

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

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***Abstract:** Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing trades of globe today. The reasons for the increase in this global phenomenon are multiple and complex. India is no exception to this. The points of origin are often the more deprived places, regions or countries, and the points of destination are often urban conglomerates within or across borders. The fact is that the process of trafficking is designed and manipulated by traffickers for their own ends for which they employ all kinds of means. Therefore the assumption that human beings are always trafficked from undeveloped to more developed places is untenable. Prostitution and trafficking are inter-related. There has been an alarming increase in incidences of both trafficking and prostitution due to globalization, economic liberalization and other socio-cultural factors. This increase can also be attributed to various factors such as illiteracy, ignorance, poverty, cultural traditions and also increase in consumerism brought out by globalization, increase in tourism and hospitality industry, etc. Present paper highlights the issue of human trafficking in India*

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of trafficking denotes a trade in something that should not be traded in. Thus, we have terms like drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. The concept of trafficking in people refers to the criminal practice of exploitation of human beings where they are treated as commodities for profit and after being trafficked, are subjected to long term exploitation. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol) that was adopted in the year 2000 and came into force in December 2003, has perhaps brought the much -needed and

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widespread consensus on a working definition of trafficking at the global level. Article 3 of the Protocol defines trafficking as follows:

“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The definition clearly spells out that trafficking covers not only the transportation of a persons from one place to another, but also their recruitment and receipt so that anyone involved in the movement of another person for their exploitation is part of the trafficking process. It further articulates that trafficking is not limited to sexual exploitation only for it could occur also for forced labour and other slavery like practices. This means that people who migrate for work in agriculture, construction or domestic work, but are deceived or coerced into working in conditions they do not agree to, be also defined as trafficked people. The Government of India signed the Trafficking Protocol on 12 December 2002. This is a huge step forward in advancing the human rights of trafficked people as it not only prevents and protects the victims of trafficking but also punishes the traffickers. Further, the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic of Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), have been ratified by the Government of India. It would be pertinent to mention here that the Government of India has ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child – (i) on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and ii) On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution

devised by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2002, has also defined the term 'trafficking' as 'the moving, selling or buying of women and children for prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking'. The Government of India has ratified this Convention along with other members of SAARC.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Trafficking of human beings, especially of women and children, is one of the fastest growing trades, generating unaccountable profits annually. The reasons for the increase in this global phenomenon are multiple and complex, affecting rich and poor countries alike. India is no exception to this. The source areas or points of origin are often the more deprived places, regions or countries, and the points of destination are often — although not always — urban conglomerates within or across borders. For all those who view trafficking in economic terms, it is the real or perceived differential between the economic status of source and destination areas that is important. In practice, however, human beings may be and are trafficked from one poor area to another poor area as well for reasons best known to the traffickers, a fact that has been corroborated by research studies and documentation across the world. The fact is that the process of trafficking is designed and manipulated by traffickers for their own ends for which they employ all kinds of means. Therefore the assumption that human beings are always trafficked from undeveloped to more developed places is untenable. The scale of the phenomenon is difficult to judge. It is very difficult to collect data on trafficking because of the clandestine nature of the operations. The 'trade is secretive, the women are silenced, the traffickers are dangerous and not many agencies are counting' (Hughes, 2000). Among the most quoted figures are the United Nations estimates that '4 million people in a year are traded against their will to work in some form of slavery, many of them are children' and believes that 'in the last 30 years, trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in Asia alone has victimized more than 30 million people'. India is located in golden triangle which is

most vulnerable region for the trafficking of women and children for flesh trade. Poverty and exploitation make girls and women a cheap commodity. Low yielding agricultural, no alternate sources of employment, all result in hapless, impoverishment, economic hardships, deprivation and resourcelessness, marginalization all - provide ideal environment to flourish sex trade. This is also true in case of trafficking in women and children since two-thirds of the girls and women inducted into the trade are from backward regions. The cultural traditions such as *Jogini*, *Devadasi*, *Basavi* in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Karnataka also encourage the sex trade. The economic reasons among tribes and communities like *Bedias*, *Jahats*, *Kanjars*, *Kolta*, *Banchra*, *Mahar*, *Matang* and *Sansi* also promote sex trade. Delhi and Bombay have emerged as expanded flesh trade centres. Though there are about 1100 red light areas and *Sonagachchi* is the biggest red light area of India. About 80 per cent of child prostitutes are found in five major metropolitan centres viz. Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore. When rural poor migrate to cities, traffickers took full advantage of their absolute poverty and lure their children into this profession with promises of money and jobs. It is also reported that often working population migrate to industrial centres and children and women satisfy their sexual and money desires by visiting brothels, thereby increasing the demand for girls prostitutes. Tourism has also promoted trafficking of girls and women especially in the coastal tourism destinations. It is to be noted that Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka and India have emerged as organized tourism flesh trade.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is a special legislation that deals exclusively with trafficking. The Act defines the terms 'brothel', 'child', 'corrective institutions', 'prostitution', 'protective home', 'public place', 'special police officer' and 'trafficking officer'. The purpose of the enactment was to inhibit or to abolish commercialised vice, namely the traffic in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution, as an organised means of living. Offences under the Act are: (1) keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as a brothel (S-3), (2) living on the earnings of prostitution (S- 4), (3) procuring, inducing or taking persons for the sake of prostitution (S- 5), (4) detaining a person in premises

where prostitution is carried on (S- 6), (5) prostitution in or the vicinity of public places (S- 7), (6) seducing or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution (S- 8), (7) education of a person in custody (S- 9).

The law confers wide powers on the concerned authorities in matters of rescue and rehabilitation of victims and survivors and provides for stringent action against exploiters including the eviction of brothels, surveillance, externment, as well as aggravated punishment when the offences are committed on children. In India, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act have been revamped in consonance with the international instruments of the time. The Juvenile Justice Act recognizes a child, who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into trafficking, as a child in need of care and protection and includes elaborate provisions for rescue and rehabilitation. It gives NGOs powers and position in the child welfare committees and the Juvenile Justice Board. The ITPA provides for the setting up of special courts by state governments, as well as by the Government of India. Rape laws have undergone judicial scrutiny and interpretation several times in the Supreme Court, with the result that the law today is gender-friendly and child-friendly.

At present, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India in order to deal with the issue of trafficking has been implementing a comprehensive scheme with the name of Ujjawala for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation since December, 2007. The main objective of the scheme is to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, facilitating rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody, providing rehabilitation services to the victims and facilitating reintegration of the victims in the family and society. The scheme is being implemented by the Social Welfare/ Women and Child Welfare Department of state government, Women's Development Corporations, Women's Development Centres, Urban Local Bodies, reputed public/private organizations. The main components of the

scheme include prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, and repatriation.

## OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE

Human trafficking is a global socio legal issue of discussion and debate. A number of studies have been conducted which highlight the various dimensions of the issue. A study by Congressional Research Service for the US Congress cites the following estimates of trafficked people worldwide: South-East Asia 225,000; South Asia 15,000; former Soviet Union - 100,000; East Europe 75,000; Latin America 10,000; Africa 50 crores (CRS, 2001). Recent International Labour Organisation figures for children in the worst forms of labour worldwide are: trafficking (1.2 million); forced and bonded labour 5.7 million); armed conflict (0.3 million); prostitution and pornography (1.8 million); and illicit activities (0.6 million) (ILO, 2002). Calculations of trafficked people are generally made with reference to commercial sex exploitation. In India, the stigma attached to prostitution and the clandestine nature of operations makes it doubly difficult to arrive at authentic numbers (Gupta, 2003). To give a sense of the total magnitude of the problem, estimates of adult and child sex workers in India are quoted. All minors in commercial sex work are generally classified as cases of trafficking. The figures quoted show a high degree of discrepancy, and the possibility of ascertaining the authenticity of the quoted figures is almost nil. The original sources, or how these figures have been arrived at, are rarely stated. Around 30 to 90 per cent of women and girls are under 18 at the time of entry in to prostitution (Mukherjee and Das, 1996; UNICEF 1994; YMCA 1995; Gathia 1999; Gathia 2003; SOS 2001). The population of women and children in sex work in India is stated to be between 70,000 and 1 million. Of these, 30 per cent are 20 years of age. Nearly 15 per cent began sex work when they were below 15, and 25 per cent entered between 15 and 18 years (Mukherjee and Das, 1996). A news item published in Statesman (12 August 2002) states that roughly 2 million children are abused and forced into prostitution every year in India. A rough estimate prepared by an NGO called End Children's Prostitution in Asian Tourism reveals that there are around 2 million prostitutes in

India; 20 per cent among them are minors. A study conducted in 1992 estimates that any one time, 20,000 girls are being transported from one part of the country to another (Gupta, 2003).

NGO estimates of sex work are however much higher (UNICEF, 1994). A CEDPA report states that in 1997, approximately 200 girls and women in India entered prostitution on a daily basis and 80 per cent were coerced into it (Save Our Sisters, 2001). There are reportedly 300,000 to 500,000 children in prostitution in India (Patkar, Praveen and Priti, Patkar, 2001). A UNICEF study on Maharashtra states that at any given time, approximately 40 per cent of the victims of commercial sex exploitation and trafficking are found to be below 18 years. Trafficking of women and children for flesh trade has emerged as one of the most profitable illegal trades next to illegal trade in arms and narcotics. All of three became the toughest forms of organized crime. Every year, an estimated 4 million people, mainly women and children, are trafficked throughout the world and one-million children are trafficked into local and international sex industries (Cook, 1998). Selling of young women is one of the fastest growing organized crime making the traffickers richer by \$ 6 billion every year (Shelley, 1997). Richards (1999) maintains that trafficking in persons, particularly women and children is significant on nearly every continent. Trafficking-involves gross violation of human rights. People suffer from physical and mental abuse and social stigmatization. They become isolated, losing ties with their former lives and families (Heeswijk, 2003). The alarming number of women and children being trafficked for forced labour or slavery like practices, including commercial sex exploitation, is a concern for development agencies and government. The complexity of trafficking, the links with visceral issues such as commercial sex work and exploitation of children, and the politics of migration management have meant that there is much contention over the definition of trafficking and the types of policies and programming that would effectively combat this serious crime and effort to basic human rights (Asian Development Bank, 2003).

Large numbers of Nepalese citizens have migrated to India to work as labourers. During colonial times, Nepalese were recruited in the Gorkha Regiments of the Indian Army, and that continues to

this day. Nepalese migrant workers crossing the borders into India 7000 sex workers cross over from Nepal into India every year. It is reported that 86 per cent of the prostitutes come from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh (National Commission for Women, 1995-96). About 66 per cent of the girls are from families where the annual income is about Rs.5000. While they are sold off by their parents, deceived with promises of marriage of a lucrative range in between 1.8 million and 3 million in a year (Gurung, 2001). India and Nepal share a common open border and the nationals in both the countries do not require a travel permit or a passport to cross the border. Women make up a large of proportion of the Nepalese labour force in India. They end up as domestic help in rich Indian families or sex workers in the red light districts in Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai. Nepalese women migrants are highly vulnerable to commercial and sexual exploitation (UNDP, 2004). About job, others are children who are kidnapped and sold to brothel owners (Week, August 4, 1996).

The prostitution is not confined to sexual abuse. It also encompasses (i) sexual harassment, (ii) rape, (iii) battering, (iv) verbal abuse, (v) domestic violence, (vi) a racist practice, (vii) a violence of human rights, (viii) childhood sexual abuse, (ix) a consequence of male domination of women, (x) a means of maintaining male domination of women, (xi) all of above (Prostitution-research.com). The commercial sex industry includes street prostitution; massage brothels, escort out call services, strip clubs, lap-dancing, phone sex, adult and child pornography, internet pornography, and prostitution tourism. Most women who are in prostitution than a few months drift among these various permutations of the commercial sex. All prostitution causes harm to women. Whether it is being sold by one's family to whether it is being sexually abused in ones' family, running away from home, and pimped by one's boy-friend, or whether one is in college and needs to pay for next tuition and one work's out at a strip club behind glass where men have actually touch forms of prostitution hurt the women in it (Melissa, 2000). It is to be noted that about 80 per cent of women in prostitution have been the victim of a rape (Susan



and Reed, 1990). Other studies report that 68 per cent to 70 per cent of women in prostitution being raped (Silbert, 1998). Prostitution is an act of violence against women, which is intrinsically traumatizing. Melissa *et al.* (1998) reported that most women have been raped in prostitution, and have experienced physical assault in prostitution. They are mainly homeless, and wanted to escape from prostitution immediately. A study conducted by the Central Social Welfare Board, 1990 reported that 40 per cent of the population of commercial sex workers entering the trade is below 18 years of age. At least 400,000 are estimated to be minor of which 20,000 are annually brought to India from Nepal. The children of sex workers, a very vulnerable group are estimated to be 53 lakhs (National Commission for Women, 1997).

People with personal characteristics of low self-esteem and lack of self-control are reported to be vulnerable (United Nations Development Programme, 2002). Low levels of literacy, awareness and information are also risk factors. Economic deprivation due to various reasons and its associative conditions are among the most important factors that lead to vulnerability. Greater the degree of impoverishment, higher is the risk of falling prey to trafficking (Mukherjee and Das, 1996; Department of Women and Child Development, 1998; UNDP, 2002). People with disabilities and 'women who suffer from "disfigurements" are also vulnerable (Gathia, 2003). A dysfunctional home environment - break-up of the family, marital discord, physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug use, family pressures, large families, families facing uncertain times, children in substitute care, gender discrimination within the family, desertion by husbands, husbands' acquiring a second or a third wife makes people vulnerable to trafficking. Studies by Central Social Welfare Board and others have shown that most trafficked women were unmarried, divorced, separated or widowed (Karmakar, 2001). Environments lacking livelihood options or economic opportunities, with the accompanying pressures to work and earn, make peoples' lives on ongoing 'battle for survival' (Sanghera, 1999). The quickening pace of urbanization and heightened mobility resulting from the development of road links are contributing factors. A culture of consumerism, materialism, commoditization of

individuals and commercialization of sex distorts family needs and individual desires (National Commission for Women, 1997; Raymond 2002). A mindset which judges children's worth by the amount of money they can earn, and how soon they are able to do so, has developed (Institute of Social Sciences 2003), justifying their exploitation by kin members. Discriminatory practices and social exclusion exacerbate the vulnerabilities of groups like Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Castes, ethnic minorities, tribal communities, undocumented migrant workers, stateless people or people in refugee camps.

Trafficking occurs in a wider context of increasing instances of human rights violation against women. These include the violation of their reproductive rights and the rights of female infants and foetuses to live; domestic violence against women, custodial violence against women, violence against women in markets and other public places; the violation of women's rights to decision-making and to land assets and other resources (Sanghera, 1999; Karmakar, 2001; Asian Development Bank, 2002; Raymond et. Al.). In 'cases where their families or guardians push women or girls into trafficked circumstances, many do not consider this as harmful, as they are considered chattels of their father or guardian and further protection from their community would be inappropriate' (Asian Development Bank, 2002). Instances of male relatives making periodic visits to collect a girl's earnings have been reported (Nirmala Niketan, College of Social Work, 2003). Thus, there is a non-recognition and non-acceptance of such practices as being exploitative. Early marriage, lack of choice regarding marriage partner and their socialisation into women who remain servile and bear injustice silently are other factors that render them more vulnerable (Asian Development Bank, 2002). Sanghera (1999) elaborates how the feminisation of poverty and migration increases vulnerability to traffickers. Driven by the pressing need for gainful employment, with scarcity of jobs in their home bases, women and children are easy prey for the designs of unscrupulous agents, offering 'choices' and assistance with travel, particularly across borders, for jobs.

Sex tourism has also become a problem in Kerala, which has witnessed a tourist boom since the early '80s. The National

Geographic has listed Kerala as one of the world's fifty 'Must see destinations'. Along with the growth of tourism, there has been an increasing victimisation of young children. DARSHAN, an NGO group, has made a research study of the problems of sex tourism in Kerala. The study mentions that the Kerala Women's Commission received numerous letters of complaint from women tourists, about sex tourism in Kovalam. They even rescued 11 girls belonging to Lambada community of Karnataka from Kovalam in October, 1998 (Manoj & Thomas, 2002-2003). Brothels also arrange package tours to tourist destinations for their customers. The research paper contains case studies showing the exploitation of trafficked females at the hands of the tourists. In one case, a girl was deceived by the promise of a job and forced into commercial sexual exploitation. She perforce had to accompany local tourists to various places like Ooti, Nelliampathy and other places and satisfy their sexual urges. The clients paid the victim well.

Darshan's study also reveals how hoteliers in areas like Qullion, Alleppy, Ernakulam promote sex tourism, because such services bring them extra income. Victims are often projected by the agents as college girls in search of fun and excitement, wanting to earn an extra buck. In places like Alleppy, foreign tourists come and stay in houseboats. This houseboat sex tourism is a new and thriving concept. It is safe, as there are no raids on the houseboats (Patkar & Patkar, 2002). In Kerala, although places like Kovalam and Fort Cochin have become sex tourism hot spots, police records indicate that enforcement agencies have turned a blind eye to the problem and cases have seldom been registered under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. The study mentions the case of a 'sex worker' from Mangalore and Goa who shifted her operations to Varkala, a major tourist spot, because of the growth of sex tourism. She earns well from sex work and possesses houses and vehicles of her own. She says that there is demand for sex not only from foreign tourists but also among the locals, including a number of political figures. With the accent on tourism promotion, bars and pubs have proliferated in different tourist destinations. A study of trafficked bar girls around Mumbai conducted by two NGO groups – Save our Sisters (SOS) and VEDH – reveal a very disturbing picture. There are about

2,000 bars in Greater Mumbai, where a large number of the girls work, averaging about 50 girls per bar. Thus there are now approximately one lakh bar girls in Greater Mumbai alone. Most of the bar girls come from Bangladesh, Nepal as well as different cities in India. The 'push' factors are mainly economic, such as sale of family land, debt, expenditure on marriages and lack of any other skills. A number of girls who were interviewed said that natural disasters like flood, drought etc. force them to leave their homes. In a majority of the cases, male family members made the decision to send them to Mumbai, and the girls usually had no choice. 75 per cent of the bar girls are under 25 years of age.

Trafficked persons are reportedly traumatized by their experiences. Depression and suicidal thoughts are commonly reported. The mental and emotional state of the survivors may include malevolence, helplessness and withdrawal; disassociation; self-blame and identification with the aggressor; distraction; a foreshortened view of time; normalization and shaping, whereby the victims convince themselves that their experiences had to happen instead of viewing them as traumatic (*Saarthak, 2002*). Some of the psychiatric disorders among survivors of trafficking are listed as post-traumatic stress disorder, depressive disorder, dissociative disorders, psychotic disorders and eating disorders. Girls are made to bear the responsibility of upholding the family honour through their sexual purity/chastity (*ISS, 2003*). If they are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, they face additional stress because of the prevalent morality. Singh and Pandey (2008) in their research study on children depending on female sex workers in Uttar Pradesh highlighted that young children of prostitutes and erstwhile prostitutes are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The traffickers lure poor and vulnerable young women for trafficking and sexual exploitation. Singh and Singh (2012) in their edited volume on trafficking of women and children also highlighted that Nepal and Bangladesh have emerged major source point from where a large number of young women are trafficked into India and latter on are trafficked to gulf countries. Singh and Pandey (2013) have also opined that the efforts for prevention and combating of trafficking as the problem are gradually increasing. Mishra (2013) in his edited

volume on human trafficking has attempted to examine the role of various stakeholders in prevention and combating the human trafficking in India. Besides being stigmatized as outcasts and facing moral and legal isolation (Giri, 1999), trafficked people are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection; drug addiction; and high-risk abortions and teenage pregnancies, which may affect their reproductive health for life. A study by an NGO in Dhaka found that 'more than 20 per cent of street children prostitutes die before reaching adulthood. Almost 22 per cent become physically invalid and are fit only for begging' (Save Our Sisters, 2001). Psychological trauma permeates all aspects of their lives. Since it usually remains unaddressed and unresolved, 'the abused turn into abusers', with a high probability of them becoming criminals. The consequences of being in 'child labour' and its adverse impact on the development of children are well documented. The victims of trafficking are compelled to lead illegal lives. Illegality taints every dimension of their lives, converting into criminals. Their criminalization as workers and persons severely stigmatizes them. It intensifies their victimization several folds and leaves them with no recourse for redress (Sanghera, 2002).

There is also a viewpoint which is generally not expressed in the literature on trafficking. It argues that there are conflicting aspects to the social impacts of trafficking, as for many women, trafficking episodes, while causing harm, also removed them from otherwise oppressive circumstances. Thousands of women, who have returned, but remain silent about their experiences, especially concerning commercial Sex Worker, may have brought back not only some savings, but also more experience of the world. Some of these women have managed to turn these experiences into personal empowerment within their communities' (Asian Development Bank, 2002). The crime of trafficking involves the violation of a whole gamut of laws and human rights. It becomes a threat to society because traffickers operate across borders with impunity, with the growing involvement of organized criminals and by generally undermining the rule of law. Trafficking 'threatens the very fabric of society' because it involves not only criminals but also law enforcers. It manifests and perpetuates patriarchal attitudes and

behavior, which undermine the efforts to promote gender equality and eradicate discrimination against women and children (Asian Development Bank, 2002). This is illustrated by reports from Albania, which 'document villages where nine in 10 girls over 14 stay away from school because they are afraid of being trafficked'. Thus, this fear 'alters the choices that girls make about their futures' (International Labour Organization, 2002). A study by Asian Development Bank notes that the 'economic losses to communities and governments are enormous if considered in terms of lost returns on human or social capital investments. The cost of countering criminal trafficking activities puts additional strain on the already limited government resources for law enforcement. A vast amount of potential income from trafficked labour is lost in 'hidden' sectors' (Asian Development Bank, 2002). Specific communities may become known as potential sources for people if following each other's example, communities start a trend of sending their children and women out. The loss of future productivity and earning power through low educational levels, ill health and potentially premature death is also felt at the country and regional level. Poor nations can ill afford to lose their young people, whose present and future productive capacity is essential to growth. The ravage of disease, including HIV/AIDS, is also an enormous burden on such countries and causes further imbalances between the young and middle-aged potential workforce (most likely to be affected) and older people dependent on them (International Labour Organization, 2002).

## CONCLUSION

Though, there has been efforts on part of government and non-government organizations to prevent and combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation however, millions of people are being trafficked and thrown into prostitution all over globe. Prostitution is grounded in deeply patriarchal values. The sector is characterized by economic exploitation, corruption and linkages with crimes. Trafficking has emerged as one of the most lucrative industry of the globe. The traffickers lure the vulnerable and poor families for trafficking of women and children and majority of the young women and girls are thrown into sex industry. Government

of India under the Ministry of Women and Child Development has implemented a comprehensive scheme for prevention, combating of trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims and their reintegration in the family and society. However, effective implementation of the scheme could not be ensured due to various factors. The plan of action on the part of various state governments, non-government organizations and donor agencies also could not witnessed the desired results due to ineffective enforcement of legislation and governance of programmes and schemes.

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