

## Human Trafficking

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### Abstract

*Humans are the ultimate creation of God. We are social animals with a well-developed and defined brain. As humans we tend to “play and use” other humans resulting into anti-human activities e.g. Human Trafficking. Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery etc. Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationality. It is crime against the person leading to violation of victim’s rights through coercion and because of their commercial exploitation. Traffickers profit by controlling the victims and exploiting them for sex, labour etc. Poverty, lack of education immigration policy, broken homes, lack of good job opportunities etc. are causes of human trafficking. According to International Labour Organization, in 2012, 21 million victims were trapped in modern day slavery, 68% were exploited for labour, 22% were sexually exploited. Child workers, minorities and irregular migrants are at risk of extreme form of exploitation. In 2013, the UN designated July 30 as World Day against trafficking in person. Government of India applies Criminal Law and Sec 370 and Sec 370A which defines human trafficking and provides stringent punishment for human trafficking, any form of sexual exploitation, trafficking of children etc. Regional Task Force implements SAARC convention on prevention of trafficking of women and children. UN office on Drugs and Crime has assisted many NGOs in their fight against human trafficking. It is duty of every citizen to fight against anti-human activities and have respect for every other human being.*

**Keywords:** Human Trafficking, exploitation, coercion, United Nations, labour, children, women, sex, July 30, Government of India.

### Introduction

According to Trafficking Protocol, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a 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 minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal, manipulation or implantation of organs; Trafficking of persons is a serious crime and grave violation of human rights. Thousands of women, children etc. fall in hands of traffickers. e.g. for sexual exploitation, forced labour etc.

It can happen in any community and victims can be of any age, race, gender or nationality. It is thought to be one of the fastest growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations. In other words, trafficking is a process of enslaving people, coercing them into a situation with no way out, and exploiting them. People are trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage, and forced organ removal.

Human trafficking has international implications as recognized by United Nations in “Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons” especially women and children. It is first global, legally binding instrument on trafficking. Its purpose is to facilitate international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting the trafficking. Per International Labour Organization’s report in 2014, forced labour alone provided \$150 billion in annual profit. In 2012, ILO estimated that 21 million victims are trapped in modern day slavery, of these 68% were exploited by labour, 22% were sexually

exploited. Trafficking in Person's report of 2016 states refugees and migrants, migrants, religious minorities, people with disabilities etc. are the most at risk for human trafficking.

Trafficking of persons is broad spectrum with few examples as

### **Trafficking of children**

It involves their recruitment, transportation, commercial, sexual exploitation, prostitution, child pornography, slavery, trafficking for early marriages.

### **Sex trafficking**

It involves coercing the persons into sexual acts without their consent. E.g. forced Prostitution, forced marriage etc.

### **Labour trafficking**

Movement of persons for the purpose of forced labour and services. It involves bonded labour, domestic servitude and child labour. It mostly happens within the domain of domestic work, construction, agriculture.

### **Organ trade as trafficking**

The Victim is compelled into giving up an organ of his. He agrees to sell an organ in exchange of money and goods. Victims are usually migrant workers, homeless people, illiterate persons etc.

## **Methods**

The factors that make human trafficking real in nature are various and few among them are

1. Poverty and globalization
2. Political and institutional changes
3. Commercial demand for sex, labour

In a wider sense, push and pull factors lead to trafficking of persons. In the society the head of any racket plays important role in running human trafficking, which includes recruiting the staff who conduct the business. They lure people in terms of providing jobs, money and carry forward the business. They pull people from society to get involved in these anti-social rackets mainly human trafficking. The push factor involves the poor, women, children etc. who are lured and they fall prey to this vicious circle. These two factors act simultaneously in the society. And it leads to consequences which effects the victim psychologically, morally, emotionally, physically with impact on health and economy.

The various methods that human traffickers apply for doing this crime are

### **Personal social networks**

Personal social networks and relationships are a powerful recruitment tool. Traffickers commonly recruit friends of family members, friends of other girls they have trafficked, and others in their neighbourhood. They recruit in malls, schools etc. especially associated with the minors.

### **Romantic relationships**

Many traffickers engage in romantic or physical relationships with the recruits to appeal to their victims' emotional and economic needs.

### **Online advertisements**

Online advertisement about alluring career in foreign land, online job portals, websites make the vulnerable people to fall in trap of the traffickers

### **Luring for wealth**

The traffickers offer the victim economic security. For traffickers, prominently displaying their wealth is key to recruiting with many citing their outward displays of wealth as a primary means of attraction for victims.

### **Lies about educational or travel opportunities**

People are lured for exciting opportunities to study abroad and the people fall prey of traffickers. Same thing happens with the people who travel. They are given the exciting offers for travel and become the victim.

### **Abduction**

Kids, women etc are kidnapped or abducted for the trafficking to foreign land in return traffickers get good amount. They are sexually exploited and used as domestic help.

### **Sale by family**

In rare cases, parents sell a child out of greed and receive a monthly income due to poverty. These families often build relationships with traffickers and will misrepresent the nature of the work to entice other families to sell their children.

### **Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, displacement, lack of knowledge or experience, broken homes, cultural practices etc.**

These are important factors which also important factors that lead to human trafficking.

According to modern Feminists, women and girls are more prone to trafficking also because of social norms that marginalize their value and status in society. By this perspective females face considerable gender discrimination both at home and in school. Stereotypes that women belong at home in the private sphere and that women are less valuable because they do not and are not allowed to contribute to formal employment and monetary gains the same way men do further marginalize women's status relative to men.

### **Results or impact of human trafficking on victims**

Given the nature of trafficking, the consequences are hidden and difficult to notice. Trafficked persons often do not have unlimited access to basic necessities such as safety, food, sleep, hygiene, and medical care. The effects of trafficking vary depending on the type of trafficking and the specific situation.

Given that trafficking is based on the exploitation of individuals, all victims of trafficking are subject to physical, psychological, and social impacts. Victims of trafficking experience harsh physical impacts due to excessive work or the use of force by traffickers. They are exposed to serious health risks, such as HIV/AIDS, as well as serious mental health risks. Anxiety, insecurity, fear, and trauma are all products of trafficking. Several studies indicate high levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in formerly trafficked persons. Trafficking leads to cognitive impairment, memory loss, depression, and even suicide. Trafficked persons are isolated from their social circles, leaving individuals unable to engage socially or reach out for help. Victims may also be trafficked internationally, and therefore may not be able to engage others due to a lack of linguistic capability or geographic and cultural familiarity. Individuals specifically trafficked for sex are facing stigma and other negative responses during and after their trafficking experience, especially from friends and family members.

### **Conclusion**

Several UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have collaborated to produce data sources on the profiles of victims of human trafficking, the prevalence of human trafficking, and on related phenomena such as forced labour and forced marriage.

### **UN office on drugs and crime (UNODC) global report on human trafficking**

(UNODC) surveys governments on trafficking victims identified in their respective countries using a common questionnaire with a standard set of indicators, and then aggregates the results. The most recent global report was produced in 2016. Over two years, this exercise produced data on approximately 63,251 identified victims of trafficking from 106 national governments.

### **The 2017 global estimate of modern slavery: forced labor and forced marriage.**

This estimate is produced by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation (WFF) in collaboration with IOM. The new 2017 report estimates that 40 million people were victims of modern slavery in any given day in 2016. Out of these, approximately 25 million people were in forced labour and another 15 million people were in a forced marriage

### **The international organization for migration (IOM)'s global database on victims of human trafficking**

Through IOM's provision of direct assistance to victims of trafficking, it has developed the largest database of victim of trafficking case data in the world. The database contains over 50,000 individual cases, with approximately 5,000 new cases added each year. IOM currently assists between 7,000 and 9,000 victims annually, collecting a unique source of data on victims of trafficking that is international in scope.

### **The global report**

The recorded victims of 137 different nationalities detected in 142 countries between 2012 and 2016, during which period, 500 different flows were identified

In India, the trafficking of persons for commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage and domestic servitude is considered as organized crime. The Government of India applies criminal law as well as Sec 370 and 370A of IPC which defines human trafficking and punishment. Additionally, Regional Task Force implements SAARC Convention on Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children. A government web portal is launched called as Anti-Human Trafficking Portal where complaints can be registered etc. Anti-Human Trafficking Units are established for the implementation of comprehensiveness scheme in 335 vulnerable police districts through India.

Human trafficking continues to grow in staggering numbers around the world. The effects of this injustice are far reaching, impacting all individuals involved, their communities, and generations that follow. While the causes and effects are varied and multifaceted, sustainable change can happen if survivors are rescued and their perpetrators are arrested. The more dangerous human trafficking becomes for traffickers, the less likely they will continue exploiting others.

When it comes to prevention of human trafficking, we must first of all pay attention to the causes that lead to the situation of trafficking. Poverty, unemployment or domestic violence as causes of human trafficking come from different social spheres, reflecting the nature of economic, political, family and other relationships in a community.

Discovering causes is the first and essential step in creating functional and effective responses both to the very existence of the causes, and to the restoration of their consequences. It is necessary to continuously monitor these issues and further research, given that the causes, types of exploitation, structure of the victims and the relationship of victims and general population toward human trafficking change with the changes of wider social circumstances, but also given the variable (lack of) success in identifying the causes and elimination of consequences.

Following are the few solutions to human trafficking that can lead a big and different change.

1. Volunteering time and effort to an anti-trafficking organization is a great way to contribute to the fight against human trafficking. In addition to helping the organization itself, the more volunteers there are, the greater the outreach can be. Raising awareness for human trafficking can also get more people involved and interested in joining the fight. It can create a chain reaction, leading to more people lobbying, fundraising and educating themselves
2. Be aware of the signs of human trafficking. Being educated on signs that could indicate someone is a victim of human trafficking increases the likelihood of reporting and could give a voice to victims who do not feel comfortable speaking out for themselves.
3. Meeting with or reaching out to local, state and federal representatives informs them that their constituents are passionate about fighting human trafficking, and brings the issue to their attention. This increases the likelihood that they will do something about it.

4. Donate clothes and other goods to shelters for victims of human trafficking. Also, encourage businesses to give jobs to survivors, helping them get back on their feet and get a fresh start. If applicable, offering legal advice to survivors allows them an opportunity to not only move forward but to gain justice. Helping survivors and contributing to their recovery stops the cycle of trauma in its tracks and ensures it won't repeat itself.
5. Enforcing stricter validity checks on websites like these and offering jobs through more reliable online platforms is attacking the problem at its root, and stopping human trafficking before it even begins.
6. Provide jobs, internships, skills training, and other opportunities to trafficking survivors.
7. The media plays an enormous role in shaping perceptions and guiding the public conversation about human trafficking and spreading awareness.
8. Bring awareness to your social circles so your friends and family know more about trafficking.
9. Consider volunteering with a local counter-trafficking organization
10. Donate money to an organization that works on the front lines
11. Be a friend to someone who's alone and vulnerable

We all have a role to play in creating a free world. Our organization focuses on working with local police to find and free modern slaves and arrest traffickers, but there are numerous ways WE can help fight human trafficking in your own community. No action is too small. Never underestimate the difference you can make in someone's life through one small act of kindness.

Because **Together We Can, We Will Make Difference.**

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