The Socio-Economic Profile of Trafficking Women in Andhra Pradesh

Ms. A. Nirmala Meri, Research Scholar, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Nagarjuna Nagar.

Dr.R.Srinivasu, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Ongole Campus, Ongole.

Abstract

Trafficking refers to the movement of men, women and children from one place to another through force, coercion or deception into situations of their economic and sexual exploitation. The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (known as the Palermo Protocol adopted in November 2000) defines trafficking as: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or service, slavery or practice similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organ (UNO, 2000). Against this background, the study conducted on socio-economic conditions of the trafficking women in Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Abduction, Trafficking, Vulnerability

The trafficking in girls and women into forced sex work and other forms of forced labour or exploitative conditions, has been increasingly recognised as a growing crime, a significant human rights violation, and an important form of violence against women (IOM, 2003). Few corners of the world appear to be free of trafficking.

While trafficking and sexual abuse are by no means new to the world, the rapidly globalising market has made it easier for traffickers to operate across borders and turned individual desperation into a ready resource feeding the demand for exploitable labour. Women and children are frequently highlighted as being particularly vulnerable to trafficking, particularly trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced prostitution (Wijers, M and et.al, 1999).

The study carried out with the objectives of analyse the socio-economic characteristics of trafficking women in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. The respondents are selected from three mandal of Guntur, Tenali and Chilakaluri peta by using simple random method. The findings of the study as follows:

Table -1: Place of Residence

Sl. No	Sex	Frequency	Per cent
1	Rural	159	63.6
2	Urban	91	36.4
Total		**250**	100.0

The table 1 revealed that the study was conducted based on the sample selected from the villages of four mandals in Prakasam District. Among the respondents as per the sample, 63.6 per cent are from rural area and 36.4 per cent from the urban area are conducted a research survey for the purpose of the study. Thus, the sample respondents are majority belongs to the rural area due to they earn to something for their livelihood.

Table – 2: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	< - 25	61	24.4
2	26 - 35	134	53.6
3	36 - 45	55	22.0
Total		**250**	**100.0**

Mean Age ($\bar{x}$) = 34.34 years

Table 2 shows that the age group composition of sample respondents. In order to facilitate further analysis, three age categories have been developed. The table shows that in the age group of 25 and below are 24.4 per cent. About 53.6 per cent in the age group of 26 to 35 and remaining 22.0 per cent is in the age group of 36 to 45 years. Hence, the majority are 26 to 35 years of the households are leading their family as head of the social institution and the average mean age of the households are 34.34 years.

Table-3: Caste wise distribution of Respondents

Sl.No	Caste	Frequency	Per cent
1	OC	40	16.0
2	BC	157	62.8
3	SC	32	12.8
4	ST	21	8.4
Total		**250**	**100.0**

Caste-system is a unique characteristic of Hindu society. The caste-system imposes certain restrictions on its members in the matter of occupation as well as social intercourse. After Independence, the government of India has tried to improve the situation of the underprivileged sections, officially termed as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) through several affirmative actions. The caste of the sample respondents describes that 62.8 per cent belongs to Backward Caste and respondents belonging to Other Caste (OC such as forward caste) and Scheduled Caste groups constitute 16.0 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively. Whereas, 8.4 per cent are belongs to scheduled tribe. About the majority of the respondents belong to Backward Caste. It is indicated that the majority of respondents who belong to Backward Caste, Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe are marginalised sections in India and they are more backward with compared to other groups.

Table–4: Religion Wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hindu	203	81.2
2	Christian	36	14.4
3	Muslim	11	4.4
Total		**250**	**100.0**

India is predominantly with Hindu religion in origin. But due to the influence of Indian Christian Missionary in Andhra Pradesh, most of the families converted into Christians. In the sample area majority (81.2 per cent) belong to the Hindu religion followed by 14.4 percent are Christians and only 4.4 per cent are Muslims.

Table–5: Education Wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	138	55.2
2	Neo-Literate	41	16.4
3	Primary	26	10.4
4	Secondary	16	6.4
5	SSC & above	29	11.6
Total		**300**	**100.0**

It is often held that education leads to empowerment. Education is believed to inculcate knowledge, understanding, confidence and independence. It follows that generally speaking, literate people would tend to be more vulnerable than literate or educated ones. A maximum number of the respondents were found to be poor in terms of literacy and education. Even, 55.2 per cent respondents were found to be illiterate. Importantly, educated respondents were reported high in neo-literate education about 16.4 per cent. Remaining 10.4 per cent belonged to primary education and 11.6 per cent are studied SSC and above. Thus, the majority of respondents are not given importance to education.

Table–6: Marital Status of the Respondents

Sl. No	Marriage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	161	64.4
2	Unmarried	39	15.6
3	Widow	34	13.6

4	Divorced	16	6.4
Total		**300**	**100.0**

The marital status of the sample respondents are presented in table 6. From the table, it can be observed that of the total respondents, all most the majority (64.4 per cent) respondents are got married, whereas 15.6 per cent are unmarried followed by 13.6 per cent are widows and remaining 6.4 percent are divorced from their husbands

Table–7: Type of House of the Sample Respondents

Sl. No	House	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hut/Thatched	101	40.4
2	Tiled/Asbestos	28	11.2
3	Pucca/Slab	121	48.4
Total		**250**	**100.0**

The table 7 gives the details of the housing of the sample respondents. Table 7 shows that out of 250 respondents, 40.4 per cent possesses huts and constructed at their own efforts and by own expenses in their respective area. The rest of 48.4 per cent of respondents possess pucca (Concrete) houses which are provided by the government agencies under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana scheme. Remaining 11.2 per cent is constructed with tiled and asbestos roof.

Here, the nature of the houses of the sample respondents has been classified into three categories namely, hut/Katcha, Semi-Pacca and Pacca. Building with no proper basement, walls and ventilation are treated as huts. The hut is made of grass, leaves or reeds. At the same time building with stone basement and bamboo with ventilations are Kacha houses. They are with thatched roofs. The structures with the main opinion, having a proper stone basement, walls, windows, ventilation etc. of standard materials are considered as semi-pucca building. Building the strong stone basements stoned or bricked plastered walls, windows, proper ventilation are considered as pucca houses. They are having tiled or concrete roofs.

Table–8: Occupation of Respondents prior to Trafficking

Sl. No	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	102	40.8
2	Daily wage labour	97	38.8
3	House Maids	26	10.4
4	Petty business	14	5.6
5	House wives	11	4.4
Total		**250**	**100.0**

Table 8 shows that the majority (40.8 per cent) respondents occupation is agriculture, followed by 38.8 per cent is daily wage labour. Among 10.4 per cent are house maids and 5.6 per cent are engaged petty business. Remaining 4.4 per cent are belongs to house wives.

Table-9: Reasons for trafficking

Marital status	Reasons for Trafficking				Total
	For domestic work	For marriage	Employment	Prostitution	
Married	12	22	27	100	161
	4.8%	8.8%	10.8%	40.0%	64.4%
Unmarried	3	4	4	28	39
	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	11.2%	15.6%
Widow	4	1	4	25	34
	1.6%	.4%	1.6%	10.0%	13.6%
Divorced	1	3	3	9	16
	.4%	1.2%	1.2%	3.6%	6.4%
Total	**20**	**30**	**38**	**162**	**250**
	8.0%	**12.0%**	**15.2%**	**64.8%**	**100.0%**

It is observed form the table 9 that purpose and intention of trafficking are majorly to put the trafficked women into prostitution, sexual exploitation followed by forced labour, slavery and servitude. The respective of responses of women 64.8 per cent for prostitution followed by 15.2 per cent are employment and 12.0 percent are to get marriage. About 8.0 per cent are for domestic work.

Conclusion:

After studying the Socio-Economic profile of trafficking women, the researcher felt the need of reviewing social determinants that are leading women in general into the trafficking. Most of the women are weaker sections and their economic status is very poor.

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