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CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA: A SOCIO-LEGAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Child trafficking is one of the most serious human rights violations affecting children globally, particularly in developing countries like India. It involves the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of children for various purposes such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and illegal activities. Despite strong legal frameworks, trafficking persists due to socio-economic vulnerabilities and weak enforcement. This paper examines the concept, causes, forms, and legal responses to child trafficking in India and highlights the need for multidimensional reforms.

1. INTRODUCTION

Child trafficking represents a grave violation of human dignity and fundamental rights. It involves the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of children. India serves as a source, transit, and destination country. Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy increase vulnerability, while demand for cheap labour sustains trafficking networks.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- Analyze the concept and definition of child trafficking
- Identify causes
- Examine forms
- Evaluate legal frameworks
- Suggest preventive measures

3. RESEARCH PROBLEM

Despite strong legal provisions, trafficking persists due to weak enforcement, corruption, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Demand-side factors also sustain trafficking.

4. CAUSES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Major causes include poverty, lack of education, unemployment, migration, social inequality, demand for cheap labour, organized crime, and lack of awareness.

5. FORMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Includes forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced begging, child marriage, and illegal activities.

6. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN INDIA

Includes constitutional provisions (Articles 23 & 24), BNS 2023, POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and institutional mechanisms like AHTUs.

7. CHALLENGES

Weak implementation, corruption, delays in justice, underreporting, and lack of rehabilitation.

8. CONCLUSION

Child trafficking is a complex issue requiring legal enforcement, awareness, and socio-economic reforms.

9. SUGGESTIONS

- Strengthen enforcement
- Awareness campaigns
- Improve education
- Better coordination
- Rehabilitation programs