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A Critical Analysis on the Incidence of Human Trafficking against Women and Children and its Underlying Factors in India

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ABSTRACT

Human trafficking does nothing but undermine the sanctity of what we regard ourselves to be, “humans”. Treating their own counterparts like a commodity, the humans themselves recruit, transport, and harbour persons by the exercise of force or some other means, with the sole motive of exploitation. The commoners, who are happy in their self created utopia of will and woe, are evidently victimized. The innocence of children and the subtleness of women suddenly become a menace from that of a blessing, when they confront such devilish counterparts. The visibly evident shame on such “humans” lacking the obvious element of “humane” is dealt with in this paper with close reference to certain relevant ethical theories like “ethical realism”, “moral absolutism”, etc. The widespread contemporary exploitation of men, women and children is unacceptable to people of conscience the world over. Traditional approaches to preventing trafficking in human beings, protecting and assisting trafficked persons and bringing criminals to justice have had some small impact on the global phenomenon, but not enough. That even one young person be denied the benefits of childhood, that one young woman is subjected to the brutal humiliation of sexual exploitation and that one man becomes the slave of a cruel taskmaster in another country are clear signals that we must renew both our resolve as well as our initiatives to protect those who are vulnerable.

I. INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in women and children is one of the most despicable forms of violations of human rights. Violence against women and children has crossed all limits in the present social scenario. Human trafficking is of crime that not only dehumanizes women and children but is also a shame for society. The rising cases (reported only) of procurement of minor girls, 53 per cent in 2013 according to NCRB speak volumes of the mess women and children are in. Assam,

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Bihar and West Bengal has witnessed the growing movement of traffickers and trafficking. In the case of women trafficking in India, sexual exploitation is a major purpose and the girls are put into prostitution. But these days, trafficking for brides has pricked our conscience. Girls are bought as brides from the states of Kerala and West Bengal and transported to Haryana, Punjab and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Girls from the poor community are selected and targeted for this form of human trafficking. It is well known that these women are treated as sexual commodities and child-producing machines. The reason for this increased surge in bride trafficking is the complete skewed sex ratio of these states which purchase women and girls as brides. M. Shafiqur Rhaman Khan, who is a Delhi based activist working on the issues of Human Rights, focusing on the prevention of Human (bride) trafficking and honour-killing in India mentions in his piece article that Panipat and Sonipat are the main transit points of the trade. A large number of “placement agencies” are working in this area to facilitate bride trafficking. Their main job is to bring the girls from the poverty-stricken states and supply them to different parts of the state. A large number of people of Haryana works as truck drivers and also involve themselves simultaneously as a network for procuring girls from the source area. This is one aspect of women trafficking where women from poor areas are promised good jobs and marriage but sold for a few bucks. There are many more situations like bar dancers of Mumbai where the lives of thousands of women are at stake and caught in the web of trafficking.

Children are the major victims of human trafficking as they protest less and can be silenced easily. According to the 2010 TIP report, there are 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labour, bonded labour and forced prostitution around the world, although many see this number as less representative of the problem. They claim it to be around 27 million which gives us the idea of the grave problem of human trafficking (Satyarthi, 2013). There are studies and strong evidence which establish that there are huge numbers of child labourers who are working in garment factories and other sectors across India. The children are easily lured away by the traffickers and brought to the destination point. All this is done by a complete network of placement agencies that supply these girls and children as domestic help and garment factories. Also, children are trafficked as there is enormous demand for them. There are also instances of trafficking which goes with the practice of adoption and surrogacy. As the web of human trafficking traps any children, they pass on from one place to another place which is tantamount to re-victimization of the child again and again.

Child trafficking continues to be divided between ministries and departments. There is a lack of coordinated effort by the stakeholders. The point is that all the institutions concerned focus

majorly on the post-harm situation that is when children are already trafficked or harmed. There must be aims towards prevention. In their path-breaking study, Sen and Nair² have also studied the various aspects of traffickers. Interestingly, thirty-nine per cent of traffickers viewed trafficking as social evil while forty per cent of them have said that it cannot be solved. This reflects the mentality of the traffickers and can be helpful in law framing.

II. TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The human rights discourse is profoundly silent on this grave issue which requires immediate attention and further deliberation. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 which was later amended in 1986 has not taken the human rights of victims in its ambit. It also fell short on deterrent punishment leave alone the sensitive handling of rescue and rehabilitation of victims. Due to the poor condition of rehabilitation homes and lack of medical and psychological support to traumatised victims, they become a source for re-trafficking.³ Also, with the low levels of poverty and high levels of corruption, India has become the worst sufferer. Trafficking in humans is a serious affront to their dignity and human rights. It is a gross violation of victims' rights particularly all the basic fundamental rights like freedom and liberty, free speech and expression, education, right to life with dignity. It becomes a sordid tale of modern-day slavery. The brothels are the dens of violations of human rights. Women and children who have been trafficked and thereafter subjected to commercial sexual exploitation are "living embodiments of the ultimate violation of human rights". The survivors are the largely helpless souls of the grim tale of trade. When the victims are arrested as accused, prosecuted and even convicted, the meaning of rights becomes absurd. What was meant to redress their grievances becomes a tool of continuous victimization. This chilling tale of affairs calls for stern action by proper and effective use of the available legal provisions.

Trafficking has become an emotive issue about which much has been written passionately rather than objectively because it touches the core of our beliefs about morality, justice, gender and human rights. It must be the priority area of academia, legalists and civil society. Human rights are the lifeline of any democratic society. It can never be loose talk. What is of urgent importance is that there should be equal emphasis on interpretation and change rather than the latter taking over the former.

² Sen S, Nair PM. A Report on trafficking on women and children in India 2002-2003 vol 1. Institute of Social Sciences, NHRC & UNIFEM, India; 2004. p. 440.

³ Sujata M. Contemporary women's issues, marginalised women and human rights. *Journal of the Human Rights Commission of India*. 2013;12:1-13.

III. DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional problem. There is a not only significant rise in trafficking but also an increase in its magnitude. The literature on trafficking carries conflicting layers of understanding with trafficking equated with prostitution and migration. Any reliable statistical information is absent in terms of quantification of almost any aspect of trafficking, from the number of people trafficked to the amount of money earned but it is estimated by UNICEF that it is around 5 to 10 billion dollars earned per year by traffickers⁴. The United Nations estimated the number of trafficking victims at more than 30 million, with the largest number originating in Asia and an estimated 1,50,000 annually in South Asia alone.⁵ The Indian government's Ministry of Women and Child Development estimated the number of persons trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in India to be around 2.8 billion and about three million prostitutes in the country. It is said to be 'acquiring grave dimensions worldwide in the recent context of globalisation'. Also, there is a rise in the 'global sophistication, complexity and consolidation of trafficking networks' which is said to have diverse and sophisticated mechanisms.

According to 'Report on Trafficking in Women and Children India' by Sen and Nair, the overall major trends are:

- Trafficking major purpose is commercial sexual exploitation
- There is a repeated preference for younger children and the inclusion of men.
- Trafficking is becoming an extremely lucrative business, sometimes exceedingly doing well than arms and drug trafficking.
- There is strong nexus between traffickers and public officials with the participation of the corporate, sex and tourism industry.
- The majority of women and children are trafficked through deception and false promises

All these trends are enormously prevalent in India as well as in the global context. Let us now move to analyse the factors which contribute to the above-mentioned trends and also discuss other aspects which coalesced and contribute to these trends. According to Ghosh human trafficking in India can be classified into three groups: (a) for commercial sexual exploitation,

⁴ Alice B. *Human Rights in Crisis*. Ashgate, UK; 2008.

⁵ International Labour Organisation. *Stopping forced labour: global report under the follow-up to the ILO declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work*. International Labour Office, Switzerland; 2001. p. 124.

(b) for exploitative labour and (c) for other forms of exploitation like organ sale, begging, etc. A quick analysis of the available records and reports on trafficking reveals that the trafficked women and children are pressed into activities like prostitution in brothels, massage parlours or beer bars, pornography, dancing, petty crimes, domestic help, agricultural labour, begging organ trade and drug trafficking.

IV. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO TRAFFICKING

There seem to be many factors at play in trafficking ranging from personal circumstances to structural factors. It has been articulated that traffickers originate where the conditions are ripe for exploitation. Sometimes there are social pressures on the victims to migrate, sometimes lack employment or educational opportunities, sometimes unstable family structures also play a role. Traffickers are becoming smarter as they know how to target both the most vulnerable and the least visible people.

(A) Personal circumstances and structural factors

In terms of personal factors, people with low levels of literacy, awareness and information are seemingly vulnerable to trafficking. Economic deprivation and low incomes are also contributing risk factors. Women and children with disabilities are an easy catch for traffickers. A dysfunctional family- fragile relationships, marital discord, physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug use, family pressures, gender discrimination, desertion by husbands- makes women vulnerable to suffering and consequently to trafficking. Studies by CSWB and others have revealed that most trafficked women are unmarried, divorced, separated or widowed. When we look at the structural factors, there is a lot of aspects that make women and children susceptible to trafficking. The environments which do not have adequate structures and institutions for education and employment become zones for traffickers. The wider structural factors also heavily influence and determine these circumstances which are industrialisations and globalisations, economic crises, under-development, economic policies like privatisation and liberalisation, promotion of sex tourism, withdrawal of subsidies and commercialisation of agriculture, the consequent erosion of subsistence agricultural practices, loss of traditional livelihoods and inflation. In today's scenario, women and girls are increasingly being hired as service providers which put them at risk. Simultaneously, the quickening pace of urbanisation and heightened mobility resulting from the development of road links are contributing factors. A culture of consumerism, materialism, the commodification of individuals and the commercialisation of sex distorts family needs and individual desires.

(B) Perpetuating factors

Insufficient and inadequate laws, poor enforcement, ineffective penalties, minimal chances of prosecution, the relatively low risks involved, corruption and complacency, poor visibility and less debate on the issue, the lack of political will of the governments to implement policies and to provide adequate services for victims- all play role in perpetuating trafficking. It has been also expressed that people who take up the cudgels against trafficking are minuscule. It becomes difficult to combat because everyone (trafficking camp) is unified. The profiting families are also reluctant to talk.⁶

(C) Push and pull factors

Veerendra Mishra⁷ has mentioned in his edited book that trafficking is victims' vulnerability exploitation and the victim vulnerability is the result of many factors. He has classified those factors as push and pull factors and maintains that push and pull factors do not only determine vulnerability but operate with multiple factors with different intensities. So, it becomes difficult to find out which factor has triggered the trafficking. His push and pull are similar to above mentioned personal and perpetual factors.

Push factors are the factors that exist at the point of origin and the pull factors work at the place of destination. Pull factors has been considered the vices of uneven development. Both these factors are complementary. Push factors can be minimized while pull factors cannot be stopped for the time being. Mishra has suggested that push factors are deep-rooted problems that can be changed by continuo's education and not by confrontation approach. Both these factors have been described by some as 'supply' and 'demand' theory where pull factors have been equated with demand and push factors with supply. Let's now discuss the aspects of push and pull factors briefly.

In the push factors, social means prevalence of caste and class structure and gender-based discrimination which makes people vulnerable. In the cultural context, irrational traditional practices like community-based prostitution enhance vulnerability. Economic factors mean unequal distribution of opportunities and a wider gap between rich and poor compels people to fall into the hands of traffickers. Poverty has been linked with human trafficking patterns. Political means unequal participation in the community at large while environmental suggests that natural calamities like floods, famines and drought or unnatural ethnic conflicts and

⁶ Human Rights Watch. Trafficking of Nepali girls and women to India's brothels. *HRW*. 1995;12(5).

⁷ Veerendra M. *Human trafficking- the stakeholders' perspective*. Sage, India; 2013. p. 400.

insurgencies make the people vulnerable for trafficking. Also, displacement and dislocation of people make the situation favourable for traffickers.

V. THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Women in India are also traumatized in less obvious ways. Their oppression starts almost invisibly. It takes place in their homes, within families, with girls being locked up in their own houses, women being beaten by their husbands, by their fathers, by their brothers. This violence is the product of a culture that bestows all power on men and denies women's most essential rights. Among men, many are those who look down on women and girls; girls are trained in silence; they are told to have no opinions, no arguments, no conflicts. Their only choice is to live a life of silence that slowly erodes their sense of self.

According to UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, the pandemic has "increased vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, while making trafficking even harder to detect and leaving victims struggling to obtain help and access to justice." Traffickers "preyed on vulnerabilities and often lured their victims with fake promises of employment," explained Ilias Chatzis, Chief of UNODC's Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, which developed the study.

"37% of stakeholder survey respondents reported that the recruitment of victims has moved online during the pandemic," it stated.

Women and girls have been "recruited, often locally or online, for sexual exploitation, especially in private apartments. Children have been particularly affected – out of school and need to support parents who have lost their livelihoods. Children have been increasingly targeted by traffickers at the local level and online."⁸

The report identifies that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, trafficking in persons went even further underground, making any reliable estimates of the scale of trafficking in persons more difficult. However, in some regions and countries, domestic trafficking has reportedly increased, especially local recruitment and exploitation. Loss of livelihoods and restrictions on movement have led to traffickers recruiting victims in their local areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created larger pools of vulnerable persons who, due to their worsened economic situation, were recruited for labour or sexual exploitation in their local area. Women, children and migrants have been identified by survey and interview participants

⁸ UNODC supports the launch of partnership document countering drugs and crime for the promotion of African development

as particularly vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Women and girls have been recruited, often locally or online, for sexual exploitation, especially in private apartments. Children have been particularly affected, out of school and need to support parents who have lost their livelihoods, children have been increasingly targeted by traffickers at the local level and online. They have been trafficked for sexual purposes, forced marriage, forced begging and forced criminality. There is clear evidence of increased demand for child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM), which has exacerbated the exploitation of children around the world. Migrants have been affected by the pandemic in a number of ways -- many have lost their employment in the destination country and have been unable to return to their homes. Some of them ended up in an irregular status in destination countries after being unable to renew their residence and/or work permits. Others have been forced to stay in inadequate accommodation with limited COVID-19 safety measures in place. The families of migrants have also suffered through the loss of much-needed remittances. Survey and interview respondents highlighted the plight, in particular, of migrant domestic workers who have been confined to private homes and exploited by abusive employers.

VI. TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILD KIDNAPPINGS

Within the system of human trafficking in India, most of those victimized are either women or minors. In 2016, The National Crime Records Bureau estimated that 33,855 people in India have been victims of kidnapping for the purpose of marriage. Half of this percentage consisted of individuals under 18 years of age. Kidnappers most commonly force women into commercial sex and indentured servitude. Bride trafficking has also been a consistent commodity due to skewed sex ratios in certain areas. There has been a lack of women for the larger male population to marry, so many buy their partners. A UNODC report in 2013 found that of the 92 villages of the Indian state of Haryana, nine out of 10 households bought wives from poor villages in other parts of the country. The report also mentioned that most of the women experienced abuse and rape as well as working like slaves.

Alongside the trade of women, many child kidnappings occur. Kidnappers force many of the victims into servitude within industries of agriculture and manufacturing. In 2016, the Central Bureau of Investigation estimated that 135,000 children become victims of human trafficking in India annually. Many of the Indian train stations, such as Sealdah in the city of Kolkata, have had reports of youth kidnapping. Due to the frantic environment of the station, most of these disappearances go unnoticed. A lot of these children either live near the station due to poverty and abuse at home or travel out to work despite the danger and illegality of child labour.

Children have also experienced kidnapping during natural disasters. During an earthquake in Nepal, traffickers targeted children whose parents had lost their lives. Wherever traffickers send these children, they work in brutal conditions and receive little pay or nothing at all.

With its current population of 1.3 billion people, India is the second-largest country in the world. However, with its size comes a myriad of human rights issues. With so many people in one country, many of them can easily fall under the radar. Human trafficking in India is one of the most prominent human rights issues within the country. In India, kidnappings for labour and sexual needs have been constant. In 2020, a U.S. Department of State report identified India as a Tier 2 country. In spite of many genuine efforts, the country remains hindered by its inadequate solutions to alleviate the problem and the department feels that India did not sufficiently ensure the mitigation of the issue. Enslavement has also been a common issue. In 2016, the Global Slavery Index found that 18 million people out of 46 million people are enslaved in India.⁹

VII. REASON BEHIND THE EXPANSION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The basic push factor that has been recognized as the fundamental main impetus behind illegal exploitation is the servile neediness. In any case, position-based segregation, absence of assets, absence of human and social capital, social weakness, sex separation, the commodification of ladies, social prohibition, minimization, insufficient and obsolete state strategies, absence of administration, nexus of police and dealers, joblessness, separating of local area emotionally supportive network, modest kid work, kid marriage and need to marriage, the fascination of city life, debasement, business exchange, relocation arrangements struggle and absence of mindfulness among the casualties are additionally some the variables prompting illegal exploitation. Globalization has likewise gotten one of the arising push factors prompting illegal exploitation. Further, the report of the International Organization for Migration, says that 90% of the casualties dealt as sex slaves experienced abusive behaviour at home before they were dealt. The diminishing sex proportion and the expanding request of ladies in ladies starve zones would likewise be considered as a factor behind lady of the hour dealing with India. There are additionally sure different variables that are dependable through immediate and roundabout methods and mode however, all sort of these push factors constrained the casualty to get further abuse, weaknesses and to turn into a component of this cutting edge sort of bondage for the duration of their life expectancy. As indicated by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) information, an aggregate of 8,132

⁹ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet visits Kabul, Afghanistan

instances of illegal exploitation was accounted for in the year 2016 from the nation over. According to that information, West Bengal had a portion of more than 44.01% of all-out cases with 3,579 cases, trailed by Rajasthan which represented 17.49% with 1,422 detailed cases. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were next in accordance with 548, 517 and 434 cases individually. Ladies represented more than 65% of the casualties dealt with in 2017¹⁰.

Here are some main causes of human trafficking:

Poverty: Neediness is probably the biggest supporter of illegal exploitation. It can drive individuals to become dealers; it can drive guardians to sell youngsters or other relatives into servitude. Individuals in destitution are focused on dealers, who offer them an approach to bring in cash when, indeed, they will really procure nothing and be treated as a slave. Destitution additionally plays a huge piece in a large number of the other underlying drivers of dealing, driving individuals to move, making instruction and really work hard to acquire, making recuperation and security from war and catastrophe outlandish, and that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Lack of knowledge: An absence of schooling can prompt diminished freedoms for work at a living pay, and it can likewise prompt diminished information in rights. The two results can make individuals be at a more prominent weakness for illegal exploitation. In counteraction of dealing, schooling can likewise enable youngsters to cause changes locally as they develop more established that will forestall circumstances and weaknesses of which dealers exploit.

Demand of cheap labours/demand for sex: Essential financial aspects disclose to us that for a market to frame, market interest need to exist. The requests for modest work and for popularized sex lead to promising circumstances for dealers to abuse individuals. Dealers can make a huge benefit by creating labour and products through modest or free work and selling the items or administrations at a more exorbitant cost. Popularized sex is a rewarding business sector that permits dealers and pimps to turn into the just profitter from their casualties through an unending pattern of purchasers and excessive costs.

Lack of human rights for vulnerable groups: In numerous nations, bunches that are underestimated in the public eye need regulated basic freedoms, which can prompt them to be likely survivors of dealing. Dealers can go after these minimized gatherings since they need the security of the law authorization, their families, and surprisingly the general public they live in. Likewise, when nations need basic laws in regards to basic freedoms, dealers feel like

¹⁰An international journal of evidence based research, policy and practice:Angela Fernandes: “who are the victims, who are the traffickers?”vol 15, issue 2

they can pull off the thing they are accomplishing all the more without any problem. An absence of basic freedoms laws can likewise end in discipline for casualties if the laws and government don't perceive that illegal exploitation will be an abuse of others.

Lack of legitimate economic opportunities: Whenever individuals need genuine monetary freedoms, that can likewise prompt expanded weakness to illegal exploitation. Gatherings that are particularly helpless in this space are travellers without work allows, the individuals who need training, the individuals who live in provincial regions where there are fewer positions accessible, just as ladies and certain ethnic gatherings who will be unable to land positions because of separation. Dealers extend to apparently genuine employment opportunities to individuals who can't get them in any case, just to bait them into constrained work, sex dealing, reinforced work, and the sky is the limit from there.

Social factors and cultural practices: In numerous nations, social practices and social variables are a significant reason for illegal exploitation. In certain spots, fortified work is viewed as an adequate method to take care of obligation. In different spots, offering youngsters to dealers is the standard, particularly for more unfortunate families in rustic regions. A few nations, like Mauritania, actually practice outdated subjugation, where families are held for ages by slave drivers. There are likewise occurrences, as in Uzbekistan, where constrained work is organized. During the cotton collection, all grown-ups and kids are required to work in the cotton fields until the yields are reaped. Social and social elements can likewise lead casualties not to make some noise about being dealt with or who their dealers are, particularly on the off chance that they come from bunches who need common freedoms insurances.

Conflict and natural disaster: Struggle and natural disaster events can prompt financial precariousness and the absence of basic freedoms, giving dealers a benefit and making individuals more powerless against illegal exploitation circumstances. In struggle zones and wars, some agitator or military gatherings will utilize kid troopers and keep sex slaves. Also, both struggle and catastrophic events can lead individuals to move out of the places where they grew up and home nations, making them more helpless against dealers, particularly on the off chance that they are searching for work or paying bootleggers to get where they need to go. What's more, with expanded financial shakiness, dealers have the freedoms to bring to the table bogus bids for employment to individuals, driving them into dealing circumstances.

Trafficking generates a large profit: One significant reason for illegal exploitation is a huge benefit that dealers acquire. This is an impetus for them to keep dealing with individuals both constrained work and sex dealing. For dealers utilizing constrained workers and fortified

workers, they get modest work and can sell their items or administration at a lot greater expense. For those utilizing sex dealing, they can without much of a stretch take the entirety of the benefit, constraining ladies to make a specific sum every evening, and keeping them in the circumstance through drugs, savage power and danger.

VIII. HARMFUL EFFECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Impact on Women and Children: Women and girls are always at the risk of unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, etc. They are also affected by drugs and harmful medicines or other addictions which result in physical and mental deterioration. They also have a threat of emotional well-being like deprivation from their family life, a threat to their social support systems, isolations, constant fear of arrests. Most of the time, they are scared of humiliation and abuse which results in serious and emotional stress which also causes psychological consequences. They have a threat of their physical safety by police, unscrupulous agents, customs officials, employers, etc. They may also face economic slavery, difficulties in social integration, etc.

Impact on all other Victims: All the victims of human trafficking have to face various kinds of threats of violence which includes traffickers, pimps, customers, whores, corrupt local law official persons. The challenges which they have to face is too gruesome to handle and it makes it very difficult for them to integrate into their host community. It is a very traumatic experience for the trafficked victims that in most cases, they have to face Social Alienation in their host or home country. Stigmatization, Intolerance and Social Inclusion acts as a deterrence for the victims to reintegrate into their former society. A lot of times, they are being scared from arresting in police custody and because of the potentially complicated law enforcement in our country, they themselves have a fear of arrest which creates stress and other emotional trauma for the trafficked victims.

Short Term Impact: There is a short term impact on the victims of human trafficking which is a psychological manner that is totally like a life-threatening disease for them. The perpetrators often expose them to a high amount of psychological stress which is affected by threats, fear, physical or emotional violence. The basic motive of the traffickers is to turn a victim into a slave and to exploit them sexually, emotionally, verbally, economically, etc. During short term impact, the victims usually feel the attack of depression, numbing or extreme stress, anger or rage, guilt or self-blame. Thus under these kinds of pressures, victims may fall into hopelessness state and feel helpless which affects their mental and physical body for a short period of time.

Long Term Impact: All the victims of human trafficking may face a long term effect on their bodies or they may face a complex trauma for a long period of time. For instance, there are repeated cases of intimate relationship trauma which includes sexual abuse, gang rape, domestic violence, forced prostitution, etc. According to a report by psychology researchers which says that complex trauma is more expansive in diagnosis due to the effects of the prolonged trauma.¹¹ The victims often experience severe trauma on a day to day basis and it devastates their healthy development, self-worth, biological integrity over long periods of time. The victims who grow up in a continuous environment of exploitation, often exhibit antisocial and sexualized behaviour, aggression, distrust of adults, complex trauma in their whole life.

Economic Impact: There is an estimation by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that every year around the US \$ 32 billion is been generating through human trafficking. Out of these, half of which i.e. around the US \$ 15 billion has been generated in the industrialized countries and a third of the total i.e. around the US \$ 9 billion has been generated in Asia¹². According to a research paper which was published in Human Rights Review namely, "Sex Trafficking: Trends, Challenges and Limitations of International Law", states that the number associated with sex trafficking has been rising since 2000 but the costs which are involved in this trafficking has been declining. As of 2018, it was estimated that the profits coming from human trafficking were around US \$ 150 billion and it was ranked as one of the most profitable transnational crimes along with drug trafficking.

The issue of human trafficking in India must be addressed in a whole comprehensive manner. It requires a multi-faceted strategy to combat the menace of human trafficking in our country. While efforts include that there should be a process of rehabilitation and reintegration for all the victims of human trafficking and it should be conducted in a large manner. Otherwise, it will not be successful to address the issue successfully in the long run and strategically, we would be failed in it.

IX. CONCLUSION

At the same time as summarizing major responses to trafficking in persons initiated over the past decade, this paper also points to numerous ways in which these anti-trafficking policies and initiatives could be made more effective. In particular, it emphasizes the vital role of collecting evidence about the numbers of people being trafficked and the forms of exploitation

¹¹ Courtois, C. A. (2004). "Complex trauma, complex reactions: Assessment and treatment". *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training*. 41 (4): 412–425. doi:10.1037/0033-3204.41.4.412.

¹² "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor, Global Report Under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work". Geneva: International Labor Office. 2005. p. 55.

to which they are being subjected, so that prevention initiatives and virtually all other anti-trafficking efforts are tailored to meet the task before them. The corollary is that anti-trafficking initiatives should not be inspired by well-publicized but unsubstantiated estimates that have sometimes vastly exaggerated the number of people being trafficked or seriously underestimated them.
