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Juvenile Trafficking: Glimpses of Kolkata

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Abstract

The third largest organized crime after drugs and the arms trade all over the world is human trafficking. According to the definition of the United Nations– “trafficking is any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or a position of vulnerability”. Close to 80% of the human trafficking across the world is done for sexual exploitation and the rest is for bonded labour and India is considered as the hub of this crime in Asia. As per the statistics of the government–in every eight minutes a child goes missing in our country. In 2011 about 35,000 children were reported missing and more than 11,000 out of these were from West Bengal. Further, it is assumed that only 30% of the total cases are reported, so the actual number is pretty high. In this paper an attempt has been made to uncover the sides of juvenile trafficking which is major type of human trafficking in Kolkata.

Key Words: *Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation, Bonded Labour, Crime, Juvenile Trafficking.*

Introduction: Human trafficking is one of the major problems in India. However, no concrete study has been conducted so far to determine the exact number of trafficked kids in India. The New York Times has reported on the widespread problem of human trafficking in India. It is stated that young girls are trafficked from neighbouring Nepal to India. In another article published in The Times of India–Karnataka is the third state in India for human trafficking. Other South Indian states are also the most sought after destinations for human trafficking. Every year more than 300 such cases are reported in each of the four south Indian states. Whereas West Bengal and Bihar, on an average have 100 such cases each year. As per the data, more than half of the human trafficking cases are from these states. According to the latest report on human trafficking by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reveals that Tamil Nadu has 528 such cases of human trafficking in 2012.. Recently 300 bonded labourers in Bangalore have been rescued Child Trafficking or Juvenile Trafficking according to UNICEF is stated as “any person under 18 who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purpose of exploitation, either within or outside a country”. There has been many instances where children disappear overnight as many as one in every eight minutes as per records of National Crime Records.

In India, there is a large number of children trafficked for various reasons such as labour, begging, and sexual exploitation. Because of the nature of this crime; it is hard to track; therefore making it impossible to have exact figures regarding this issue. India is a prime area for child trafficking to occur, as many of those trafficked are from, travel through or destined to go to India. Though most of the trafficking occurs within the country, there is also a significant number of children trafficked from Nepal and Bangladesh

Objectives: Trafficking is a crime, which is intercepted in the blood vessels of the traffickers and the other people engaged in this, so though police is there and the Government is doing its role, without the appraisal of the mass only the police or the Government may find it very difficult to swipe out this social disease from country. So the work seeks for the kind attention and awareness of the mass so with the help of them police can uproot the sin from the country, so if a single man feels to think about the hellish conditions of the trafficked girls after reading this, the work would get its reward.

Methodology: Like any other survey collection of data and representation of them was the ultimate to be done in the case of this work. But being sensitive social issue primary surveys were almost impossible to be done because the access to talk to the victims was not given. So the data, collected from Police and NGOs were the only medium to embody the work after getting collected they were represented and analyzed to complete the dissertation work.

Study Area: Kolkata was chosen as the study area to do this work. Having four red light districts and many brothels within its boundary Kolkata takes part in trafficking as destination area for the traffickers besides it also acts as transit area too. Being a sensitive urban issue it does not give the allowances to get all the information about it very easily. The biggest problem to be faced can be the discussion with the victims is not permitted. Besides thinking of its sensitivity Police and NGOs do not open their hands fully to supply information. Another problem can be found that in red light areas a girl, trafficked once hardly admires it and in the red led district environment they can hardly open their lips up against the pimps and hardly any pimp can be found allowing the girls to tell about their hellish condition to the outsiders.

Types and Forms of human trafficking: The 3rd organized crime in the world takes place in various forms to solve various purposes like:

1. Trafficking in Women for sexual exploitation
2. Trafficking for forced labour
3. Commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism
4. Trafficking in Organs

Trafficking in World: Human trafficking is found to take place in the countries like:

- USA(Transit and destination)
- Costa Rica(source , transit and destination)

- South Africa(transit and destination)
- Thailand'(source ,transit , destination)
- India(source, transit, destination)

Trafficking in India: It is estimated that around 20-60 million Indians are suffering due to trafficking. Places in India where trafficking (mainly sex trafficking of girls)can be found are:

- Delhi
- Mumbai
- Goa
- Kolkata

The following are some facts about human trafficking in India:

1. Globally, almost 80% of the human trafficking is related to sexual exploitation, while the rest is bonded labour. And, India is allegedly the hub of these crimes in Asia.
2. As per data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2013, the maximum number of crimes (65.5%) committed in India were related to human trafficking and were registered under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956.
3. The same year, 31.1% of the crimes were registered under Procuration of Minor Girls (Indian Penal Code Section 366-A).
4. According to government data, every eighth minute, a child goes missing (read. trafficked) in India. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reveals almost 40,000 children are kidnapped yearly, out of which 11,000 could never be traced.
5. Illegal Procuration of Minor Girls for sexual exploitation and/or bonded labour rose drastically by 416% between 2009-13. It was 237 in 2009, while the number increased to 1224 in 2013.
6. The NCRB findings show West Bengal as the hub of human trafficking in India, followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Delhi is the transit point.
7. In 2011, pan-India, around 35,000 children reportedly went missing; out of whom, almost 11,000 were from West Bengal. In 2013, the number of human trafficking cases registered in India was 669.
8. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime states in 2012, 528 human trafficking cases were reported from Tamil Nadu.
9. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs data, between 2009-13, 1379 human trafficking cases were reported from Karnataka, 2,244 from Tamil Nadu and 2,157 from Andhra Pradesh.
10. As per a report by the National Human Rights Commission of India, only 10% of human trafficking in India is international; the remaining 90% operates inter-state.

Every year, July 30 is observed as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. It was in 2013 that the United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated the day to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights. “The UN defines human trafficking as “a crime that exploits

women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex”. The U.S. State Department estimated that worldwide, approximately 20 million people are victims of forced labour. Out of these, the International Labor Organization (ILO) found 55% victims are women and 26% children. The ILO claimed the human trafficking industry generates around \$150 billion annually. The situation in India is no less grim. As per the 2013 estimates of the U.S. State Department, our country has almost 65 million citizens who are into forced labour.

The most common victims of human trafficking in India are:

1. Children and young women brought from rural areas or sometimes even other states, to be engaged as domestic help in households or various small-scale establishments in urban centres. Many of these people eventually get exploited economically, physically and also sexually.
2. Children and adolescents begging or selling knick-knacks on the streets in towns and cities.
3. Women and children sold into commercial sex trade market
4. People lured to foreign countries by fraudulent recruitment agencies with lucrative job offers, to be employed in menial work involving inhuman working conditions.
5. The victims of the illegal organ trade racket.

Causes of Human Trafficking in India: The fundamental causes of human trafficking in India are poverty, hunger, illiteracy and the sheer gullibility of innocent human beings who fall prey to the false promises of racketeers.

Other causes of human trafficking in India are the neglect and rejection of girls especially in rural villages of India where social education has not reached. The complacent attitude of our protective authorities, the attitude of apathy by society at large and perverse demands by people who exploit the victims of human traffickers also contribute towards rampant human trafficking in India.

Human trafficking in India is encouraged by the flawed legal framework which allows perpetrators of human trafficking to avoid prosecution and conviction.

Statistics of arrests are extremely low in comparison to the regular incidents of human trafficking. Despite the existence of a well-defined legal process to prosecute human traffickers, there is no cohesive definition of human trafficking in the law and this hinders implementation of the laws. In cases where the laws have been implemented, the punishment is not severe enough to prevent recurrence of such crimes against humanity.

Child Trafficking: According to UNICEF Child trafficking is defined as “Any person under 18 who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purpose of exploitation, either within or outside a country”.

Children are trafficked to meet the purposes like the following:

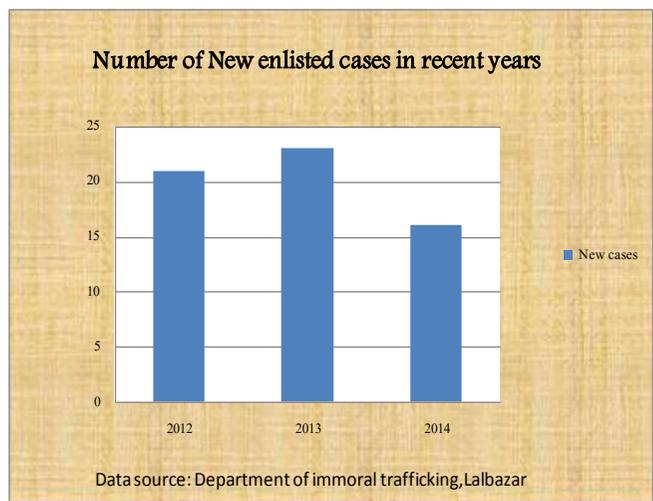
- Forced prostitution

- Sex tourism
- Religious prostitution
- To take part in activities like begging
- To act in pornography

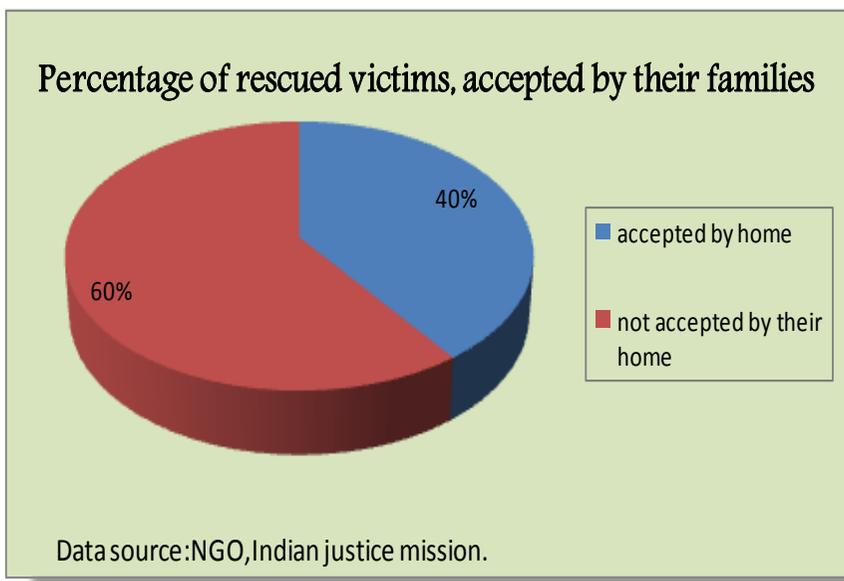
Case study of Kolkata: Kolkata acts as the transit and destination for trafficking in all its form be child trafficking to make them beggar or to make them working in someone's house but one of the most notorious type to be found is juvenile trafficking for commercial sexual purpose.

Kolkata possesses the existence of 4 brothel areas- Sonagachi, Kalighat, Watganj, Sealdah red light area. So girls are trafficked here to give the service of forced prostitutes in those four areas.

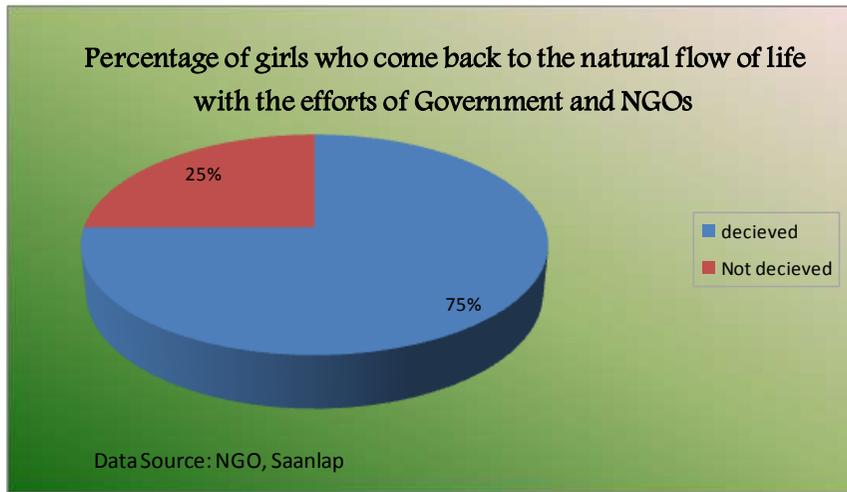
The study reveals that there is no proper class or type of people to act as brokers in the case of Kolkata starting from Politicians to doctor can be found to give the service of brokers. In some cases step mother or uncle play their role to deceive the girl.



In this data it is observed receiving that the number of new cases has decreased in 2014 with respect to that in 2013, it may show the hope of trafficking cases is getting declined as per the Immoral Trafficking department Lalbazar.



The worst consequences come to those girls who are not accepted by their families after getting rescued which is not absent in the case of Kolkata. It seems that almost 40%



Life after recovery:

- Girls can hardly leave the trauma behind even after recovery
- Self-harming and suicidal tendencies are found among them
- In some cases, their families don't want them to get back so getting major they sometimes go back to the life of prostitutes.
- Some girls get close to lose mental balance so they are taken to psychologists.
- Deplorable conditions of Government homes move the minor girls to escape.

- Though smaller in number a share of rescued victims are being found to get back to the natural life and earning their livelihoods in different decent ways.

Roles of Police:

- In Kolkata the Immoral trafficking department in Lalbazar is formed to combat the Cases of sex trafficking in Kolkata.
- It is basically the result of the launching of ITPA act of Indian Government.
- This department works to fight against trafficking in Kolkata.
- They try to rescue victims and to arrest the brokers or traffickers.
- Besides with the aid of Government and NGOs this department takes part to rehabilitate victims.

Roles of Government:

- Government has launched ITPA act to fight trafficking.
- Government shelter homes are present to give shelter to those girls who can not go back to the family after getting rescued.
- Government has launched programmes like CWC or ICPS for upgrading the status of child.

Roles of NGOs:

- NGOs have their own shelter homes which are better in qualities than the Govt. homes.
- NGOs arrange medical treatment for the girls after getting rescued.
- NGOs try to arrange psychologists for the girls who need them.
- NGOs try to keep aside the natal of the sex workers to save them from those filthy environments.
- NGOs organise or encourage the sex workers to organise different cultural programmes to have some fresh air in the stuffy cage.

Major Findings:

- Kolkata acts as a major centre of juvenile trafficking in its all forms.
- Countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal provides traffic victims for Kolkata.
- We may find poverty at the apex position among the cause of this trafficking
- A big percentage of girls don't want to get back to the past as poverty frowns them.
- Some most unfortunate girls cannot go back to the past even after recover as their families don't want them to get back.
- Police, Government and NGOs are acting but they would act even better with the involvement of the mass.

Solutions: The international Institute for Trafficked, Exploited and Missing Persons (ITEMP) has demonstrated an ideal solution to stopping human trafficking by assigning

active workers to areas where individuals could be most prone to the ruses of human traffickers.

Awareness, education and removing poverty: In India the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been the impetus for the growth of several NGO'S like the Indian Council of Child Welfare, the Indian Community Welfare Organization, Child rights and You (CRY) and many others. Their members are constantly striving to promote awareness of human trafficking and endeavor to foster respect and love for girls in prone rural areas.

These NGO'S are hindered by challenges like lack of political commitment, funding, difficulty in having prone areas protected by law enforcement agencies and high levels of corruption and threat by bodies of organized crime.

However NGO'S are now patronized by social luminaries and celebrities who encourage and fund the efforts of these NGO'S.

Strong Laws against Human Trafficking: India's central government need to have commitment to prevent human trafficking in India by way of improving legislation to enable effective prosecution of offenders and launching new administrative cells like the Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units, the Anti – Trafficking Nodal Cell State Programs and the Integrated National Plan of Action. These organizations can coordinate with various NGO'S, thereby enabling effective exposure and destruction of many human trafficking networks.

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