

Causes, Issues, And Care Related To Women Trafficking!

Abdus Samad Khan¹, Taza khan², Sidra Nazir³, Dr.Manzoor Ahmad⁴

¹Assistant Professor Department of Law Awkum

²LLM Scholar Department of Law AWKUM

³LLM Scholar, University of Lahore

⁴Associate Professor Department of Political Science AWKUM

Abstract

When it comes to women's trafficking, Pakistan is both an origin and a destination. Some of the underlying causes include poverty, gender discrimination, lack of education, and ignorance of legal rights. The data that are available point to several areas of concern, such as: direct health effects, inaccessibility to Legal courts, and inadaptive coping that results in the use of illegal drugs. As a result, numerous interventions at three levels would be required: the safeguarding of victims, the prosecution of traffickers, and the prevention of human trafficking.

Keywords: Drugs, poverty, and the trafficking of women

Introduction

In patriarchal societies like Pakistan, women's lives are constantly in danger. When a woman is away from her home, the difficulties significantly rise. Amra, a poor girl, left her home fifteen years ago in search of a better job and a steady income.¹ She with more than 20 other children were unaware that they were being trafficked from Bangladesh to Pakistan. After they crossed the border, they started to be treated badly and were exploited. Amra was forced to marry a man against her will when she arrived in Pakistan. As a result Amra went through physical, sexual, and mental trauma. These kinds of scenarios show how cruel women's trafficking is and how it happens all over the world. This paper presents national, regional, and international reviews to address the concerns related to women trafficking and its impact. Women are physically beaten, sexually assaulted, psychologically traumatized, and economically deprived to create a reliance on the traffickers.² All of these actions have significant health consequences, but despite this, trafficking is rarely, if ever, adequately addressed as a health concern.³⁴

THE CONCEPT

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2004)⁵, human trafficking falls under the category of transitional crime, and it is referred to as the "modern day's slavery."⁶ Human trafficking is an unjust and awful act against the mankind, and it is also an issue of human rights.⁷ In addition, there are health threats and socio-economic consequences in relation to the concept of human trafficking.⁸ Despite being a sensitive and critical issue, there is little evidence regarding its severity. Every year, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation. The largest number of victims trafficked internationally still come from Southeast Asia; efforts to obtain reliable data on human trafficking are hampered and undermined by the lack of standardized methodology for collecting and analyzing the data. over 225,000 per year. India and Pakistan are the most popular destinations. Although men are also targeted, women and children make up the majority of those trafficked. Recent empirical evidences show that human trafficking, especially in the Asian region, is on the rise.⁹ The low status of women in some societies and the rise of sex tourism are major contributors to the phenomenon. The Global Alliance Against Trafficking defines "women trafficking" as: ""All acts involved in the recruitment and/or transportation of a woman for work or services by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt-bondage, deception or other forms of coercion"¹⁰ The definition depicts three fundamental elements that distinguish trafficking cases. First, recruitment, transportation, and other activities comprise the process (what is done);Second, the means (how it is done), which include, among other things, threats, abuse, and deception; The United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also stated that "the crime of trafficking be defined through a combination of the three constituent elements and not the individual components, though in some cases threes individual elements will constitute criminal offences independently." Third, the purpose (why it is done) includes exploitation for sexual or forced labor.¹¹

Underlying Causes:

Women in this part of the world, like women in other parts of the world, are the most vulnerable to the trafficking phenomenon, which is linked to poverty, gender discrimination, a lack of education, and ignorance about legal rights. Pakistan is both the country of origin and destination for women trafficking.¹² One of the primary factors that contribute to women trafficking is poverty. Additionally, these women are deprived of resources due to poverty¹³, which makes the situation even more dire. As a result, poor parents are forced to sell their daughters into domestic servitude, prostitution, or forced marriages. Gender inequalities and disparities in Pakistan are additional causes of women trafficking and exploitation. Poverty encompasses various dimensions, including lack of access to basic services, insecurity in daily life, disempowerment as human agency, and the inability to speak out with dignity .In this society, men have more power, and women have always been thought of as submissive daughters, sisters, or wives. In addition, many societies continue to favor sons and view daughters as an economic burden. In Pakistan, traditional dowry practices and early marriages also increase the financial burden; as a result, forcing parents to sell

their daughters. Another major factor associated with women trafficking is ignorance and illiteracy. In Pakistan, only 39% of women are literate, compared to 64% of men.¹⁴ As a result, educational opportunities are also subject to gender discrimination. moreover, women's vulnerability to exploitation is exacerbated by their lack of education, which prevents them from taking advantage of better earning opportunities. As the reviews above demonstrate, women trafficking in Pakistan is intertwined with socio-cultural, gender, and economic inequalities and inequalities.¹⁵ Every individual in Pakistan has the right to have access to legal justice. However, due to threats and terror, many of the victims remain hesitant to approach the legal system. Furthermore, weak legislation and the poor enforcement of anti-trafficking laws are also cited as factors contributing to the menace in Pakistan.¹⁶ As the reviews above demonstrate, women trafficking in Numerous health risks result from this.

Area of concern

Women's trafficking has the potential to have long-term and/or life-threatening health effects. However, the health risks of human trafficking, particularly for women, are not well-documented. One of the few studies on human trafficking that focuses on health was done in Europe. The data that are available suggest that women trafficking affects a number of different areas. Inaccessibility to healthcare facilities, maladaptive coping strategies using illegal drugs, and direct health effects are just a few examples.¹⁷ The most obvious and direct health effects of human trafficking are psychological, physical, and sexual violence, Physical abuse results in the victims getting injuries such as bruises, broken bones, head wounds, stab wounds, mouth and teeth injuries, and it can even lead to death.¹⁸ Moreover, sexual abuse and coercion into involuntary sexual acts can lead to unwanted pregnancies, gynecological complications.¹⁹ As a result, these victims are at a high risk of infertility A review came to the conclusion that in Pakistan, women are exposed to serious and numerous health risks, which have an impact on the nation's and the world's public health.²⁰ Considering the cruelty of the issue, the role of healthcare professionals can play a pivotal role in order to protect women from severe health consequences. Limited accessibility to health care is also a result of the social stigma associated with trafficking and the availability of inadequate assets and resources. As a result, trafficked victims are at a greater risk of complications.

SALUTION

hence women trafficking is now recognized as a global public health issue²¹, numerous interventions at all care levels are required. There are three ways to combat the trafficking of women: a) The prevention of human trafficking, b) The protection of victims, and c) The prosecution of traffickers.²²

a) The problem of people not being aware of the threat is still a problem. As a result, there is a pressing need to increase the nation's awareness of and comprehension of this serious crime, its effects on individuals, and the identification of useful methods for controlling this inhuman act. Public education campaigns and the incorporation of health and human trafficking information into existing programs, policies, education, and curriculum are both ways to prevent the problem.²³

To combat human trafficking in Pakistan, governmental and non-governmental organizations should collaborate. In this regard, the Ministry of Interior produced and screened a film about the dangers of trafficking for vulnerable populations along the border with India and on state television.²⁴ Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA) addressed the issue of women being trafficked in Pakistan for the first time in its one-year project to raise awareness about trafficking.²⁵ Most importantly, technical training is recommended for all professionals who work to prevent women being trafficked. Additionally, social awareness of the concept of trafficking must be raised. This can be done at a young age through school health curricula. Media coverage could also help spread awareness. The establishment of educational, technical, vocational, health, and infrastructure projects aimed at developing women's resourcefulness can also help stop women from being trafficked.

(b) Sadly, even if victims are fortunate enough to return home, they still experience trauma. In most cases, they are stigmatized in their families and social circles. By providing them with a variety of resources, such as hotlines, shelters, and counseling services, these poor victims can be protected or assisted. The Pakistani government does make plans, but their execution is still a mystery.

There is still a lack of protection for victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The government claims that services are available for victims, including shelter, legal aid, and medical and psychological care.⁶ However, the adequate and secure provision of shelter facility has not been available for many victims. Consequently, providing reliable protection to these victims is strongly recommended, including operational plans to make them easily accessible, to repatriate the trafficked women, and to re-integrate rescued women into society. Moreover, equal opportunities for participation in economic activities could be provided by empowering the victims, thus making them independent. Intersectoral collaboration is necessary to close this gap because of the situation's worsening limitations caused by inadequate infrastructure and budgetary constraints.

c) The Pakistani government does not meet all of the minimum requirements for eradicating human trafficking. However, it is making significant efforts to do so.²⁶ In 2002, legislation known as the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PCHTO) was passed, and it specifically addresses the protection of human trafficking victims.²⁷ The ordinance punishes anyone who:

"Purchases, sells, harbors, transports, provides, detains, or obtains a child or a woman through coercion, kidnapping, or abduction, or by giving or receiving any benefit for trafficking the child or woman into or out of Pakistan for the purpose of exploitative entertainment."²⁸ The ordinance also provides certain benefits to the victims, such as allowing them to stay in Pakistan for a longer period of time;

paying the victim's expenses and compensation; or making arrangements for the shelter, food, and medical care of a victim who is an unaccompanied child or a homeless woman²⁹. The government has tried to address this serious problem, and some trafficking offenses have been prosecuted.

Without a comprehensive strategy, the government cannot significantly reduce this problem.¹³ Additionally, legal professionals and judges would need to be trained to be aware of human trafficking. Another area of concern is illiteracy and ignorance of the law. As a result, facilities should be made available to assist victims in taking their cases to the courts and receiving legal counsel.

Conclusion

One of the most pressing issues in this region of the world is human trafficking of women. Economic hardship, gender discrimination, educational inequality, and a lack of awareness of one's legal rights are all contributing factors to women trafficking in Pakistan. As a result, these victims run the risk of experiencing a wide range of troubling health consequences, particularly in terms of substance abuse, reproductive health, and so on. It is necessary to take steps that will make it easier for healthcare providers to assist the victims. As a result, numerous interventions at three levels would be required: the protection of victims, the prosecution of traffickers, and the prevention of human trafficking. A legal professional can play a crucial role in providing preventive awareness from a holistic perspective of care. Additionally, educational programs are required to safeguard women from serious health risks.

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