



HUMAN TRAFFIKING CAUSES AND MEASURES TO CONTROL

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INTRODUCTION

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized crime after drugs and the arms trade across the globe involving billions of dollars annually. According to the definition of the United Nations “*trafficking is any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or position of vulnerability*”. According to Child Victims of Human Trafficking ,Department of land Human Services ,USA and the US Department of State “*approximately 6 to 8 lakh victims are trafficked across International borders annually ,and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the United States each Year. More than half of these victims worldwide are children*”. According to UNICEF a child victim of trafficking is “*any person under 18 who is recruited, transported, transferred, harbored or received for the purpose of exploitation, either within or outside a country*”. Trafficking is one of the toughest crimes to track and investigate hence data is hard to obtain. The latest figures estimate that 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide every year .Child prostitution has the highest supply of trafficked children. Traffickers import women and girls from, Indian states aside, a variety of countries, such as Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Chechanya and Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Thailand, according to the United Nations Report. Close to 80% of the human trafficking across the world is done for sexual exploitation and the rest is for bonded labor and India is considered as the hub of this crime in Asia. As per the statistics of the government in every eight minutes a child goes missing in our country. In 2011 about 35,000 children were reported missing and more than 11,000 out of these were from West Bengal. Further, it is assumed that only 30% of the total cases are reported, so the actual number is pretty high.

Human Trafficking has become one of the major problems in India. Till date no concrete study has been conducted so far to know the exact number of trafficked kids in India. The New York Times has reported on the

widespread problem of human trafficking in India. Also in the report it is stated that young girls are trafficked from neighboring Nepal to India. In another article published in The Times of India –Karnataka is the third state in India for human trafficking. Other South Indian states are also the most sought after destinations for human trafficking. Every year more than 300 such cases are reported in each of the four South Indian states .Human trafficking in Asian Countries. Dynamic and Dimensions. Whereas West Bengal and Bihar on an average have for such cases each year. As per the data more than half of the human trafficking cases are from these states. According to the latest report on human trafficking by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reveals that Tamil Nadu has 528 such cases of human trafficking in 2021. The number is really high and more than any other state except for West Bengal (549).As per the data from Home Ministry, 1379 cases of human trafficking were reported from Karnataka in the period of four years in Tamil Nadu the number is 2,244 whereas Andhra Pradesh has 2,157 cases of human trafficking. Recently 300 bonded laborers in Bangalore have been rescued .According to an article in First post, Delhi is the hub of human trafficking trade in India and half of the world's slaves live in India . Delhi is the hotspot for illegal tradeoff young girls for domestic labor, forced marriage and prostitution .Delhi is also the transit point for human trafficking.

Trafficking of minor girls the second-most prevalent trafficking crime surged 14 times over the last decade and increased 65% in 2014, according to new data released by the National Crime records Bureau, Girls and women are the main targets of immoral trafficking in India, making up 76%of human trafficking cases nationwide over a decade, reveal NCRB data. Other cases registered under human trafficking over the last decade include selling girls for prostitution. Girls from a foreign country and buying girls for prostitution. Sexual exploitation of women and children for commercial purposes take place in various forms including brothel-based prostitution, sex-tourism and pornography. As many as 8,099 people were reported to be trafficked across India in 2014.Immortal trafficking was followed by human trafficking(2,605), under section 370 & 370A of Indian Penal Code, which includes men and boys trafficked to work sites such as brick kilns and construction sites .To counter the surge targeting girls and women ,a 2013 amendment to the law provides rigorous punishment from a minimum of three years in prison to life imprisonment to address the trafficking of children ,including physical exploitation or any form of sexual exploitation ,slavery ,servitude or the forced removal of organs.

Why Human Trafficking? Demand supply mismatch:

Fundamental theory of demand and supply is applicable to this situation as well Men for work generally migrate to major commercial cities and from here the demand for commercial sex is created to fulfill the supply all sorts of efforts are made by the suppliers like abduction etc. Young girls and women belonging to poor families are at higher risk.

Poverty:

Then comes the economic injustice and poverty if you are born to a poor family in Northeastern state of India then you are at a higher risk of being sold if you are born to a poor family and a girl then these chances further increases. Sometimes parents are also desperate to sell their daughters to earn money.

Social Inequality:

Social inequality, regard gender preference, imbalance and corruption are the other leading causes of human trafficking in India. Parents in tribal areas think that sending their kids means a better life in terms of education and safety. Parents also pay about Rs 6000-7000 to these agents for food and shelter.

Forced Marriage:

Girls and women are not only trafficked for prostitution but also bought and sold like commodity in many regions of India where female ratio is less as compared to male due to female infanticide. These are then forced to marry.

Bonded Labor:

Though debt labor is not known much but it is illegal in India and prevalent in our society. According to the International Labour Organization there are more than 11.7 million people working as a forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region. People running out of cash generally sell their kids as debt labour in exchange for cash. Both boys and girls are sold for this purpose and generally not paid for years. Victims of human trafficking have great chances of suffering from issues like mental disorders, depression and anxiety. Women forced into sexual trafficking have at higher risk of getting affected from HIV and others STDs.

Preventive Measures of Human Trafficking:

Under the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is penalized. The punishment ranges from seven years to life imprisonment. The Bonded Labour Abolition Act, the Child Labour Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act prohibit the bonded and forced labor in India. Because of the brutal gang rape of December 2012 government has passed a bill in which laws related to sexual violence and making sex trafficking have been amended. But still there is a huge gap between enactment and enforcement of these laws. Because of widespread corruption and bribe, it is easy for agents to bring these young boys and girls for their profit. But there should be strict disciplinary action against everybody involved in such a crime then only this problem can be addressed. Also better education and other facilities should be provided at native places so that parents do not opt these ways for their kids. Above all attitude towards women and young girls must change.

Key Factors Contributing to the Rise:

- Increased vulnerabilities due to poverty, conflict, and climate-related disasters.
- Exploitation of migrants.
- The expansion of online platforms used for trafficking.

Here are some of the key findings:

- **Increase in Detected Victims:**
 - There has been a concerning 25% increase in the number of detected trafficking victims globally between 2019 and 2022.
- **Rise in Child Trafficking:**
 - The number of detected child victims has increased by 31%.
 - Notably, there's a rise in the proportion of girls affected, increasing to 38%.
- **Shift in Trafficking Forms:**
 - Trafficking for forced labor has surged by 47% between 2019 and 2022, now surpassing sexual exploitation as the leading form.
- **Gender Disparities:**
 - Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected, making up 61% of trafficking victims.
 - While women are often trafficked for sexual exploitation, they are also victims of forced labor.
- **Forced Labour specifics:**
 - Forced labour accounts for 42% of victims globally.
 - Men make up nearly 70% of forced labour victims.
- **Sexual Exploitation specifics:**
 - Sexual exploitation accounts for 36% of victims.
 - Over 90% of those victims are women and girls.

Measures and Challenges:

- Combating human trafficking requires a multi-faceted approach, including:
 - Strengthening legal frameworks.
 - Raising awareness and preventing trafficking.
 - Providing support and rehabilitation for victims.
 - Enhancing international cooperation.
 - Addressing the root causes.
 - The hidden nature of human trafficking makes it very hard to get accurate numbers, and makes it hard for law enforcement to combat.

Government steps up efforts to keep up with traffickers:

- An anti-trafficking nodal cell has been setup under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in addition to Anti-Human Trafficking Units, which will be located in 335 vulnerable police districts; 225 such units are up and running. The central government released Rs 2.65 crore in 2014 to Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Nagaland, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand for antitrafficking units. The Home Ministry has also launched a web portal on anti-human trafficking, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Ujjawala, a programme that focuses on rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims.
- Concrete steps are needed to prevent trafficking, punish traffickers and the corrupt officials who facilitate their crimes, and provide protection and redress for victims. This is a crucial moment in the fight against trafficking, with efforts underway in domestic, regional, and international fora to define appropriate state actions. It is imperative that the United States take advantage of this moment to demonstrate its leadership on this critical human rights issue.
- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Human traffickers operate with impunity far too often, and their crimes receive not nearly enough attention." The "United Nations is committed to advancing action to bring traffickers to justice while protecting and supporting their victims," he continued, emphasizing that "this must change."
- The Indian Penal Code's Section 370 has been replaced by Sections 370 and 370A of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, which went into effect. These sections offer comprehensive measures to combat the threat of human trafficking, including the trafficking of children for exploitation in any form, including physical or sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude, or the forced removal of organs.
- A unique law to shield children from sexual abuse and exploitation is the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, which went into force on November 14, 2012. It gives clear

definitions for several types of sexual abuse, such as sexual harassment and penetrative and non-penetrative sexual assault.

➤ Aside from certain sections of the IPC, such as Sections 372 and 373, which address the sale and purchase of girls for prostitution, other specific laws have been passed that address the trafficking of women and children. These include the Transplantation of Human Organs Act of 1994, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1976, and the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986.

CONCLUSION

One serious human rights violation that still exists in India is human trafficking. Men, women, and children are trafficked for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other types of slavery. Deeply ingrained socioeconomic disparities, lax law enforcement, and a strong need for inexpensive labor are the core causes of the problem. Effectively combating this serious crime requires an understanding of its causes, impacts, and response in India.

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