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## Human trafficking and migration: A perspective on the core issues

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### Abstract

Migration is referred as the movement of people in search of better living and better job opportunities but during certain cases people are forced to migrate i.e. during war etc. Illegal migration often leads to other illegal and anti-social work. Trafficking is a global issue of the present time, the root causes includes conflict, refugees and migration. Women and children are the worst sufferers. The trafficked people are forced to do illegal work such as murder, rape, smuggling etc. Women are exploited sexually and are treated like animals. We have the essential tools to disrupt organised crime network through intelligence sharing, joint operations, financial investigations and coordination across local crime networks.

We should deliver our responsibilities and acknowledge that we can and must do more to stop human suffering.

This broad topic of migration and human trafficking is complex in itself. Women and children face various situation and they are forced to do illegal works and are tortured mentally and physically this inhuman channel makes use of the innocent people as puppets and molds them into criminals who can do smuggling, murder, rape etc.

**Keywords:** human trafficking, job opportunities, Illegal migration, financial investigations, coordination

### Introduction

#### Human Migration

It is a movement by people from one place to another with the intensions of settling permanently or temporarily in a new location. The movement is often from very long distances and from one country to another. But internal migration is also possible indeed, this is the dominant form globally. People may migrate as individuals in family units or in large groups.

#### Human Trafficking

Trafficking is a form of illegal work defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and/or receipt of a human for the purpose of slavery, forced labour and forced exploitation.

The main international document dealing with the trafficking of children are the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of Child, an international agreement on childhood. It's become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives around the world. But still not every child gets to enjoy a full childhood. Still, too many childhoods are cut short.

It is up to our generation to demand that leaders from government, business and communities fulfil their commitments and take action for child rights now, once and for all. They must commit to making sure *every child, has every right*.

The 1999 ILO host forms of child labour convention and the 2000 UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children.

#### Causes of Trafficking

The main cause of human trafficking is more or less illegal migration of people.

Domestic law in India lacks a comprehensive definition of trafficking at the central level. The 'ITPA', does not define trafficking, but it defines 'prostitution' to mean sexual exploitation or abuse of persons for commercial purpose, which has elements of trafficking.

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Recent years has seen a lot of attention on human trafficking and it originated from illegal migration. Though a number of anti-trafficking organisations have mushroomed but lack of awareness among the poor and illiterate is a major drawback. Combined efforts of the common literate flock who are the real assets and the governmental and non –governmental organisations to create required awareness among the people. The most common victims are 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.

**Key recommendations for India**

Some recommendations are common to prosecution, protection and prevention. These includes the following:

- There must be ratification of the ‘UNTOC’ and the protocols, so that there will be a common blueprint and a common as well as comprehensive legal framework.
- In order to have a common understanding of trafficking and also to ensure that all forms of trafficking and penalized, the definition under the protocol must be adhered to. Even if this is not done under one comprehensive law on trafficking.

**Key recommendations in prevention**

- Anti-trafficking trainings must continue with renewed vigour for different implementing agencies,
- Basic/qualification training
- Training in service personnel
- Training for those deputed to anti-trafficking squads/police/border controls
- Employment and recruitment agencies must be closely monitored.
- There must be greater awareness at all stages of source, demand and transit and whistle-blowers must be protected.
- Corruption among the police. Border officials and other government personnel must be addressed more firmly.

“Manju Mohandas” who works for children’s welfare and spreading awareness on issues related to social discrimination,

gender equality, and human trafficking says that “it is easier to detect cases of oppression and exploitation in familiar neighbourhoods, however, we can also contact emergency helpline numbers in the event of observing suspicious activities involving children and women outside our neighbourhood- for instance, on noticing a grievously injured child begging on the streets, or in trains, if we chance upon a group of girls, women or children with tell-tale signs of anxiety, fear or assault”.

These instances are not easy to detect and also not easily verifiable. Hence, despite the high frequency of occurrence, the number of cases reported remains extremely low.

“Nita Bhalla” who works for Thomson Reuters foundation stated in his article that almost 20,000 women and children were victims of human trafficking in India in 2016, a rise of nearly 25% from the previous year, government data released on Thursday showed.

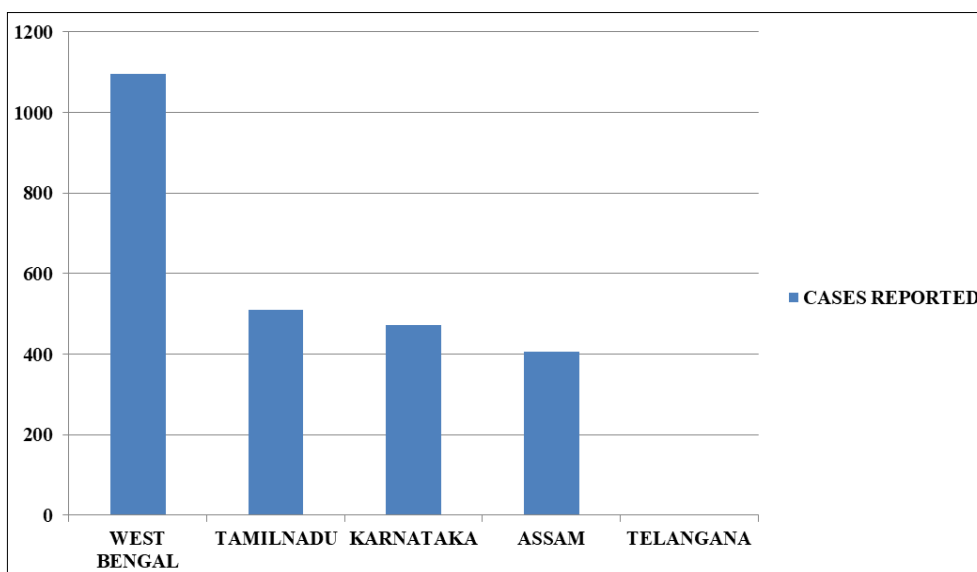
The ministry of women and child development told parliament that 19,223 women and children were trafficked last year against 15,448 in 2015, with the highest number of victims recorded in the eastern state of West Bengal.

Police officials attributed the rise to increased public awareness of trafficking related crimes and more police training.

In India Human Trafficking is rampant across the border areas on the eastern side. On the eastern side India is bordered by Bangladesh and Nepal. And these two regions pose the largest threat to the Indian security scenario. Every year large number of people crosses over to the Indian side from Nepal and Bangladesh. Uttarakhand, Assam and Meghalaya act as the chief entry points from this illegal immigration. The illegal immigration overlaps human trafficking in some cases especially in the case of women since sometimes women are forcibly pushed across the border.

**Table 1:** State- Wise & Category –Wise cases of Human Trafficking in India in 2014

State	No. Of cases reported	%
West Bengal	1096	20.10
Tamil Nadu	509	9.30
Karnataka	472	8.60
Assam	407	7.40
Telangana	398	7.30



**Fig 1:** Cases Reported

## Conclusion

India needs to ensure that major conventions especially “UNTOC” and protocols are ratified for a more uniform system of anti-trafficking frameworks for tackling cross border trafficking. The internationally accepted norm of a child being a person below the age of 18 must be incorporated in all statutes, including those on labor. India needs to cooperate with its neighbours, especially with Nepal and Bangladesh, to tackle cross border trafficking. Although some measures exist, these need to be formalized in law and policy and operationalized, through training programmes for different stakeholders.

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