A STUDY OF GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING - A MENACE IN THE WAY OF WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT:

Human trafficking is a booming international trade, making billions of dollars at the expense of millions of victims, many of them are young girls and children, who are robbed of their dignity and freedom. Although most of us have never witnessed this crime, it happens every day all around the world. Criminals profit while satisfying consumer demand. Victims are coerced to do what others would never freely do and they are paid virtually nothing for their pains. In a perverse commercialization of humanity, they are used like products and then thrown away. Gender discrimination further aggravates human trafficking. Today gender discrimination prevails in a rampant manner even in a society of equal global population. Women Empowerment may be referred to as woman's right to make free decisions in a patriarchal society, which they are deprived of since they are unable to express their fundamental rights. Impoverished children and women are the major victims of the lucrative trafficking industry, which turned out as a stumbling block for women empowerment. This paper intends to put forward the importance of Women Education, which is considered to be a strong force to fight human trafficking, to raise awareness, and encourage involvement and inspire action, in order to bring in women empowerment and development of the society in the truest sense.

KEY WORDS: Gender discrimination, Human trafficking, Trafficking industry, Women Empowerment.

INTRODUCTION:

The core of the concept of human trafficking is “exploitation of people against their free will”. According to the UN Protocol definition trafficking of human beings includes different actions such as to “recruit, transport, transfer, harbour or receive by means of threat or force or other forms of coercion, within the purpose of exploitation.” Children particularly females, teenagers, orphans and women are the most prominent victims of human trafficking in the world, especially in the developing countries or regions such as Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America. This is due to widespread lack of education and employment, poverty, weak border immigration security systems and other social problems, hence this situation increases vulnerability; creates orphans; and advances human trafficking. India too is a major source, destination and transmit country for men, maid and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial
sexual exploitation. Men, maid and children in debt bondage are forced to in industries such as Rice mills, Sugar mills, Juice mills, Brick firms, Agricultural and embroidery factories. Those from India's most disadvantaged social economic state are particularly vulnerable to forced or bondage labour and sex trafficking. Gender discrimination is also responsible for human trafficking. Hence, to eradicate this problem, women empowerment need to be promoted in an effective manner through women education.

"Women Empowerment" may be referred to as woman's right to make free decisions in a patriarchal society, which they are deprived of since they are unable to express their fundamental rights. Impoverished children and women are the major victims of the lucrative trafficking industry which turned out as a stumbling block for women empowerment. In March, 2009, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the "Blue Heart Campaign" to fight human trafficking, to raise awareness, and encourage involvement and inspire action against human trafficking.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The menace of human trafficking has been one of the major social problems that come in the way of women empowerment. In this investigation attempt has been made to find answers of the following research questions.

- What is empowerment?
- What are the barriers of women empowerment?
- What is the position of Global and Indian trafficking?
- What is the role of education for reducing trafficking and solving the problem of women empowerment?

Keeping in view the above questions, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the several criteria of women empowerment
- To study the various barriers of women empowerment
- To study the role of education for reducing trafficking and solving the problem of women empowerment
- To study the causes of vulnerability to trafficking among women
- To study the range and magnitude of the impact of this crime among women
- To study how women education can bring in awareness and knowledge about human trafficking
- To study how education creates a holistic approach towards identifying human trafficking scenarios both locally and internationally.
METHODOLOGY:
The study is based on Qualitative Research. Information collecting from different sources was analyzed in a qualitative way for taking inference.

PERSPECTIVES OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN REDUCING THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

• Raise awareness—inform the world of this crime and mobilize people to stop it
• Strengthen prevention—warn vulnerable groups and alleviate the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of opportunity
• Enrich knowledge—deepen understanding of the scope and nature of human trafficking through more data collection and analysis, joint research initiatives and the creation of an evidence-based report on global trafficking trends
• Empowering women—improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, eradicating poverty, improving education and developing a global partnership for development.

SCENARIO OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA:
The Trafficking in persons Report 2009, observes that India is a destination of women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. According to the report, India does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, the report also points out that India in making significant efforts to control it. Despite the efforts their has not been sufficient progress in its low enforcement to address human trafficking. Child- trafficking for so called 'sex - tourism' is increasing in places like Goa, Kerala, Karwar, Himachal Pradesh as poor parents use their poverty as an excuse. Agents enter the picture, they bribe the police to turn a blind eye. Andhrapradesh, West Bengal, Maharstra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa and Delhi have been identified as the most affected states. At the cross border level, the major victims trafficked into India for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, belong to Nepal and Bangladesh.


**Table 1:** Crime head-wise incidence of various crimes under Human Trafficking during 2005 - 2009 and percentage variation in 2009 over 2008

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366-A IPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-B IPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>149</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-28.3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Selling of Girls for Prostitution (Sec. 372 IPC)</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Buying of Girls for Prostitution (Sec. 373 IPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,908</td>
<td>4,541</td>
<td>3,568</td>
<td>2,659</td>
<td>2,474</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td>6,402</td>
<td>5,096</td>
<td>4,087</td>
<td>3,133</td>
<td>2,851</td>
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**IMPACTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON HUMAN SECURITY:**

The impacts of Human Trafficking on human security includes the following:

1. Threats to border integrity, as millions of people are transported annually across national boundaries under false pretences;
2. Threats to human health, through the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs to the victims, their clients, their clients’ wives, and so on;
3. Threats to national and international security, since it is believed that many of the world’s major sex traffickers are connected to organized crime groups, which may then use the proceeds to fund other criminal activities such as terrorism;
4. Threats to the very health of our global human conscience, since slavery – often proudly touted as having been wiped out in the 19th century – is actually alive and well, right in all our own backyards.
ROLE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

An important aspect of prevention of Human Trafficking is education: making sure people are aware of the existence, as well as the nature of human trafficking. Education further helps empowerment of women by developing "Intrinsic Capacity, inner transformation of one's consciousness to overcome barriers, access resources and traditional ideologies". Education is crucial in halting the flow of women, children and men into forced bondage. It is through education that we can elicit the most direct influence in the fight against human trafficking. Promotion of Technical Education also helps to reduce the problem of human trafficking. Technical education emphasizes on the acquisition of employable skills and therefore well placed to train the skilled and entrepreneurial workforce that developing countries needs to create wealth and emerge out of poverty. Technical education can be delivered at different levels of sophistication; can respond to the different training needs of learners from different social economic and academic backgrounds and prepare them for gainful employment and sustainable livelihood. The ultimate aim technical education is employment. This means it has to be linked with job market and therefore enhance its social economic relevance. Where there is employment, poverty level goes down, which therefore means the vulnerability to human trafficking will be reduced. Therefore, promotion of Technical Education among women is also necessary to reduce the serious problem of human trafficking.

SUGGESTIONS TO REDUCE THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

- Knowing the facts about human trafficking;
- Raising awareness of human trafficking;
- Having knowledge regarding state laws;
- Having knowledge regarding health care professionals, social services professionals and law enforcement professionals.
- Keep learning about trafficking, its victims and its survivors.
CONCLUSION:

The topic of human trafficking is challenging. Trafficking has reached epidemic proportions and no country is immune. Impoverished children and women are the major victims of the lucrative trafficking industry, which turned out as a stumbling block for women empowerment. Women empowerment and reducing of female trafficking are impossible with the lack of proper health, education, nutrition and nourishment and security of the female in the society. Education is crucial in halting the flow of women, children and men into forced bondage. It is through education that we can elicit the most direct influence in the fight against human trafficking. However, prevention through public awareness and education of professionals is not enough to combat human trafficking. Interventions by competent social work practitioners need to include not only case management and advocacy skills, but also an understanding of the ecological perspective in assessment and treatment techniques to work with the multidimensional and comprehensive needs of the survivor.

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