# IPC Section 366B: Importation of girl from foreign country.

## IPC Section 366B: Importation of Girl from Foreign Country - A Detailed Explanation  
  
Section 366B of the Indian Penal Code addresses the specific crime of importing a girl from a foreign country into India with the intent that she will be forced or seduced into illicit intercourse with another person or knowing it to be likely that she will be forced or seduced into illicit intercourse. This section is designed to combat the trafficking of girls across international borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It recognizes the vulnerability of such girls who are often isolated and without support networks in a foreign country, making them easy targets for exploitation.  
  
The section reads as follows:  
  
\*\*366B. Importation of girl from foreign country.—Whoever imports any girl under the age of twenty-one years from any country outside India with intent that she may be, or knowing it to be likely that she will be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.\*\*  
  
  
Let's break down the key components of this section:  
  
  
\*\*1. Importation:\*\*  
  
This section focuses on the act of “importing” a girl, which means bringing her into India from a foreign country. This act constitutes the core of the offence. The means of importation are not specified and can encompass various methods, including by air, sea, or land. The key is the act of bringing the girl across international borders into India.  
  
\*\*2. Girl under Twenty-One Years:\*\*  
  
The victim protected under this section is specifically a “girl” under the age of twenty-one years. While other sections like 366A focus on girls below eighteen, the higher age limit in this section recognizes the increased vulnerability associated with being in a foreign country, even for those above the age of majority in India.  
  
\*\*3. From Any Country Outside India:\*\*  
  
This phrase explicitly clarifies that the girl must be brought into India from a foreign country. This section addresses the trans-border nature of the crime and complements domestic laws protecting against sexual exploitation.  
  
\*\*4. Intent or Knowledge:\*\*  
  
The \*mens rea\* or criminal intent of the perpetrator is crucial for this offence. The prosecution must prove either:  
  
  
\* \*\*Intent:\*\* The accused specifically \*intended\* that the girl be forced or seduced into illicit intercourse with another person after being brought into India.  
  
\* \*\*Knowledge of Likelihood:\*\* The accused \*knew\* it was likely that the girl would be forced or seduced into illicit intercourse with another person after being brought into India.  
  
This emphasizes that even if the illicit intercourse does not ultimately take place, the accused can still be convicted under this section if the prosecution can prove their intent or knowledge at the time of importation.  
  
\*\*5. Forced or Seduced to Illicit Intercourse with Another Person:\*\*  
  
This section mirrors Section 366A in its focus on procurement for illicit intercourse \*with another person\*. The perpetrator’s aim is to facilitate the sexual exploitation of the imported girl by someone else. This distinguishes it from offences where the perpetrator themselves engages in the sexual act.  
  
  
\*\*6. Punishment:\*\*  
  
The prescribed punishment for violation of Section 366B is imprisonment which may extend to ten years and a fine. This reflects the gravity of the crime, which involves both international trafficking and sexual exploitation.  
  
  
\*\*7. Difference from Related Sections:\*\*  
  
  
While related to other offences concerning trafficking and sexual exploitation, Section 366B has unique characteristics:  
  
  
\* \*\*Focus on Importation:\*\* It deals specifically with bringing a girl \*into\* India from a foreign country. Other trafficking laws may address internal trafficking or exporting individuals for exploitation.  
  
\* \*\*Specific Age Limit:\*\* The age limit of twenty-one recognizes the enhanced vulnerability of young women in foreign countries.  
  
\* \*\*Connection to Illicit Intercourse:\*\* The offence is tied specifically to the intent or likelihood of the girl being forced or seduced into illicit intercourse with another person.  
  
  
\*\*8. Importance of Section 366B:\*\*  
  
This section plays a vital role in:  
  
  
\* \*\*Combating International Trafficking:\*\* It addresses the growing problem of trafficking of girls across international borders for sexual exploitation.  
  
\* \*\*Protecting Vulnerable Girls:\*\* It protects girls who are particularly susceptible to exploitation due to their age and being in a foreign environment.  
  
\* \*\*Deterring Exploitation:\*\* The stringent punishment acts as a deterrent and sends a strong message that such exploitation will not be tolerated.  
  
\* \*\*International Cooperation:\*\* It facilitates cooperation with other countries in combating trans-border trafficking.  
  
  
By criminalizing the importation of girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, Section 366B provides a crucial legal tool for law enforcement agencies to tackle this complex and often hidden crime. It demonstrates India's commitment to upholding the rights and safety of girls and combating the scourge of human trafficking. This section recognizes that the fight against trafficking requires a multi-pronged approach, including addressing both domestic and international aspects of the crime. It highlights the importance of international collaboration to effectively address this growing global problem.