

CAPTIONS :

TRAFFIC

Photographs by **Laurent VAUTRIN**
2007 - India



Photo 1 –
Calcutta.



Photo 2 –
Kasal, 35, married with two children. At seven years old, his son fell seriously ill. To pay for his medicine, she sold her kidney 7000 rupees (110 €). The transplant took place in Calcutta.



Photo 3 –
The husband of Rama is gone for periods of several years in southern India to work on construction sites. At 25, Rama has two son, who are 9 and 6, that she raises most of the time alone. Two years ago, she sold for 6500 rupees (102 €) her kidney to feed her boys.



Photo 4 –
Scar. Most people that were operated spend a few days in the hospital and then return home without any medical supervision.



Photo 5 – Construction site downtown for water of the monsoon. The workforce is made up of men, women and sometimes children from Calcutta and surrounding villages.



Photo 6 – Wealth and poverty intertwine in the heart of the city.



Photo 7 – There are 2.5 million homeless people out of a population of 12 million inhabitants.



Photo 8 – Kartick, 38, three children, two daughters. Earning very little money with his job (selling clothing), he sold his kidney in 2002 to finance the marriage of his eldest daughter, 17. Officially, he made a donation to a wealthy merchant of Calcutta.



Photo 9 – Sapna, 42, two children, unemployed, lives alone. Four years ago, a doctor spoke about transplantation. She sold her kidney 3000 rupees (48 €) to feed her children.



Photo 10 – **Angena**, 35, sold her kidney 5000 rupees (78 €) to save her husband suffering from cancer. He is now deceased. **Krusna**, 40, has a 25 year-old daughter suffering from pleurisy. To pay the treatments, she sold her kidney 8000 rupees (126 €). **Opona**, 23, has one child. Three years ago, she sold her kidney 8000 rupees (126 €) to treat her husband who has a gastric ulcer and can no longer work.



Photo 11 –
On the banks of the Hooghly River which crosses the city.



Photo 12 –
Child abandoned in the station of Calcutta. Left to themselves, many children are in gangs wandering in the streets of the city.



Photo 13 –
Untouchables family living in the streets.



Photo 14 –
Rinuka, 30, married, two boys of 9 and 7. Her husband is gone a long time to work on construction sites leaving little money to feed the children. Two years ago, she met a woman who has sold her kidney. She spoke to her doctor who send her in a Calcutta hospital to remove her kidney for 5000 rupees (78 €). With this money, they bought tools to cultivate the land.



Photo 15 –
Sopna is 12. Her parents died. She is alone with her little brother who is 8. In the village, she heard the women who have sold their kidneys talking. She contacted the physician of a large city nearby. When she turned 16, the physician send her to Calcutta to have her kidney removed for 4500 rupees.



Photo 16 –

Konica, operated when she was 15, just after her marriage. Her father had kidney stones. To pay for his treatment, she sold her kidney for 5000 rupees (78 €). Her brothers could not afford not being able to work as a result of the operation.



Photo 17 –

Savitri, 40, married with two children that are 18 and 20. Her husband, without qualification, without work, cannot keep them alive. Seven months ago, to feed her children, she sold her kidney to a hospital in Calcutta for 7000 rupees (109 €). Today, tired, she cannot do physical work. She has got nothing left of her 7000 rupees.



Photo 18 –

Intimacy is impossible, lives are exposed to everyone.



Photo 19 –

At nightfall, the Untouchables put their mattresses in the streets, or sleep on the floor.



Photo 20 –

A moment of rest in the park downtown.