



Trafficking of Women and Children; A Dangerous Move - A Study in Karnataka State

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the study is to know about the present status of Women and Child trafficking, understanding the hazard as well as impact on the society and present actions in the Karnataka State. Trafficking in human beings, more so in Women and Children, is one of the fastest growing forms of criminal activity. Human trafficking is a group of crimes involving trafficking in person of men, women and children for sexual exploitation or for financial gains or other exploitation of trafficked persons. Women and Girls are the main victims of human trafficking in India. Over 90 percent of those trafficked for sex is female. Many problems like poverty, oppression, lack of human rights, and lack of social or economic opportunity, conflict or instability and similar conditions is leads trafficking of women and children. Almost 20,000 women & children were victims of human trafficking in India in 2016, a rise of nearly 25 percent in a year and this is a very dangerous move in the state. During 2009-12, the Karnataka state is turning out to be a hotspot of human trafficking, reporting the **third** highest number of cases in the country. The state stood **fifth** in India for human trafficking in 2016, with 1,012 victims being reported. Now, it ranked **third** in South India. An average of 27 children and women go missing or get kidnapped in the state every day. Government has to take seriously this issue for appropriate actions and the Women and Child Dept, Human Rights Commission, Home Affairs and the State Women's Commission roles are very important. The NGOs and activists also initiate actions along with the Government. However, now the state is making significant efforts and confirmed increasing efforts effectively.

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INTRODUCTION:

Human trafficking is a group of crimes involving trafficking in person of men, women and children for sexual exploitation or for financial gains or other exploitation of trafficked persons. Victims are lured or abducted from their homes and subsequently forced to work against their wish through various means of various establishments, indulge in prostitution or subjected to various types of indignities and even killed or incapacitated for the purposes of begging and trade in human organs.

Almost 80% of all worldwide trafficking is for sexual exploitation, with an estimated 1.2 million children being bought and sold into sexual slavery every year. India as a nation is still being used by the traffickers as receiving, sending and transit country. Women and girls are the main victims of human trafficking in India. They are then forced into prostitution, forced marriage, and domestic work. Based a report published by the Government of India, there are approximately 10 million sex workers in India out of which 1,00,000 belong to Mumbai alone which is Asia's largest sex industry center. 300,000 to 500,000 under 18 years of age children are involved in the sex trade. (<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/prostitution-in-india>).

This is the extent of trafficking within the boundaries of the country. In addition to trafficking for prostitution, girls and women are also bought and sold into forced marriages in women deficit areas due to female infanticide. The forced children are subjected to physical and sexual abuse and treated as slaves. In many cases, trafficked children and women are at risk of all manner of ills, from unwanted pregnancy, HIV/Aids,

cervical cancer, severe physical injury, violence, drug abuse and more, never forget to mention the emotional trauma and long-run psychological impact.

Trafficking of Women and Children:

In the definition the term exploitation encompasses sexual exploitation, forced labor, 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.

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as 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.

Most of the victims were registered under the immoral trafficking. Immoral trafficking was followed by human trafficking (2,605), under section 370 & 370A of Indian Penal Code (IPC), which includes men and boys, trafficked to work sites such as brick kilns and construction sites.

Main Causes of Women and Children Trafficking:

Some of the common factors are local conditions that make populations want to migrate in search of better conditions: poverty, oppression, lack of human rights, and lack of social or economic opportunity, dangers from conflict or instability and similar conditions.

Objectives of the Study:

- To know the present status of Women and Children trafficking in Karnataka State.
- To better understand the causes for human trafficking in Karnataka State.
- To know the steps of actions from the State Government and plans of anti-women and children trafficking in the present conditions.

Statement of Problem:

Trafficking of minor girls – the second-most prevalent trafficking crime – surged 14 times over the last decade and increased 65% in 2014, according to new data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Girls and women are the main targets of immoral trafficking in India, 76% of human trafficking cases recorded nationwide over a decade, revealed by NCRB.

The human trafficking phenomenon is all-pervading and is considered as a complex problem in any society. States no matter however powerful or weak or partially address the issues by using the legal and administrative mechanism. Many social activists and NGOs along with Governmental implementation are actively participating in numerous activities especially in educating and training people at the community level and protecting the vulnerable class of the society. The Indian Government that also must act and implement a plethora of regulations outlawing trafficking and associated criminality in the country. There needs to have an urgent and essential measure to reduce the epidemic of trafficking in India.

Trafficking of Child and women is a serious concern prevalent in India and states. According to a report published by the US Department of State, India is the source, destination and transit country for **human trafficking** who then get involved in forced labor and sex trafficking. As per the report of Thomson Reuters Foundation New Delhi, Almost 20,000 women and children were victims of human trafficking in India in 2016, a rise of nearly 25 percent in a year.

The recent statistics of the Ministry of Women and Child Development states that more than 25,000 women and children were trafficked. Human trafficking is considered the **third largest organized crime**, globally and the number is increasing every year. Poverty, uneven employment, gender discrimination, harmful traditional and cultural practices and lack of proper policy implementation to end this grave condition are some of the causes of human trafficking in India.

Human trafficking expands to almost every part of India:

Approximately 16 million girl children are believed to have been trafficked into the sex trade. A girl is reported missing every eight minutes in India. In fact, profits from human trafficking have more than tripled

over the past 10 years. (Sources from <https://www.thequint.com/voices/>) According to the Inspector-General of Police (Women Protection Cell) of Andhra Pradesh, Human trafficking in general has expanded to almost every state in the country. Andhra Pradesh Government had been spending on rehabilitation of women and children. "Each of those rescued persons from Andhra Pradesh is considered as the victims of commercial, sexual, exploitation and transportation.

As per the one of the NGO - Thomson Reuters Foundation, Normally the pimps get picked up but this time everyone involved in buying, selling and reselling of these girls has been found guilty. According to non-governmental organizations working in the country, more than 20 million commercial sex workers in India, 16 million women and girls are victims of sex trafficking. Of an estimated 20 million commercial sex workers in India, 16 million women and girls are victims of sex trafficking, according to non-governmental organizations working in the country.

In Karnataka Present Scenario:

Women and Children Trafficking: Karnataka stands third place in human trafficking; Karnataka has the doubtful distinction of being one of the top states in India, for human trafficking according to data collected by the Anti-Human Trafficking units of states. The state stood fifth in India for human trafficking in 2016, with 1,012 victims being reported. It ranked third in South India. West Bengal has secured the first place with 4164 victims of human trafficking.

According to the data provided by Anti-Human Trafficking units of the States to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 4,980 victims of human trafficking were rescued from prostitution, 71 victims from begging and two were rescued from being victimized by organ trade in 2016. South sought after; over the years, states of southern India have become the most sought-after destinations for human traffickers in the country. Stats show these states contribute to more than half the number of human trafficking cases reported from across the country. On an average, each of the four south Indian states reports over 300 human cases every year.

Crime Head wise Incidence of Various Crimes under Human Trafficking during 2011 - 2015 & Percentage Variation in 2015 over 2014.

#	Crime Head	Year Wise Trafficking of Women and Children					In %
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	Procure of Minor Girls (Sec. 366-A IPC)	862	809	1224	2020	3087	52.8
2	Importation of Girls from Foreign Country (Sec.366B IPC)	80	59	31	13	06	-53.8
3	Selling of Minors for Prostitution (Sec. 372 IPC)	113	108	100	82	111	35.4
4	Buying of Minor for Prostitution (Sec. 373 IPC.	27	15	6	14	11	-21.4
5	Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956	2435	2563	2579	2617	2641	0.9
6	Human Trafficking (Sec. 370, 370 A IPC) *	0	0	0	720	1021	41.8
Total Cases of Human Trafficking		3517	3544	3940	5466	6877	25.8

Bangalore Mirror Bureau stated that 1,012 people were trafficked from the state in 2016, according to Anti-Human Trafficking unit. In Karnataka, a total of 219 girls below 18 years of age and 113 boys of the same age have been trafficked in 2016 and 567 women above 18 years and 113 men above 18 have been trafficked, taking the total number to 1,012 (226 men and 786 women.)

The number of cases of women and children being trafficked in Karnataka has been on the increase in the last five years with over 3,000 cases. This is very dangerous situation. In the last five years, there were as many as 3,234 cases of women and child trafficking reported in the state as on March, 2017. During year of 2017 -18, especially in the areas of human trafficking, most of the women and children not traced by the concerned department till today, due to many reasons.

A senior police officer said: "We have anti-human trafficking teams in place across Karnataka, and they are constantly tracking such activities." Legally speaking; Article 3, paragraph(a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking "as 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 or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced workers or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

However, Karnataka stood third in South India, with Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra securing second place (1,449 victims) and third (1,145 victims) place respectively. While Andhra Pradesh reported 355 victims of human trafficking, a total of 390 victims have been reported from Telangana.

27 Children and Women go missing in Karnataka every day:

The Government of Karnataka said that; an average of 27 children and women go missing or get kidnapped in the state every day. Bangalore tops the list of any city or town in the state from which the maximum missing or kidnapping complaints are registered. Over 3,000 women and children missing or kidnapped with many reasons and remain untraced since over a year. In the state from January 2014 till May 2017, as many as 16,361 women and children were reported missing or kidnapped, out of whom 11,283 people were either traced by police or returned on their own. Among the missing and kidnapped, a total of 72 people were found dead.

In Bangalore city limits last year (2017 -18), 1,703 children and 3,887 women were reported missing or kidnapped, out of whom 4,218 people were traced by the police or returned. Among the missing or kidnapped women and children, six were found dead in Bangalore.

Home minister informed the house that domestic violence, revenge, poverty, failure in exams, love affairs, forcible marriage and non-compatibility among parents are some of the prominent reasons for people going missing. The minister told the house that no human trafficking mafia was found having links in the reported cases.

However, the police department will investigate that angle as well, he added. The state government has formed an anti-human trafficking cell to investigate missing and kidnap cases headed by an ADGP ranking official. Such cells are functioning in nine districts of the state including Bangalore. The minister said that awareness programs are being conducted in schools and colleges on the issue.

One of the Karnataka state Women's Rights Activist says that, (K. Neela) Globalization and liberalization had totally ignored women, dalits and working classes. "Both the Union and state governments should take strict measures to curb human trafficking by bringing in strict laws and initiate good steps and special initiative programs for inclusive development of women"

Selling of infant girls is on the rise in Lambani tandas in Chincholi taluk of Kalaburgi district for some years now, "It is also a kind of trafficking. Instead of finding solutions to curb such heinous acts, the government is announcing packages which will not help them. This apart, migration is also contributing to an increase in trafficking of women."

Actions taken from the Government of Karnataka:

During 2009-12, the Karnataka state is turning out to be a hotspot of human trafficking, reporting the third highest number of cases in the country. Home ministry reports 1,379 human trafficking cases were reported from Karnataka in the four-year period.

Human traffickers find a fitting breeding ground in the fast-growing southern metros, luring victims with huge salaries and better lifestyles. A sizeable chunk of trafficking victims, migrant workers in particular, are often forced into sex work. Recent raids led to the rescue of over 300 bonded workers in Bangalore. NGO and as per the government officials, (Sources -Times of India report) this is only the tip of the iceberg.

The Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee, Mrs. Meena Jain, expressed that Bangalore has become a human trafficking hub over the years, and many of the victims are children. "Many rescued children brought to our care centers were made to work under inhuman conditions in factories and sweatshops across the city".

The state has taken adequate steps to control the hazard which anti-human trafficking units have been set up in Bangalore city, Mysore, Hubli - Dharwad, Gulbarga, Belgaum and Dakshin Kannada (Mangalore) districts. And also in big cities of major districts, the state government planned set up anti-human trafficking units in 2018. Belgaum (Belagavi) district that is plagued by ills such as the Devadasi system is exploring new avenues of creating awareness about trafficking in child and women. The zilla panchayat is tying up with non-

government organizations to spread awareness among villagers about educating girls, motivating them to take up employment, and planning marriage at the right time.

Hyderabad-based 'My Choice Foundation' and Belagavi-based 'Mahila Kalyan Samsthe' conduct awareness programs in 100 of the 506 Gram panchayats in the district.

These are panchayats in taluks (blocks) such as Athani, Raibag, Chikkodi and Khanapurand they are in the border Maharashtra and Goa. A survey by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare has indicated higher incidence of trafficking in women and child are in these areas.

The awareness programs include street plays, film shows, door-to-door visits, meetings of women in public places and meetings of ANGANWADI, ASHA workers and school teachers and Gram Panchayat workers. The local NGOs are planned to have a special counseling session will be held for boys and girls. They will be educated about trafficking and related issues and provide tips to overcome with this program,, and also help their friends find a way out of it. Special training will be provided to members of self-help groups to communicate to officials and report such cases.

Department of Women and Child officials have mainly focusing on trafficking to tell people that it is a crime and has to be reported and stopped. The Zilla Panchayat is also organizing sensitization workshops for employees of Gram Panchayats, education and other departments to look for early symptoms of trafficking and stop them. In the Bangalore city, the anti-human trafficking unit of the CID has registered 1,680 cases from 2011 to 2017, In Karnataka and arrested 5,577 accused in connection with these cases, an event organized by the MAHILA DAKSHATHA SAMITI against child trafficking.

During the same period, the department also rescued 4,041 victims of whom 820 are minors, she said. Cases have been registered under child rights Act, prohibition of child marriage Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, SC/ST prevention of atrocities Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

The Nepal woman was brought to Bengaluru with the promise of a job in a Beauty Parlour. But she ended up in the apartment in the captivity of a businessman, who allegedly sexually abused her. The woman is among the hundreds trafficked to Bangalore on false promises. In other southern states show a decline in the number of trafficking cases, the numbers are growing in Karnataka. Police say Bangalore accounts for a lion's share of cases reported from the state. As per the home ministry, Karnataka registered the second largest number of trafficking cases in South India, and third largest number in the country, this is very dangerous situation.

The Crime Branch office says that across agencies, officials agree that mere rescue won't do the job; there is a need to identify touts and gangs who operate these trafficking gangs. But then again, they claim it is easier said than done. According to the senior officials, the human trafficking was being done in an organized manner with the earning being around Rs. 25 crore a day. "The disturbing aspect is the commoditization of human being. Like a commodity, a woman is used for a price". During the same period, the department also rescued 4,041 victims of whom 820 are minors, she said. Cases have been registered under child rights Act, prohibition of child marriage Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, SC/ST prevention of atrocities Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Principal Secretary, department of women and child development, (Uma Mahadevan) who also spoke, said that as a government official, reaching out to individuals in need was important. The issues addressed are only the tip of the iceberg, she said. Speaking about an incident where a woman was rescued by the department, they said she was happy that the woman's life had changed for the better. In addition to that as a government official, reaching out to individuals in need was important. The issues addressed are only the tip of the iceberg.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

In Karnataka state has to take this issue seriously and the Role of Women and Child Development, National Human Rights Commission, Home Affairs and National Commission for Women are very important at this moment and make an effort with systematically plan of action. The NGOs and activists also initiate actions along with government, and ensure in the following actions;

1. Ensuring Human Rights Perspective for the Victims of Trafficking with Preventing Trafficking and Emerging Areas of Concern in Trafficking – Their Patterns and Trends.
2. Identification of Traffickers and Trafficked Victims with Special Measures for Identification and Protection of Trafficked Child Victims.
3. Rescue of Trafficked Victims Especially in Brothel-Based and Street-Based Prostitution with Special Focus on Child Victims.
4. Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Repatriation of Trafficked Victims with Special Focus on Child Victims in all the districts through anti human trafficking units.

5. Cross-Border Trafficking: National and Regional Cooperation and Coordination with an action of Legal Framework and Law Enforcement and Witness Protection and Support to Victims. And also provide Training, Sensitization, Education and Awareness.

To counter the rush forward targeting girls and women, a 2013 amendment to the law provides rigorous punishment from a minimum of three years in prison to life imprisonment to address the trafficking of children, including physical exploitation or any form of sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude or the forced removal of organs. The government increased law enforcement efforts, although investigations, prosecutions, and convictions remained low for the scale of human trafficking in India. Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibits slavery, servitude, and most forms of sex trafficking and prescribes penalties ranging from seven years to life imprisonment.

CONCLUSION:

Trafficking in human beings, more so in Women and Children, is one of the fastest growing forms of criminal activity and one of the most profitable industries. Counter-trafficking strategies and programs have been inadequate to stop the expansion. Over 90 per cent of those trafficked for sex is female. The Government of Karnataka does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Now the government demonstrated increasing efforts compared to the earlier actions.

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