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Human Trafficking: Common Scary truth of South Asian Nations

Amrita Tiwari

Abstract

To get a life of dignity and happiness, is right of every human being. No one can snatch it from anyone as per their own will. There are many issues like poverty, hunger and unemployment in our society which catches our eye. But these problems can be solved through hard work. On other hand, trafficking, smuggling and theft of children, women, men and their transfer from one place to another without their own will is totally a different issue and this is inhumane. Scarcity of job opportunities, lack of awareness and hunger can be considered as important reason of human trafficking in South Asia. Women, men and children from Bangladesh, India and Nepal are easily trafficked from these nations to international borders for sexual exploitation, labour works, household jobs etc. There are two types of human trafficking one is within country and other is trans-border trafficking. Both are considered as serious threats to humanity. Open borders and ease in trade barriers have created better investment and economic opportunities for nations on one hand but on another it has also created a serious issue of trafficking because who is right and who is wrong, no one can judge by face easily. South Asian nations are developing nations and suffer from problems like hunger, unemployment, poverty, lack in jobs and food scarcity. This led to increase in inhumane activities like trafficking. Although, this is a serious issue and against humanity, and government of every nation is rigid to work against this cheap crime. There is still need of a collaborative approach to solve this issue, so that, every human being can live their life with peace, dignity and respect, which is their right. South Asian nations need more cooperation within them to detect, identify and report issues of human trafficking as soon as possible, so that it can be solved in its early stage and most of human beings can be rescued to live their dignified happy life.

Keywords: Human Trafficking, South Asia, Exploitation, Hunger, Poverty, Nations, Unemployment, Inhumane, Collaborative Approach.

Introduction

security challenges which were earlier related to military confrontation, nuclear threats have now been expanded to many non-traditional security issues like climate change, many infectious diseases, drug trafficking and human trafficking. The South Asia region is rich in cultural heritage and diversity but due to many disputes within nations asylum and refugee issue is also common which leads to human trafficking. Not only in South Asia but also other regions of world face same issue. In South Asia trafficking is common both within region and internationally. The phenomenon of trafficking is not new in South Asia. Over past hundred years trafficking has been known as a source of income for traffickers. But recently this terminology has gained attention of whole world because a large increase has been recently noticed in form of bonded labourers. Sudden increase in numbers of children, men and women for slavery purpose and forced labour including their sexual exploitation on a large scale is a big concern for South Asia as well as whole world. Gender-based variances play important role in supply and demand for trafficking of women and children. The most venerable group for trafficking is children and women, due to their weak attitude they are easy targets for household works, cheap labour and sexual exploitation. The worst form of trafficking is illegal movement of children and women for all purposes like sexual abuse, forced labour, slavery and child labour of each level.

Responsible factors for trafficking

Push Factor: the factors which push persons to leave their home, society and country are known as push factors. In South Asia there are many push factors like poverty, hunger, unemployment, low living standard, human and natural disasters, gender discrimination and low wages for a long working hour. These factors push persons to migrate from one region to other and also from one country to another which further lead towards trafficking on a large scale. Governance factor also play major role in trafficking because certain government schemes which does not reach to poor people’s leads their migration in search of better opportunities and facilities.

Pull Factor

factors which draw attention of persons to come in a nation in order to improve their livelihood is known as pull factor. There are many pull factors like good surrounding, better living standard, nice health facilities, high standard education, gender equality, employment opportunities and many more. The pull factors attract persons towards them

because everyone in this world want better facilities for their development. The image made by media and stories of migrant people give ill information to other persons and attract them towards other nations in search of better facilities. The demand of forced and cheap labour adds one more reason for migration and trafficking. The young and energetic children and women are at high risk. On the name of marriages where sex ratio is low women are at high risk. Trafficking can never be justified at any cost, it only leaves negative residue in form of social, economic and medical. As Coomarswamy said- “traffickers’ fish in the stream of migration and can easily identify needy and poor people who can become easy targets for them. On name of employment, money, better living standard, traffickers attract needy persons to move from one place to other. In order to reduce and end this kind of ill practice as soon as possible the pull and push factors need to be noticed and there is also need to find better solutions to solve this issue.

Risks and Vulnerability of trafficking

Types of Risks	Vulnerable Group and reason of risks
Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streat children without guarding • Young girls • Beggars • Childs from alcoholic family • Traumatized children from war crisis • Widowed, divorced and left women as single parent • Rape victims, migrated women and domestic violence victims
Economic Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment and lack of better job opportunities for a long time • Hard labour and low wage • Many dependents on a single earner • Economic shortage due to sudden disasters like pandemic • Debt on families for daughter marriage, dowry payment, health issues etc. • Difference in income in rural and urban areas. • Wage disparity on the basis of caste, religion, sex and age
Disasters: Natural and Man-made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden economic downfall due to pandemic like Covid 19 • Long term job loss due to drought, flood, cyclone and earthquakes
Social Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to limited oppourtunities women are seeing towards other areas for their betterment • Due to less respect women leave their society in order to make their own identity. • Continuous abuse and disrespect from husband • Once after migration, it is not possible for them to return their own society which leads to trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation
Government Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandoned children and women at the time of war crisis is also responsibility of government • High rates of goods • Corrupted schemes

Solutions

Approach of ADB to counter trafficking and migration in South Asia:

- Project benefits for short term for all members of community specially women so that in search of livelihood their children will not be trafficked.
- Providing loans for projects which are supported by ADB.
- Providing apprentice training to young women and children so that they can easily earn their livelihood without being trafficked for bonded labour and sexual exploitation.
- Resettlement of effected children from working sites, construction sites and roads who are without guardians and most vulnerable for traffickers.

Other important projects

- In small towns development of urban projects in order to help needy persons.
- In known trafficking area starting poverty alleviation projects.
- Short and long-scale infrastructural developmental projects for migrated persons.
- Resettlement projects for trafficked rescued persons, so that these rescued persons will not go again in marsh of trafficking.
- Projects related to women empowerment for protection of rape victims, forced labours, widowed, single parent and divorced.
- Non-governmental organisations.
- Regional and international cooperation.

Conclusion

human trafficking is one of the major issues faced by nations of whole world which threaten their national integrity and peace. It is an organised crime which focusses on low-class needy persons who can be easily trafficked. Poverty and unemployment are major factors responsible for human trafficking. Due to demographic structure and under developing areas within South Asia traffickers think this place as their heaven. In search of hope and better livelihood people specially women and children become easy target of traffickers for cheap labours, house hold works which most of the time leads to sexual exploitation. Although, governments of every nation are working to counter this inhuman issue but it is also our responsibility to help poor and needy persons around us so that they do not become trafficker's easy targets.

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