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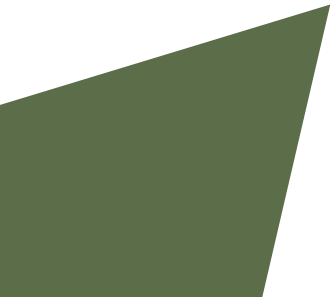
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Snatched girlhood and ignorance: A trafficking ring

Anushree Belwariar & Mahek Agarwal

INTRODUCTION

“Once this generation goes from Apathy to Action, we will see Human Trafficking end in our lifetime”

Trafficking of children is a form of human trafficking and can be explained as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt" kidnapping of a child for the purpose of slavery, forced labor and exploitation. This is a form of child abuse which leads to physical maltreatment or a sexual exploitation of a child. Child Trafficking takes place in every part of the world. There are innocents of children who are victims of prostitution, drug trafficking and begging. They are either exposed to the environment of agriculture or are treated as domestic slaves. The groups of young children are also exposed to abuse such as illegal adoption. Girlhood and Womanhood are the two important aspects which needs to be protected but are victimized on a larger scale in the whole of India mainly Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and West Bengal.

This landmark case has set up the base in order to tackle the issue of child trafficking in different states. In case of *Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. UOI*¹ the Supreme Court had issued various guidelines in order to tackle the issue of exploitation of a child. The following guidelines are :- i) In order to implement the fundamental right of children under Article 21A, it is imperative that the Central Government must issue suitable notifications prohibiting the employment of children in circuses within two months from today. (ii) The respondents are directed to conduct simultaneous raids in all the circuses to liberate the children and check the violation of fundamental rights of the children. The rescued children be kept in the Care and Protective Homes till they attain the age of 18 years. (iii) The respondents are also directed to talk to the parents of the children and in case they are willing to take their children back to their homes, they may be directed to do so after proper verification. (iv) The respondents are directed to frame proper scheme of rehabilitation of rescued children from circuses. (v) We direct the Secretary of Ministry of Human Resources Development, Department of Women and Child Development to file a comprehensive affidavit of compliance within ten weeks.

There is an emerging need to identify and further regulate the implementation of various schemes which are launched by different states as well as the central bodies to combat the issue of child trafficking in India. Usually it is observed that humanitarian grounds are in question and are

¹ (2011) 15 SCC 645

constantly being violated by such immoral and illegal acts which cause a threat to the future and sustainability of the child.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

This paper has aimed to determine the current scenario of few of the selected states of India, where the menace of Human Trafficking has reached its peak and to complete the study and jot down useful observations and conclusions following research objectives have been set which shall be achieved along the course of the study:

1. To determine the factors/purposes for which human trafficking takes place.
2. To examine the present series of developments in the state of West Bengal, Goa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh pertaining to human trafficking.
3. To identify the schemes launched by the respective state governments of the above mentioned states in order to curb human trafficking.
4. To examine whether the schemes have helped in reducing the crime.
5. To conduct a primary research on human trafficking in order to determine the observations of a layman.

RESEARCH QUESTION

As the research of the paper is going to be of informative and practical in nature, the following questions are to be addressed while drafting the same.

1. What are the prevailing conditions and schemes to cure the issue of child abuse and child trafficking in West Bengal, Goa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh? Explain if the implication of the schemes has shown undergone any series of development.
2. Which the different purposes which thrives the practice of child trafficking?

LITERATURE REVIEW

BOOKS

1. **Rekha Roy, Women and Child Trafficking in India: A Human Right Perspective**

The book by Rekha Roy has entailed aspects of trafficking which can sometimes go unnoticed in the country. The book deals with the Indian perspective of human Trafficking but most part of it focuses on the trafficking which takes place in the North East India. The authors have relied upon the book to understand how grave and significant is the crime of human trafficking and how it is illegally practised in India.

2. Veerendra Mishra, Human Trafficking – Stake holder's Perspective, 1st edition

The above-mentioned book provides for solution to handle the nuisance of trafficking. The author of the book suggests that there should be existence of an organised agency working solely to curb the crime. The book does provide for answers for trafficking but it is still farfetched concerning the country.

INTERNET WEBSITES

1. Global Slavery Index, (2020, January 28th). Country studies - India

<https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/india>

The above website has pointed out where India stands on the Global Slavery Index. The authors have also found the reasons for slavery in the country and how it is connected to trafficking. The authors found this website very helpful.

2. **Mujeeburahamann (April 2018), Bonded to forced labour, American Indian Foundation** <https://aif.org/bonded-to-forced-labour-behind-brick-making/>

The website mentions the cruelty the children face due to bonded labour. The authors have picked up examples from the same pertaining to the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Newspaper Articles:

3. Ashwaq Masoodi, (28th May 2015), Why Organ Trafficking Thrives in India, LiveMint

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/pxj4YasmivrvAhanv6OOCJ/Why-organ-trafficking-thrives-in-India.html>

The above newspaper article provides for reasons for organ trafficking in the country along with a case study of a young girl from Delhi. The article gave quantitative data about the study. The authors have used this article to justify the purposes of trafficking in the country.

4. TNN(October 2019), Rajasthan has the Highest Number of Trafficking Victims, Times of India [india.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/state-has-highest-no-of-trafficking-](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/state-has-highest-no-of-trafficking-victims/articleshow/71444417.cms)

victims/articleshow/71747601.cmshttps://timesofi

The article focuses on the city of Jaipur along with other cities in the state of Rajasthan. It describes the current situation of the capital of Rajasthan along with surveys conducted by the governmental bodies. The authors have used the same in the research study too.

5. **Rajeev Mullak (February 2019), 1 in every 5 girls in UP is a child bride, Hindustan Times** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/1-in-every-5-girls-in-up-is-a-child-bride/story-kHQOBmEARQAFAP5lHusZaN.html>

The above mentioned news piece give details of child marriages which takes place in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It covers the aspect of kidnapping and trafficking of minor females and forcefully marrying them off to a stranger household. The authors have used this article as one of the sources from which they have made their deductions about forced marriages.

6. **Ashwaq Masoodi, (28th May 2015), Why Organ Trafficking Thrives in India, LiveMint** <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/pxj4YasmivrvAhanv6OOCJ/Why-organ-trafficking-thrives-in-India.html>

This was referred in order to throw light on one of the purpose of child trafficking which is organ trafficking prevailing in the country of India and the several implications succeeding the situation.

7. **Tsg Sunday Guardian Live (28 January 2020)- Bengal New Epicentre Of Human Trafficking**

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/12400-bengal-new-epicentre-human-trafficking>

This website has been taken into reference to have a proper understanding of different cases which the State of Kolkata has been dealing with in issue of child trafficking.

8. **NDTV INDIA - (28JANUARY 2020) - STATE STUDY - WEST BENGAL** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/west-bengal-records-highest-number-of-human-trafficking-cases-in-2016-1782177>

The above mentioned news piece gives a detailed state study of west Bengal with the highest number of human trafficking cases in respect to different areas.

9. **Tnn(December 2019) West Bengal Government Allocates Funds, Times Of India** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/west-bengal-government-allocates-fund-for-child-sponsorship-programme/articleshow/72335761.cms>

This article has been referred to analyze the schemes which are incorporated by the government of West Bengal and to study on its impact and implication in the society.

REPORTS

1. **Partners in Change and Praxis (2017), Feasibility Study: Combating Child Trafficking and Bonded Labour in Rajasthan**, <https://d1r4g0yivcc7lx.cloudfront.net/uploads/Rajasthan-Report-FINAL-EXT-feb-2017-1.pdf>

The report elucidates how child bonded labour and child trafficking are linked together. The report is based on the state of Rajasthan. It explains the hardships of the poor people and how they are engulfed in the trafficking rings. The report has inspired the authors to look upon various industries where the children are trafficked for child labour not only in Rajasthan but in other states as well.

2. **Government of Rajasthan (2019) child policy, department of women and child Development** http://wcd.rajasthan.gov.in/Docs/Child_Policy.pdf

The above report includes various policies which have been made by the state government of Rajasthan in respect of child welfare. One of the topics covered under this report talks about how government is going to help the rescued children from various heinous crimes and that is the particular aspect which has been picked by the authors.

3. **Kamal Saxena, Combatting Human Trafficking in Uttar Pradesh, Indian Police Service, Pg 7** <http://uphome.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/AHTI.pdf>

The above report explains different measures which has been taken up the the state government of Uttar Pradesh to curb the problem of human trafficking. It also mentions how the government with the help of the police and Non Profit Organisation is going to spread awareness. The authors found the report very helpful and educative.

4. **Global Slavery Index, (2020, January 28th). Country Studies - India** <https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/india/>

The above report signifies the study of the rate of children and the conditions they are exposed to as means of child abuse in the country of India with reports of the slavery index.

5. **IJM - (28th January 2020) - KOLKATA** <https://www.ijmindia.org/Study-on-number-of-sexually-exploited-minors-released-Primary-tabs>

The above report has been referred to enhance the study on the number of sexually exploited minors pertaining to child abuse in the affected areas of Kolkata state.

6. **GOA PRISM (March 23 2016) trafficking of women and children increasing in goa** <https://www.goaprism.com/trafficking-of-women-and-children-increasing-go-a-study/#>

This report has been referred in order to analyze the trafficking of women and children with an increasing rate in Goa.

7. **INCREDIBLE GOA (JAN 17, 2019) - traffickers bringing girls from other states**

<https://www.incrediblegoa.org/awareness/traffickers-bring-girls-from-orissa-and-other-northern-states-a-minor-girl-sold-in-go-a-for-50k-rescued/>

This report is referred to the migration of child traffickers who are transported from other states for the purpose of child trafficking and to discuss their stake in the society.

CASE LAWS

- 1) Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. UOI- (2011) 15 SCC 645
- 2) National Commission Of Women And Child Rights And Others V. Rajesh Kumar - 2020 SCC OnLine SC 27

PURPOSE BEHIND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The chain of trafficking innocents takes place to fulfill various atrocious purposes. This cycle continues as the traffickers act as a product in this underworld economy. There exists numerous factors which give rise to such trafficking but few of the major reasons for which trafficking of human takes place are listed as follows:

1. Forced prostitution: prostitution refers to the exchange of monies in place of a sexual union or a sexual activity. In the year of 2007, the ministry of women and child in India reported that there exists three million sex workers currently working. Among the many sex workers, majority of them turn out to be girls who are yet to attain the age of majority. The social strata of the society which is prevalent in the country contributes largely to the trafficking of human beings, especially girls and females. Traffickers use false promises of employment, financial stability and a better quality of life to lure the victims into entering the trafficking ring.
2. Slavery: The global slavery Index in the year 2016 concluded to have eight million people living under the state of slavery on any given day in India in the above mentioned year². Occurrence of forced labor in the country can be identified among the migrant workers. The growing demand for servants and maids at domestic households has created a path for forced labor in the country alongside the trafficking which takes place for the need of commercial labor. The trafficked victims are employed and exploited in the industries pertaining to agriculture, construction, bonded labor etc.

² Global Slavery Index, (2020, January 28th). *Country studies - India*
<https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/india/>

3. Organ Removal/transplantation: this refers to the phenomena of removal of organs for a human body for the purpose of serving the needs of another human body. It means the organs from one being is taken and put in another in place of the defective organ. Organ trafficking thrives in India. For example, in India, on an average around two lakhs people need kidney transplant but out of which only 3% is met³. There is a low rate of organ donation presently in the country, which paves the way for an illegal cycle of organ trade. human trafficking is used as a medium to facilitate such trade.
4. Forced Marriage: the phenomena of arranged marriages in the country has given rise to “buying of brides”. This illicit activity is the most prevalent in the state of Haryana. The gap between gender ratio also is a prime reason why trafficking takes place for the purpose of marriage. The lack of number of females to males pose a huge problem in the country where marriage is supposedly a religious institution between two people. To bridge this gap, traffickers lure innocents only to get them married or in other words to “sell them off” to another family

STATE-WISE ANALYSIS

WEST-BENGAL

PREVALENCE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Sonagachi, the city's biggest red-light area which is among the largest in Asia and has a little over 9,000 women and the majority are from Bangladesh, while some are from Nepal and Bhutan. And the numbers have remained static for quite some time⁴. West Bengal has taken a step ahead and is placed on the top position with respect to the record published regarding the most number of human trafficking cases in 2016. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the state reported 3,579 human trafficking cases that year. The number might be a gross underestimate, as the NCRB data show that 53,654 women and 16,881 children were missing from the state during the same period⁵. According to a study conducted by The International Justice Mission⁶, it was observed that the private establishments were prone to such hideous crimes and also they are mainly located

³ Ashwaq Masoodi, (28th May 2015), *Why Organ Trafficking Thrives in India*, LiveMint <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/pxj4YasmivrvAhanv6OOCJ/Why-organ-trafficking-thrives-in-India.html>

⁴ TSG SUNDAY GUARDIAN LIVE (28 JANUARY 2020)- BENGAL NEW EPICENTRE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/12400-bengal-new-epicentre-human-trafficking>

⁵ NDTV INDIA - (28 JANUARY 2020) - STATE STUDY - WEST BENGAL <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/west-bengal-records-highest-number-of-human-trafficking-cases-in-2016-1782177>

⁶ IJM - (28th January 2020) - KOLKATA <https://www.ijmindia.org/Study-on-number-of-sexually-exploited-minors-released-Primary-tabs>

in the “south” zone of the state. Adding on to that was the unique observation breaking stereotypical notion of the male dominant exploiters and pimps as 80% of the contacts who send the children to the customers and run these private establishments were females. The false promise was made to 77.1% of the children of a good future and then was coerced into this act of sexual work and trade. There were 57.1% of the children who had to undergo violent conditioning period. The purpose of commercial sexual exploitation occurred in the context of girls who eloped with their boyfriends and were later subjected to trafficking or girls being victims of fake marriage proposals or fake job offers.

Bangladesh being a poverty stricken area has targeted the women over there and promised women a better life in the country of India with good jobs, household work, roles in movies, marriage but they are usually picked up from bus stands and railway stations with title of Bangladesh illegal migrants subjected to the menace of child abuse and trafficking. The increasing demand has also pushed the Rohingya refugees especially girls and women to sex slavery where they are usually pushed to engage in sexual activities such as performing and engaging in sex at a cost usually in places of brothels, bars , liquor shops and etc. With the demand for women at an all-time high in India, Bangladeshi touts are too happy to send in supplies through their Indian contacts.

SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY THE STATE TO CURB THE ABUSE

In December 2019 , the state government has launched a scheme and supplied 10 Lakhs rupees for this purpose which widened the scope of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 in order to support against the crimes of child abuse and exploitation⁷. Under this scheme such cases have been administered where a child has faced sexual abuse or is rescued after being trafficked or after being subjected to child labour and then their parents refuse to accept the child. This scheme has proved to be successful in terms of financial assistance by providing an opportunity to the child to live with his own families. In case of *National Commission of Women and Child Rights and others v. Rajesh Kumar*⁸ , the issue was mainly dealing with jurisdiction in question before a court of law. The court held that the commissions should look after the welfare of the child and not fight over any so-called jurisdiction. This highlighted that discretion should not be placed on officials to enquire or start an investigation but at the option of commission or a court of law to take such an action.

⁷ TNN(December 2019) West Bengal Government allocates funds, *times of India*
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/west-bengal-government-allocates-fund-for-child-sponsorship-programme/articleshow/72335761.cms>

⁸ 2020 SCC OnLine SC 27

Shakti Vahini, a pan-India anti-trafficking NGO, estimates, out of every ten girls rescued from brothels and red light areas across the country, seven are from Bengal's North and South 24 Parganas districts.

IMPLICATION

The rate of conviction is low in the state due to the ignorant behavior of the police authorities. The lack of coordination between the police body as to the place where victims have been picked up and sold and lack of resources which prohibits the police authorities to travel from one place to another for matters relating to the investigation which urges them to demand the money from the family of the victims for the purpose of investigating their child's case which in the end results in both of them being helpless.

GOA

PREVALENCE OF HUMAN-TRAFFICKING

The rate of trafficking of girls and women is on the rise in the state as the location serves as a prime spot as the source and transit route for human trafficking. Girls from different states as well as the neighboring countries have been moved since few years. The Director of an NGO ARZ, Arun Pande says that girls from northeastern states and countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and other countries, and from vulnerable sections of the society are brought to Goa on the pretense of employment at the Casinos, massage parlors, hospitality sector etc and they are forced into sex trade⁹. The girls from other countries are promised secured jobs and a good payment in order to urge them to take up this act of prostitution and their denial to work results in aggrieved acts of torture and violence. According to statistics, a total of 1,864 crimes have been reported against women and 1, 194 crimes against children from past five years in Goa¹⁰

There are various websites that have exposed to sell sex in Goa on a 24 hour hourly contact basis. There is a website named "lavanyamenon.net" where the visitors are offered college call girls , High profile Housewives/Girls and also the most expensive foreign/ Russian girls. The culture of Goa's society promoting sex trafficking could be easily curbed if there is sufficient political will which is backing it.

SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY THE STATE TO CURB THE ABUSE

The police authorities are actively taking part to cure this menace but it is required that the police stations actively take up their own jurisdiction. The usual process which is maintained is that the

⁹ GOA PRISM (March 23 2016) trafficking of women and children increasing in goa-
<https://www.goaprism.com/trafficking-of-women-and-children-increasing-go-a-study/#>

¹⁰ INCREDIBLE GOA (JAN 17 , 2019) - traffickers bringing girls from other states
<https://www.incrediblegoa.org/awareness/traffickers-bring-girls-from-orissa-and-other-northern-states-a-minor-girl-sold-in-go-a-for-50k-rescued/>

police raid the place, the culprits are arrested and the girls are rescued while being sent back to their rehabilitation homes.

The main issue in Goa is that at least in other states the local bodies or Panchayats are ready to accept and intervene in this practice of sex trafficking whereas in Goa the civil authorities are in no position to admit the prevailing practice as well as the local bodies are in constant fear of the harm that will be caused to the tourism industry of the state.

Girl Child Protection Scheme – Goa (Dhanalaxmi scheme)- The main objective of the Scheme is to retain the girl child in secondary school so that girl students are not denied the opportunity to continue their studies due to distance to school, parents' financial affordability and other connected societal factors.

The Goa Children's Act, 2003- It defines child trafficking but also seeks to provide punishment for abuse and assault of children through child trafficking for different purposes such as labour, sale of body parts, organs, adoption, sexual offences of pedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism. All state authorities such as airport authorities, border police, railway police, traffic police, hotel owners are made responsible under the law for the protection of children and for reporting offences against children. It is submitted that until a suitable legislation is enacted, directions of a preventive nature may be issued against the police authorities in all States to protect the rights of children.

The Government in Goa has been silent and ignorant even though there is an increasing alarm in rates of girls and women being raped and abused which makes them stuck in investigations and further delayed proceedings. The State needs to act up and utilize the funds for the betterment of the well being of girlhood and womanhood in the state.

IMPLICATION

Often the NGOs work in order to provide with the best effective ways to deal with such a practice but the fact that some brothels and groups are often ignored due to incomplete investigative measures and resource problem. It is surprising to see that the poor families consensually send their girl child or the women to such illegal measures of work with the urge of earning money and securing the families future. Goa will no longer be a family destination; it will just be a place where men will usually visit looking for girls and women.

PREVALENCE OF HUMAN-TRAFFICKING

The capital city of Rajasthan, Jaipur is famous for its handicraft and jewellery industry. But the workers behind such manifestations are often found to be illegally detained children and women. More over children are trafficked in the state to be further employed in factories as laborers. These children and young women working as laborers and workers in industrial factories and are kept in sickening living conditions with miserable daily wages. There exists many Non-governmental Organizations in Rajasthan who fight against trafficking but the lack of awareness among the people pose as a barrier to such NGOs. Child labor is also directly proportionate to the family's income. Higher is the income, less chances there is for a child to help his or her family economically. There are instances where the parents sell off their child for labor business in exchange of money.

Majority of trafficking of girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation happens in the state of Rajasthan. Twenty seven are covered under the ring of trafficking for sexual exploitation of females out of the thirty two districts present in the state. The presence of paedophilia encroach upon the innocents who are trafficked and exploit them.

The state government has increased the training of the police personnel so that the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act of 1956 can be complied with and implemented in the state with greater efficiency. Anti-human trafficking units have been set up in every district for identification and recusing of sex trafficking victims¹².

¹² Partners in Change and Praxis (2017), Feasibility Study: Combating Child Trafficking and Bonded Labour in Rajasthan, <https://d1r4g0vjvcc7lx.cloudfront.net/uploads/Rajasthan-Report-FINAL-EXT-feb-2017-1.pdf>

The government is also taking measures to ensure that the sex workers in the state are made aware of their rights and duties under the present laws of the state as well as the country. Along with it, the children living with the sex workers are being offered educational and health facilities for their personal growth and well-being¹³.

The state government has implemented the bonded labour act which includes institution of committees along with funds for rehabilitation purposes. Under the act, the government is all set to conduct studies in order to identify bonded labour.

IMPLICATION

Though the government has launched various schemes in the state but even in the year of 2019 there have been various instances of trafficking for the purpose of labour, prostitution, marriages etc from the state. It is a good sign that the police are able to identify these crimes now and help the victims but the fact remains the same that the high and still increasing number of cases of trafficking in the state is alarming for the people and even for the government.

UTTAR PRADESH

PREVALENCE OF HUMAN-TRAFFICKING

In the month of September, 2019 the police force in Prayagraj, a city in the state of Uttar Pradesh arrest a Sex Trafficking ring which had eleven members, four of which being women . The above mentioned news snippet is of one of the cities of Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds of similar cases of trafficking have been identified over the years in different cities of the state. Trafficking in the above state takes place for a lot of reasons, the most prominent being forced marriage and sexual slavery.

The girls and females of the state are often kidnapped and trafficked for the purpose of marriage. From about a population of eight crores children, one out of every five girls in the state is a victim of child marriage through trafficking¹⁴. Patriarchal societal customs has heavily contributed to the crime of trafficking for forced marriage. Under age marriages though are banned in the country but weak and orthodox mentality of the people living in the state of Uttar Pradesh has paved a

¹³ Government of Rajasthan (2019) child policy, department of women and child Development
http://wcd.rajasthan.gov.in/Docs/Child_Policy.pdf

¹⁴ Rajeev Mullak (February 2019), 1 in every 5 girls in UP is a child bride, HindustanTimes
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/1-in-every-5-girls-in-up-is-a-child-bride/story-kHQOBmEARQAFAP5IHusZaN.html>

way for the acceptance of child marriages. And this opens up opportunities for traffickers in order to get sell the trafficked girl child to various households.

Another reason why trafficking takes place in the state is because of the need of labour. The migrants who come to the cities from rural parts of the state are trafficked into various industries (like brick making industry, manufacturing industry etc) for the purpose of supply of labour into the factories¹⁵. The migrants are also caught up in the spheres of bondage labor which involves extending one's labor to another under compulsion of economic deprivations, poverty etc for the whole life. It has been observed that the child victims, especially the female ones are verbally and physically abused at the trafficked places.

SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY THE STATE TO CURB THE ABUSE

The state government has set up Anti Human Trafficking Units in the state which is in addition to the already existing police force . These units will work alongside the police to ensure no crime related to trafficking takes place. The main aim of these units is to ensure there is administrative and legal enforcement of law in each of the identified cases along with providing psychological well-being to the victims of trafficking.

Operation smile - this operation aims to work towards the missing children. This operation also aims to raise awareness about that part of the Juvenile Justice Act which focuses on Human Trafficking. Under this project, search of children will be conducted with ongoing coordination of active NGOs working towards child trafficking¹⁶.

In the Uttar Pradesh control of Goondas Act has been amended and special provisions relating to human trafficking has been inserted. The act has made trafficking for the purpose of commercial exploitation, forced labour, bonded labour, child labour, sexual exploitation, organ removing, beggary and other like activities a punishable offence.

Under the Uttar Pradesh Gangster and Anti Social Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Act of 2015, the term 'trafficking' has been included under the crimes committed by a 'gang' and is also made a punishable offence.

¹⁵ Mujeeburahamann (April 2018), *Bonded to forced labour*, American Indian Foundation <https://aif.org/bonded-to-forced-labour-behind-brick-making/>

¹⁶ Kamal Saxena, *Combating Human Trafficking in Uttar Pradesh*, Indian Police Service, Pg 7 <http://uphome.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/AHTI.pdf>

IMPLICATIONS

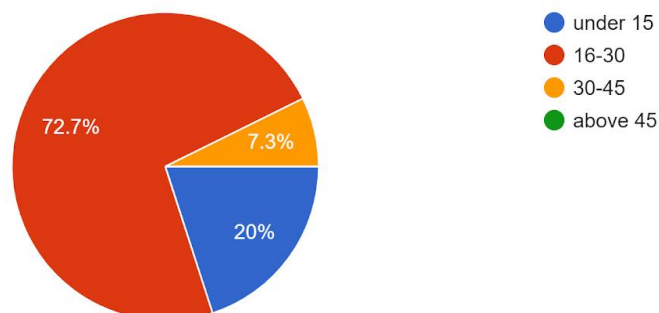
The Uttar Pradesh Government has come up with some remarkable solutions for the menace of Human Trafficking but even till date there are many crimes reported in the state for the purpose of trafficking. Even though the government has banned child marriage and bonded labour still due to lack of supervision of the same these crimes happen in the state in abundance. Hence in the future, we can hope that with increased police personnel for identifying and curbing human trafficking along with raising awareness about the same, the government will be able to control the crime and ultimately eradicate it from the state.

STATISTICAL INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

1. Under this primary research, we interviewed fifty five participants and gathered their view and understanding about human trafficking as a crime and how much they are aware of the current situation in the country pertaining to the same. The below observations are based on the questions answered by the participants.

2. Which age group do you fall under?

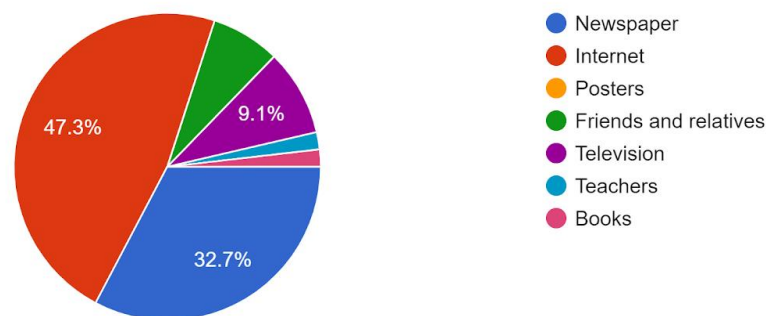
55 responses



- 3) Media has played a significant role in spreading awareness and information about human trafficking in the country. From the survey conducted, 47.3% people have come across human trafficking on the internet which is at the top charts and then followed by newspaper and television. Other sources that has played a minor role includes posters, teachers, family and youth.

3. Where have you heard/read about human trafficking in the country?

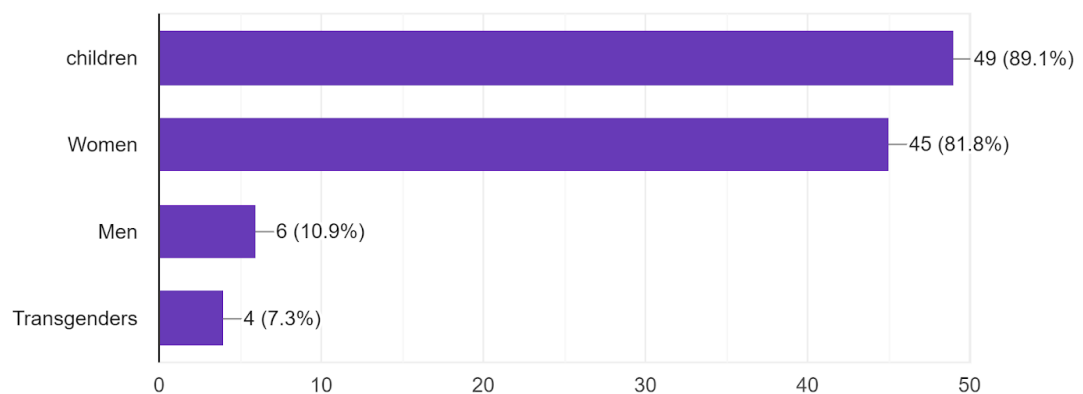
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4) The survey has highlighted the fact that the layman believes that women and children are the two sections of the society which needs immediate help and protection against abuse on humanitarian grounds regarding the issue of trafficking. The audience has also believed the fact that men and transgender are being subjected to such crime but on a lighter scale.

4. Which section(s) of the society, do you think, is the most vulnerable to such trafficking? Pick any two.

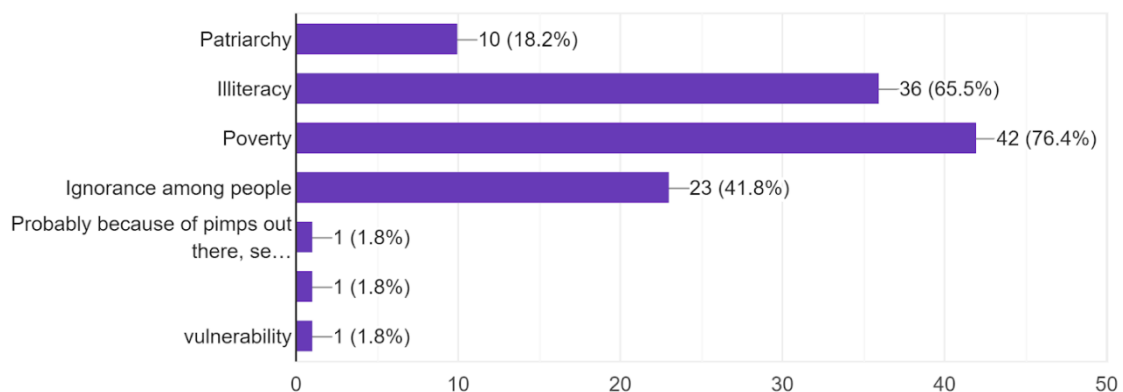
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5) India is still categorized as a developing country and two of the most prominent reason for such title is illiteracy and poverty which has also heavily contributed to the prevalence and growth of several crimes, one of them being human trafficking. The patriarchal notions present in the country and lack of women empowerment indirectly exposes the vulnerable to such heinous crimes.

5. Which of the reason(s) do you think account the most for Trafficking? Pick any two.

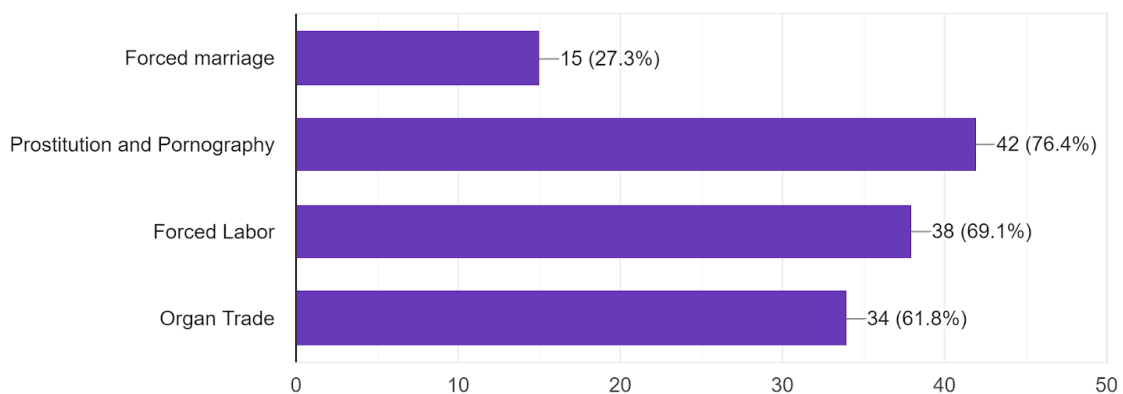
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6) The survey has emphasised on prostitution and pornography being a significant factor for the purpose behind the occurrence of trafficking. Forced labour and Organ trade are almost at par with the former serving as a ground for human trafficking. Though there exists gender-gap in the country but still forced marriage is the least significant cause of issue observed while conducting the survey.

6. For what purpose(s), do you think, does trafficking take place?

55 responses



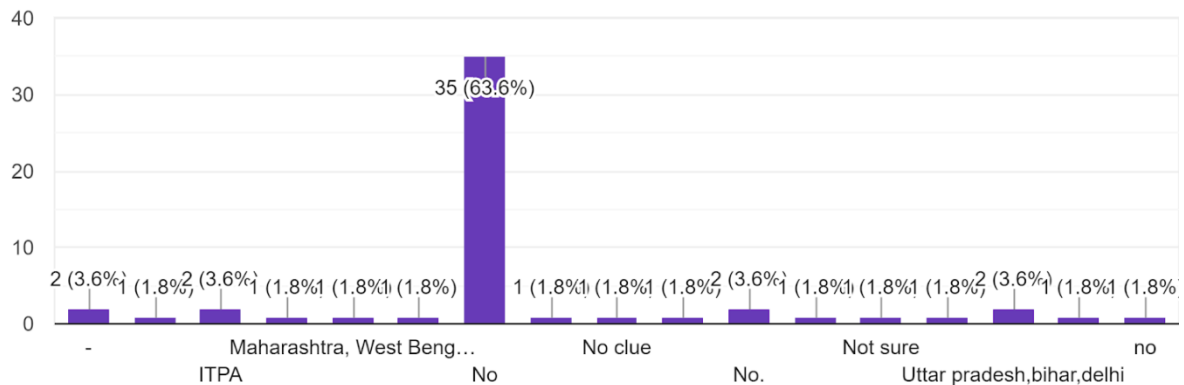
7) The most common answer by all the participants pointed out that the general public feels that the most affected states in the country because of Human Trafficking are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

8) One of the surprising deductions from the survey was the fact that even though government has introduced schemes and legislations for combating the menace of human trafficking, still there

is zero awareness of the same in the public. All of the responses opinionated to be unaware when they were questioned regarding the awareness of government schemes.

8. Are you aware of any government scheme in order to tackle the problem of trafficking in the country? If yes, kindly specify.

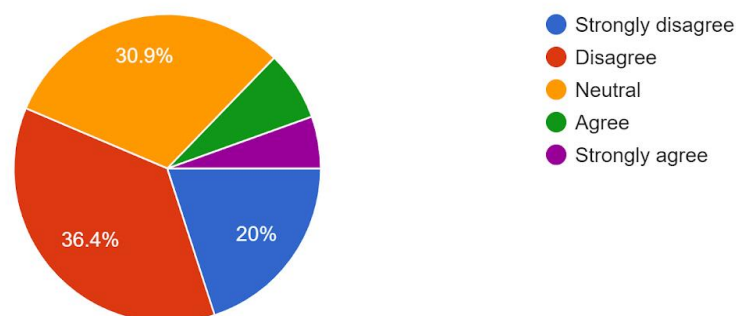
55 responses



9) When questioned on the efficient implementation of laws against trafficking in india , major proportion of the people either disagreed or were neutral on the topic. This shows the ignorance among the government as well as the citizens of the country.

9. Do you agree that there is efficient implementation of laws against trafficking in the country?

55 responses



CONCLUSION

The crime of human trafficking has often gone unrecognized and unnoticed but it has spread in the entire society like a venom. It is high time that the government of the country and as well as the people start taking steps to curb the same at every stage. Every day, crimes against sex trafficking for money, prostitution, organ trading, forced labor, underaged marriage, begging business etc is increasing and the most affected by it are the people who are unaware of their rights against such crimes. Many factors play a significant role which directly or indirectly has helped the traffickers to continue the crime. For example, corrupt officials with high powers and high political stances have knowingly or unknowingly ignored the circumstances of the ones who are affected, harassed and abused in lieu of money. Similarly there may exist many factors which have aided the evil of trafficking.

Though it cannot be concluded that the pleas of the victims are falling on the government's deaf ears as the government in most of the states is taking measures to ensure that such illicit activity shall be eradicated from the core as soon as possible. But even after various schemes and measures taken by the government, the human trafficking rings are unaffected (not entirely). Poor implementation of the resources which the government is providing is one of the many reasons for the failing schemes. The Police force should wake up and work harder to save the innocents from the vicious circle of trafficking. Along with the government there are many nonprofit organizations which work towards providing medical services and rehabilitation options to the victims of human trafficking. They also work to raise awareness among the less educated on the crime.

It can be concluded, that though there still exists loopholes among the schemes and its implementation but if all of us come together as one, we can reduce this crime if not eradicate it.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Initiate action through awareness within local communities. School and college going children can establish a center in their respective educational institutions which would work towards generating awareness about trafficking.
2. Non profit organizations working towards anti human trafficking agenda should conduct workshops in rural areas as to make people aware about the crime.
3. Advocates should extend their professional services to the victims of Human Trafficking so that the latter gets the justice they deserve and not leave the victims to fight their cases alone which will put them in a weaker position.
4. The union as well as the state government should provide free medical services to the rescued victims of trafficking for their physical and mental harm and sufferings.
5. Government should invest in daily wage schemes for the poverty stricken people of the country as one of the main tactics used by the traffickers include luring the victims into believing that they will get better fiscal opportunities.
6. A layman should research upon the products he or she is consuming like the place where it is being manufactured, the laborer employed for the same. This will create awareness among the general public about the industries where the victims are supplied.
7. The ministry of women and child welfare should seek help from private individuals and organizations for research purposes regarding research purposes.
8. Government should take measures for rehabilitation of the rescued victims as in many cases the women and children return the people who trafficked them (eg. in laws, parents, etc).
9. Agencies working towards the trafficking of humans shall focus towards all the reasons why such trafficking takes place.
10. Sex trafficking racket is a well organized network which requires special attention by the law enforcing authorities.
11. A dedicated cyber cell should be set up which will shut down the online solicitation with websites been taken off the internet as fast as they go up and commercial establishments (vice ridden casinos) cloud be shuttered for repeated offences.
12. The arrest regarding traffickers should be focused on every stage of the crime instead only of the place of exploitation otherwise, the traffickers can continue their ring by changing the place of the illicit activities.

13. Media houses should focus more on human trafficking as the primary research under this paper concluded that the public is the most aware through media sources like newspapers, television and the internet.
14. There is a requirement of an active participation from the parents of the children in order to make them aware regarding the issue of child trafficking as they have played a very minor role in being useful as a source for spreading the awareness.