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An Analysis of the Effect of Socio-Economic Factors on Human Trafficking in Pakistan

ABSTRACT

This research paper aims to provide a detail about the factor of commercial sexual harassment of women and children in Pakistan. The extent, prevalence, and implications of various forms of harassment against women and children engaged in beggary and sex business are recorded and analysed through this research. The study examines the causes and effects of trafficking against women and children. The study encourages as many systematic national assessments of the situation of violence against women and children as possible, including incidence, legal processes, child protection programs, estimates, violence in institutions, report assessment and data collection, as well as proven successful measures to protect children and deter violence against them. This study analyses the record of trafficking of women and children in Pakistan and recommend the suggestion and policy measures to control and eliminate harassment against women.

Keywords: *smuggling, child abuse, harassment, migration*

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Introduction

Human trafficking basically is the illegal smuggling of person for the purpose of sex exploitation and compelled labour. Khowaja, (2012) described that trafficking of human beings is a form of slavery involving illegally trafficking people for any kind of forced exploitation. In other words, it is a process by which people are recruited and transported to their homelands and destinations for use as forced labor, prostitution, domestics and other forms of exploitation. In different studies it is observed that trafficking is forced or illegal migration of people from one location to another (within the same country or between two or more countries) for various types of oppression; in such practices, the victim's "ownership" transfers from one person to another; the movement is based on property, resources, or other benefits.

However, it is one of the most rapidly growing areas of international criminal activity in most of the regions of the world and is classified under the transitional crime category, which plagues nations and countries with illicit results. It is known as 'modern slavery of the day'. Meanwhile, Trafficking in human beings is an unfair and terrible act against the human race and therefore a question of human rights. In addition, the notion of human trafficking also involves health threats and socio-economic consequences. Hussain (2012)

Similarly, Javed (2011) investigated the definition of human trafficking, which includes the criminals or violent means of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, disappearance, vulnerability, offering or receiving benefits in exchange for granting consent to someone else's control; exploitation includes other forms of sexual harassment, compelled labour, servitude, or the removal of organs.

ILO (2019), clearly explained three basic features of trafficking: first, the procedure; second, the resources; and third, the purpose, further elaborated that "trafficking crime is the combinations of three components and not by each component, although in some cases essential levels are individually defined as criminal acts." The Protocol does not further identify the specific elements, such as prostitution, forced labour, slavery and the signatories.

The Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) 2009 published by the United States Department of State demonstrated the misperceptions detained by different consultants with respect to victims' approval and emphasizes strongly that while the person can voluntarily agree to migrate lawfully, illegally or voluntarily, "The prior agreement or effort of a person to get employment with the trafficker becomes irrelevant if the job of a person is recruited and forced by using or threatening physical harassment or potential abuse of legal proceedings.

Paul (2000), clarified that Traffickers are using a range of techniques to make the victims vulnerable, so that the victims have no alternative, but are in obedience to the traffickers. One of the main form of traffickers use debt bondage to convince their victims that they owe money on their travel and living expenses and that they are not released until debt is repaid. Other methods are adopted by traffickers, including hunger, prison, physical violence (slaughter and rape), verbal abuse, and abduction of victims.

The two most common reasons for human trafficking are sexual slavery and forced labor. Sexual traffickers are compelled to engage in one or more forms of sexual harassment. It should be noted that sex trafficking and prostitution are not related and that prostitution is simply one form of sexual trafficking practice. However, the word sex trafficking includes commercial sex activities, such as prostitution, but it also includes gambling, exotic dancing, modeling, live sex shows, brides or mail-order, military prostitution, and sex tourism. Although, women and teenage girls are the victims of sex trafficking of any age or gender. While several countries have prohibited the trafficking of women, it remains widely popular worldwide

Literature Review

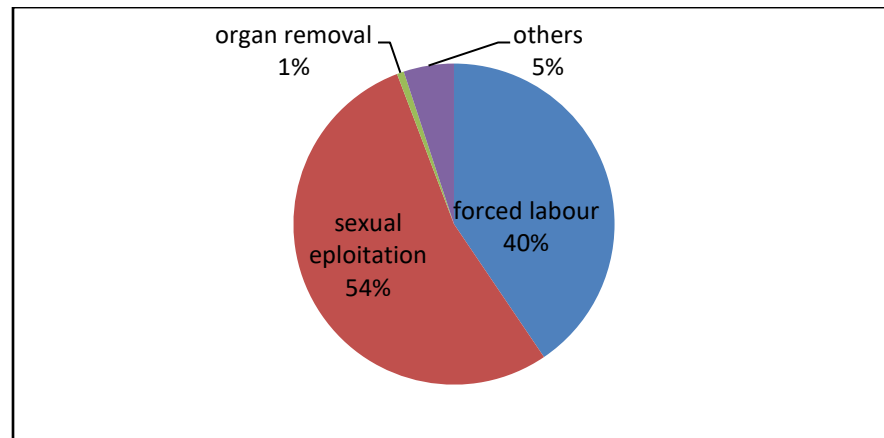
UNODC (2009) reported that the exact number of victims of trafficking cannot be calculated. In addition to the overall lack of sound evidence, difference in meaning and methods lead to an immense variance in global calculations of the number of victims of trafficking. The GAO noted a significant variation between the number of estimated victims of trafficking in human beings in different organizations as each agency uses its own data collection methodology and analyzes the issue on the basis of its own mandate. The US Government's global figures concentrate on globalized trafficking, but they do not include the number of victims trafficked domestically. About 800,000 people are trafficked annually across foreign borders, 80% of which are women or girls and 50% are minors. Even though rate of trafficking between countries and continents varies, it is clear that global trafficking has become a growing problem. During the period from 1995 to 2004, it is estimated that there were at least 2.45 million trafficked globally and internally. The UNODC tracks domestic and regional trafficking trends and does not have a worldwide estimate of victim numbers. The IOM records only the number of trafficked victims that they helped so that a total estimate can be hard to obtain from the statistic.

Russia is a significant source of global sexual abuse trafficked women. Furthermore, Russia is a major destination and transit country for people trafficked from regional and neighbouring countries to Russia and the Gulf States, Europe, Asia and North America for sexual and labor abuse. The ILO reported that, of the 5 million illegal migrants that trafficked in Russia, 20

percent are victims of forced labor. Various reports have been published in Russia of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation. The Russian Government has tried to tackle such type of exploitation of smuggling, but it has also been criticised for not following minimum standards for trafficking elimination.

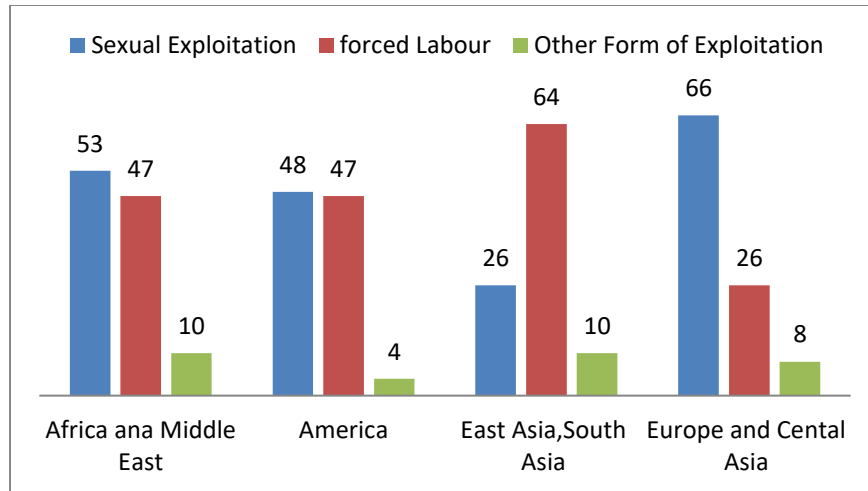
The US Department of State reports that in the United States trafficking happens every year between 14,500 and 17,500 individuals. Victims are mainly recruited from Mexico, East Asia and, last but not least, from the former Soviet Union, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. In general, the countries from which many of the victims come have an uncertain political system and an economic disadvantage. This makes it easier to hire and transport women, bribe officials and forge passports and other travel documents. It makes it easier to traffick. The USA is one of the top trafficker destinations and many children from the United States, including the Netherlands, Germany and Japan, are being trafficked to other developed nations. UN Human Rights Council, (2021).

Form of Exploitation among Detected Trafficking Victims 2011



Source: UNODC,2011

Forms of Exploitation among Detected Trafficking Victims, by Region of Detection, 2010-2012



Source: UNODC, 2011

The graph represents the different forms of exploitation in different region. In terms of exploitation methods, there are significant regional variations. In Europe and Central Asia, the most common form of trafficking is for sexual exploitation; in East Asia and the Pacific, the most common form is for forced labor. Both groups are found in roughly equal numbers in the Americas. Global report on trafficking in person (2011)

Despite Pakistan's reputation as a destination country, it's difficult to say the difference between irregular migrants particularly from Afghanistan and victims of human trafficking. Unverifiable data suggested that among the large number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, women and children are trafficked to Pakistan for sexual abuse and forced labour. UNHCR reported that Women have been trafficked to and from Pakistan for sexual slavery, often in the form of forced marriages According to some NGO workers reported that, Chinese and Russian women, as well as women from Nepal, Bangladesh, Iran, and Central Asia, are trafficked to Pakistan for sexual slavery. Pakistan – Trafficking in Persons Report 2010,

An ILO report on child trafficking conducted as a rapid evaluation in four vulnerable communities in Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, and Balochistan provinces, respectively, offers some context for the country's socio-economic trends in child trafficking. 'Poverty is the most common factor in children being trafficked. Poverty was cited by 95% of the families surveyed by the ILO as the main reason for forcing their children to work. In several cases, parents cited poverty as a motivator for cooperating with smugglers. The rapid evaluation by the ILO focuses on three forms of child trafficking: camel racing, dancing, and sex work. The study also found that poverty has a higher impact on children trafficked for camel jockeying (78%) than on children trafficked for dancing

(8%) or sex work (5%). however, Public debt is a powerful co-determinant of poverty, according to the report, it plays a role in making children vulnerable in the home, about 63 percent of families were in debt before their children began working, and 43 percent of families were still in debt after their children began working. Poverty and levels of debt are closely related to the baseline study's results, which indicate that most people are recruited by "deception for jobs" and "selling by parents or relatives." ILO (2012)

Meanwhile, Child trafficking is also associated with other types of violence and neglect of children and children's families. For example, it is estimated that approximately 80,000 children live on Pakistan's streets. Lahore has approximately 6,000 street children, Peshawar has 25,000, Quetta has estimated 2,500, and Rawalpindi has approximately 3,000. (SPARC; 2007). More than half of street children leave their homes between the ages of 10 and 12, according to the Azad Foundation in Karachi, making them one of Pakistan's most vulnerable internal migrant populations. Children living on the streets are faced with increasing physical and sexual violence, and they are reported to be abused for prostitution, begging, labor, and drug trafficking by criminal gangs. Similarly, child trafficking is a source of sex crime against children on a large scale. According to Sahil's latest study on child sexual abuse in Pakistan (2017), the incidence of child sexual abuse in Pakistan is approaching 3.6 children every day. In 2017, a total of 2,321 cases were recorded, including both females and males. The majority of female and male cases are classified as kidnapping for sexual purposes and sodomy, respectively. Mehnaz, A. (2017)

There are clear indicators that child trafficking is being used to commit commercial and non-commercial sex crimes against children. According to interviews with NGOs working with sexually exploited children in high-risk areas and jails, many of the cases of sexual assault transform into cases of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Many cases of human trafficking begin with sexual or violent harassment, according to secondary research on child sex workers and interviews with field social workers. The largest human trafficking problem is bonded labor, concentrated in the Sindh and Punjab provinces in agriculture and brick making, and to a lesser extent in mining and carpet-making. Estimates of bonded labor victims, including men, women, and children, vary widely, but are likely well over one million. In extreme scenarios, when laborers speak publicly against abuse, landowners have kidnapped laborers and their family members.

Objectives of the Study

- 1- To analyse the Socio -economic factors of human trafficking
- 2- To assess the effect of trafficking of women and children

Research Methodology

This research is based on the secondary data through literature review and examines the body of research on the variables that may contribute to the trafficking of women and children. In order to extract and analyzed major studies on the causes and effects of human trafficking in Pakistan, the current study compiled and thoroughly examined a large number of scientific and analytical reports, scholarly articles relevant to human trafficking studies of South Asian countries as well as of Pakistan, and other relevant studies published by various academic, consulting, and consultant institutions.

Causes and Consequences of Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is a serious concern of development. most common factors which may responsible to hinders for the development of nation, such as poverty, gender discrimination, unemployment, lack of education, the weak rule of law and poor socio-economic governance, and have a strong link with trade of vulnerable community. Even though, poverty is one of the main risk factors push towards the trafficking vulnerability but poverty alone will not lead the community to traffickers. Many risk factors that make the victims vulnerable to trafficking.

The main reason of human trafficking varies all over countries. The phenomenon of trafficking is complicated and frequently influenced by economical, social, cultural, and other variables. Many factors influence specific trafficking patterns as well as the nations in which they take place. Nonetheless, a number of elements are typical of trafficking in general or present in a range of nations, situations, or trends.

The most frequent causes of migration include local issues such as poverty, inequality, violations of human rights, lack of employment prospects, instability and conflict threats, and so on. Research indicates that increased political unpredictability, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflicts, and natural calamities will lead to an increase in trafficking. Human migration and instability make people more susceptible to abuse and exploitation via forced work and human trafficking. Additionally, it is said that civil wars and other conflicts can result in large-scale population displacement and increase the vulnerability of orphans and homeless children to human trafficking. Gazi (2013)

These factors tend to put pressure on victims who "push it" into migration and therefore traffickers' control, but they may also include other factors that "pull" potential victims. Poverty and richness are relative concepts that lead both to migration and to patterns of trafficking where victims move away from extreme poverty to less extreme poverty. The rapid expansion of media, such as the internet, in the developing countries in broadcasting and

telecommunications may have increased the will to migrate to developed countries and, consequently, the vulnerability of the migrants to traffickers. Shah, S. (2004)

It is also analyzed from the studies that some parents will not only sell the children for money but also in the hope that their children will escape a chronic poverty situation and look for a better environment to stay and have more opportunity. Social and cultural patterns play a role in human trafficking in some countries. Women and girls, for example, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking as a result of society's devaluation of women. Immigration policies, corrupt government officials, presence of foreign organized crime organizations or networks, and insufficient ability or willingness by immigration and law enforcement officers to monitor borders are all contributing factors.

Consequences of Trafficking

Human trafficking has a substantial effect on the people who are victims in every aspect of their lives. Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and violence, deprivation and blackmail, the forced use of drugs, exploitation, abusive working and living conditions can all occur during the trafficking process.

According to Shahid Ilyas (2002), it is an act of violence against people, and the victims bear the cost of the consequences. While human smuggling is a worldwide issue with no international boundaries, it is quite far extensive effects are felt within individual countries. Human trafficking affects more than 130 countries. Some of the most significant social, political, and economic consequences of human trafficking are described, as well as key strategy issues in all of those areas.

According to research, mental disorder deteriorates during the trafficking process. may persist long after the end of any exploitation. In this way, child victims are particularly harassed by traffickers due to their age, immaturity, and lack of experience, as well as to abusive practices that may hinder their further physical growth. Castle Diarra (2011)

Human trafficking is a major topic of debate and concern on a large scale. One important related area of debate is migration policy, which includes transnational movement of people. Another concern is the issue of human rights. The author discusses the complicated linkages between policy and action in the areas of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and migration flows. The non-identification and victimization of trafficked people can be an unintended result of efforts aimed primarily at illegal migration.

The non-identification and victimization of trafficked people may be an unintended result of measures aimed primarily at illegal migration. The particular migration problems that countries of origin and destination face

that can have a direct effect on human trafficking are addressed, as well as the structural obstacles that must be resolved in the case of a trafficked person from another state being detected in one state. (Sarker, 2006)

Conclusion

This study has specifically focused on external factors affecting human trafficking, such as social, economic, and political factors, all of which are part of the world in which the individuals involved live. Political insecurity, military conflict, border management, deprivation and social exclusion, corruption, violation and the involvement of co-ethnic groups in the destination country all responsible for trafficking. Money laundering, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, and prostitution trends may all have an impact, to the degree that cause-and-effect relationships exist. Sex trafficking, on the other hand, is a complex crime that requires both the perpetrator and the victim to have very similar histories and characteristics, according to TRACE study.

According to various reports Poverty and unemployment are main risk factors that increase an individual's susceptibility to human trafficking, Furthermore, individuals become vulnerable to human trafficking as an alternative to normal migration as a result of restrictive immigration policies. Indeed, it is noted that "the economic condition of people in poorer regions of the world, which pushes vulnerable people to emigrate to pursue better opportunities abroad, is a fundamental breeding ground for trafficking and exploitation." As a result, a traditional explanation of human behavior. Malik (2010)

Recommendations

Focusing on improving the promotion of social, economic, and political stability, as well as the restriction of both migrations caused by extreme poverty and trafficking supply factors. In order to achieve these goals, policies should encourage both economic growth and social inclusion.

- Taking into account the governments' opening up of their labour markets in an effort to provide people with a greater variety of skill levels with greater opportunities for employment.
- Achieving a balance between the requirement for low-cost labour and the chance for regular migration by addressing the issue of unprotected informal and illegal labour

- Improving children's academic and employment opportunities, as well as increasing school enrollment, especially among girls and minorities.
- Increasing job prospects for women by promoting small and medium-sized business opportunities (SMEs). Organizing SME training programs, with a special emphasis on high-risk groups
- Adopting steps to minimize "exploitation's invisibility." A multi-agency network of labor market surveillance, administrative controls, and information gathering, as well as, where appropriate, the sex industry, will go a long way toward achieving this goal.
- Addressing the issue of unpaid, mostly illegal, labor in order to achieve a balance between the need for cheap labor and the availability of regular migration. Focus on illegal economic practices that destabilize economies and facilitate human trafficking.
- Taking measures to raise levels of social protection and to create employment opportunities for all
- Taking appropriate action to eliminate harassment against women in the workplace, in order to ensure the right to equal pay for equal work, as well as the right to equal job opportunities, on the basis of gender equality.
- Developing livelihood opportunities that include basic education, literacy, communication, and other skills, as well as removing barriers to entrepreneurship.
- Preventing violence against women by encouraging gender sensitization and education on fair and respectful relationships between the gender.
- Promoting efficient financing and credit availability, including low-interest microcredit and promoting effective governance and economic transaction transparency
- Adopting or strengthening regulatory, educational, social, cultural, or other interventions, as well as, where appropriate, penal legislation, to prevent the market that fosters all forms of exploitation of people, especially women and children, and leads to trafficking, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

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