

Women Trapped In Human Trafficking: Its Causes and Effects

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Abstract: Women have been seen as a source of traditional and sexual gratification for ages. Owing to the age old gender biases they also tend to become the targets of varied forms of violence and harsh practices directed towards them from the society. The most common form of torture that they suffer is abduction and kidnapping of women for the purpose of trafficking, to be used them for numerous reasons including prostitution.

The reported cases of abduction and kidnapping of women and girls for the year 2013 is 51881 as per the Crime in India. The rising trend if observed for the last 5 years beginning from 2009 has very alarming. The percentage variation for merely the last two years that is 2012 and 2013 has been a (35.2%) increase in the reported cases (Crime in India).

The present paper is an attempt to study this figurative rise in trend in abduction and kidnapping of women and girls over the years and an understanding of the progressive offenses that it leads to and the social perspectives and mind-sets that has been the basis for such offences. This paper also proceeds to suggest some measures to stringently enforce the available laws so as to prevent these acts of violation towards women. The researcher has focused primarily on articles, NCRB reports, journals, newspapers and statute documents.

Keywords: Women Trapped, Human Trafficking, Causes, Effects and Solutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a group of crimes involving the exploitation of men, women and children for financial gains which is violation of fundamental human rights. Victims are lured or abducted from their homes and subsequently forced to work against their wish through various means in various establishments, indulge in prostitution or subjected to various types of indignities and even killed or incapacitated for the purposes of begging and trade in human organs.

Human trafficking as defined by the UN is, “*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 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 others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or service, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.*”

It's hard to imagine that a world which talks about love, peace and brotherhood amongst fellow human beings has a dark secret staring and mocking at its true reality. India is listed in the Tier II list of the UN which includes countries which have failed to combat human trafficking. The concept of trafficking denotes a trade in something that should not be traded in.

It is a really sad situation which India is facing. In almost every city there are certain parts filled with brothels. Human trafficking includes sexual exploitation, labour trafficking, etc. Nowadays even cross-border human trafficking is

prevalent. India has a huge population and because of that and our dwindling economy many people live below the poverty line. The smugglers and traffickers promise them a better life- a ray of hope, jobs as domestic servants, in the film world or in factories. They can offer them money, pleasure trip invitations or false promises of marriage.

The main targets are the people who lack job opportunities, who have been victim to regional imbalances or social discrimination, mentally disturbed, or the people who have growing deprivation and are from the marginalized communities or people caught in debt bondages or because their parents think that their children are burden and sell them off — in simple words- the poor, helpless people are the ones who are exploited the most.

It has now become an organized institution and we as youth have to do everything to remove this social vice from our country because the deliberate institutionalized trafficking of human life is the greatest degradation to the dignity of human personality. Human trafficking happens because of a simple concept which the traffickers believe in- that the human body is an expendable, reusable “commodity”. Several things happen during a “human being sale” from selecting, tricking, intimidation and deception of the victim to the transportation of them to the “location”. Then comes the possible change to the “central place” where the actual trafficking takes place in large numbers, there are many elements involved.

The recruiters are the first in the chain —often called as the “*dalals*” they may be parents, neighbours, relatives or lovers or people who have been trafficked before. The *dalals* move to the “potential sites” for victims which mostly are the poverty-stricken areas where there has been no proper rehabilitation and then they haunt the bus stops, railway stations, streets, etc. The period they choose for trafficking depends on if that place has suffered a drought or social or political disasters recently, so that it would be easier to lure in the already suffering victims. The *dalals* use drugs, abduction, kidnapping, persuasion or deception to bag the targets.

The *dalals* usually happen to know many languages, including the local one, so that they become closer to the victim. Because in India corruption is so deep rooted, the network of such people sometimes includes the police, the visa/passport officials, taxi/auto rickshaw drivers, etc. They hand the victims to the brothel owners, escort services, or managers of a sex establishment.

This paper studies the statistical trends observed in trafficking of women and girls and attempts to put forth some preventive measures to control and safeguard the countless girls suffering a wrecked life due to trafficking.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To observe the statistical trend in abduction and kidnapping of women and girls as per Crime in India report.
- To mark the legislations available for the prevention of trafficking.
- To suggest some measures for prevention of immoral trafficking.

3. STATISTICAL TRENDS

When we see the trends of the violence against women in the form of human trafficking here are some statistic facts which are hard to accept.

Incidents of crime against women during 2009 - 2013 and percentage variation in 2013 over 2012

Sl. No	Crime head	Year					Percentage variation in 2013 over 2012
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1	Kidnapping & abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	25,741	29,795	35,565	38,262	51,881	35.6%
2	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956				2,563	2,579	0.6%

Causes:

The reasons for human trafficking are many, despite 60 years of independence, the benefits of economic development have not trickled down to the marginalized sections of the society and millions of people still live below the poverty line.

The poverty and hunger makes children and women belonging to the poor sections of the society highly vulnerable to human trafficking. Social and religious practices too have been a big cause. There is an inexplicable apathy in the approach of law enforcement agencies when it comes to dealing with human trafficking. Purposes include forced prostitution, marriage, domestic labour, bonded labour, agricultural labour, industrial labour, entertainment, begging, adoption, drug smuggling and peddling and organ transplants.

Some of the common factors are local conditions that make populations want to migrate in search of better conditions: poverty, oppression, lack of human rights, lack of social or economic opportunity, dangers from conflict or instability and similar conditions. Political instability, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict and natural disasters may result in an increase in trafficking. The destabilization and displacement of population's increase their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse through trafficking and forced labour. War and civil strife may lead to massive displacements of populations, leaving orphans and street children extremely vulnerable to trafficking.

Added to these factors are the issues of porous borders, corrupt Government officials, the involvement of international organized criminal groups or networks and limited capacity of or commitment by immigration and law enforcement officers to control borders. Lack of adequate legislation and of political will and commitment to enforce existing legislation or mandates are other factors that facilitate trafficking in persons.

Legal Provisions:

This Bureau is collecting data under the following heads of crime which are related to human trafficking.

IPC Crimes:

- i) Procurement of minor girls (Sec. 366-A IPC)
- ii) Importation of girls from foreign country (Sec. 366-B IPC)
- iii) Selling of girls for prostitution (Section-372 IPC)
- iv) Buying of girls for prostitution (Section -373 IPC)
- v) Kidnapping & abduction for specified purposes (Sec. 363 -373 IPC)

SLL Crimes:

- i) Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956.
- ii) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Cases under following legislations also form part of offences under human trafficking but NCRB is not collecting data specifically relating to these acts.

- i) Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.
- ii) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000.
- iii) Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986.
- iv) Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994.

Preventive Measures:

1) Measures relating to data collection and research:

➤ The researches held in these places should be proper and unbiased and updated regularly Proper social accountability of Population, Migration, Unemployment, Birth and Death rate in the area are necessary.

2) Border measures:

- Stringent Enforcement of cross border trafficking.
- Secure Vigilance in Trafficking routes.
- Proper social accountability.

3) Economic and social policies:

- Taking measures to raise levels of social protection and to create employment opportunities.
- Taking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of gender equality, the right to equal pay for equal work and the right to equality in employment opportunities.
- Developing programmes that offer livelihood options and include basic education, literacy, communication and other skills, and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship.
- Encouraging gender sensitization and education on equal and respectful relationships between the sexes, thus preventing violence against women.
- Ensuring that policies are in place that allow women equal access to and control over economic and financial resources.

4) Awareness-raising measures:

- By the help of NGOs and Police officials there can some types of advertisements through the popular media in particular location and by conducting some awareness programs in villages, local schools, among kids of the poor society and public to be alert of being victimized.

5) Legislative measures:

- Adopting or strengthening legislative, proper law enforcement, uncorrupt officials, educational, social, cultural or other measures and, where applicable, penal legislation, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking.

4. CONCLUSION

Human trafficking and related offenses have been a grave issue for ages now. Women suffer as a target due to varied reasons and suffer the consequences for generations together. To a large extent one can say the society is to be blamed for most of this somewhere the patriarchal society in India judges women only in extremes 'pious' or 'pervert'. But they fail to realize that it is the community itself that is the creator of each of these evils. Whether it is prostitution, forced labour or any other forms in which women and girls kidnapped or abducted are employed the social circle is responsible for being passive favorers or each of these practices. The first change has to begin from within the people following which rules and norms should be imposed in a much stronger way only then we can have a nation without a woman suffering the wrath of human trafficking and its consequent issues.

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