

Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking
Biography
Kumar

Born and raised in a small city in the southern state of Tamil Nadu India, Kumar was working to support his family when he was trafficked into forced labor on a U.S. military base in Afghanistan. The U.S. Department of Defense had already developed a program to combat trafficking in persons in Afghanistan after reports that hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of laborers who were being brought to Afghanistan from other countries in South Asia, Africa, and Southeast Europe were being charged high recruitment fees that forced them into debt bondage in their own countries. Workers were promised high paying jobs but then had their contracts revoked or changed once they arrived. The “bait and switch” techniques that traffickers were using were largely hidden from the U.S. government. A suicide and several other high-profile incidents brought the issue to the government’s attention. Today, Kumar’s courageous decision to tell his story is helping the U.S. combat trafficking in persons.