of Filipino women. In particular, interns showed us their love and commitment for the Filipino migrant women and their faith in justice, in the process of internship program. It was an inspiration to us and helped us to get close to the ways of thinking and the attitudes in the people in the Philippines. This forms a crucial exercise for cross-border joint activities.

On the level of Kanlungan, Philippines

1) This internship program provided interns with the chance to get information.

This program gave the interns a chance to grasp the actual lives of the Filipino women in Korea. Also, this provided them with an opportunity to widen the understanding of activities and perspectives of Korean NGOs working with women migrants. These experiences will form a crucial basis that can help activists come up with new ideas on what to do for the Filipino migrants.

2) The internship program gave the interns a chance of training as well.

Internship program gave the interns to have an experience in cross-border activities in Korea. It gave them to broaden their understanding of the issue and get trained to think and act on the issue from a more global perspective.

3) The publication of intern's reports could be used as the material for education and guidance of Filipino women in the Philippines.

Intern's reports will be a material to inform the women in the Philippines of the situations of Filipino women in Korea. The interns noted that the situation of the Filipino women in Korea has not been well recognized in the Philippines. In this context, the intern's activities in the internship program will be an important base to produce more information to the people in the Philippines, especially those women who want to come to Korea. At least, it serves as a contribution to preventing international trafficking and protecting the human rights of the women concerned, and provides a lesson on the victimization of Filipino women. It is useful as an educational material in helping Filipino women recognize the reality of migration, not to be blinded and exploited by the face-value words of recruitment agencies.

On the level of the two NGOs involved –

1) It gave a chance to get to know each other and develop mutual trust. The whole encounter was a process of realizing what to do and what is needed for getting to know each other well and for strengthening their collaboration. Also, it provided a possible ground for further networking.

2) The need for language training was recognized in developing solidarity among NGOs using different languages. In addition to the need of language training in English, a need to provide participants training in culture-and-language context was felt, in order to help them understand and develop attitudes towards the cultural context of using different languages.

3) Making solidarity alive requires many resources. Long-term planning is needed in this regard, for training and developing human resources, acquiring financial resources, networking skills, and methods of international activities. Internship programs as this one provide one avenue for such resource attainment.

2. Summary of Discussion for Development of Internship

Program

On woman migrants' human rights and empowerment

1) While Filipino communities provide basic organizational resources for migrant women from the Philippines, thereby giving access to local assistance, this is not the case for migrant women from such countries as Vietnam or Uzbekistan. This makes it difficult for one to approach the latter. Ease of personnel management without outside interference on the side of the recruit agencies – this is probably one of the reasons why there has been an increase of migrant women from Vietnam. Women migration from Vietnam shows a typical form of trafficking of women.

2) There is a rise in number and problems associated with Korean women going to Japan for work. This highlights new need to do research, deliberate and craft measures to stop sex trade and trafficking in relation to Korean women migrating to Japan.

3) What are the ways to empower the Filipino women residing in Korea? The deep psychological pain that they are undergoing should be highlighted and programs to provide proper remedy and care should be implemented.

4) The two interns noted: Filipino women are in need of programs that can make them more capable and self-relying both economically and psychologically. NGOs should go beyond just helping them by providing programs in which the migrant women can develop resources for and of their own. However, knitting training program and others proposed by the interns may not be so economically attractive in Korea. As migrant women often periodically move their accommodation in a month's time, one finds it difficult to do a sustained engagement with them. Their short stay in one place does not allow good relationship making or good programs for spiritual and psychological healing.

On the need of feminist counseling and perspectives

1) The two interns noted the need of feminist counseling that allow a woman to think of their experience and act from women's perspective. On this, we felt we needed more dialogue with the interns. As feminism has wide spectrum, it cannot be understood in one straightforward way. Migrant women's shelters have been established since two or three years ago, and there are many in number now, most of which, including 5 sizable ones, are related to the Catholic Church. Different realities and orientations existing in this particular situation should be respected, and not be subjected to a single standard or some superficial assessment.

2) The objectives of our counseling center include providing counseling service from sisterhood love seen from feminist perspectives. It is regrettable that this was not fully communicated and shared.

3) It is true, however, that there are not a good number of feminist lawyers in the field. While there are many lawyers defending women's rights, those working for migrant women are few. But, we expect there will be more and more of the kind.

Legal steps to stop trafficking of women

1) First of all, we need more deliberation on the definition and the scope of and the criteria for trafficking. This will depend on from which perspective one takes on the deliberation. The definition of the United Nations is useful but falls short of grasping all the complex aspects of women's life. For one, the ability of recruit agencies and agents to evade legal net of regulation raises alarm.

2) Currently, the immigration and nationality laws of South Korea as they are pose conflict to protecting human rights of migrant women. However, there are other legal protective measures found in prohibition of trafficking clause in the prevention of sex trade law, divorce-related laws and judicial precedents on forced indecency in married couple. The problem of implementing these measures lies in the culture of patriarchy that practically stops victim women to proceed with the legal measures. For the case of trafficking of women, as there is no legal measure applicable to international marriages, new legislation is needed. There are legal measure to punish a case of trafficking of a person, but there many undecided aspects concerning whether or not some questionable acts occurring in the process of international marriage can be viewed as trafficking. More deliberation and investigation are needed.

3) Migrant-issue NGOs have long discussed on what constitutes trafficking of a person. They also work towards revising visa regulation in the immigration law in relation to the difficulty experienced by migrant women. They take it an important task to raise wider public awareness

on the plight of migrant women in Korea. Higher public awareness will also encourage more lawyers, scholars, and researches of law to work with migrant women NGOs.

4) Victims of wrong international marriages become bound by the wrongful conditions because they are not given proper status of residence in South Korea. In this context, one wonders if it is not possible in Korea to issue similar visas to the T-visa (temporarily issued to victims of trafficking) and the U-visa (issued to victims of domestic violence). If it is possible, women in question will then find such arrangement as realistic and legal alternatives and endeavor to resolve their predicament with more resolution.

5) The interns report finds that a foreign woman married to a Korean and later divorced faces illegal status of residence. For the case of divorce where the liability lies on the husband, the divorced woman can get Korean nationality and work legally.

On networking in Korea

1) Currently, the networking among migrant-issue NGOs, women's groups, lawyers, medical professionals, and religious groups is in place and in progress even though it is in the initial stage. Beginning of solidarity requires good mutual understanding. Understanding the service each one can contribute helps formulate effective points of cooperation. It is also important in solidarity formation to build common understanding of the situation when working with medical doctors, police officers and lawyers for examples.

2) The government and NGOs need to develop working partnership. In particular, mutual respect and trust among the Ministries of Gender and Justice and women NGOs are crucial to improve the situation of migrant women. They should be willing and ready to discuss together for any case arising.

3) The government needs to pay more efforts to understand better the situation of migrant women.

4) Filipino women in Korea feel particular difficulty in dealing with the culture of patriarchy in the country. This needs to be tackled – a great task laid on Korean women as well as a theme for solidarity between Korean women and Filipino women.

On networking in Asia

1) Even though South Korea is both a sending and receiving country for migrants, it behaves like a western first-world country on the issue. In the first place, South Korea needs to recognize and reflect of the double nature of the country in terms of migration in Asia. And, as a receiving country, it needs to develop better understanding of cultural and political diversity of each Asian country. It also needs to probe deeply its own version of racism.

2) In order to do a good networking in Asia, we need to put more efforts in understanding each other. Compared to their zeal for activism, Korean activists in general do not know very well about other NGOs and other activities outside Korea. Therefore, to share and develop better common knowledge about each other would be more crucial at this stage than to do something together immediately. Information exchange is important.