

## Sex Slavery of Women: Violence against Humanity

Awkash Kumar<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, M.Phil/PhD, Centre for Security Studies,  
Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, India,

Corresponding author's e-mail: awkashkumar1288@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Trafficking in women is a wide spread problem all around the world. The hidden population involves the commercial sex industry, factories, restaurant businesses domestic works, marriage brokers, some adoptions firms and so on. Trafficking among women is the fastest growing crime a significant violation of human rights. There are adverse effects of trafficking on women, it gives lots of pain, suffering, abuse, physically exploitation, trauma etc. Traffickers take advantage of the unequal status of women and girls in dis-advanced countries and communities and capitalize on the demand for cheap, unreported labour and promotion of sex terrorism in same countries.

**Key words:** Trafficking, violence, security, sexual assault.

### Introduction

Recently, there has been increased media attention to human trafficking that has exposed the clandestine nature of this illegal migration. Most countries are confronting the problem of migrant trafficking for labour and for sexual exploitation. For example, India faces the problem of trafficking from the other neighbour countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh and Thailand and so on. India like most other countries has a large domestic trafficking problem as well, in which both international and Indian women are transported for sexual exploitation mainly for prostitution from state to state and city to city. Trafficking has become a transnational and international industry that affects mostly all countries although not all equally. Trafficking in human beings is considered as the second most profitable criminal enterprise after arms trafficking which generates approximately over \$32 million annually (TIP, 2009). Globalization has enhanced control over sexuality, fertility and labour of women migrants. Innocent rural girls as well as educated adolescent girls are inducted into the workforce. Cross country migration of girls and women for domestic work, industrial and professional services such as nursing, secretarial practice, telemarketing and business process outsourcing has increased.

Open national borders and accessible transportation increases sex tourism, forced labour, prostitution, begging, restaurant waitress, domestic servants, organ trading etc. Internet technology advancements also contribute to increases in trafficking, sex industry, and child pornography and provide more access to and choices for commercial sex with trafficked persons. Technology and globalization creates not only extensive local linkages and networks, but also international linkages.

### Trafficking

According to United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights, Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person defines trafficking as "Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of person, by means of the threat or force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, 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 a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal

of organs (UNODC, 2001).

Trafficking is complex, but there are two major factors behind its occurrence i.e. “Push and Pull factors”. Potential trafficking victims are “pushed” into the situation by poverty and lack of employment opportunities resulting from a lack of education. Trafficking victims accept fraudulent offers of foreign employment such as childcare or restaurant work only to find themselves forced into prostitution under deplorable conditions. Due to extreme poverty, parents are willing to sell their daughters when approached by “agents” promising gainful employment and marriages.

According to National Crime Record Bureau total of 3,422 incidences of crimes under various provisions of laws relating to human trafficking were reported in the country during 2010 as compared to 2,848 during 2009 recording an increase of 20.2 percent during 2010. 4,997 cases relating human trafficking were reported during 2006 as compared to 3,991 and 3,029 cases reported in 2007 and 2008 respectively. The rate of crime has increased from 0.2 during the year 2009 to 0.3 during 2010 (NCRB, 2010). In the period 2009-2011 a total of 1,59,418 women were reported missing, out of this, 1,03,468 women were traced and 55,950 continued to remain missing (Singh, 2011).

India is both a source and transit country for trafficking, as well as one of the most popular trafficking destinations in South Asia (Standford, 2010). It is estimated that 10 percent of Indian’s trafficking in while person is international 90 percent is domestic; a pattern that differs from the more common parading of trafficking across international borders (NHRC, 2002-2003). Women are bought and sold with impunity and trafficked to other countries from different parts of India. According to a survey these girls and women are sourced from Dindigal, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, and Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu, Gaya, Kishanganj, Patna, Katihar, Purnia, Araria and Madhubani from Bihar, Maharajganj from UP, and supplied to Thailand, Kenya, South Africa, Philippines and Middle East countries (TIP, 2010). They are forced to work as sex workers undergoing severe exploitation and abuse. These women are the most vulnerable group in contracting HIV infection. Due to unrelenting poverty and lack of unemployment opportunities there is an increase in the voluntary entry of women into sex work. The trafficking of women and children causes untold miseries as it violates the rights and dignity of the individual in several ways. It violates the individual’s rights to life, dignity, security, privacy, health, education and redresses public grievances.

Slavery in human beings brings lots of suffering to the innocent and shame to the country, sex trafficking has sadly become a global issue and is one of the most gruesome of human rights violations. Each year millions of persons are trafficked both domestically and internationally in India (Aronowitz, 2009). The crime comes at an incalculable human cost and represents one of the most shameful facts of the modern world and it is unsurprisingly that majority of victim of human trafficking are women and children. It has been estimated that 10 percent of the India’s trafficking in persons is international while 90 percent is domestic (Sen, 2002-2003).

### **Sexual Assault**

Trafficking victims often suffer from serious abuse and physical exhaustion. Women can be the victims of unwanted touching, oral sex, sexual penetration with an object, or coitus. They are often made to participate in sexual activities through physical force and use of drug. Women who work in the commercial sex trade are vulnerable to sexual and reproductive health complications sexually transmitted disease. Women who have been trafficked into the sex trade may often not have access to, or not allowed to use condoms and other method of birth control. They face the risk of unwanted pregnancies and miscarriages. Women who work as prostitutes experience high rates of abortion and infertility. According to a report, between 5,000 and 7,000 girls are trafficked, from their most deprived living environments to exploitative physical and social situations, into India from Nepal, most of them under 18 (Tiwari, 2000)

In recent years, with the arrival of multinational corporations in India and with greater prosperity in urban cities, there have been growing markets for domestic help, especially for young community who are seen as versatile in their roles as housekeepers, cooks and nannies. They are being brought by the agents who use their personal contacts in rural communities to lure the girls to the city, promising them relief and refuge from their desperate situations. India over few past years many women have been harassed, abused and exploited (Malhotra & Malhotra, 2013). Victims are exploited in the form of exploitation which involves forced commercial sex and labours, including domestic servitude, victims are also trafficked for the purpose of forced marriages, organ removal and ritual killings. Traffickers always target the most vulnerable sectors of society luring their victims, many of whom are women, children, with promises of a better life through employment and education. The congressionally mandated report provides data from 175 countries about the level of human trafficking occurring within borders. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) at least 12.3 million adults and children are victims of forced labour and sex slavery annually (ILO, 2012). Trafficking of humans is a crime against individuals and its consequences are most directly felt by the victims itself. More than 130 countries are affected by human trafficking, it affects people socially, politically, economically, mentally and many other such ways. Every stage of trafficking process can involve physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, violence, deprivation, torture, the force use of substance, manipulation, economic exploitation and abusive working and living conditions (Dutta, 2012). Trafficking usually involves prolonged and repeated trauma, the trauma experienced by victims of trafficking includes post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, alienation, disorientation, aggression and difficulty concentrating.

The human and social consequences of trafficking are compelling. From the physical and torture of victims to the psychological and emotional trauma, to the economic and political implications of unabated crime, the impact on individuals and society is clearly destructive and unacceptable. The impacts of trafficking are felt both in countries of origin and as well as in countries of destination, there are human and social cost of development attribute of trafficking, the direct impact on family and community left behind cannot be easily quantified. Trafficked persons may experience physical, sexual and emotional violence at the hands of traffickers, pimps, employers and others (Toders, 2011). The trauma experienced by victims of trafficking includes post-traumatic stress, disorder, anxiety, depression, alienation, disorientation, aggression and difficulty concentrating. Most traffickers recruit their victims between the ages of 6 to 24 years, because a young victim will easily succumb to force and give in. Women all over the world fall victim to violence, in both rich and poor, developed and developing countries. The impacts may be in forms of Drug and alcohol addiction, broken bones, Sexually transmitted diseases, Miscarriages or forced abortions, Shame and distrust, Self-hatred and suicidal thoughts, Depression, Insomnia etc.

In most common situations of trafficking, a victim is controlled by traffickers through coercion/intimidation/blackmail/fraud. Traffickers, especially for the purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) are known to employ crafty modus operandi for controlling victims. The victim should be handled very patiently to make them feel comfortable, so that the counselling given by the psychologists and the doctors helps them to come out from that trauma. As a criminal act, trafficking in women violates the rule of law, threatening national jurisdictions and international law. Trafficking is an organized crime and is one of the most important mechanisms for unlawful redistribution of national wealth, unduly influencing markets, political power and societal relations. People are typically associate police with the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases. In many countries police are the largest representative of government and should be seen as key instruments to combating trafficking. Police can work closely with citizens and civil society organizations to help implement civic education programmes, community and school intervention programmes for youths at risk, and community meetings to discuss crime problems on an effort to prevent trafficking in persons. Trafficking has become as an urgent security issue for the nation as well as for the state in post-Soviet Asia.

### Conclusion

Only legislation and law enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incident of crime against women. There is need of social awakening and change in the attitude of masses, so that due respect and equal status is given to women. It's a time when the women need to be given her due. This new awakening can be brought in society by education campaign among youth making them aware of existing social evils and encourage them to eradicate these evils. Mass media can play an active role here as in the present days it has reached every corner of the nation. Various NGOs can hold a responsible position here by assigning them with the task of highlighting socio-economic causes leading to such crimes and by disseminating information about their catastrophic effect on the womanhood and society at large. Poverty alleviation measures too will help in combating it in the long run. Since India is also transit point for human trafficking, the government should take speedy measures to secure India's border. A comprehensive criminal justice response to trafficking should include measure for the protection and support of trafficked victims alongside measures to prosecute traffickers. And the provision of protection and support measures should not be conditional on a trafficked victims' willingness to cooperate with law enforcement officers in their criminal investigations which underlines the human rights based approach to women trafficking. Awareness rising can also be extended wider to the general public. Initiative like crime stoppers efforts aiming to gather anonymous information are a good way to raise public awareness of trafficking in women and contribute the gathering of intelligence and information on trafficking related investigations.

### Reference:

- Dutta, M., 2012. *Understanding Security Practices in South Asia: Securitization Theory and the Role of Non-State Actors*, s.l.: Roulledge.
- ILO, 2012. *Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour*, Switzerland: Intrenational Labour Organization.
- Malhotra, R. & Malhotra, V., 2013. *Human Trafficking in India; My Family's Personal Encounter*, s.l.: The Christain Post.
- NCRB, 2010. *Crimes in India*, New Delhi: National Crime Record Bureau.
- NHRC, 2002-2003. *A Report on Trafficking in Women and Children in India*, New Delhi: National Human Rights Commission.
- Singh, R., 2011. *Crime in India*, New Delhi: National Crime Record Bureau.
- TIP, 2009. *Trafficking in Person Report*, Washington: International Labour Organization.
- TIP, 2010. *Trafficking in Persons Report*, United State: s.n.
- Tiwari, K. N., 2000. *Violence Against Women in India: Suffering Continues Despite Progress All Over, India*, India: Disha Social Organization.
- Toders, J., 2011. Moving Upstream: The Merits of a Public Health Law Approach to Human Trafficking. 89(2), p. 4476.
- University, S., 2010. *Human Trafficking in India: Dynamics, Current Efforts, and Intervention Opportunities for The Asian Foundation*, USA: The Asia Foundation.
- UNODC, 2001. *Protocole to Prevent, Supress and Punish Trafficking in Persons*, United State: s.n.