

WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN GANJAM DISTRICT OF ODISHA – A STUDY

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Abstract: *Women trafficking is a heinous crime. It violates the human rights of women and has become a threat to the society. The study on the issue of women trafficking in Ganjam district of Odisha has outcome the various findings. The study reveals that socio-economic factor and lack of education were the main causes of women trafficking. The study recommended some important suggestions to combat Women trafficking. Different policies, programmes, schemes should be set up by the government, NGO's and CBO's to make people aware against trafficking. Various trafficking awareness campaigns should be initiated in the vulnerable regions of trafficking, mainly focus on rural areas. Implementation of law should be strict and effective to punish the offenders to reduce the issue of trafficking.*

Keywords: - Women, Trafficking, Violates, Combat Implementation, Offenders.

Introduction

Trafficking in person is the “Dark Side” of population movement, which place people in a “Harm” situation and it violates fundamental human rights. The trafficking process thrives on individual’s vulnerability and it has three core elements, namely movement, deception or coercion and “Harm” outcome or exploitation or slavery like practice.¹ In the present day trafficking of girls and women is a reflection of the complex issue facing the global society. Every year thousands of women and girls fall into the hands of traffickers and are exploited. Almost every country, states and districts in the world is affected by trafficking. Odisha is one of the states in India which is affected by trafficking. According to 2011 census report total population of Odisha were 41974218, out of which male population were 21212136, total female population were 20762082, total male literates were 15089681 and total female literates were 11652914.² Odisha is situated in the east coast side of India and shares its borders with the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Poverty level and illiteracy are important factors in Odisha human trafficking.³

Importance of the Study

In the present world women trafficking has become a very important issue. Ganjam district of Odisha has been selected as a study for the concerned topic. In Ganjam district there is very minimal concern on this issue. During the time of survey, whatever information was collected is a vivid picture of the issue. The reason to select this topic is to explore the rights and privileges of women in the existing society which were violated by trafficking and to find out the root cause of this issue. Ganjam is the southernmost coastal district of Odisha with typical coastal and tribal culture According to 2011 census Ganjam total population were 3,529,031 out of which the male population were 1,779,218 and female population were 1,749,813 respectively. Total literates are 2,210,050 out of which male literates were 1,262,652 and female literates were 947,398.

Objectives of the Proposed Study

The broad objective of the study was to analyse, investigate and examine the issue relating to women trafficking with a special concentration on Odisha to be specific in Ganjam district. The study has the following main objectives:

- To study the trafficking of girls and women for labour and sex work with focus on Ganjam district.
- To examine the journey of the trafficked victims and take specific measures for their rehabilitation and reintegration processes.
- To analyse the anti-trafficking measures with special focus on legal frame works and policies in addressing the problem of trafficking of women.
- To analyse the key role and anti-trafficking measures of the police to tackle the issue of trafficking.
- To examine the major role played by the Non Government Organisations (NGO's) and Community Based Organisations (CBO's) in addressing the issues of trafficking of women.

Methodology

The field survey was employed by taking two types of method that is primary method and secondary method. The first method that is primary which was planned through schedules which were adopted, then interviews were conducted, focus group discussions were made, case studies were taken and finally some sample sizes were taken. The secondary method was planned by collecting materials through journals, newspapers, net websites, NGO's schemes, programmes and reports, government circulars, schemes, policies and programmes etc.

An interview schedule was planned and then processed for the purpose of collection of data. In the interview schedule different kinds of people were interacted to get the required data. As the study was sensitive the interview schedule were planned very carefully keeping some important things in mind. Three different interview schedules were prepared based upon different sources of data. The three types of interviews were (i) interview of the respondents (ii) interview of the government officials (iii) interview of the NGO's and CBO's. Each of the interview schedules aims at understanding the issue and problem of women trafficking and find out the root cause of it.

Data Collection

In the data collection first of all the questionnaire were prepared and then different kinds of information pertaining to trafficking in general were collected through different sources like the government officials, NGO's and CBO's. The detailed questionnaire were given and administered to those people for whom the interview schedule was planned. While interacting with the victims, police personnel, NGO's and CBO'S an informal discussions and limited observation were made whenever possible. After completing the interview schedule then the data were analysed with specific findings, and suggestions were made for policy input and follow up action.

Trafficking an Organised and Unorganised Crime

Organised crime is a category of transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralised enterprises run by criminals who intend to engage in illegal activity, most commonly for money and profit. A criminal organisation or gang can also be referred to as a mafia, mob or crime syndicate; the network and community of criminals may be referred to as the underworld. The mafia is a type of organised crime group that are provided with extra-legal protection and quasi-law enforcement. Organised crime groups seek out corrupt public officials, so that their illegal activities can be hidden, or at least receive early warnings about investigation and prosecution.⁴ The leader of the gang have link with the mediators and the mediators have link with acquaintance of community member. And these acquaintance and mediators collect the victims from railway stations and highways and send them to their destinations.

Unorganised group do not form a particular group or have any leader to control the entire organised group. They are frequently caught by the police, due to their hidden illegal activities. They use their tactics very intelligently to collect the victims individually within the community by motivating them, and handover to the man involved in trafficking. The unorganised group people were involved in the process only because of their personal benefits.

Girl Child as Victim

The legal definition of "Child" generally refers to minor, otherwise is known as a person younger than the age of minority less than 18 years.⁵ Most of the children were trafficked from their homes to be bought and sold in the market. Children are tricked into the hands of traffickers by promising them an opportunity for a job, when in reality, upon arrival they become enslaved. In India, there is a large number of children trafficked for various reasons such as labour, begging and sexual exploitation. Because of the nature of this crime it is hard to track and due to the poor enforcement of laws, it is difficult to prevent. There are many different causes that lead to child trafficking, with the primary reason being poor and weak law enforcement. The traffickers that take advantage of children can be from another area in India, or could even know the child personally. Children who return home after being trafficked often face shame from their communities, rather than being welcomed.⁶

Woman as Victim

About half of the world's population is constituted by women, yet they are not treated equally as men or they have not enjoyed equal rights in the society.⁷ Both men and women may be victims of trafficking, but the primary victims worldwide were women, the majority of whom were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Traffickers mainly target women because they were disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination, factors that impede their access to employment, educational opportunities and other reasons. Sex and labour trafficking of women is a complicated phenomenon with many forces that affects women's decisions to work abroad. Women may become victims of trafficking when they seek assistance to obtain employment, work permits, visas and other travel documents. Traffickers prey on women's vulnerable circumstances and may lure them into crime networks through deceit and false promises of decent working condition and fair pay.⁸ Thus the situations and circumstances make them to fall in the hands of the traffickers.

Women Trafficking: A Field Study Analysis

Trafficking is a worst form of exploitation and violation of rights towards women. The study on the relevant topic is required to be conducted with certain consciousness and alertness. In the beginning stage while examining the subject, it becomes very difficult and uncomfortable because it is very sensitive and confidential matter. After approaching the head of the police, NGO's, CBO's and shelter homes for several time and frequent visits with the staff make the study easier to get the appropriate information relating to the issue. During the time of field study it was found that most of the women and girls were in the shelter homes who gave their consent to interact and share their life experiences. And the rest of the women and girls were found in railway stations, homes, construction sites and beauty parlours.

The sample size was taken 130 out of which respondents were 100, 20 police stations, 7 NGO's and 3 CBO's. The study was done by visiting the vulnerable areas of Ganjam district like Digapahandi, Aska, Kusapali village of Polasara, Hattapur village of Purushottampur where women trafficking report has been filed in increased number. Respondents staying in the shelter homes were also interviewed which was important part of the study. By adopting Focus Groups Discussion Method, different views and opinions regarding trafficking were known. Different government officials of police department, NGO's (Social Workers) and members of the Community Based Organisation were interview through which different kinds of information were collected.

The interview should be planned with much conscious and alert. Various important things should be kept in mind while interacting with the respondents because one sensitive question may affect their emotional feelings and make them to recall the past incidences, so keeping in mind the psychological status of the respondents, they should be questioned to get the required data for the study. While interviewing the government officials, NGO's and CBO's, only related questions should be asked through which correct information can be collected. During the time of interaction mind should be focussed in a right direction to seek the required information through questionnaire method to analyse the study properly.

Hence the study adopts the various measures to get the some information of the respondents.

Table 1: Age at the time of trafficking

Sl. No.	Age	Number
1.	9-14 years	5
2.	14-20 years	52
3.	Greater than 20 years	43
Total		100

The above table represents that the lowest number of respondents were trafficked at the age group of 9-14 years. While the maximum number of respondents were trafficked between the age group of 14-20 years and the rest of the respondents were found to be trafficked when they were above 20 years.

Table 2: Trafficked Reasons

Sl. No.	Reasons	Number
1.	Job assurance	35
2.	Economic (wish to support family financially)	27
3.	Personal (false promise of love/marriage)	25
4.	Forced trafficked by parents	9
5.	No response	4
Total		100

Table 2 shows that maximum number of women and girls gave job assurance as reason for being trafficked while some of them mentioned personal reasons. But few cases were found to be trafficked forcefully by their parents and only 4 cases were found with no response.

Table 3: Trafficking Consequences

Sl. No.	Consequences	Number
1.	Abused physically and psychologically	24
2.	Felt exploited/cheated	19
3.	Working conditions pitiable	9
4.	No control on earnings	48
Total		100

Table 3 shows that most of the subjects complained that they were abused physically as well as psychologically during the time of trafficking. Some cases were found that they felt exploited, while other women and girls explained their work in a pitiable condition and maximum number of victims revealed that they had no control on their earnings.

Table 4: Sources in Rescuing

Sl. No.	Sources	Number
1.	NGOs	42
2.	Police	25
3.	Self	28
4.	Any other	5
Total		100

The above table represents that maximum number of respondents accepted that they were rescued by the NGO's, while some of the cases revealed that they were rescued through the source of police. Some cases admitted to be rescued by self, and only few cases were found to be other sources.

Table 5: Duration of stay at Shelter Home

Sl. No.	Duration	Number
	Less than 1 year	5
	1 - 3 years	24
	More than 3 years	23
Total		52

Table 5 shows that out of 52 respondents 24 of them stayed at the shelter home for a period of 1-3 years while 23 of them stated that they have completed more than 3 years and only 5 cases were found to stay less than 1 year at shelter home.

Table 6: Sources of aid and assistance

Sl. No.	Sources	Number
1.	Government	48
2.	NGOs	42
3.	Community Members	10
Total		100

The above table indicate that most of the victims were provided the main source of aid and assistance by Government. Some of the respondents accepted that their main source were the NGO's. Only few cases of respondents admitted to get the aid and assistance from the community members.

Focus Group Discussion Method

During the time of survey in some of the areas of Ganjam district, focus group discussion method was planned to observe the views and opinions of the people regarding the issue. During a visit to Badagada a village of Aska and Hattapur village of Purushotampur various

information were collected during the time of interaction. While interacting with a group of women, it is found that, discrimination of women still exist there. In many fields, may be it were homes, schools, colleges, offices, work sites etc, they were discriminated. The group of women mentioned that most of the girls in families did not get facilities to go to schools to get adequate education. Somehow they go till 10th or college level and were prepared for marriage. Even some girls did not get chance to complete their matriculation (10th class). The girl's fundamental rights were violated by not getting proper educational facilities. Due to lack of education most of them were not aware of trafficking process and due to this discrimination; they easily fall as a prey on the hands of the traffickers.⁹

Chikiti is a town and one of the Notified Area Council in the Ganjam District. While discussing with a group of people, it came to focus that most of the females were literates in this town. Only very few percent of illiterates were found in this town. The people were fully aware of the government programmes and policies initiated for the trafficked victims. Different NGO's frequently visit to their areas and made them aware of the trafficking issues through awareness campaigns. During the time of discussion with some of the school girls, it was revealed that most of them had high ambitions in their life and to achieve their goal they wanted to go to big cities. But the cost of living is very high in big cities and to afford their life styles they worked in bars, parlours, shopping malls, worked as sales girls as part time jobs. From the study it was known that these girls were trafficked in these places, but for the sake of money, they did these kinds of job without any hesitation.¹⁰

Findings

The major findings based on the issue related to trafficking are that maximum numbers of respondents were more than 20 years, while the rest of the cases were found between 9-20 years. When the respondents were asked about the reason why they were trafficked then maximum cases were found for job opportunity. Some of them gave their personal reason and the other cases gave economic reason. Only few cases did not give any response. As we know that trafficking is a heinous crime and once a person get into the trap, the consequences is very bad for the person. It was found that the victims were abuse physically, psychologically, sexually and verbally. Some of them exploited and cheated because they were not paid the full amount or sometimes were unpaid. Some of the cases were found where they work in a pitiable condition. The study shows another finding that they key sources were police, NGO's and CBO's in rescuing the victims. In some cases, it was known that, they rescued themselves by taking the help of some persons. As the study is done by taking 100 respondents but out of 100 respondents 52 cases were found at shelter homes like Swadhar and Bala Ashram. During the interactions with the respondents, different duration period were known that how long they stayed in the shelter home. Finally the last finding of the study reveals that the main source of aid and assistance were provided by the government, NGO's and in some cases CBO's.

The major and most important finding from the study was that most of the women and girls were involved in this type of service without consent due to poverty, lack of education, only to meet their basic needs of their family. But in most of the cases, it is found that women and girls enter to this business with their own consent because of high aspirations, to live a better and comfortable life in big cities, to earn name and fame etc. Some cases were also found where they were cheated by giving false promises of love/marriage and job opportunities.

Suggestions

The following suggestions were emerged after studying the issue of women trafficking in Ganjam district. The issue of trafficking requires an immediate action to assist the victims in their life.

- It is necessary to check out the vulnerable regions of trafficking in Ganjam district and sensitise those areas through information / education and communication activities. It is necessary to make awareness of human trafficking information into professional associations, conferences, trainings, manuals, and other materials as relevant.
- Local schools should be encouraged to be partners with police, NGO's and CBO's and include the issue of modern day slavery in their curriculum.
- It should be the responsibility of a parent, educator, or school teachers to make them aware of how traffickers target school aged-children.
- It is necessary to print trafficking news in local newspapers and telecast trafficking stories in television stations, so that the community get involved.
- There should be an attempt to negotiate, collaborate and partner with all sectors of the society in the victim rehabilitation and reintegration process.
- Various social customs and traditions that violates the basic rights of the women should be reduced in the existing society. Gender discrimination should be eliminated from the society.
- Active and vigilant anti-trafficking teams should be formed to combat women trafficking.
- Shelter homes should be properly scrutinised and monitored.
- Most of the NGO's and CBO's should involve in anti-trafficking programmes to address structural barriers such as – poverty and vulnerability in source sites, police violence and criminalisation of sex work and present an advanced understanding of the issue.

Conclusion

Trafficking of women and children has become one type of business in the present world. The study has concluded that the chief cause of trafficking is poverty and lack of education. Due to poor economic condition most of the women and girls fall as prey in the hands of the traffickers and get exploited. Trafficking violate their basis fundamental rights. Lack of educational facilities makes them unaware of certain rights and privileges which they should get. The government should make strict laws to punish the offenders and initiate effective policies and programmes to make people aware of trafficking. Police, NGO's and CBO's should play a major role in rescuing the victims from the hands of the traffickers. Proper aid and assistance should be provided by the government to the victims of trafficking. The government should take necessary steps to rehabilitate and reintegrate the victims of trafficking.

Notes and References

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- [5] LawZ Vol.12 No.3 Issue 103,2013, Essel House, New Delhi, p.37
- [6] http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/child_trafficking_in_India
- [7] Third Concept, Vol.30 No.353, July 2016, Prakash Deep Building, New Delhi,p.38
- [8] http://www.stopvaw.org/trafficking_in_women
- [9] Badagada is a village located in Aska of Ganjam district, total families reside in this village is 190. Total population were 878, out of which males were 456 and females were 422. Badagada has lower literacy rate as compared to Odisha in 2011. It has 70.15% literacy rate out of which males were 77.37% where as female literacy were 62.40%. Hattapur village is located in Purushottampur Tahasil of Ganjam district. Ranajhali is the Gram panchayat of Hattapur village. Total population were 1,127 out of which male population were 545 and female population were 582. There is about 266 houses in Hattapur village.
- [10] Chikiti is a town and NAC in Ganjam district. The total population were 10,801 out of which male population were 5401 and female population were 5400. It has an average literacy rate of 63% out of which male literacy were 74% and female literacy were 51%.

