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SOCIO-LEGAL ANALYSIS OF POLICY FRAMEWORK, IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS AND IMPACT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

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ABSTRACT

Trafficking in children is regarded as serious violations of human rights of children worldwide; basic rights to life, dignity, education and health, development are denied and taken away from children who are trafficked. The problem of child trafficking, a major socio-legal issue, is rampant in India due to the prevalence of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, migration, gender discrimination, and ignorance. Trafficked children are exploited through different forms of trafficking, such as: forced labour; sexual exploitation; begging; organ trade; forced marriage; illegal adoptions; and for criminal purposes. There has been an increasing presence of organized crime in the field of child trafficking; technology and the internet have also contributed to the growing complexity of the trafficking networks in India. The study analyses child trafficking in India from an interdisciplinary perspective – i.e. legal dimension; sociological dimension; and institutional dimension. The study looks at the constitutional provisions and various national laws that exist (such as, but not limited to, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act; Juvenile Justice Act; and constitutional protections from Child Trafficking [Articles 23 and 24]); as well as National Government Schemes/programmes and policies designed to prevent trafficking and to support child victims. In addition to the different laws and policies related to Child Trafficking, the study also reviews various Government Rehabilitation Programmes, i.e. the Ujjwala Scheme; Childline Services; as well as the roles of State Governments and Non-Government

Organisations (NGOs) in rescuing, rehabilitating and reintegrating trafficked children into the community.

KEYWORDS:

Child Trafficking, Human Trafficking, Child Rights, Sexual Exploitation, Forced Labour, Child Protection, NCRB, Ujjawala Scheme

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest significant humanoid rights abuses in this world today is "trafficking" of children. Children who have been trafficked are removed from their home, relocated to a different area, or kept in one location for the exploitation of the child. The child trafficking issue is extensive and very complex; each year, lots of children around the world are affected. The reason for children being trafficked is because they have lost their most basic rights to life, dignity, education, and development. Traffickers target children because they are vulnerable and reliant upon other people. Traffickers use children for different types of exploitation. Some examples of how children can be exploited include working against their will, being sexually exploited, doing housework, begging, being involved in illegal activity, or selling body parts. The harm that is done to children as a result of exploitation can be immediate and long-term, having an impact on the youngster's body, mind, /or societal well-being.

The issue child trading is a significant socio legal problematic in India. India both source of supply and a terminus for broods who are traded. There are numerous causes for children being targeted for trafficking (i.e. poverty, lack of education or job opportunities, moving from one geographic area to a different area, the value placed on the girl child versus the boy child in our society, and lack of education regarding the issue of trafficking). Overall, a large number of children who are traded come from low-income, economically disadvantaged areas and are misled or deceived about the possibility of gaining employment, education, or improved living conditions. Organized crime, corruption, and insufficient enforcement of laws all contribute to the problems associated with the marketing of children in India.

Government of India created several laws and established several programmes to combat child trafficking and protect children. Many of these laws include the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act Juvenile Justice Act Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Government has developed several kinds of programmes and schemes in addition to these laws to reduce trafficking and assist the recovery of victims into communities.

Examples of a comprehensive set of activities to address the issue of child trafficking are protective homes, providing money for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), running child helplines, and implementing programmes like Ujjawala.

Additionally, states are beginning to combat child trafficking independently. Locally grown programs and initiatives have been launched by some states, concentrating on the specific causes of child trafficking in the respective areas. Most states facilitate education, training and assistance with the rescue of children, along with aiding children in their recovery from being trafficked. Many NGOs (non-profit organizations) have also been actively combating/working against child trafficking by rescuing children, providing shelter and counselling, providing education, and offering assistance to children in their reintegration into society. For instance, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, founded by Kailash Satyarthi, had a major influence on creating awareness then combating child trafficking in India.

Other than the efforts of individual states to combat child trafficking, other countries and international laws and agreements have impacted child protection laws and provided guidance for states to continue to develop child protection policies and laws. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Palermo Protocol, and the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour provide guidelines to help to prevent human trafficking and help in restoring victims. India is legally bound by treaty to make its national laws conform with these international agreements, and, as a consequence, its national strategies to combat trafficking must continue to comply with these international standards.

Child trafficking is a serious problem that is tied to economic and social factors, with poverty being a significant contributor to this issue, as families may be essential to send their broods to work due to financial hardships, thus putting them at risk for becoming victims of human trafficking. Lack of education access to schooling also exacerbates the issue of child trafficking, as it creates a situation where children and their relatives are unaware of the risks associated with child trafficking. Unemployment and migration also contribute to the issue of child trafficking, as individuals will travel to pursue a better opportunity, and they can easily fall prey to child traffickers during the migration process. The existence of an invitation for cheap labor and sexual exploitation fuels the trafficking ring and generates income for traffickers, further perpetuating child trafficking as an increase in revenue-generating crime.

The effects of child trafficking can extend beyond the individual level to family, community, and socio-economic levels. Trafficked children can experience physical abuse, sexual violence, poor health, and severe emotional trauma. Trafficked children are denied a normal childhood

and education, significantly restricting their chances for a successful future. The families of trafficked children will experience significant emotional and social stigma; and society will experience increased crime and moral decline. Trafficked children who are abused while being trafficked also contribute to the growth of planned crime which ultimately threatens the stability of society as well as the advancement of the nation as a whole.

In recent years, data sources indicate that crime against children, specifically kidnapping, and trafficking, have been steadily increasing. The increasing number of crimes committed against children indicate that, even with available resources for rescuing children and prosecuting traffickers, the number of children who are being trafficked continues to increase.

POLICY INITIATIVES AND SCHEMES

Policy initiatives, also called schemes, are government-run programs that take action to deal with social, economic, and legal problems through planned efforts and laws. When it comes to protecting children and stopping trafficking, these social schemes aim to stop children from being exploited, help those who have already been hurt, and support them in returning to normal life. Some important schemes by the Indian government include the ICPS, which gives a harmless supportive atmosphere for broods who need maintenance and shield, and the 'Ujjawala Scheme', which helps rescue, help, and reintegrate broods who have been victims of profitable sexual mistreatment or trafficking. Another important program is 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', which focuses on protecting and educating girls, and aims to solve problems like gender discrimination that lead to violence against women. These policies work together to strengthen laws, offer more support from institutions, raise public awareness, and improve teamwork between different agencies, which helps in better controlling and preventing child trafficking and exploitation.

The Government Initiatives

In India, the Department of Women and Child Development and National Commission for Women work to fight human trafficking. Several initiatives have been introduced by both state and central governments to tackle child trafficking. The central government's efforts include:

1. Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) the government has set up Shielding Homes for females and girls who imprisoned under this law¹. These homes offer education, career guidance, shelter, and rehabilitation services, including arranging marriages for inmates.

¹ Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956 No 104 Act of Parliament 1956 India.

2. The Central Social Welfare Board supports NGO financially to run development and care centers for the children of sex workers². Along with central-level actions, many states have also launched their own initiatives.

The State-Government Initiatives are

1. In 1992–1993 the Madhya Pradesh administration started Jawali Yojna which focused on the Bedias communal intricate in the prostitution skill³. The database emphasizes central school vocational training and primary education for children beginning at the age of six.
2. Tamil Nadu, which serves as a major source transit and destination for humanoid trafficking, has set up a One Stop Disaster Team operative in all districts. This team takes a multidisciplinary approach to tackle the problem. As of July 21 the state said 453 attached labourers from different areas like brick ovens, water action plants, rice grinders, farms, and confection components have been released. Sex trafficking is also a big problem, with many females and adolescents being trafficked after Bangladesh other countries. However, body part trafficking continues to be a serious concern.

The NGO-Initiatives Against Child Trafficking:

Bachpan Bachao Andolan Founded -1980 by Kailash Satyarthi this organization is a key player in Delhi NGO community. Its main goal is to create a child friendly society where all children are safe after misuse and have access to excellence free education. The organization campaigns for the right to education for all children and works to end child labour bonded labour and human trafficking. BBA was the first collection in India to highlight the issue of child servitude and helped start the South Asia Coalition on Child Servitude SACCS⁴. It has successfully reintegrated, rehabilitated, and educated many children, protecting them from various forms of servitude.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THE CHILD TRAFFICKING

International laws that deal with child trafficking help protect children. These are rules made by countries around the world to make sure children are safe and not abused or used in bad ways. One example is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989. This law says every child has the right to be safe from harm, abuse, and being taken advantage of. Another

² Central Social Welfare Board, Govt. of India, *Scheme for Welfare of Children of Sex Workers* (India)

³ Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, *Jawali Yojana Scheme Report* (1993).

⁴ South Asia Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), *Regional Report* (2001).

important part of this is the Optional Protocol from 2000, which focuses on stopping the auction of children, their use in prostitution, and making child pornography unlawful.

A key regulation focused on human trafficking is the Palermo Protocol from 2000. It's also referred to as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Specifically Girls and Children. This report explains what trafficking is and says that preventing it includes three most important things: preventing it from taking place, supporting individuals who are affected, and punishing those who do it.

Another example is ILO Convention No. 182, which tries to stop the worst kinds of child labor, like trafficking, forced work, and other harmful situations. All these rules together give countries a clear set of laws to follow. They help countries make their own laws, work with other countries, and take steps to stop child trafficking and guard children's rights.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

This agreement is focused on stopping illegal trade of children for any purpose such as sensual exploitation or compulsory and forced labor. Art 39 of the agreement talks about prevention and says that all suitable measures should be taken to promote the physical and mental recovery and social reintegration of a child who has been a victim of negligence, ferocity, or abuse. Also, Articles 28, 24 emphasize that every child has the right to education and to get proper care and treatment for illness and health recovery.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children and Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 2000.

Convention is also recognized as the sex trading protocol⁵. Its purpose is set higher values for protecting broods from all methods of sensual misuse and abuse. It also strengthens protective measures to improve the typical of active and self-respect of survivors of trafficking.

The Protocol to Prevent Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children 2000.

This is termed the Palermo protocol and part of the UN Convention in contradiction of Transnational Prearranged Crime⁶. Its main role is to support victims of trafficking. Art 9 of the protocol includes preventive procedures for victims. Article 6 provides compensation and protects the privacy of victims, while Article 8 deals with repatriation

⁵ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of ChildreChild Prostitution and Child Pornography May 25 2000 2171

⁶ Protocol to Prevent Suppress Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children Nov 15 2000 2237 U.N.T.S. 319 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Nov 15 2000 222.

The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999

This convention includes provisions to avoid and shield children under eighteen from all forms of trafficking slaver debt bondage forced labor, and exploitation by pimps other perpetrators. Art 7(2)(b) and (c) require states to take effective steps to help trafficked children recover and integrate back into society. It also ensures their right to free basic education and appropriate vocational training.

Convention on Protection of Children & Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption Hague Convention 33

The aim of this convention is to avoid broods from being abducted, sold, or involved in the sex trade⁷. It sets up a system for cooperation among countries that adopt children internationally. It also includes safeguards to help children grow up in a safe and healthy family environment and support their overall development.

Convention on Jurisdiction Applicable Law Recognition Enforcement & Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility & Measures for the Protection of Children 1996 Hague Convention 34

This convention is part of the Hague Convention⁸. It highlights the position of international collaboration and coordination for safeguarding children. It focuses on the right of children to custody, their place of residence, and their access to resources.

World Congress against the Profitable Sexual Exploitation of Children 2001.

This world assembly was organized to indorse actions that help remove the sexual exploitation of broods, especially girls. It also focuses on factors that make children vulnerable to sex trafficking such as short income high illiteracy rates inequality discrimination conflict HIV/AIDS and problems within families..

Convention on Regional Arrangement for the Promotion of Child Welfare 2002.

This convention encourages South Asian countries to form regional groups to work together⁹. The goal is to support and build understanding about children's rights, responsibilities, and duties, while helping children in the region reach their full potential and abilities.

RESCUE, REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS

Initiatives Undertaken By the Indian Government for Protection and Rehabilitation of

⁷ Convention on Protection of Children & Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption May 29 1993 1870

⁸ Convention on Jurisdiction Applicable Law Recognition Enforcement & Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility & Measures for the Protection of Children Oct 19 1996 .

⁹ SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia Jan 5 2002.

Children:

- Setting up a Child Help Line: A child who is in trouble or an adult acting on their behalf can reach out for help any time of the day or night by calling the number 1098. The Child Line offers urgent support¹⁰.
- UJJAWALA Scheme: This initiative was started by the Ministry in 2007-08 to help women and girls who are in tough situations, especially those who have been victims of trafficking¹¹.

Along with making new laws, the Government of India through the Ministry of Women and Child Development created a full strategy to stop trafficking, rescue victims, help them recover, and reintegrate them back into society. The Ujjawala scheme has five main goals: preventing trafficking, rescuing victims, providing recovery support, helping them get back into society, and sending cross-border victims back to their home countries.

The Goals of the Structure are:

- a) Stop trafficking of females and broods for sexual exploitation by involving local communities, raising awareness, organizing workshops and seminars, and doing other creative activities.
- b) Save victims from places where they are being exploited and bring them to safe places.
- c) Deliver both instant and long term support to victims including shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, legal help, and training for jobs.
- d) Help victims reintegrate into their families and the wider community.
- e) Bring back victims from other countries to their home countries.

The Ujjawala Scheme Targets:

- a) Females and broods who are at hazard of being traded for sexual exploitation.
- b) Females and broods who have already been trafficked for sexual exploitation. The

schemes are carried out by various organisations like the Communal Welfare Department Women and Child Welfare Departments of state governments, Women's Development Centres, City Local Bodies and other trusted isolated or public trusts and voluntary groups who have experience in dealing with issues like trafficking, social support, and helping females and broods in need¹².

- c) Kishori Shakti Yojana: This is a programme that supports adolescent girls aged 11 to

¹⁰ Ministry of Women & Child Dev Govt. of India Childline Services (1098) Guidelines.

¹¹ Ministry of Women & Child Govtof India *Ujjawala Scheme Guidelines* 2007.

¹² Ministry of Women & Child DevGovt of India *AntiTraffickingMeasures Report* 2021.

18. Its goal is to raise awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, and help girls develop life skills, return to school, and understand their social environment better¹³.

Psychological Rehabilitation Needs to Be Strengthened

Even though some states have improved their shelter services for victims, these services do not fully address the psychological needs of the victims¹⁴. There are not enough trained counselors to help with mental health issues, and what is available is often provided by non-governmental organizations. Psychological support is very important for the retrieval rehabilitation, and addition of trafficked children. First and foremost, there is a need to set up effective systems for identifying and reporting victims quickly. We also need to work together to ensure that children are brought back to their communities as soon as possible. Young victims should be reunited with their families unless it is not safe for them, as determined in consultation with the child and a risk assessment. If reuniting is not possible, suitable arrangements for their care should be made. Specialized programs must be designed, carried out, and reviewed to address the physical psychological social and educational needs of trafficked children and assistance them reintegrate into their families schools and communities. The psychological trauma experienced by victims of trafficking can be very severe due to the abuse they endure. Trauma can keep victims from returning to a healthy state, which could lead them being victimized again, if not treated. The traffickers utilize manipulative and controlling psychological tactics to isolate their victims—this decreases their victims' mental defenses to escape. Examples of these tactics include; using physical, sexual, or psychological violence, isolating, placing in unfamiliar environments, forcing use of drugs or alcohol, restricting food and water supplies, and using physical intimidation through weapons, camera surveillance, and/or dogs to prevent escape. While there is limited research concerning how trafficking affects children, there are several studies providing evidence that long-term exposure to continued abuse and fear will likely result in serious negative consequences for the child's physical psychological spiritual and social-emotional development. Case studies show that child sex trafficking is the most damaging type because it involves daily physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Some children die from abuse or disappear. Additional studies on child abuse can also help understand the situation of trafficked children. These studies show a strong link between abuse and harmful bodily and mental outcomes. Broods who have gone through multifaceted trauma such as long-term abuse

¹³ Ministry of Women & Child Dev Govtof India *Kishori Shakti Yojana Guidelines*.

¹⁴ United Nations ChildrenFund UNICEF *Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking* 2006.

neglect violence, and torture, are more likely to experience issues like attachment problems, emotional difficulties, dissociation, behavioral issues, cognitive problems, and low self-esteem. living in consistent worry, being trapped in an area wherein they don't communicate the language, and facing threats if they are attempting to break out can lead to feelings of isolation, a loss of manipulate over their lives, helplessness, hopelessness, low self-appreciate, self-blame, melancholy, tension, guilt, anger, difficulty drowsing, worry or hatred of fellows, paranoia, lack of urge for food, loss of electricity, nightmares concerning abuse or being offered again, mistrust and suspicion of people, suicidal thoughts, a preference for revenge in opposition to traffickers, a sense of being trapped, being easily startled, and usually being on alert. There are also emotions of disgust, shame, worthlessness, numbness, and tries at self-harm like reducing or overdosing.¹⁵

CAUSES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking happens for many reasons. Some of the main reasons include poverty, family issues, abortions, child marriage, domestic violence, unemployment, greed, promises of marriage, domestic servitude, the devadasi practice, lack of job opportunities, migration, hopes for marriage and jobs, demand for cheap labor, lack of awareness, involvement in sex work, sex tourism, the spread of internet pornography, and organized crime. Let's look at some of these causes in more detail.

Poverty

Poverty takes away children's chances of getting education and pushes them into child labor. Broods who raise up in poor families are extra probable to be victims of trafficking. Poverty is a global problem leading to child trafficking¹⁶. Poor families can't afford to give their children basic needs or proper social development. Forced labor is often the only option for them. These children are more likely to be targeted by traffickers because they don't understand the difference between right and wrong¹⁷. Sometimes, families give their children to traffickers because they are too poor. In addition, without education, people are more likely to sell their children to traffickers, making it easy for traffickers to take advantage. Poverty can also lead to children becoming orphans, creation them smooth more susceptible to trafficking. It is

¹⁵ 8 Child Trafficking Psychological Effect and the Need for Counselling by BVijayasree CEOSERVICE Organizatio NGOGunturAPIIndia

¹⁶ World Bank, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report* (2022).

¹⁷ UNICEF, *Child Trafficking and Exploitation* (2021).

estimated that around 120 million children live on the streets worldwide. These children are more likely to be trafficked because they are so vulnerable. So, the poverty and low income of families are important factors in child trafficking.

Illiteracy

According to the NCRB report, lack of access to good education and illiteracy are major reasons for child trafficking in India¹⁸. When many children don't get good education, it leads to criminal activities like child trafficking. Poor families often can't afford to provide education, leading to child labor, which makes trafficking easier for traffickers to exploit. Girls with low education and poor economic status are more likely to be pulled into illegal activities and become trafficking victims. Quality education is key to a better future, but when children are denied good education due to various problems, they become victims of trafficking¹⁹. Many migrant workers in India can't provide their children with proper education, which makes traffickers watch these families closely. Illiterate children are more likely to be exploited, making them targets for trafficking.

Easy use of children in illegal activities

Children are seen as less of a threat by society and the law, so they are often used in illegal activities. In such cases, criminals take advantage of this and use children for illegal work. Child trafficking allows criminals to use children in activities like labor, sexual exploitation, sex work, drug trafficking, and arms dealing. Because of this child trading has developed a major social problem about the world.

Unemployment

People without jobs are known as jobless or unemployed. Job-related issues can interfere with a person's ability to earn money and be financially free. Because people do not have jobs, they are susceptible to many problems and may trust a trafficker (someone who sells children). Parents may send their children away with these traffickers, hoping to achieve a better quality of life through financial means by making money. Thus, joblessness is a huge contributor to child trafficking.

Voluntary migration

Children or young people can be victims of trafficking whether they move voluntarily or are forced by their families for work. Migrating for jobs opens the door for trafficking. Because many children of migrant families aren't registered, traffickers can sell them without difficulty, and police may not notice. This has made human trafficking an international issue.

¹⁸ Nat Crime Records Bureau *Crime in India* 2022.

¹⁹ UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report* (2021).

International migration helps traffickers expand their activities.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF CHILD-TRAFFICKING

Trafficked children are forced into various illegal activities such as construction work, domestic labour, farming, industrial jobs, begging, selling body parts, drug dealing, forced prostitution, promoting sex tourism, pornography, dancing in bars, alcohol-related work, arranged marriages, adoption, and handling weapons²⁰. Some of the consequences of these activities are discussed below.

Effects on the Child and Family

Children are the future of society and the nation. When children are trafficked into illegal jobs, it harms their lives and health²¹. Although protecting children's rights is a top priority in many countries, the rising issue of child trafficking causes serious problems for children and their families. A growing number of girls are forced into prostitution, which affects their health greatly²². Children are often kidnapped and sold to traffickers, causing great emotional and psychological pain to their families. Trafficked families experience a lot of social and mental distress. Broods who are uncovered to drugs or complicated in drug trafficking face serious health problems.

Effects on Society and Nation

The child is the building block of a healthy society. It is the accountability of the family, nation, and society toward ensure proper care education and health for children. Child trafficking disrupts the social structure and weakens the functioning of society in harmful ways. Just as a sick child leads to a sick society, a trafficked child hinders the growth and progress of a society. The harmful influence of traffickers on children can lead to many social and national problems.

Facilitation of Criminal Activities

Traffickers use children as a means to carry out criminal activities. Children are easier to control and less likely to be caught by police, which makes trafficking more common. Criminal groups can expand their operations faster by using children for illegal tasks. Therefore, stopping child trafficking is essential to prevent criminal activities from spreading.

PREVENTION OR REMEDIES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

International cooperation

²⁰ United Nations Office Drugs & Crime *Global Report on Trafficking* 2022.

²¹ United Nations Children Fund UNICEF *The State of the World Children* 2021.

²² World Health Organization, *Health Effects of Sexual Exploitation* 2018.

International cooperation is crucial in tackling the issue of child trafficking, as it has become a global problem. Child trafficking in India is linked to countries like Bangladesh and Nepal. In such situations, all countries need to work together and make serious efforts to stop this illegal activity through mutual agreements²³. Human trafficking and related crimes should be treated with the same level of seriousness as economic cooperation. This will help reduce the problem and protect children from becoming victims.

Government efforts

The main priority of every government should be the welfare of children, as it is their constitutional right. The administration has a accountability to safeguard that children have proper upbringing, education, health, sports, and food. These basic needs should be addressed by the government through effective implementation. Specific courtesy must be given to broods from poor families. The government must safeguard that every child has admission to a good educational environment. Additionally, the government should increase its efforts to improve the economic conditions of underprivileged families which will help reduce the risk of child trafficking. It is also significant that the police and judiciary focus more on cases of child trafficking to bring down its occurrence

Role of Voluntary Organizations

One of the roles played by voluntary organizations is to assist in resolving issues faced by society. In many cases, voluntary organizations are able to provide assistance to communities where the government cannot. For this reason, the government should provide support to voluntary organizations and assist them with increasing their effectiveness. Voluntary organizations in various countries should join together to effort on resolution the problematic of child trafficking. To do this they need to emphasis on refining the access of children to schooling and improving the economic stability of the families of the children who are being victimized. In addition, voluntary organizations need to wage near care to the needs of broods who are children migrant families. In order to increase awareness about child trafficking; voluntary organizations should create programs to educate the public about child trafficking within schools, colleges, and public venues, to elevate the seriousness of this issue among society.

Other remedies

Other ways to prevent child trafficking include support from families, schools, and individuals who are aware citizens. Everyone and every social group or institution should understand their

²³ Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children art 10 Nov 15 2000.

social and moral responsibilities and contribute to efforts against child trafficking. Those involved in trafficking should be strictly punished. Steps should be taken to reduce corruption within the police force²⁴. Laws such as Article 23 and 24 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956 the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) the Information Technology Act (2000) and Juvenile Justice Act (2000) should be strictly enforced. At the same time, the government should ensure that international laws are followed properly²⁵. Since child trafficking is a global issue, social workers must think on a global level to eliminate or reduce it. Factors like poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment contribute significantly to this problem. Social workers should study these factors and create plans that involve the government, voluntary organizations, schools, teachers, and other institutions to address the issue. Awareness should be created among children and families from poor backgrounds. Steps should be taken to care for these vulnerable groups. Social workers are working alongside the police, society, and the government to solve this problem. Special programs should be organized on July 30, which is World Day to Stop Trafficking. These programs should not only be symbolic but should include awareness activities throughout the year. People should be made aware of child trafficking through the help of media in the current times.

NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU

States/UTs

- **Crime against Children**

Total of one,77,335 cases of crime towards kids were registered throughout 2023, displaying an growth of nine.2% over 2022 (1,62,449 instances). In percent phrases, essential crime heads under 'Crime towards children' throughout 2023 had been 'Kidnapping and Abduction of kids' (79,884 cases, 45.0%) and 'protection of youngsters from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)' (sixty-seven,694 cases, 38.2%). The crime fee registered according to lakh youngsters' population turned into 39.9 in 2023 in evaluation with 36.6 in 2022

- **Missing Children**

Complete of ninety one,296 children (22,460 male, 68,835 girl and 1 transgender) have been mentioned lacking in 2023. The number of children missing has increased by way of

²⁴ Transparency Int'l, *Corruption and Human Trafficking Report* (2020)

²⁵ Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties art 26 May 23 1969 31.

nine.5% in 2023 from eighty three,350 kids lacking all through 2022. all through the year 2023, a complete of 89,809 kids (22,838 male, sixty six,965 female and six transgender) have been recovered/traced.

- **Human Trafficking**

Complete of two,183 instances of Human Trafficking were registered in 2023 compared to two,250 cases within the 12 months 2022, showing a decline of 3.0%. a total of 6,288 victims have been mentioned to be trafficked wherein 2,687 youngsters and 3,601 adults were trafficked. in the course of the yr, 6,043 victims have been rescued from clutches of traffickers and six,024 persons were arrested for trafficking.

- **Kidnapping & Abduction**

In 2023, there were 2,183 cases of human trafficking registered, which is a decrease from the 2,250 cases reported in the 12 months of 2022, representing a 3.0% drop. A total of 6,288 victims were identified as having been trafficked, including 2,687 children and 3,601 adults. Throughout the year, 6,043 victims were rescued from traffickers, and 6,024 individuals were arrested for trafficking-related activities.

Metropolitan Cities - >2 Million Population

- **Kidnapping & Abduction**

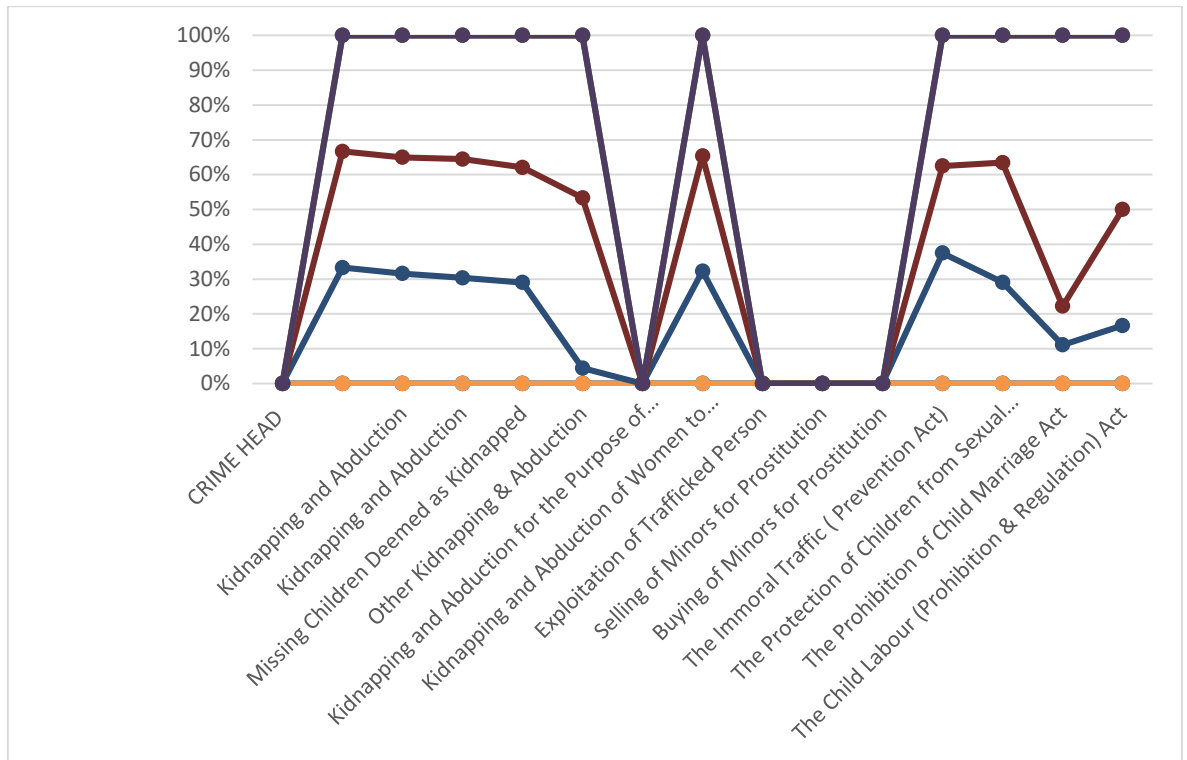
In 2023, a total of 15,039 cases of kidnapping and abduction were reported, which is a 7.5% increase compared to 2022 when there were 13,984 such cases. During the same year, 15,181 individuals who had been kidnapped or abducted were recovered. Out of these, 15,167 were found alive, while 14 were discovered dead. Among these cases, 4,914 were male and 10,267 were female.

- **Crime Against Children**

In 2023, 22,433 cases of crimes against children were reported, a 9.2% rise from 2022, when there were 20,550 cases.

The majority of these cases were related to kidnapping and abduction, with 12,545 cases (55.9%) reported under that category. The second most common type was under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, with 7,578 cases (33.8%) reported

Crime Against Children And Women Reported in 2023 and the Percent Change from 2021.



Source: ncrb.gov.in

FORMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking includes different types of physical, emotional, and sexual violence, abuse, and neglect. Children are taken and used for purposes such as begging, working in homes, farming, unsafe factories and mines, construction, forced labor, restaurants and bars, military service, and especially, girls are often forced into high-profit sex businesses..

Child Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

Trafficking millions of children around the world for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the major issues facing society today. Child sex slavery is classified as a serious international crime against humanity. Each year, countless children are taken, sold, transported, and forced into situations involving sexual tourism. Things like not having a job, being unable to read or write, facing financial problems, or simply not having enough money can make a child more likely to be trafficked for sexual abuse.

Child Trafficking for Forced Labor

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), at least 12 million children around the world are involved in forced labor or labor exploitation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also says that each year, 18% of children suffer from humiliation because of

forced labor. A lack of money and job opportunities are main reasons why children end up in forced labor trafficking. This paper looks at the most common types of forced labor trafficking, such as begging, debt bondage, domestic servitude, working as household caretakers, in restaurants, construction, entertainment, and forced marriage. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has also found that child trafficking for labor exploitation happens in agriculture, domestic work, and dangerous or illegal factories and industries. At the national level, Article 23²⁶ of the Indian Constitution says that "traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labor be prohibited." Also, more boys are involved in forced and bonded labor trafficking than girls.

Child Trafficking for Organ Trade

In addition to trading broods for sexual and labor misuse there is an increasing trend of child trafficking in the illegal organ trade²⁷. This is a well-organized criminal activity. The World Health Organization WHO estimations that closely 6 million global kidney dealings take place each year. In this crime traffickers and procurers force or threaten children to give their internal organs like kidneys or livers. Children who are migrants, drug users, street children, or homeless are often targeted for this crime²⁸. Those involved in illegal organ transplants include recruiters, transporters, and medical professionals. As a result, this crime causes serious health problems in children. WHO states that the commercialization of human organs violates human rights and self-respect as outlined in the guiding principles on Human Organ Transplantation (1991)²⁹.

Child Soldiering

The children are forcibly recruited by armed groups and used as soldiers, messengers, spies, or even as human shields. This form of trafficking is particularly devastating as it strips children of their juvenile and exposes them to unadorned violence trauma and human rights abuses.

Forced Begging

Children are trafficked into forced begging rings, where they are forced to beg on the streets for the benefit of their traffickers. Often, traffickers exploit children with disabilities, and they may intentionally harm children to increase sympathy and generate more money

Forced Marriage

²⁶ INDIA CONST. art. 23.

²⁷ World Health Organization *Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation Report 2020*

²⁸ UNICEF *Children in Street Situations Report 2020*.

²⁹ World Health Organization *Guiding Principles on Human Organ Transplantation 1991*

Child wedding is a prevalent method of child trading where minors, predominantly girls, are coerced into marriage, often with adults. These forced marriages expose children to a range of abuses, including sexual violence, domestic servitude, and deprivation of education and personal autonomy.

Drug Trafficking

Children are sometimes exploited by criminal organizations to carry or sell drugs due to their perceived "innocence," which makes them less likely to be suspected by law enforcement. This form of trafficking places children in dangerous environments and leads to their criminalization instead of treating them as victims of exploitation.

Trafficking for Adoption

Children are trafficked for illegal adoptions where traffickers may kidnap or buy children to place them in adoptive homes, often for profit. This type of trafficking takes advantage of families seeking children for adoption, bypassing legal adoption processes and child welfare standards

CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING FOR VICTIMS

The most common health problems faced by trafficked individuals include³⁰:

- Infectious diseases such as TB skin impurities like itches and lice bacterial and fungal infections parasitic diseases like malaria, and other infections that spread through blood or the digestive system
- Non-infectious health issues, which can be urgent, not urgent, or long-term, such as insomnia and sensory problems, injuries and their long-term effects like cuts, burns, and musculoskeletal issues, effects from substance use, and other ongoing health conditions like asthma and diabetes
- Reproductive health issues involving pregnancy, abortion, and complications from it
- Mental health problems
- Substance abuse
- Exposure to violence

Health Risks of Trafficked Individuals (TIP):

Common physical health issues reported by women within 14 days of being rescued in Europe include³¹:

³⁰ World Health Organization, *Health of Trafficked Persons Report* (2012).

³¹ Cathy Zimmerman et al *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents* London Schof Hygiene & Tropical Med 2006.

- 81% experiencing pains
- 71 % having faint curses
- 69 % reporting spinal discomfort
- 60-70% facing various sexual well-being difficulties
- 63% having recollection issues
- 82% experiencing fatigue

Immediate Healthcare Needs

These needs can appear when a survivor escapes or is rescued. They depend on the latest environment the survivor was in and how long they have been away from the exploitative situation. Common urgent problems include:

- Malnutrition
- Dehydration
- Exposure to harmful chemicals
- Traumatic injuries
- Respiratory issues
- Assessing mental health for acute or violent reactions
- Anxiety
- Post-traumatic stress disorder³²
- Hostility
- Depression
- Thoughts of suicide

The Gap in Healthcare and TIP

Worldwide, there is insignificant involvement by health care providers or researchers in the health needs of trafficked persons. One reason for the gap between the needs of trafficked individuals and the current availability of health care services is a lack of recognition by both the health care and anti-trafficking sectors that trading for the drive of sex or labour is a separate health issue. Compounding this lack of recognition are the challenges and complexities involved in conducting health care research, such as cost, time, lack of trained professionals, and limited access to traded persons. Thus, the lack of research relating to the well-being wants of trafficked persons is not due to a lack of interest among health care professionals, but to a lack of organized and supported efforts to address the health needs of trafficked individuals. Some additional reasons for this lack of health care involvement and research include

³² Am. Psychiatric Assn *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* 5th ed 2013.

complicated social and legal situations, questions of autonomy, appropriate locations for the provision of health care services, and problems associated with cross-disciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, providing health care is often difficult for many relief organizations because of the cost, long-term commitments, and the inadequate levels of quality local health care that exist in some countries.

Importance of Healthcare in TIP

Recognizing trafficking as a health issue is the first big step towards addressing it from a public health perspective. Trafficking harms women in ways that are hard to notice, causing complex health problems. Physical and mental health consequences are central to trafficking, not just side effects. Providing timely healthcare is essential to helping trafficking survivors recover and regain their well-being.

Health conditions get affected, Physically and Psychologically

During childhood, individuals need to be supported in developing factors that promote good health, both physically and mentally³³. Because of child trafficking, children's health is negatively impacted in both physical and psychological ways. Victims are exposed to numerous criminal and fierce acts such as verbal abuse physical abuse sexual harassment emotional abuse neglect maltreatment discriminatory treatment and serious harm. These experiences have a major influence on the physical and psychological health of the victims. As a result, there are many obstacles that affect the development and growth of children. They also feel isolated and introverted, which is harmful to their personal growth. Furthermore, they face various problems and challenges when developing skills and abilities. In other words, they are often unaware of many subjects and concepts. This is seen as a disadvantage in improving their overall personality and quality of life. Therefore, the impact on physical and psychological health is a serious consequence of child trafficking.

Problems in Augmenting Skills and Abilities

During childhood, it's important to focus on improving a wide range of skills and abilities³⁴. These include communication decision-making critical thinking problem-solving analytical thinking leadership negotiation technical skills creativity time management personal skills presentation professional intellectual artistic and public speaking skills. At the same time certain abilities need to be developed, such as convincing others, persuading, planning, organizing, directing, controlling, coordinating, leading, negotiating, emotional intelligence, systems thinking, handling stress, giving your best effort, dealing with difficult situations, and

³³ United Nations Children's Fund *Child Development Report 2021*

³⁴ UNESCO, *Education and Skills Development Report (2021)*.

managing job responsibilities effectively. However, when children are subjected to child trafficking, they face various obstacles that interfere with their healthy growth and development. They also often feel shy and isolated. Additionally, they encounter many problems and tough situations while trying to build these skills and abilities. In fact, they may not be aware of many subjects and concepts, which is harmful for improving their personality and quality of life. As a result, the difficulties in developing skills and abilities are a serious problem caused by child trafficking.

NEED OF IMPROVEMENTS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILD AND TO KEEP CHECK ON ADOPTION SYSTEM

Trans-boundary adoptions should not stop just because of worries about baby-selling. Instead, the countries that receive children should create stronger rules that respect the laws of the countries where the children come from and make sure the child's best interests are protected. UNICEF can help lower the chance of baby-selling by offering clear guidelines for improving the current system of inter-country adoptions. Since many sending countries have a hard time managing adoptions on their own, all involved countries need to carefully check the legality of every adoption. The best way to make these changes is through an organization that works with all the countries involved in adoption, because some countries banned trans-boundary adoptions because they couldn't control the process well. Canada is an example of a Central Authority that didn't work well because of unstable situations in sending countries. The Canadian government created a National Adoption Desk (NAD) to handle inter-country adoptions and make agreements with other countries to help with adoptions. However, even with this effort, fewer than 400 adoptions were processed through the NAD between 1987 and 1992. Looking at state and international adoption programs, there are five suggestions to make inter-country adoptions less likely to be seen as harmful:

1) Inter-country child adoptions should be handled by licensed non-profit agencies:

This also means banning adoptions done through non-agency groups. It's difficult to control independent lawyers and adoption brokers, and they often lead to illegal or unethical actions. So all foreign adoptions should go through recognized agencies. A ban on non-agency adoptions can stop abuse and make the process more trustworthy.

2) Stop paying money except for direct adoption costs:

One of the biggest problems with trans-boundary adoptions is the accusation of baby-selling. Poor biological parents might be tempted to ask for money from rich adoptive parents,

and those parents might be willing to spend a lot to create a family. To stop this, we should take away the financial incentive for people in the middle.

3) Use strict punishments for breaking the rules:

Many countries have already put in place penalties for breaking adoption laws. For example, Sri Lanka gives up to 20 years in prison for someone who offers money for an adoption. India should follow this example.

4) Check the best interest of the child in tricky cases:

Politicians often get involved in adoption cases for personal or political reasons. To prevent this kind of behind-the-scenes influence, a formal system should be created to ensure fairness. The traditional "best interest of the child" test used in family law could be used as a model for making decisions in difficult or unclear adoption cases.

5) Mandate home country physical examinations for adoptee

The home country of child to be adopted should conduct throughout examination of adoptee. This examination should include background check of the adoptee & consideration of offences under which the adoptee was earlier convicted for. Also home country of child should also periodically conduct surprise verification of the child so adopted on the address given by the adoptee and to ensure that child is not in the wrong hands or being abused after adoption. Child trafficking and Sexual exploitation

CHILD TRAFFICKING IS DISADVANTAGEOUS IN LEADING TO DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Human beings from all different backgrounds jobs, companies, and social and financial conditions have come to recognize the significance of training. They accept as true with that training is extra than just mastering subjects and following lesson plans. It additionally teaches the values and behaviors needed to turn out to be morally exact and responsible citizens inside the u . s . a . . because of being subjected to the practice of child trafficking, the kids are required to get engaged in manual work. In return, they're now not given any cash; instead they may be subjected to abuse and mistreatment. The kids are made to work long hours. as a result, they may be disadvantaged of sleep and relaxation. moreover, they're given very much less to eat. This has unfavorable consequences on their fitness conditions in a high-quality manner. moreover, the health conditions of the people get affected from bodily as well as psychological views. further, they remain deprived from getting enrolled in academic establishments and acquiring training. subsequently, the individuals need to be well-informed in terms of

unfavorable consequences of infant trafficking and installed efforts if you want to put off it. consequently, it's far properly-understood, child trafficking is disadvantageous in main to improvement of kids, while they're deprived from acquisition of schooling. The fitness is wealth. for the duration of the childhood stage, the people need to be properly armed in phrases of the aspect that they want to position emphasis on promoting top health, physically and psychologically. as a result of being subjected to the practice of child trafficking, the health situations of the people get affected from physical in addition to mental perspectives. The victims are being subjected to various varieties of criminal and violent acts, verbal abuse, bodily abuse, sexual harassment, emotional abuse, forget about, mistreatment, discriminatory treatment, and grievous harm. those have crucial effects at the physical and mental fitness conditions of sufferers. thus there are occurrences of diverse varieties of impediments in the course of leading to powerful increase and improvement of youngsters. similarly, they get beaten by the feelings of introversion and seclusion. these are disapproving in main to up-gradation of their overall character tendencies. furthermore, there are occurrences of various kinds of issues and hard conditions within the course of honing of abilities and talents. In other phrases, they continue to be unaware in terms of various kinds of subjects and ideas. this is considered to be disadvantageous in bringing approximately upgrades in ordinary persona tendencies and standards of dwelling of individuals. consequently, it could be said, infant trafficking is disadvantageous in main to improvement of children, while the fitness conditions get affected, physically and psychologically. inside the adolescence degree, the individuals want to put emphasis on main to up gradation distinct sorts of competencies. The up-gradation of innovative capabilities is vital. The individuals participate in exceptional sorts of greater-curricular and innovative sports, i.e. artistic endeavors, handicrafts, singing, dancing, gambling of musical contraptions, function playing, dramatics, yoga, meditation, taekwondo and various sorts of sports. The kids, belonging to all age businesses sense fulfilling and contented in collaborating in exceptional styles of extra-curricular and innovative activities. resulting from being subjected to the practice of child trafficking, the people get deprived of possibilities of main to up-gradation of various kinds of talents. The people augment numerous varieties of competencies, which can be put into operation inside non-public and expert lives of the individuals. while the children get subjected to the crook and violent act of baby trafficking, they get overwhelmed via the emotions of apprehensiveness and vulnerability. these emotions have most important have an impact on on the overall excellent of lives of sufferers. therefore, they keep to themselves and do not feel gratifying in speaking and dealing with others. furthermore, they're subjected to threats and intimidations. on this way, the individuals are

unable to hone self assurance tiers. consequently, it's miles understood on a comprehensive basis that infant trafficking is disadvantageous in leading to improvement of youngsters, when they're disadvantaged from participation in different kinds of extra-curricular and innovative activities.

EXPLOITATIVE PURPOSES

Movement may not be an integral component of trafficking so far as the requirements of law and arrangement apply. Nonetheless, a component of development inside a nation or crosswise over outskirts is required regardless of whether negligible In order to recognize the trafficking of persons from different types of subjugation and slave practice mentioned to in Art 3(a) of Convention of ILO whose ILO No. 182 (C182) to confirm that the child trafficking exploited by their families receive the necessary assistance.

Exploitation includes:

- A) servitude of every part of types includes practices like subjection duty subjugation and serfhood and forced or obligatory work including constrained or essential staffing of children in furnished clash for use (C182, Art. 3(a))
- (B) The use acquisition or donation of a child for the purposes of sex entertainment, explicit display or pornography (C182, Art. 3(b));
- (C) The use, acquisition or offering of a child for illegal doings specifically for the production and sale of medicinal products as specified in the applicable universal arrangements (C182, Art. 3(c));
- (D) The use acquisition or trafficking of medicinal products as characterized by the relevant universal arrangements;

Hazard or operation of control or changed types of pressure snatching extortion or trickery or the mistreatment of strength or a place of faintness anytime of the enlistment and development don't should be available in the event of children (other than with grown ups), yet are in any case solid signs of child trafficking.

As a result trafficking happens when somebody is move of starting with one spot then onto the next – inside a nation or over a fringe – and by somebody or a gathering, into a circumstance where they are abused. This misuse can take various structures yet generally includes filthy, risky work for next to zero compensation, with deficient time of free, no security net like medical coverage or public help, and frequently by brutality or power level.

Exactly when the children move or moved, holds choice toward exceptional confirmation since they are kids. The consolidates the chance to work with no being mishandled (at the time of having landed in any event age of working and in school to be in any occasion awaiting

them having landed at that grow old), to incredible prosperity and opportunity from misuse, to middle of the road fill in as showed by all inclusive work standards and to various open doors set downward during worldwide and national laws and national human rights deal and benchmarks. All of these deals are obvious for the children condition: their inevitable advantages have to consider reliably.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS AND VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

Victim proof of identity is one of the hardest parts of helping child sex trading survivors. It's really important to teach counselors about ways to spot victims, work with trauma in a helpful way, and challenge the wrong ideas people have about human trafficking. This helps remove the barriers that stop people from helping these vulnerable kids.

A lot of the time, topics like sex trafficking aren't covered in counselor training programs. This means counselors might believe in the wrong ideas about trafficking and think of victims in the wrong way. The general public often has wrong information and unrealistic images of trafficking victims, which can make it harder for counselors to understand and feel right about helping. For example, if a survivor doesn't fit the image of a victim we see in the media, they might be ignored or not identified at all. Press reports usually show victims as young, innocent kids who clearly show signs of being abused or trapped (Menaker & Franklin, 2013), but the real situation is more complicated Houston-Kolnick et al 2017. Child sex trafficking is a big, complex problem that comes from many personal and system problems Rodriguez-Lopez 2018 Uy 2011. Counsellors can start to challenge the wrong ideas by learning about the behaviors and signs that might show someone is being sexually exploited (Litam & Lam, 2020).

Spotting victims of domestic minor sex trafficking can be really hard and devastating. Though, counsellors working in hospitals communities isolated practices and schools can learn the signs of DMST to help recognize victims. Kids and teens who have been sexually exploited might act in ways that are similar to other trauma experiences. Studies show that survivors can have many mental health problems like being overly alert, anxiety and depression, thoughts of self-harm, acting out, or having issues with identity and adjustment. Counselors in schools need to know how these symptoms might look like other mental health issues like ADHD or oppositional defiant disorder. Kids might not talk about their experiences because of shame, fear of the person who trafficked them, or not knowing they are victims. Counselors in schools can look for signs like missing school a lot, running away, talking about traveling a lot, an older romantic partner, not taking care of themselves, or changes in mental health or behavior. DMST toughies may also have big bodily healthiness difficulties that show up in many places. Health issues that show up in sex trafficking toughies include sexually transmitted infections

history of unsafe abortions chronic pain poor nutrition and lack of sleep de Chesnay 2013. Other common problems are gynecological issues physical injuries headaches dizziness memory problems and substance use Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014 Choi 2015 Williamson et al 2008. Broods and teens staying backup lodgings for physical or mental health reasons might mention being involved in sex trafficking (Choi, 2015). Because of this, counselors working in medical or hospital settings, especially in emergency departments, may be in a good position to recognize DMST victims when they help teams treat injured or at-risk youth. Counselors who paintings in network or personal exercise also can use medical records from their clients to help identify victims. as an instance, youngsters who've many emergency room visits or clinic stays but do not have a clean clinical reason may be sufferers of sexual exploitation.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

Once looking aimed at signs of youngster sex trafficking, it's very important to build a good relationship first and use good judgment before asking difficult queries. Counsellors can check if a client is ready to talk by starting with general questions, which helps avoid getting wrong answers or hurting someone who has been through trauma. Professional counselors are in a great position to spot and help people who have been trafficked because they work in many different places like hospitals, schools, community groups, and private practice (Litam & Lam, 2020). No matter where they work, counselors are well trained to support trafficked youth because they learn to show empathy, compassion, and understanding of different cultures (Litam, 2017). Checking for signs of trafficking should happen early in counselling and continue through the process. Psychotherapists employed with survivors must first check if the client has basic needs like food, a safe place to live, and medical care, and then help connect them to more services if needed Supporting customers in meeting their straightforward needs helps build trust and a good connection, which is really important in psychotherapy.

Using methods that understand trauma is key when assessing young people who have been trafficked. For example trauma stayers might not remember the particulars of what happened or might be afraid to talk about it. Counselors can use their experience to notice signs like body language that is closed off, avoiding eye contact, being overly alert, or being distracted instead of just relying on what the client. If a client seems nervous during the assessment, counselors can rephrase questions or take a short break (Vera Institute of Justice, 2014). If a child doesn't want to talk about DMST, counselors should wait and move on to other parts of the assessment. It's important for counselors to keep their own feelings in check and use the same words clients use to label their experiences

Psychotherapists should use careful and kind language when checking for sexual trauma,

especially with younger clients. Asking open-ended questions that suggest something happened can lead to more honest answers than yes-or-no questions. Examples of helpful questions include Tell me about a time when you felt compulsory to do something you didn't want to do or Tell me about a time when you felt scared or dangerous. Learning about DMST can also help customers who aren't familiar with the term. For instance, asking if someone under 18 has ever had sex for cash shelter safety food or other things can give more context.

Human Trafficking Assessment Tools

Professional counselors can use special tools to help find people who have been victims of sex trafficking. There are two free resources available to help them: the Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool and the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool, which can assist counselors in spotting survivors of domestic sex trafficking.

Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool

The Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool, created by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center in 2011, helps identify and support people who are victims of both labor and sex trafficking. This tool includes a set of general questions about trafficking, specific questions about sex trafficking, specific questions about labor trafficking, and questions about networks or people in control. It also gives guidance on important things to think about during assessments, whether they're done face to face or over the phone. The part about sex trafficking includes nine questions—some open-ended and some with set answers—that cover different areas of sex trafficking. These questions ask if someone has ever been forced into sexual activities against their will, if they were required to perform a certain number of sexual acts each night, or if they felt they had to engage in sexual acts with friends or business contacts for money, safety, resources, or favors. When counselors think a child might be a victim of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST), the questions about networks or those in control can help figure out where the trafficking is happening, such as at home, in brothels, or through family members. Counselors using the Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool (2011) should understand what human trafficking is, how it works, and its main features to make sure their assessments are accurate.

Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)

Created by the Vera Institute of Justice in 2014 the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT) provides accurate dependable results for recognizing people who have been trafficked for sex or labor. The TVIT comes in two versions: a longer one with 53 questions and a shorter one with 25 questions. Both versions use a yes/no format, and throughout the process, there are chances to ask for more details or follow up on responses. For instance, if someone says

they've had sex for things like money, food, or favors, the TVIT asks for more information, like whether they felt overstretched to do. The TVIT is the first tool that has been scientifically tested and proven to work in different settings, like counseling and forensic work. Counselors need to have some basic understanding of human trafficking to use the TVIT effectively. Professional counselors can use parts of the TVIT in their regular intake sessions to check for signs of child sex trafficking. Even though the TVIT wasn't tested specifically with young people, it can still be helpful in gathering important information. Counselors should adapt the questions to match the needs of each person, maybe using everyday language or slang that the person is familiar with. For example they might ask Have you ever done anything without getting paid or Have you ever been on the streets hustled or lived that lifestyle. Counsellors should ready ask more questions to better understand what the client means and get the full story.

TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Once a child is identified as a victim of DMST, counselors must use approaches that are sensitive to trauma, which help build strength, create a safe environment, and lessen the effects of trauma. Trauma-informed care puts safety first when working with clients to stop self-harm, build trust, and support healing by helping people move away from harmful situations (Najavits, 2002). Thus, professional counselors working with DMST survivors should first make sure the client is safe before applying trauma-informed practices (Litam, 2017). Also, counselors need to take care of their own emotional health because working with DMST survivors can be emotionally challenging (Litam, 2019). Helping DMST survivors often involves a team of different specialists, such as case managers, medical professionals, child welfare workers, legal experts, and other helping professionals (Barnert et al., 2016). The goal of counseling DMST youth is to help survivors return to society, deal with their trauma, and achieve overall well-being (Jordan et al., 2013; Litam, 2017; Wolf et al., 2014).

Counselors should be patient with survivors who might not be confident in making decisions (Sapiro et al., 2008). DMST survivors might not want to seek help or take part in treatment because they don't see themselves as trafficking survivors and may feel positive or mixed feelings about their traffickers. Other reasons survivors might avoid therapy include embarrassment, guilt, pride, or shame about asking for help. Even though there are not many treatments specifically designed for sex trafficking survivors (Jordan et al., 2014), the treatments used for them are often borrowed from those used for people with PTSD, domestic

violence, slavery, and other trauma-related issues). For example, motivational interviewing can be used to determine if a client is ready to make changes (Osilla et al., 2015). Once DMST survivors show a willingness to change, professional counselors can use trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) to support more progress TF-CBT has shown positive results when working with survivors of childhood abuse, trauma, and sex trafficking.

TF-CBT focuses on creating a safe, trustworthy, and empowering environment that is collaborative and centered around the client, which is especially important when working with trauma survivors. In one study, a 12-week TF-CBT group for adolescent sex trafficking survivors led to greater peer support, more self-discovery, and improvements in life skills, self-care, and overall well-being. In fact, TF-CBT seems to be a helpful and effective evidence-based approach for counseling survivors of child sex trafficking.

GROOMING FOR EXPLOITATION

Traffickers can watch a susceptible child straight or network and use ideas to improvement their faith. These methods frequently focus on meeting the child's needs by giving praise, flattery, and making them feel valuable and loved. They might promise romance, adventure, a better future, or offer gifts that make the child feel special and part of a group they long to be in. These tactics also aim to cut the child off from family, friends, and support systems, and to make them distrust authorities like the police.

Traffickers might lie or manipulate the child to create a strong emotional bond quickly. This bond can make the child more vulnerable to psychological abuse, including spiritual abuse, blackmail, actual abuse, violence, and exploitation. Even during these harmful actions, the trafficker might still show love or provide for basic needs, which can create deep emotional trauma bonds. These bonds can be so strong that they reduce the need for physical control. Trafficking is often linked to criminal groups, violence, and illegal drug trade. It can also be part of efforts to radicalize people.

UNCLEAR STATUS: VICTIM, OFFENDER OR BOTH

Deciding where to draw the line between a child who is a wrongdoing victim and a youngster who is a criminal can be extremely complicated. This issue comes up in many different ways. For example, there are ongoing problems with the criminalization of children involved in prostitution, even in the United States, and children who are part of illegal drug activities. While it's not possible to go into great detail about this subject here, it's important to understand how deeply connected the ideas of child victimhood and child criminality — whether seen as real or just assumed — are to the different ways societies around the world and individuals think about childhood. These thoughts include ideas like children being innocent, good

children, bad children, and bad families. The criminalization of children is often linked to attitudes such as racism, xenophobia, negative stereotypes, and blaming certain groups, whether at the individual or national level. As well-being specialists from altogether fields it's crucial that we focus on and fight for the healthiness and well-being of children regardless of their lawful status. Children in the justice system often have experienced a lot of hardship in their lives and are more likely to feel insecure. Because of this, they may react with survival instincts and show signs of stress that can be easily misunderstood. Health professionals who are mindful and attentive can have a big impact on justice and helping children recover and reform.

Selfidentification as a victim and acceptance of help

When a child who could be at risk of trafficking is found, they might still not realize they are being trafficked, even after being told. This can happen for many reasons. For example, a young person might believe someone they trust says it's okay to engage in sexual activities or give money to their 'boyfriend' as part of a relationship. Or they might think skipping school to quickly earn money by selling drugs is a cool or exciting lifestyle. Victims might also not feel connected to the usual media images of trafficking, which often show a young, helpless, and 'innocent-looking' female being forced into sexual exploitation. Other reasons like trouble with immigration or thinking they are to blame for their situation can make it hard for them to ask for help.

Staff should work hard to build trust with these children and understand how their personal beliefs and experiences might affect how they talk about their health and make choices.

For example, a child from a culture where it's seen as a disgrace to not support their family financially or to accept comfort when their family suffers might stay with traffickers hoping to send money back home. A child who thought getting their parent or partner involved in trafficking was a way to escape poverty might feel really upset if those people are seen as abusers or criminals, especially if the child thought they didn't know what was happening or didn't see their situation as abusive. Feelings of honor and shame can also be connected to sexual abuse. In some families or communities where relationships outside marriage or same-sex relationships are considered wrong, a victim might be seen as deserving of punishment, even if they were the one being abused. These complicated situations can lead to confusion or frustration when children act in ways that surprise or puzzle those trying to help them.

In fact, 27% of potential trafficking victims go missing from care within the first 48 hours, and many are never found.

It's important to remember that being a trafficking victim or survivor doesn't mean a child can't be capable, have their own opinions, or make their own choices. Children should be involved in decisions about their care whenever possible. Health professionals and social care workers need to keep working together to come up with thoughtful, personalized ways to protect children and support them.

Avoidance of stereotyping

Stereotypes about how trafficking happens, who the victims and perpetrators are, and how they present themselves have remained very damaging to real sufferers. It's imperative for specialists to avoid being stuck in fixed ideas or emotional assumptions about the "perfect victim" or the "perfect rescue." The related way people present themselves, and their needs when they are trafficked can vary a lot. Children from all kinds of backgrounds can be at risk, including those from wealthy families who go to expensive schools and are targeted because they don't fit typical stereotypes. Even kids from caring, supportive families can be exploited, as perpetrators take advantage of the child's developing mind and lack of maturity. It's essential to build trust and ensure safety in every interaction with children's health care.

MEDIA AND AWARENESS IN COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking is often hidden and skilled in its execution, and is not easily discovered because of its lack of awareness and underreported cases. The media and society's awareness are strong forces for exposing this crime, providing society with education on these issues, and working to prevent exploitation through public education. The media and society's knowledge of child trafficking influence public perception on the issues of child trafficking, help develop strong legal responses against these crimes, and ultimately encourage people to take on their own social responsibility and duty to protect children.

Role of Traditional Media

Historically, print media (newspapers), broadcast media (TV stations), and audio-visual media (radio stations) have served as important platforms for exposing cases of child trafficking. Through the efforts of investigative reporters and producers, trafficking networks are often discovered and reported on, putting these networks on the public radar. In addition, the reporting of trafficking cases through news and documentary programming is helpful in raising awareness about the various pattern's reasons and effects of trading thereby increasing vigilance in the community.

Role of Digital and Social Media

Digital media has become an important tool to educate people about technical advancement, has allowed the rapid exchange of information via campaigns, videos, discussions, etc., and aids awareness through hashtag usage and global movements. However, because traffickers can use these platforms to groom and recruit individuals, there is a greater need for monitoring and teaching digital literacy skills.

Awareness Programs and Community Participation

Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and international organizations have run public awareness initiatives to help prevent child trafficking, including educating vulnerable communities about the dangers of trafficking, the types of methods used by traffickers, and ways to prevent trafficking of children from occurring. Public awareness programs have included elements such as: workshops in communities to teach about trafficking, awareness in schools regarding the dangers associated with trafficking, street plays to help educate about the issue of trafficking, and public campaigns to provide educational information at the 'grass roots' level (i.e., community level).

Role of NGO and Civil Society

Many non-governmental organizations are cooperating with media sources to create awareness about trafficking in children and to help bring about the rescue of child victims of trafficking. Many NGOs conduct public awareness campaigns about trafficking, provide rehabilitative resources to youngster victims of trafficking, advocate for the victims rights. By engaging members of the civil society to be vigilant in their communities, NGOs are able to ensure that occurrences of trafficking are reported and that those reports are acted upon quickly.

Ethical Reporting and Media Responsibility

While media are key players in addressing trafficking, they also have a responsibility to be ethical. When media report sensationally, release names of victims, or invade the privacy of victims they cause further harm to victims of trafficking. Responsible journalism requires that journalists maintain confidentiality, maintain the dignity of victims, and focus on protecting victims instead of simply gaining media attention.

Challenges in Media and Awareness Efforts

Even though addressing issues of human trafficking through a proactive media and public awareness campaigns are necessary, there are still many issues that remain, including: a) lack of accurate information/reports and statistics b) the sensationalism of media coverage c) limited media access in rural and remote areas d) traffickers' mis-use of technology In order to have an effective public awareness initiative and prevent, these issues need to be addressed.

Child Trafficking and the Dark Web

Emergence of the Dark Web and Digitalization of Child Trafficking

Child trafficking has evolved as a result of technological progress. There has been a significant shift in the way child traffickers operate, with child exploitation networks now extending beyond the traditional physical avenues of child trafficking into digital networks and commerce. The emergence of the dark web represents one of the most dangerous developments in this regard, as it has created a vehicle for large-scale child sex trafficking to take place and has provided traffickers with a means of both facilitating and profiting from child exploitation. The dark net is a hidden share of the cyberspace that cannot be accessed through standard search engines, so its anonymity, encryption, and ability to conduct criminal activity with little risk of detection have all contributed to the dark web's attractiveness as a place for traffickers to communicate, cooperate, and carry out their operations internationally. As such, children are being trafficked in increasingly sophisticated, international, and complex ways, and law enforcement and policymakers around the world are finding it very difficult to combat child trafficking.

Methods and Mechanisms of Online Child Trafficking

The dark web is sometimes used to traffic children by traffickers. They can use encrypted networks to advertise a trafficked child and sell the trafficked child using coded language or within restricted forums in an effort to avoid being caught. They can also communicate securely with other offenders and work together to commit crimes without being identified, such as by using the same "hiding place" to communicate and work with other offenders. Traffickers use the dark web as a means of distributing child exploitation material, creating more opportunity for offenders to commit abuse against children; children who have been abused are more likely to create a demand for this sort of illegal activity as well.

The internet enables traffickers to work with transnational networks, making it easier for traffickers to have a much greater reach and expand their criminal enterprises. The transnational nature of the Internet also makes it much more difficult to track criminal activity or find and identify perpetrators of crimes.

Traffickers will often use the surface web and social media as a means of recruiting and grooming children, before moving to other more covert spaces on the internet to continue the recruitment and grooming process. Traffickers create fake identities, post misleading ads, or make false promises of jobs, school, and/or a better place to live to recruit children and to groom them before actually committing the crime against the child. Traffickers will spend significant amounts of time interacting with a child to build an emotional and psychological manipulation of the child so that they will exercise no resistance to being exploited and have

become dependent on the trafficker. Once a trafficker has gained control over a child, they may move the child to another location or another gender.

Challenges in Detection, Investigation, and Legal Framework

There are many challenges when dealing with cyber-enabled child trafficking on behalf of Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorities. One of the first obstacles is the anonymity provided by online platforms, which conceals the identity of users and makes it challenging for investigators to identify an offender. Encrypted networks and anonymizing tools hinder the effectiveness of traditional policing techniques because they require specialized technical skills and available resources. The transnational nature of online trafficking also creates complex jurisdictional issues, as offenders, victims and digital infrastructure may exist in different countries that each have their own system of law. This variance in legal systems causes delays in investigations and complicates prosecutions. In addition to these obstacles facing Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorities, many Countries do not have the technological capacity, available personnel or financial resources to pursue these offenders and assist child victims.

However, in spite of these challenges there is a significant amount of effort being put towards combating child trafficking in the age of the Internet. Governments and law enforcement authorities are increasingly working to create specialized cyber-crime units with sophisticated tools and equipment. Digital forensics, artificial intelligence, and data analytic techniques are being used to detect trends, monitor suspicious online behavior and obtain evidence against perpetrators. Countries are cooperating internationally to combat cyber-crime through information-sharing, joint operations and mutual legal assistance. However, the effectiveness of these efforts relies upon several factors.

Socio-Economic Factors, Psychological Manipulation, and Vulnerability

Traffickers exploit psychological manipulation in cyber-enabled trafficking. Rather than using traditional methods of coercion to control victims, traffickers rely on emotional manipulation and deception to gain control of their victims through online engagements and creating false feelings of trust, love or dependence. Traffickers often portray themselves to victims as friends, mentors or benefactors thereby desensitizing victims over time to the threats of trafficking and exploitation. The anonymity of the digital environment allows traffickers to create and construct their own identity making it practically impossible for children to differentiate between real and fake. The psychological manipulation used by traffickers to exploit victims leads not just to trafficking, but also mental and emotional trauma.

In addition to the psychological manipulation and exploitation of victims, socio-economic factors are a result of the vulnerability of children to trafficking in the digital space. Children and their families living in poverty, without education or access to basic needs are often searching for opportunities online. Traffickers take advantage of these circumstances by making false promises to children of employment, financial support, or better living conditions. In many cases, families, due to economic distress and a lack of awareness, become complicit in the trafficking of their own children. The interaction between socio-economic inequality and digital exposure creates an opportunity for traffickers to target and exploit victims.

Preventive Measures, Awareness, and Rehabilitation of Victims

Education is a critical factor in addressing the risks posed by online trafficking. By integrating digital literacy and safe internet practices into educational curriculum, youth are able to learn the skills needed to responsibly conduct themselves on the internet, gain the ability to identify risk factors on the web, and empower them to be responsible users of technology. Through educational programs such as workshops, training sessions, and awareness campaigns, schools and learning institutions provide a vital source of information and support for children and youth. Additionally teachers and school staff can be trained to identify warning signs of exploitation or other behavioral changes that may indicate that a student is being exploited and facilitate early intervention. Thus, education can serve as an important source of prevention for trafficking and protection from harm by fostering increased awareness and critical thinking among children and youth.

The role of family and community members is also very important in the fight against trafficking. Parents or guardians need to be aware of the potential dangers of online communications and monitor their children's online activities. Open and honest communication within families may encourage children to report on their online interactions and ask for help when needed. Community-based initiatives, such as awareness programs and support networks, can help to enhance the effectiveness of prevention efforts through increased community awareness. Local organizations and social workers are active participants in identifying those who are at risk and reporting suspicious behavior to appropriate authorities. Advancements in technology require ongoing monitoring and responsibility by technology companies and digital platforms. Technology companies must implement and provide substantial safety measures for their users, continually monitor their products for dangerous or illegal content, as well as gather and provide accurate and timely data to law enforcement

agencies and other appropriate organizations to assist in the prevention and prosecution of child trafficking.

CONCLUSION

Child trading relics one of the most horrific ruins of human rights across the globe; it causes irreparable damage to children's emotions, sense of security, development, and identity. This chapter detailed child trafficking in India in terms of both social and legal dimensions, existing legislation, its enforcement and victimisation of individuals by child trafficking, and concluded that while the legal and institutional frameworks may be strong theoretically, there are still serious deficits in their practical application.

A detailed examination of the Indian government's child trafficking based legislation and programme development Immoral Traffic Prevention Act Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Juvenile Justice Act along with numerous legislation specific enactments (e.g. Ujjawala and Childline) indicate that India has established a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy by law enforcement, re-establishing victims and integrating victims back into society. In addition, the fact that there are both state specific actions and the existence of unique measures provide additional support to the overall system's response to localised issues related to child trafficking.

Overall, even with the multiple efforts of the Indian government, continued challenges such as ineffective coordination, poorly established support systems and inadequate monitoring mechanisms will remain to impede effectiveness response to child marketing.

Looking at the work NGOs have done bridging the gap between policy and practice indicates both the value NGOs provide in helping to hold governments accountable as well as the need for governments to strengthen their systems of accountability. The work of NGOs, such as Kailash Satyarthi's Bachpan Bachao Andolan, have been instrumental in rescuing children, raising awareness of issues related to child trafficking and providing support to victims. By being present in local communities NGOs are able to address vulnerable groups and give immediate assistance. While the extensive use of NGOs is indicative of the government's system shortfalls, it also highlights the fact that government institutions need to be held to higher standards.

In addition, examining the extent to which global legal agreements have influenced national legislation provides an insight into how global legal frameworks are used to build consensus around common standards for the shield of broods in India. For example Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol provide guidance for preventing child trafficking

the protection of children, and providing help to child victims/marketing survivors. India's ratification of these international agreements is an indication of its commitment to ensure that its national laws comply with the standards established in the international agreements. However, there are limitations to the success of these international agreements in the context of India's crimes against children due to their failure to provide the infrastructure necessary to support full implementation of the agreements at the domestic level.

A significant finding contained in this chapter highlights the lack of comprehensive rehabilitation programs, specifically as they re-count to the psychological and emotional wants of child victims of trafficking.

While rescue operations have improved over time and victim support is becoming more effective, helping child victims is not adequate because the number of trained professionals is very limited; the provision of trauma therapy is also very limited; and a lack of social acceptance means that children continue to be discriminated against by others in their community, subjecting the children to ongoing, unrelenting trauma. Psychological recovery is not merely a second level of recovery; it is a necessary component of a child's rehabilitation and re-empowerment. Children who are trafficked suffer from serious and chronic psychological trauma, and if we do not help these children resolve the trauma's profoundly debilitating symptoms, we will continue to see children being victimized over and over.

Child trafficking is interconnected with social and economic issues; poverty, lack of education, unemployment/underemployment and migration are all contributing factors that create greater vulnerability for children to be trafficked. To effectively address the problems which lead to child trafficking, the solution will require working to improve the underlying problems through (a) social change that includes comprehensive educational reform (b) creation of viable jobs and (c) establishing greater awareness about trafficking. The underlying economic issues contributing to trafficking request for economy labour as well as request for profitable sexual exploitation are the two sides of the trafficking transaction, meaning that solutions to trafficking must include broad socio-economic remedies.

The impact of child trafficking transcends the immediate victim and has far-reaching implications for their relatives communities and culture as a whole. The physical psychological emotional harm caused to trafficked children results in long-term effects throughout their overall growth and development.

From the above information, it is apparent that an integrated and comprehensive approach will provide the most effective combat against child trafficking. The necessary steps involve increasing law enforcement effectiveness; implementing laws that currently exist; enhancing

inter-agency collaboration; and creating improved data systems.

Equally important to addressing the origin grounds of child trading are investments in education shortage alleviation, and public awareness programs.

Community based involvement, regional cooperation with other nations, and the inclusion of civil society in developing programs that provide a comprehensive response to child trafficking will also strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of any response to this problem.

In conclusion, while many strides have been made to develop the legislation and policies necessary to combat child trafficking, there is still a gap between creating these laws and policies and actually implementing them. To end child trafficking, it is essential to have a shift toward a child-centered, rights-sided approach. This requires strong political will and public support for such efforts. Only through ongoing and collective efforts can we protect every child from violence and exploitation, and provide them with a lifetime of dignity, freedom, and security.

