

Human Trafficking And Sex Slavery: A Curse Of Modern-Day Civilization

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Abstract: Human trafficking, in the present century, is one of the worst forms of exploitation and abuse that human being had ever thought of. Due to its high in payoffs and low in risk, it becomes a highly attractive business. As a result of economic globalization, human trafficking has become an increasingly serious dilemma in the all over the world and become a global issue in the present era. Trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is a highly attractive business for those who organize it. Human trafficking is harmful to the millions of women and children exploited in slavery-like conditions in the global sex industry. It is a modernised form of age old slave trade. It is a serious violation of human rights and one of the fastest growing organized crimes of the day transcending culture, geography and time. Human trafficking threatens human security and human development.

Keywords: Human Trafficking, Sex Slavery, Human Rights Violations, State Obligations

“[Human trafficking] ought to concern every person because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crimes.”

– Barack Obama

I. INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery and it is one of the worst kinds of exploitation and abuse which virtually exists in every country in the world. It is considered as the third most profitable trafficking activity in the world after drug and gun trafficking. Trafficking can occur within a country or may involve movement across borders. Women, men and children are trafficked for various purposes, including forced and exploitative labour in factories, farms and private households, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage and for the extraction of organs or tissues. In the current era, under the impact of economic globalization, human trafficking has become a global issue. Human trafficking has negative effects

in the society as great as slavery, and if it cannot be suppressed, the ideal goal of international community – the sustainable development of human society with peace, human rights and human dignity, will be threatened.

Traffickers gain from fees charged to the trafficked victim and from the profits from the victims' labour. In addition, the lack of identification, prosecution, and sentencing of perpetrators for trafficking in humans make this kind of crime particularly profitable and low risk for traffickers. The primary goal of traffickers is to maximize profits, often resulting in physical and mental exploitation of the victims. Particularly, sexual exploitation is one of the main forms of human trafficking in the modern world, which is often organized by criminal groups.

Human trafficking is a global crisis which is inextricably linked to the current movement of globalization in the sex industries involving women and children. It is one of the major concerns of twenty first century that has taken a rapid pace with the advent of the free movement and free trade under the shadow of globalisation. The painful reality of female sex workers is that the current rate of growth in sex trade, mainly in underdeveloped countries, is fostered by social and economic vulnerabilities that compel young women

to engage in commercial sex work. Consequently, in these countries, child trafficking has become the culture of society both internally and across borders.

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery and exist in virtually every country in the world- and India is no exception. In the recent years the worldwide human trafficking problem has attached significant political and social attention. Awareness-raising initiatives such as the United Nation's "Blue Heart Campaign" encourage involvement and action to fight human traffic king on a global scale.

II. THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEX SLAVERY

Issues of human trafficking started to be raised in the late 1980s, but until 1990 it did not enter into the mainstream. Therefore, the issue of human trafficking is a comparatively new research area, where the relevant literature did not appear the latter part of the 1990s. Till date, a lot of issues need to be explored in this research field. Presently, human trafficking has become an international criminal activity. Unfortunately, among governments and international organizations, there is no consistent use of the term "human trafficking" and no consensus on what the term comprises or how it relates to issues of forced labour, slavery, and exploitation. Many people associate human trafficking with forced prostitution in industrialized countries. It was first used publicly in the early 1990s in media coverage on the prostitution of women from Eastern Europe in Western Europe. Simultaneously, cases of sex tourism and trafficked child prostitutes in South East Asia also became more visible.

In the late 1990s States began the task of separating out trafficking from other practices with which it was commonly associated such as facilitated irregular migration. The first-ever agreed definition of trafficking was incorporated into the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol).

The Protocol explicitly stated in the preamble that:

[E]ffective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights.

Article 3(a) of the Protocol provides the following definition: "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or

practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

In this definition the term "exploitation" encompasses sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude and removal of organs. However, this paper focuses on the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, referring to the practice simply as "trafficking or sex trafficking." The technical language can obscure the lives at the center of the issue—the millions of women and children preyed upon, abused, and prostituted in such appalling conditions that trafficking has been identified as a contemporary form of slavery.

As governments struggled to address the issue of human trafficking, the meaning of the term migrated from specifically transnational sexual exploitation to exploitation in a much more general sense. The definition was further expanded once it became clear that there was no reason to exclude forms of exploitation that do not involve movements across international borders. It has now been generally accepted that at the core of human trafficking is the exploitation of people. Accordingly, when national governments came together in Palermo in December of 2000 to address the issue of human trafficking, they adopted a comprehensive definition of the term. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons (the Palermo Protocol) defines human trafficking as:

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

International law provides a different definition for trafficking in children (i.e., persons under 18 years of age). The "means" element is not required in this case. It is necessary to show only: (i) an "action" such as recruitment, buying and selling; and (ii) that this action was for the specific purpose of exploitation. In other words, trafficking of a child will exist if the child was subjected to some act, such as recruitment or transport, the purpose of which is the exploitation of that child.

It seems, international law states that human trafficking is the process of coercing or luring human beings into exploitation, that is, it is the business of exploitation. Because human trafficking includes – but is not limited to – the movement of people for the sake of exploitation, human trafficking as defined by international law is the umbrella term for all forms of coerced or surreptitious – in other words, non-consensual – exploitation, most notably slavery and forced labour.

III. SEXUAL SLAVERY TRAFFICKING

Sexual slavery trafficking is an important part of human trafficking. Sex trafficking is more than an issue of crime or migration; it is an issue of human rights, a manifestation of persistent gender inequality and the subordinate status of women globally. Around the world most trafficked people are women and children of low socio-economic status, and become the target of primary trafficking. The demand aspect of sex trafficking remains the least visible. When demand is not analyzed, or is mentioned rarely, it becomes easy to forget that people are trafficked into the sex industry to satisfy not the demand of the traffickers, but that of the purchasers, who are mostly men. The insatiable demand for women and children in massage parlours, strip shows, escort services, brothels, pornography and street prostitution is what makes the trafficking trade so lucrative. When an adult is forced or deceived into prostitution, he or she belongs to the human trafficker. Sexual slavery trafficking also occurs in debt bondage. The criminals' claim to women and girls in the transporting and recruitment activities forces them into prostitution in order to maximize the profit through sexual exploitation.

The key reason for the human trafficking, among others, is to gain profits by the force labour and sexual exploitation of the victims. The most notorious business that benefits from human trafficking is the sexual slavery industry. Nearly eighty percent of transnational human trafficking victims are women. This high percentage can be attributed to sexual slavery's position as the most prominent form of slavery in the world. Sexual slavery—trafficking by means of violence, of fraud, or of coercion—causes women to provide commercial sexual services or entices children younger than eighteen years old to provide commercial sexual services. The methods of violence, fraud, or coercive recruitment are used for harbouring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person targeted for involuntary servitude, bonded labour, debt bondage, or modern day slavery. The victims of sex slavery enjoy no freedom, and "are forced into any number of commercial sex industries [.]". The women or girls involved are strictly restricted and controlled by a number of mechanisms. The victims are regarded as slaves, living in constant fear of threats, providing endless sexual service, which results heavily in their physical injuries and mental illnesses.

It is seen that trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is part of an international range criminal activity, but in certain territory and regions it is more rampant due to poverty. In the opinion of Stoecker, "[a]t least four factors are facilitating the growth of this phenomenon: the globalization of the economy, the increased demand for personal services in the developed world, the continuing rise in unemployment among women, and the rapid and unregulated enticement and movement of human capital via the Internet." Poor countries have more victims trafficked in to prostitution than countries with economic strength and high rate of employment. Besides, prostitution activities in some countries are also responsible for contributing to the increase in human trafficking activity.

Professor Hughes, of the Women's Studies Institute at the University of Rhode Island, states that due to the prevalence of prostitution activities, brothel owners cannot find enough local

women to meet the needs of the clients, so it is likely that the crime of human trafficking for prostitution activities exists in order to meet the needs of the local and foreign clients. The brothel owners spend money, when accepting trafficked women or children for the purpose of prostitution, in order to reap huge profits. In addition, the inefficiency of the fight against human trafficking also a contributing factor in the growth of this criminal activity, over a long period of time, without repercussions.

It is detrimental to the millions of women and children exploited in slavery-like conditions in the global sex industry. The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has called this trade as an outrage and a worldwide plague, which is conducted throughout the world with near impunity, in many cases carrying penalties far less severe than drug trafficking. Though people often associate it with Eastern Europe or Asia, there is mounting evidence that the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, with its concomitant human rights abuses and health consequences, is a significant problem around the globe—one that promises to worsen unless collective action is taken.

IV. ISSUES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Slavery in traditional societies, as is the case today, is a highly gendered relation of domination; the great majority of persons ever enslaved were women. There are several reasons for this. First, because of their greater bodily mass and brute strength, and the fact that they tended to monopolize the instruments of violence, women were often easier to capture than men. Secondly, women were invariably far more useful for their slaveholders than men, especially in traditional societies. In many traditional economies people often lived at subsistence level and the procurement of a male slave could often end up as an economic burden for their holders. For such reason, male slaves were in demand only in certain more advanced traditional societies, such as those with class divisions where they were held by elite men to augment their power and display their status. Women, in contrast, were always utilizable in all but the most primitive of societies. They could be exploited in a much wider range of occupations—in the fields where women were producers, but also within the household in jobs not traditionally performed by men. However, even if not needed for economic activities, women were always usable as reproducers. Further the sexual exploitation of slave women made them attractive possessions in a large number of societies where captured men were generally not needed.

The context of slavery in our globalized world today may be different, but an abundant and different body of evidence from observers and from enslaved women clearly show that this mode of domination is personally experienced in almost exactly the same way by today's slaves as the slaves of yesterday.

Regarding the supply aspect of the trafficking, in areas where poverty has already limited people's choices, discrimination against women in education, employment and wages can leave them with very few options for supporting

themselves and their families. Migration through formal channels is not possible for many of these women. Dreaming of a better life in the city, or a foreign country, they become vulnerable to traffickers' false promises of high-paying jobs. Even though women might feel uneasy about the travel circumstances, despair over their current prospects and hope for a new life can easily outweigh any sense of danger. Consequently, poverty and gender inequality create a large pool of potential and seemingly willing "recruits." Besides, traffickers exploit the vulnerability of women and children who have fled their homes because of violence or have been displaced by armed conflict or natural disasters. The psychological impact and social stigma of victimization can increase women's vulnerability to manipulation and exploitation by traffickers.

International and domestic laws are lacking or insufficient; where laws do exist, sentencing guidelines do not provide a restriction. Corruption contributes heavily to traffickers' real and perceived impunity through police and immigration officials who collude, accept bribes, or "turn a blind eye." Though governments may not promote trafficking directly, they may be hesitant to take aggressive action against it, since the sex industry is extremely profitable and linked to other sectors, such as tourism. Supply, demand and impunity together create a space in which trafficking can flourish. The resulting environment allows high profits at low risk for the traffickers, but with serious health risks and human rights violations for the victims.

According to the investigation report of the International Justice Mission, human trafficking is one of the three largest criminal activities in the world. Human trafficking includes both labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking is considered a massive global enterprise that is essentially a trade in rape-for-profit. Based on the relevant statistics of the United Nations in the 1990s, this criminal activity gained huge profits of up to \$2 million yearly, and in 2000, the data was close to \$9 billion. However, the latest United Nations data shows that in 2010, the market value was over \$32 billion for human trafficking. Accurate data on trafficking victims is difficult to determine due to different statistical methods used by various institutions; the data gaps range from six hundred thousand to twenty-seven million people. Based on the amount of profits human trafficking earns, the number of victims is no small number.

The global report on human trafficking by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC 2012) shows that 76 percent of all detected victims of trafficking in 2009 were women and minor girls (UNODC, 2012). The report states that the share of minor girls had increased from 13 percent in 2006 to 17 percent in 2009, while the share of adult women had declined from 67 percent in 2006 to 59 percent in 2009. It further shows that trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form of exploitation and accounted for 57–62 percent of the detected victims of trafficking from 2007 to 2010 (UNODC, 2012).

Most of the victims of sexual exploitation are women and children, and the main methods include debt bondage, fraud, kidnapping, and threats of violence. By all accounts, trafficking in human beings is increasing at staggering rates. Increased economic inequality, with its discriminatory impact

on girls and women, ensures a supply of desperately poor women and girls willing to do anything to survive. Within continents and across oceans, women and children are bought and sold to serve the demands for exploitative sex or cheap labour. It can be evident from the statement of a sex victim:

"We came to the United States to find a better future, not to be prostitutes. . . . No woman or child would want to be a sex slave and endure the evil that I have gone through. I am in fear for my life more than ever. I helped put these evil men in jail. Please help me. Please help us. Please do not let this happen to anyone else."

The trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is accompanied by potentially life long and life-threatening health consequences; it prevents victims from attaining the highest possible level of physical, mental and social well-being. Victims' health is affected by the trafficking process itself and also by sexual exploitation. Trafficking victims experience violence by traffickers, pimps, brothel owners, clients and police. They are beaten, sometimes with weapons, and severely enough to require emergency room visits. They are raped as an introduction to "the business." The consequences of psychological, physical and sexual violence associated with trafficking and sexual exploitation include depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and physical injuries such as bruises, broken bones, head wounds, stab wounds, mouth and teeth injuries, and even death.

V. INDIAN SCENARIO

India is identified as a source, transit and destination country for trafficking of minor girls for sex trafficking. In the country about 1794 places are identified from where female victims are being trafficked. The available data suggests that there are between 70,000 and 3,000,000 females in commercial sex, and of these, 30–40 percent comprise minor girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. Evidence from survivors of sex trafficking also suggests that between 15 percent and 62 percent of women in commercial sex had entered sex industry as minors. In contrast to these large numbers, data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) suggest that trafficking is limited, with just 2,563 cases registered under the ITPA and between 15 and 809 cases registered under the various provisions of the IPC that relate to the buying and selling of minor girls for prostitution.

People are often trafficked through and within India, *inter alia*, for the commercial sexual exploitation. Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage, especially in those areas where the sex ratio is highly skewed in favour of men. India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Indian women are trafficked to the Middle East and Europe for work as domestic servants and low skilled labourers may end up part of the human trafficking industry. In such cases, workers may have been recruited by way of fraudulent recruitment practices that lead them directly into situations of forced labour, including debt bondage. In addition, high debts incurred to pay recruitment

fees leave them vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous employers in the destination countries, where some are subjected to conditions of involuntary servitude, including non-payment of wages, restrictions on movement, unlawful withholding of passports, and physical-sexual abuse.

Human trafficking in India results in women suffering from both mental and physical issues. Mental issue includes PTSD, depression and anxiety resulting mental disorders. Women who are forced into trafficking are at a higher risk for HIV, TB, and other STDs. The irony is that traffickers of young girls into prostitution in India are often women who have been trafficked themselves. As adults they use personal relationship and trust in their villages of origin to recruit more girls.

VI. TRAFFICKING AND LEGAL PROTECTION

The issues of sexual exploitation are what constitute violations of the civil and human rights of trafficking victims. Regardless of how they are recruited and transported, most women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation are denied at some point the right to liberty, the right to be free from cruel and inhumane treatment, the right not to be held in slavery or involuntary servitude, the right to be free from violence, and the right to health.

The 1949 *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* criminalizes sex trafficking and acts associated with prostitution, but with weak enforcement mechanisms and adoption by only 69 countries, it has not been effective. The convention also fails to address forms of exploitation that were not widespread in 1949, including mail-order bride industries, sex tourism and trafficking of organs. Article 6 of the UN *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW 1979) requires States Parties to take action to suppress "all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women," and CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 19 specifically mentions newer forms of exploitation neglected in the 1949 convention. The 2000 UN *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime* provides a tool for international cooperation against trafficking in its *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*. The protocol specifies criminalization, stronger border controls, and increased security and control of documents as preventive mechanisms. It focuses on international cooperation to combat trafficking and details aspects of assistance and protection for victims. In May 2001 the protocol had been signed by 85 countries; thirty-five additional signatures are needed for the protocol to become an instrument of international law. The UN Global Programme against Trafficking in Women, Health and Development Program Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Human Beings is conducting several technical cooperation projects based on implementation of the protocol. The *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women— "Convention of Belém do Pará"* (1994) explicitly names trafficking in persons and forced prostitution as forms of violence against women. States Parties to the convention are called upon to condemn

trafficking and pursue policies to prevent, punish and eradicate it. International instruments specifically addressing the trafficking of children include the *ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor* (1999), and the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) and its *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* (2000).

Some countries have targeted the exploitation of children in sex tourism, adopting laws that allow for the prosecution of sex crimes against children committed in another country, regardless of that country's laws. Such laws are designed not only to punish the commercial sexual exploitation of children overseas, but also to deter sex tourists who become situational child abusers due to a perception that the sexual exploitation of children is acceptable in some other culture. A great number of countries in the world have a variety of laws under which traffickers could be punished, including facilitating entry or exit from the country for prostitution and sundry laws against pimping.

VII. STATE OBLIGATION

Treaties, conventions, etc. are the primary source of obligations for States with respect to trafficking. By becoming a party to a treaty, States undertake binding obligations in international law and undertake to ensure that their own national legislation, policies or practices meet the requirements of the treaty and are consistent with its standards. These obligations are enforceable in international courts and tribunals with appropriate jurisdiction, such as the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court or regional human rights courts, and may be enforceable in domestic courts, depending on domestic law.

Although determining the responsibility of States can be difficult because of the complex nature of trafficking and its associated legal framework, in very general terms, States will be responsible for their own acts or omissions that breach their obligations under international law, including human rights law. In addition, States will generally not be able to avoid responsibility for the acts of private persons when their ability to influence an alternative, more positive outcome can be established. In such cases, the source of responsibility is not the act itself but the failure of the State to take measures of prevention or response in accordance with the required standard, usually to be found in a treaty.

To punish the perpetrator of the crimes and to protect the victims of these illegal activities, domestic legal and judicial guarantee must be provided by the State government, and the State government cooperation with the international community is must to combat this menace. The reason being that, the State can never stop human trafficking and sex slavery merely by own efforts. However, the efforts of the State are still the pre-requisite for the ultimate victory of the battle against such evils.

Victims who break free from their traffickers often find themselves in a situation of great insecurity and vulnerability. They may be physically injured as well as physically and emotionally traumatized. They may be afraid of retaliation.

They may not have any means of subsistence. Unfortunately, the harm experienced by victims of trafficking does not necessarily cease when they come to the attention of the authorities. Mistreatment by public officials may result in a continuation of an exploitative situation or the emergence of a new one. The harm already done to victims can be compounded by failures to provide medical and other forms of support—or by linking it to an obligation to cooperate that victims may not be willing or able to meet. The State in which a victim is located is responsible for providing that person with immediate protection and support. This responsibility becomes operational when the State knows or should know that an individual within its jurisdiction is a victim of trafficking. The principle is applicable to all countries in whose territory the victim is located. It applies to all trafficked persons, whether victims of national or transnational trafficking. The first and most immediate obligation of that State is to ensure that the victim is protected from further exploitation and harm—from those who have already exploited that person and from anyone else.

VIII. LEGAL PROTECTION IN INDIA

Several South Asian countries, including India, are among the countries known for extensive trafficking of minor girls (under 18 years) for commercial sexual exploitation. Though India has made several commitments towards eliminating human trafficking and has ratified a number of international treaties, trafficking of women and minor girls for sexual exploitation continues to be widespread.

India has long taken cognisance of the problem of trafficking for sexual trafficking. Not only has the Constitution expressly prohibited trafficking in any form, but both the India Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), have provisions for the protection of women and minor girls, for the prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and for the prosecution of traffickers and those profiting from women and minor girls in sex trafficking. Other laws may be also invoked to protect minor girls, such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJA). Besides, there are several policies that focus on combating, directly or indirectly, sex trafficking, including the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children, the National Plan of Action for Children and the National Policy for Empowerment of Women. Protocols exist, moreover, that are designed specifically to address sex trafficking of minor girls such as the Protocol for Pre-rescue, Rescue, and Post-Rescue Operations of Child Victims of Trafficking for the Purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Standard Operating Procedures on Investigating Crimes of Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Numerous programmes have also been implemented through the MOWCD, state governments and several NGOs.

Both the IPC and the ITPA have provisions for the prevention and combating of trafficking, but there are critical gaps in their implementation. In 2011, India was ranked seventh out of 196 countries in the Trafficking Index2 in terms

of risk for trafficking, where it was grouped with countries that were identified as being at extreme risk for trafficking. Most of the trafficking in India occurs across states (interstate) or locations within a state (intrastate). Trafficking across international borders occurs to only a small extent in India (Asian Development Bank, 2003a). Accurate data on trafficking for sexual exploitation in general and of minor girls in particular are not available, and estimates on its magnitude vary. The Government of India reports that approximately 3 million women and minor girls are in commercial sex in the country and minor girls constitute 40 percent of this number (Ministry of Women and Child Development [MOWCD] and UNODC, 2008).

The Government of India penalises trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation through the Immoral Trafficking prevention Act (ITPA), with prescribe penalty of seven years' to life imprisonment. Besides, sections 366(A) and 372 of the Indian Penal Code prohibit kidnapping and sailing minors into prostitution respectively, with penalties of ten years imprisonment and fine.

However, the movement of sex trafficking victims may occasionally be facilitated by corrupt officials. They protect brothels that exploit victims and protect traffickers and brothel keepers from arrest and other threats of enforcement. There are no efforts made to tackle the problem of government officials' complicity in trafficking workers for overseas employment.

IX. CONCLUSION

Considering the evidence of growth in trafficking, it appears that existing laws and their enforcement are inadequate. The legal status of trafficking victims often renders them even more vulnerable; legal protection of victims is of paramount importance. Where prostitution is prohibited, victims can be viewed and treated as criminals, rather than crime victims. Victims of international trafficking frequently are illegal aliens and face the dilemma that if they escape to seek help, they may be arrested and deported. Although in desperate need of medical care, counselling and sometimes drug treatment, victims' legal status can prevent them from accessing these services. There must be avenues for victims to seek redress and restitution without risk of further human rights violations.

Human trafficking and sex slavery has not been eradicated till date and they have become a mounting criminal market in the world, particularly in the developing countries. Although it will never be completely eradicated, it can be prevented and reduce the growth of such evils. Combating trafficking in persons is not only an international concern, but also an obligation of a State. States may sometimes be reluctant to accept legal responsibility for trafficking and its concomitant violations of human rights. Regardless of whether a State signs a specific treaty, it does not become an excuse for not fulfilling its obligations in combating human trafficking—in particular, sex slavery—in the modern world. The member States have an inescapable responsibility to take effective measures to protect victims of trafficking and to punish traffickers under the international treaties. The Trafficking

Protocol emphasises the crucial duties and responsibilities of States to combat such menace.

Therefore, domestic efforts need to be made from different aspects, including legislative measures, judicial guarantee of the victims' rights, and punishment of the crimes. Efforts are also needed to raise public awareness of human trafficking—especially, trafficking in women and children for sex exploitation. It should be emphasized that we fight against human trafficking, not just for the victims and potential victims, but also for ourselves, because if we do not defend the dignity of others, we ultimately cannot fully enjoy our own dignity. We consider it a manifestation of the international obligation to follow noble human decency and illuminate the road ahead, along which human beings can move forward to a brighter future.

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