

# Characteristics of Victims of Trafficking in Persons and Determinants of Police Reports of Victims in ASEAN Countries

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**Abstract** – Trafficking in persons is a complicated crime with various characteristics of criminals, victims, and law enforcement. Scholars and practitioners addressing the subject of trafficking in persons must consider specific characteristics of traffickers, vulnerability of victims, and their unique relationships with authority. Additionally, there is an urgent necessity to investigate determinants of police reports of victims because most victims of trafficking are fearful of filing a report. This article explores and analyses characteristics of victims of trafficking in persons and willingness of filing a police report about their victimization in ASEAN countries. By using 128 trafficking data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), this study examines which characteristics of victims have increased their vulnerability to trafficking and how key elements of trafficking including protective factors and risk factors are associated with attitudes of police filing reports of victims in ASEAN countries. Results based on descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis demonstrated that approximately 50% percent of victims were younger than age 20 and there is a statistical relationship between family recognition of initial contact with traffickers and police report behaviour. Logistic regression analysis revealed that family awareness was a statistically significant factor associated with police report behaviour. Further policy implications concerning effective strategies for encouraging victims to report their criminal victimization of trafficking will be discussed.

**Keywords** –ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), Police reports, Protective factors, Risk factors, Trafficking in person

## INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a deeply disturbing international phenomenon with serious abuse and exploitation towards the most vulnerable individuals [1]. Given the significance of the issue and its profoundly devastating impact on individual victims and economic development of countries, comprehensive approaches for combating trafficking in persons have been implemented, requiring the commitment of public and private sectors in ASEAN countries [2], [3]. More significantly, Southeast Asian regions are often perceived as the most notorious for human trafficking and hubs of trafficking in persons, particularly for committing rampant sexual exploitation [4]. It is understandable as to why Southeast Asia is negatively portrayed because of increased numbers of horrific occurrences of illegal and

elicit child migration and sexual exploitation towards young girls [1],[4]. However, basic characteristics of TIP victims and essential determinant factors linked with willingness of filing a police report across ASEAN countries have not been fully examined.

Victims of trafficking in persons are usually reluctant to reveal their victimization in seeking help informally or filing a report officially with the police [2], [4]. In the mechanism and process of being trafficked, many victims are more likely to engage in criminal activities consciously or subconsciously such as document forgery, prostitution, and substance abuse [5]. Consent of victims about working in the sex industry sometimes has been considered in mitigating sentencing elements of traffickers in several cases [6]. Thus, victims of trafficking in persons are more likely

to be hesitant and diffident in reporting their victimization experience [7].

In this context, it is crucial to encourage victims of trafficking in persons to file a report about their victimization and it may be the first milestone in identifying potential victims and engaging in effective anti-trafficking initiatives and trafficking prevention strategies by reducing the numbers of such insidious crimes in ASEAN countries. Accordingly, this article examines how attitudes of victims in filing police reports are linked with protective factors and risk factors of trafficking in persons in ASEAN countries.

An increasingly deeply-rooted convention of conducting studies regarding trafficking in persons in ASEAN countries has been using qualitative studies and narrative descriptions about specific cases of trafficking in persons [1], [8]. Although numerous studies regarding trafficking in persons include information on origin, transit, and destinations of trafficking from perspectives of subjective experiences of victims and descriptions of their voice, it is difficult to deduce general statements and evidence-based anti-trafficking strategies with in-depth interview-based case studies [9], [10]. Due to the lack of quantitative study evaluation and limited access to practical data sets of trafficking in persons, it has been challenging for scholars and advocates seeking to combat trafficking to initiate broad-spectrum prevention approaches that may be applied to overall ASEAN countries [11]. In this sense, this study uses 128 trafficking cases that UNODC has collected for increasing awareness of TIP and suggesting systematic schemes in preventing trafficking in ASEAN countries. Although ten ASEAN countries have agreed on the provision of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), signed by ASEAN Leaders in November 2015, characteristics of TIP victims and understanding the mechanism of trafficking victimization experience have not sufficiently tested and analysed.

In this context, this study focuses on identifying vulnerability of victims highlighting demographic characteristics and behaviour of victims and interaction with perpetrators. In particular, this study uses a criminal profiling theory to deduce key demographic factors of victims of trafficking in persons, situational elements, and key aspects of victim-offender relationships.

## **Significance of Identifying Key Relevant Factors of Tip**

Identifying a victim of trafficking in persons is rarely determined by one certain reason but rather by a mixture of circumstances resulting in trafficking victimization [12]. There are possible extract valuable findings regarding significant factors based on practitioners' opinions and observation of individual trafficking cases: Individual, family-related, socioeconomic and structural factors [11], [12], [13]. Interaction among those four risk factors possibly will be related with trafficking in persons.

*Individual factor* involves one's characteristics such as level of education, age, gender, nationality, physical appearance and even involves one's cognitive or emotional condition [14]. Victims' propensity for taking risks could be another determinant of increasing likelihood of becoming a victim of trafficking. Individual factors demonstrate two main characteristics that are (1) history of physical, psychological and/or sexual abuse, and (2) a low level of awareness of risks [12]. Awareness of risk is often related to age, educational level and learning disabilities. The younger the age and the lower the level of education, the greater the risk of being trafficked. It is related to the relationship between victim and offender. If there is close relationship between the victim and perpetrator, the victim is more likely to have low awareness of risk and less likely to contact the police [11], [14], [16]. It should be noted that history of abuse and level of awareness are associated with each other as victims that have been abused may consider a trafficking situation normal, and therefore not perceive it as a risk [12]. History of sexual and physical abuse, predominantly, before trafficking was considered a relevant factor in cases of sexual exploitation of girls as victims did not perceive the situation as abnormal. Especially, if the abuser a family member, victims are highly likely to become a victim of sexual trafficking [16].

*Family-related factor* is another factor that determines the victim of trafficking. Family structure and stability, relationship and trust level between parents and children, as well as economic status (living conditions) of the family are critical determinants of risk and vulnerability factors of trafficking [12], [17]. Family breakdown is a strong risk factor of child trafficking as it is often associated with a poor family relationship and low trust level between parents and children [18]. This often results in neglect and/or lack of parental monitoring. Despite children in a dangerous situation such as trafficking or forced labor, parents are

unlikely to intervene (report to the police or other law enforcement officials) without recognizing the seriousness of the incident. This may influence children's emotional disorder (which is an individual factor) [12], [14], [19]. Unstable family conditions have been identified as a risk factor by many professionals but not all single parent families or broken families are risk factors as long as it is connected with economic stability and parental care. [1], [20]. Children from larger families with many siblings may have high risk of being trafficked because of they may suffer from poverty and thus children may be forced to work for the family. Consequently, unstable family status, poor relationship between family members and poor economic status of a family are often related to trafficking [12], [16].

*Socioeconomic factor* is a vital aspect related to the odds of trafficking victimization [12]. Social exclusion and marginalization are the most significant risk factors related to trafficking [21]. Marginalization is often linked to discrimination, isolation, poverty and lack of employment (economic opportunities) [22]. This may lead individuals with risk-taking propensity to avoid the situation one is facing because of a strong connection with family factors such as material deprivation and family breakdown [12], [14]. In addition to that, cultures and traditional practices of some countries in Southeast Asia accept children trafficking for begging or forced labor [1], [23]. The unstable economic status of certain Southeast Asia countries has culturally tolerated labor exploitation toward children by acquiescing in trafficking in person to beg for family income, or even send them abroad to earn money for the family [2], [10], [14]. As such, some researchers argued that ethnicity is one of the strongest factors that impacts on trafficking but has been rejected by many different researchers which believed discrimination, social exclusion, and poor socioeconomic status are key factors associated with the risk of being trafficked [24], [25], [26]. UNODC's report supports that low socio-economic status forced women and children to work overseas [27], [28].

*Structural factor* includes social attitudes towards gender inequality, gender stereotypes, child abuse, violence and discrimination [12], [21]. When general culture in society accepts discrimination, violence, abuse as normal, it may impact on sentencing level of trafficking in person [13], [22]. According to the Deterrence Theory, criminal/deviant behavior will be prevented or controlled by punishment as criminals estimate potential costs and benefits of the

behavior/situation [5]. Those positive social attitudes towards factors affecting trafficking may affect sentences (verdicts) for criminal behavior [26], [27]. Consequently, human traffickers that make reasonable and rational choices are unlikely to be controlled or prevented properly under punishment without severity, certainty and celerity [13]. Additionally, positive social attitudes will impact on family-related risk factors and individual risk factors and therefore will increase the odds of trafficking [4]. For example, Nigerian society accepts prostitution, sexual exploitation and abuse against women and therefore, many girls from Nigeria were trafficked to Ireland for sexual exploitation [4]. Therefore, cultures with higher level of tolerance on violence against women and children fuel sexual exploitation and child labor. [21], [29]. Analyses of four risk factors revealed that trafficking in persons are rarely influenced by one factor but victims are usually exposed to combination of various factors and circumstances mentioned above [23], [27], [30].

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of the study is to investigate certain demographic characteristics of victims and offenders of trafficking in persons by using the background of profiling theory in ASEAN countries. Additionally, this study identifies central factors related to the behavior of police reports of victims trafficked in ASEAN countries.

To achieve the two objectives of research, this study depends on quantitative data to demonstrate fundamental characteristics of victims of TIP and investigate crucial factors of increasing the odds of filing a report.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Profiling is mainly conducted through information analysis of crime scenes [16]. It is possible through investigating typology and systematization of the offender's demographic characteristics and decision-making procedure [6]. From the offenders' perspective, understanding the victim's characteristics and/or external environments are critical factors in profiling a criminal case [3]. It is necessary to structure the crime and characteristics of the victim/offender as a model from the offender's perception.

Through in-depth interviews with sex offenders, Beauregard, Rossmo, & Proulx (2007) proposed eight-action phases of rational choice called "Rational Choice Heuristic" [2]. This procedure explains how criminals attract victims and how they commit crimes through

reasonable procedure. Conversely, Fossi, Clarke and Lawrence (2005) suggested much simple four overlapping and related action phases that include: (1) search, (2) selection, (3) approach, and (4) assault. They posit that certain decisions of the offender in each stage are highly likely to reveal the perpetrator's characteristics [15]. A recent study conducted by Goodwill and his colleagues (2016) also proposes the same four action phases of decision-making on interpersonal crime [3], [17]: (1) search, (2) selection, (3) approach, and (4) assault. The decision is highly influenced by situational context (e.g. external environment, victim's resistance) but will be determined by the offender's characteristics [6]. This study will follow recent four action phases that Goodwill and his colleagues (2016) used for offender profiling.

Not all offenders commit crimes without circumstantial consideration and/or vulnerability of the victim to satisfy their momentary impulse, but most of them are committing a crime with a rational thinking mechanism [2]. Offenders will decide whether to commit a crime by weighing the effort, cost, energy and time they must devote to their criminal activities as well as likelihood of being arrested, likelihood of the victim filing a report with the police, and etc. [2], [9]. Consequently, the series of thought procedures of criminal decision-making, is a crucial framework for judging environments and circumstances of crimes as well as basic information (propensity, cognition, expectation, and personality) on each offender [17], [22].

First, before the offender selects and/or approaches an appropriate victim, they must "search" a potential victim [17]. Specifically, it is a reasonable thinking stage as to what place (including geo-spatial hunting patterns or movement) is the most appropriate to choose the victim to increase the possibility of crime [6]. Result from the Beauregard, Rossmo and Proulx (2007) revealed that 57% of offenders prefer specific places to search for victims [2]. The "specific place" is an easy place (including park, shopping malls and streets) to find attractive targets, to engage them, and estimate their vulnerability [3]. Depends on the offender's characteristics, they reveal different types of searching activities. While some actively search a target close to where they live (Hunters), others search for victims from further distances, traveling to another place, city, or even county (Poachers). Trollers are not active on searching for victims and therefore, crime happens more opportunistically. Trappers prefer

effortless places where they can always visit and get accustomed to, such as a street or park or even a work place is the easiest way to hunt an "attractive victim" without much effort [2], [6], [17]. Therefore, to profile human trafficking offenders' characteristics, it is critical to focus on 'nationalities' of offenders and victims if traffickers send victims to overseas.

Second, choosing an appropriate victim from multiple sources in the crime target stage is called "Selection" of a victim. The key point here is to reasonably judge the easiest and lowest-risk opportunity to commit a crime. According to the rational choice theory, offenders must make a choice on selecting an attractive target most likely to be accessible (vulnerable), and most likely not to report to the police [7], [25]. In this choice, offenders reasonably think based on circumstances and reaction of the victim [6]. According to the Beauregard, Rossmo and Proulx (2007) sex offenders profiling study, there are seven key factors related to victim selection [2]. Location and availability of the victim were the most important factors (45%). An offender chose certain victims because victims "were alone and no one was around to defend them" [6]. Offenders considered an 'isolated' and 'alone' female as an attractive target for committing a crime. Goodwill and his colleagues study on sex offender profiling, physical appearance of the victim, victim's vulnerability, gender, age, personality, and behavioral characteristics are significant factors in selection of victims [17]. When a trafficker selects a victim, they will reasonably think on circumstances of the victim (unstable family structure, socio-economic status, etc.) as well as their reaction and vulnerability [24], [29]

Third, once the offender has searched and selected a victim, they need to engage in a strategy that is a naturally "approach" to the success of the crime. According to offenders' level of experience, motivation and victim searching characteristics, they make different decisions on approaching victims [17]. Conversely, Beauregard and his colleagues' study (2007) on in-depth interview with sex offenders revealed that the most sex offenders approached victims through trick/false identity approach (48%) [2]. Offenders mentioned trick/false identity method used to gain a victim's trust and get close to them. Those that like to approach a victim with trick false identity, often provide money and/or gifts to victims to build trust. Conversely, 25% of offenders used violence to frighten the victim from the beginning and prevent them from escaping and resisting. Even if the former approach

method requires time and energy for crime opportunities, it has relatively higher odds of success. However, the latter approach method has the advantage that occurs in a short time but it is highly likely to be detected by others or the police [6].

Fourth, and finally, "Assault" includes the most violent and cruel way among the phases and therefore plays a significant role in profiling offenders [2], [6], [17]. This phase includes assault methodologies as well as choice of attack location, bringing victims to crime sites and so on. Sometimes a crime is committed immediately where the victims are, and sometimes the victim are moved to an appropriate place (e.g. isolated area) to prevent being watched or disturbed by a witness or witnesses.

There are offenders that do not consider locations or bring victims to certain crime sites as they commit crimes without preparation (opportunistic crime) [22]. Therefore, it is difficult to explain the methods as one mechanism [2], [6], [17]. While searching for the victim and attracting vulnerable victims to the crime scene may not be perceived as a crime, once offenders are at the stage of committing a crime, they are highly likely to act in a more cruel and aggressive manner.

Results from Beauregard and his colleagues' study (2007) revealed there are different types of offending but only a minority of offenders reported avoiding using violence and not scaring victims by giving them gifts or initiating subtle persuasion. Most offenders rely on the violent methods (25%). Additionally, 52% of offenders resorted to physical violence to commit crimes when victims were older [2]. Despite trafficking women for sexual exploitation has been the most detected crime since UNODC has been collecting data regarding wide range of trafficking in persons cases, numerous different categories of trafficking exist and duration of victimization is different [27], [28].

## METHODS

### Data

Data for this study is from the UNODC's (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal [27]. The Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal is an initiative to facilitate dissemination of information regarding implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and specifically the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children [28].

The data for the present study have been collected from the Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal which was built in 2011. The UNODC has developed a set of database of human trafficking case law from 2011 to 2016 to offer the information about details on the nationalities of victims, perpetrators and other key variables of trafficking cases from around the world. The current study utilized the data of UNODC and selected key variables of ASEAN countries from total raw data sets by using SPSS statistical package program from June 2017 to August 2017.

This portal hosts a Case Law Database on officially documented incidences of crimes related to trafficking in persons. The database provides 97 countries' human trafficking cases, and comprises detailed information on victims and offenders, trafficking routes, verdicts and other information related to prosecuted cases [28]. This study covers 128 cases of ASEAN member states. However, Brunei, Laos, and Myanmar did not provide cases from the portal, we analysed cases of the other 7 countries. We investigate each case and categorize variables for this study and coded variables based on what is "clearly" described in the portal. If the content is not explicitly described in the portal, we have labelled it "Unknown"

### Variables

*Victim Characteristic* indicates gender, age and numbers of victims. If there are several victims in the incident, age means the age of the youngest victim. In the portal, victim's gender information provided three types: male, female, and child. However, the current study dichotomized the gender variable as male and female.

*Victim-Perpetrator Nationality* shows the nationality of the victim and the offender, and indicates whether the victim's nationality matches the offender's nationality.

*Family Awareness* indicates whether the victim's family has recognized the existence of potential traffickers through discussion with the victim. In cases provided in the portal, if the victims shared information regarding new jobs that traffickers had suggested with their family members before they get trafficked, or when the family had maintained stable relationships with the victims leading them to ask the police to find the victim whose communication had been disrupted, are coded as "Yes". All other cases in which the recognition of the family is unclear are coded as "Unknown" or "No."

*Job Search* indicates whether the victim was willing to seek employment. If he or she wanted to seek employment abroad, it is coded as “Overseas” and was coded as “Domestic” if he or she intended to seek employment domestically. However, it does not mean that the victim had knowledge and yet volunteered for the job opportunity entailing sexual labour or organ trafficking. Victims understood and volunteered with the perception that such opportunities were general recruitment, but were deceived when their passports were confiscated or they were detained in the process of traveling abroad.

*Monetary Relationship* indicates whether there was a monetary relationship between the victim and the offender. It means that the victim received payment or acquired a loan from the offender or accomplice during the duration of trafficking. If the victim received payment of labour regardless of the amount of payment, or the victim was forced to repay a loan, it is coded “Yes”.

*Type of Trafficking* is divided into sexual exploitation, forced labour, and organ trafficking. If the type information is not clearly stated in the portal, it is coded as “Unknown”.

*Duration of Trafficking* indicates how long the victim has been trafficked. If the information about the duration of trafficking is not clearly mentioned in the portal, it is coded as “Unknown”.

*Numbers of Offenders* represents the number of offenders charged for trafficking in an incident.

*Guilty or Not Guilty* indicates whether the offender was guilty or not guilty. In cases where there are multiple offenders in an incident, if all of them are convicted, it is coded as “Guilty”. If only some of them are convicted, it is coded as “Partly Guilty”.

*Fine* indicates whether the offender was fined. If there is no fine, it is coded as “None”, and if there is a fine, it is entered based on the USD information provided in the portal instead of the national currency unit.

*Term of Imprisonment* indicates the convicted offender’s term of imprisonment.

*The Period from the Occurrence to the Verdict* was calculated based on the “Year of Occurrence of the Incident” and “Sentence Date” information in the portal and it represents the period from the occurrence of the incident to the verdict.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents results of an exploratory analysis of UNODC data based on the two core theories

discussed in literature review. However, the UNODC data do not precisely agree with elements of the theory, so we have looked at the most similar variables to the core concepts covered in the theory.

**An Action Phase Approach**

According to the recent study of Goodwill and his colleagues (2016), action phase is composed of four phases: Search, Selection, Approach, and Assault [17].

**Action Phase 1: Search**

Table 1. Nationality of Victim and Perpetrator

Nationality	Number	Percent (%)
<b>Victim’s Nationality</b>		
Philippines	54	42.2
Indonesia	13	10.2
Vietnam	8	6.3
Thailand	5	3.9
Myanmar	5	3.9
Cambodia	5	3.9
Laos	2	1.6
China	2	1.6
Malaysia	1	0.8
India	1	0.8
Unknown	32	25.0
<b>Perpetrator’s Nationality</b>		
Philippines	43	33.6
Thailand	10	7.8
Indonesia	7	5.5
Vietnam	6	4.7
Cambodia	4	3.1
China	2	1.6
Malaysia	2	1.6
Myanmar	1	0.8
Singapore	1	0.8
Unknown	52	40.6
<b>Victim–Perpetrator Nationality</b>		
Same nationality	68	53.0
Different nationality	28	21.9
Unknown	32	25.0

Source: This table is made based on the data of Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal from UNODC (<https://www.unodc.org/cld/en/v3/htms/index.html>)

“Search” is the first phase of an action phase and it means the offender’s behavior searching for a victim in specific place. In human trafficking cases, offender’s target searching stage can be divided into two parts: finding the target in their own country and finding the target in other countries. Each case has the advantage that it is easy to approach the target or avoid

investigation of the police or other investigative agencies. In this respect, we examined the nationality of victims and offenders, and results are as follows. Of the 94 victims whose nationality was confirmed, 54 were Filipino (42.2%), 13 were Indonesian (10.2%), and 8 were Vietnamese (6.3%). Similarly, of the 76 offenders, 43 were Filipino (33.6%), 10 were Thai (7.8%), and 7 were Indonesian (5.5%). In the 53% of the whole cases, victims were of the same nationality with the offender, and 21.9% was different.

**Action Phase 2: Selection**

The second phase, “Selection”, means that the offender chooses the victim that is the most attractive, vulnerable, and accessible target.

Table 2. Characteristics of TIP Victims

Victim characteristic	Number	Percent (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	14	10.9
Female	86	67.2
Unknown	26	20.9
<b>Age</b>		
9 or younger	5	3.9
10-19	63	49.2
20-29	18	14.1
30 or older	1	0.8
Unknown	41	32.0
<b>Numbers of Victims</b>		
1	41	32.0
2-3	33	25.8
4-5	23	18.0
6-9	13	10.1
10 or more	16	12.5
Unknown	2	1.6

According to rational choice theory, the offender considers victim’s gender, age, personality, behavioral characteristics, etc. In this view, the most appropriate variables for this second phase are victim characteristics and job search variable. Victim characteristic indicates the gender, age, and the numbers of the victim. Job search indicates that whether or not the victim was looking for a job at that time. To the offender, the victim that wants a job could be the more attractive target because the offender could approach the victim more easily using job offering and provide relevant information about employment. Most human trafficking victims were female (67.2%), while

10.9% were male. Including children under age 9(3.9%), more than half of victims were younger than age 20 (53.1%) and more than one-third of the victims were alone when they were trafficked by the offender.

**Job Search.**

Of the total 128 victims, 75 percent were seeking employment opportunities. 47.7 percent of victims wanted to seek a domestic job opportunity, and 27.3 percent wanted to work abroad.

Table 3. Job Search of Overseas or Domestic of Victims

Job Search	Number	Percent (%)
Overseas	35	27.3
Domestic	61	47.7
Unknown	32	25.0

**Action Phase 3: Approach**

The third phase “Approach”, is a strategy in which the offender approaches the victim. According to Beuregard and his colleagues (2007) that conducted in-depth interviews with sex offenders, they often gave money or gifts to gain the victim’s trust, and used violence to frighten the victim [2]. The most appropriate variable for this explanation is the monetary relationship and this indicates if there was a monetary relationship between the victim and the offender. It means that the victim received payment regardless of the amount of payment, or acquired a loan from the offender or accomplice during the duration of trafficking. This relationship is established through coercion or agreement, but we could not clearly distinguish it from the data of UNODC Human Trafficking Knowledge portal.

Table 4. Monetary Relationship with Offenders

Monetary Relationship	Number	Percent (%)
Yes	32	25.0
No	29	22.7
Unknown	67	52.3

The monetary relationship, regardless it is payment or a loan, between the victim and the offender can make it difficult for the victim to escape from the offender or to file a report with the police. In this variable, more than half of the cases were coded as “Unknown” because we could not obtain clear information about this in the portal. However, we found

out that at least 25% of the victims had monetary relationships with the offenders.

**Action Phase 4: Assault**

“Assault” is the last phase of an action phase and it reveals crime characteristics such as where and how the offender attacks the victim. According to prior research, this is a different type of offending, so it is difficult to explain as one mechanism [2], [6]. In this perspective, we examine characteristics of crime through the type of trafficking, duration of trafficking, and the numbers of offenders

Table 5. Characteristics of TIP and Perpetrators

Crime characteristic	Number	Percent (%)
<b>Type of Trafficking</b>		
Sexual Exploitation	98	76.6
Forced Labour	16	12.5
Organ Trafficking	1	0.8
Unknown	13	10.2
<b>Duration of Trafficking</b>		
1 Month or less	20	15.6
2-6 Months	15	11.7
7-12 Months	7	5.5
1 Year or more	6	4.7
Unknown	80	62.5
<b>Numbers of Perpetrators</b>		
1	69	53.9
2	28	21.9
3	15	11.7
4	10	7.8
5 or more	6	4.7

The most frequent trafficking types in 128 cases were sexual exploitation (76.6%), and followed by forced labor (12.5%). “Duration of Trafficking”, most cases could not obtain information about this in the portal. In cases that confirmed the information, trafficking in less than a month were 15.6% of the total, and 11.7% of victims were trafficked for 2-6 months. The number of victims that suffered from long-term trafficking more than a year reached 4.7%. The most common case was one offender (53.9%) and cases in which three or more offenders committed organized crimes reached 24.2%.

**Risk Factor on Human Trafficking**

The risk factor means the four main factors based on practitioners’ opinions and observation of individual trafficking cases and is comprised of the following factors: individual factor, family-related factor, socioeconomic factor, and structural factor

[12]. Human trafficking could be caused through interaction among those four risk factors.

**Individual factor**

This involves one’s characteristic such as gender, age, level of education, and nationality. According to risk factor analysis, the younger the age and the lower the level of education, the greater the risk of being trafficked. In this view, victim characteristic and nationality could be explained through the individual element, but those two variables were explained through action phase theory as well. In the UNODC data, most victims are Filipino (Nationality), female (Gender), and younger than age 20 (Age).

**Family-related factor**

Family-related factor is a key factor that determines the victim of trafficking. If the family structure is not stable and there is no stable relationship between family members, the family will not be aware of the seriousness of the incident and would not report it to the police, even though the victim is in a situation such as sexual exploitation or forced labor. The most appropriate variable for this explanation is the family awareness and this indicates whether the victim’s family has recognized the first contact with offenders and potential pathway of becoming involved with the traffickers. Like other variables, family awareness was difficult to obtain in the portal, but 21.9% of the total cases clearly stated that victims’ families were aware of the details and contents of the contract that victims had made with offenders and accommodation addresses of victims before they were trafficked. Due to the problem of numerous missing values for family-related factor in the original data sets, this study replaced the missing value with additional substituted values by using regression imputation technique. Unlike mean imputation method, regression imputation technique does not cause bias and attenuation of correlation among variables and offers the more appropriate strategy for multivariate analysis.

Table 6. Family Awareness of Contract with Perpetrators

Family Awareness	Number	Percent (%)
Yes	28	21.9
No or Unknown	100	78.1

**Socioeconomic factor**



It is the most critical risk factors related to human trafficking and is linked to economic status such as lack of employment, poverty, and unstable economic circumstances. According to the UNODC’s report (2016), the low socio-economic status made women and children work abroad. Job search variables, discussed above through the action phase, are closely related to this factor [27]. As a result of the analysis, 75% of the cases revealed that the victims wanted a job.

**Structural factor.**

This includes social attitude towards gender inequality, child abuse, violence, and discrimination [12], and this social attitude about those things could impact on the sentencing. According to the Deterrence Theory and Rational Choice Theory, certainty, severity, and celerity of punishment is related to criminal behavior because of the offender weighing potential costs and benefits of the behavior [5]. In this point of view, verdict variables are most appropriate variables that could be explained in this structural factor.

It is composed of four variables; *Guilty or Not Guilty, Fine, Term of Imprisonment, and the Period from the Occurrence to the Verdict*. Among 128 cases, 97.6% of offenders were found guilty or partly guilty and 82% were fined. In most cases, the offender convicted was sentenced to imprisonment and fined simultaneously. Looking at the period of imprisonment, most cases were sentenced to 100 years (39.1%), followed by those sentenced to 10 years or less (28.9%), and those sentenced to 11-20 years (18.0%). Approximately 30% of the total cases took 1-3 years from the time the case occurred until its ruling, and 27.3% took 4-6 years.

Chi-square analysis demonstrated that there is statistical relationship between family recognition and behavior of victims filing police reports ( $X^2= 32.640$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). The chi-square analysis can be employed to identify the relationship of dependence, instead of assessing cause and effect relationship of the two variables. More generally, we can make a general statement that the two nominal variables have tendency to move together when the two variables are dependent. In terms of policy perspective, this result indicates that the family awareness about being trafficked or deceived by perpetrators is highly associated with the odds of filing a report of victims to police. Although the causality is not clear yet, we can speculate that victim might more easily come forward to police or NGO for help if traffickers are no anonymous threat toward their family members.

When we look at the crosstab table, 84.6% of victims with family recognition have filed a report with law enforcement.

Table 7. Punishment and Sentencing of TIP

Verdict	Number	Percent (%)
<b>Guilty or Not Guilty</b>		
Not Guilty	2	1.6
Guilty	116	90.6
Partly guilty	9	7.0
Unknown	1	0.8
<b>Fine</b>		
None	21	16.4
10,000 USD or less	23	18.0
10,001-50,000 USD	70	54.7
50,001-100,000 USD	10	7.8
100,001-500,000 USD	2	1.6
Unknown	2	1.6
<b>Term of Imprisonment</b>		
10 Years or less	37	28.9
11-20 Years	23	18.0
21-30 Years	2	1.6
31-40 Years	2	1.6
41-50 Years	2	1.6
100 Years	50	39.1
Unknown	12	9.4
<b>The period from the verdict</b>		
Under 1 Year	12	9.4
1-3 Years	39	30.5
4-6 Years	35	27.3
7-9 Years	6	4.7
Unknown	36	28.1

Table 8. Relations with Family Recognition and Police Report of Victims (Chi-Square Analysis)

			Family Recognition	
Report to Police			no	yes
			no	frequency
		%	75.7%	15.4%
yes	frequency		25	22
		%	24.3%	<b>84.6%</b>
<i>total</i>		frequency	103	26
$X^2$			32.640*** $p<0.05$	

Additionally, logistic regression analysis revealed that the model was statistically significant in explaining the behavior of filing a police report. The model power of explaining the variance of filing a police report was approximately 39.2% (Nagelkerke  $R^2 = 0.392$ ). Two protective factors (adult and family recognition) were

statistically significant factors that can count for odds of filing a report with police (beta values for each beta = 1.470\*, beta = 2.817\*\*\*) when other variables are controlled. Adult victims are more likely to increase the likelihood of reporting their trafficking victimization to police when other variables are constant, compared to victims that are minors. Family recognition is more likely to increase the odds of reporting to law enforcement when other variables are constant. Special concern for children and youth are needed in combating TIP in ASEAN countries.

Table 9. Key Factors Associated with Police Reports of Victims (Logistic Regression Analysis)

categories	variables	B	S.E.	sig
<b>Demographic Factors</b>	Type of Victim(Labor Exploitation)	-.178	.763	.816
	Gender of Victims(Female)	.673	.985	.494
<b>Protective Factors</b>	Age(Adult)	<b>1.470*</b>	.657	.025
	Family Recognition	<b>2.817***</b>	.618	.000
<b>Risk Factors</b>	The Number of Total Traffickers	.170	.164	.300
	Passport Forgery	1.853	1.067	.083
<i>constant</i>		-2.841	2.583	.271
<i>-2 Log Likelihood</i>		125.005		
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>		0.287(Cox & Snell)		
		0.392(Nagelkerke), p<0.05		

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Trafficking in people is a serious global as well as regional matter. ASEAN countries must initiate more comprehensive and systematic assessments to inspect current measures in combating trafficking in persons. Within the guidelines of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, ASEAN countries must analyse quantitative data to obtain more comprehensive profiles of victims, offenders, and punishment aspects, although data collection and access to practical data are tremendously challenging.

This study used 128 cases of trafficking collected by UNODC. This study used frameworks of crime profiling theory to investigate crucial features of trafficking in persons. Additionally, this study used two major elements of risk factors and protective factors highly associated with trafficking in persons in ASEAN countries. Two protective factors (adult and family

recognition) were statistically significant factors that can explain the possibility of filing a report with police.

Furthermore, criminal profiling theory demonstrated that vulnerable characteristics of victims (age, female, and family-related factors) are crucial elements that are associated with the willingness of filing a report to police about their TIP victimization. In many cases, relatively young victims may have more serious level of fear of being caught or arrested by law enforcement officers because the victims are more likely to be misinformed about their rights of being protected by government. Victims’ fear for detention or punishment may have contributed to the disinclination to cooperate with police and to report a file to authority.

Moreover, the vulnerability of victims may increase the level of fear for the safety of family members or someone known to victims. When some traffickers threaten to harm the family member of victims if victims report the victimization to police, the victims will be more hesitant or reluctant to seek for assistance when their family members do not know anything about the human trafficking victimization and the previous relationship with traffickers.

Therefore, we need to enable family members to maintain stable networks and relationships when there are potential risks of being victimized. It is imperative to initiate enhanced levels of prevention initiatives as well as an awareness movement towards relatively young workers because they are more vulnerable and hesitant in filing a report to law enforcement compared to adult workers.

However, in the results, no details on crime situational aspects have been included for Rational Choice Heuristics approach in the present study. The crime situational factors are of significance to identify relationship and opportunity onset of contact between victims and traffickers. In order to better present and portray the well-defined causality between the characteristics of TIP victims and determinants of filing a victimization to police, we must highlight the fact future analysis need to depend on wide ranges of quantitative data related to crime situational factors instead of only focusing on individual factors or family-related factors.

Additionally, it is necessary to critically evaluate, and continue to reassess how our current handling capacities and coping skills towards victims could be contributing to modifying the undesirable culture that exploits women and children in ASEAN countries. The Philippines and other ASEAN member countries must use systematic data crucial in identifying and reducing

risk factors, and identifying and increasing protective factors for combatting trafficking.

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