

Trafficking in Persons in the Lap of Asia:

By

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Abstract:

Trafficking in persons has been an appalling fact in human history. It traces its origin from the period when slavery was an established institution in the Gulf countries and elsewhere. However, when Europeans began the exploration of Indian Ocean and the littoral states, they found large herds of people in weak social and political setup. Hence, they found flocks of labor which could provide potential to various sectors in their countries. Since then, human trafficking has taken a new shape with new motives. In modern days, Asian nations share a good number of persons that are trafficked in various destinations. The South-Asian nations are the particular victims in this regard in addition to few socially disturbed and politically instable countries. Men, women and children are transported mainly to the gulf countries for serving activities which are at high demands: labor, sex-work and jockey in addition to many more manual works. The reports of International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation have shown that, around 24.9 million sufferers are stuck in modern-day slavery. Human trafficking is an impressive source of income that fetches around \$150 billion yearly for traffickers. 19 percent of the victims transported for the sexual exploitation generate 66 percent of the world-wide profit of human trafficking. Various measures have so far been planned to contain the growing effects of trafficking. However, the prosecutions that undergone in 2016 was alarmingly very low. According to US State Department 2017 report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), there were 14,894 prosecutions and 9,017 convictions for trafficking globally in 2017. Among them, 6,297 prosecutions and 2,193 convictions in addition to 14,706 identified victims that occurred in South and Central Asia.

Keywords: Human trafficking, Trans-national Organized Crime (TOC),

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Introduction:

Human trafficking is one of the serious challenges of the International community and simultaneously, the most profitable activity for the Trans-national Organized Crime (TOC) world-wide. It takes the advantage of humanitarian disasters, the conflicts within the states and the helplessness of the people in crises. The men, women and children are abducted by those criminal gangs and sold for many undertakings; labor exploitations, sexual abuse and in some cases for spare parts of human organs. It is dynamic, flexible and resourceful like so many other types of criminal activities. Given to various factors, a large number of Asians move beyond borders. This movement may rarely be free from sufferings. The human traffickers cannot afford to allow them to move at their own, hence, they manage such illicit migrations which involve the risk of life and hardships for the migrants and money minting venture for the traffickers.

It has been reported that trafficking in women and children is on rise in Asia. However, bona fide figures have not been submitted given to complexity of the issue. Yet, various findings show that around millions is shipped worldwide, which comprises of 150,000 South Asians and 225,000 southeastern Asians and thousands from Central Asia. After drug and arms smuggling, human trafficking ranks third in the income generation. The process of trafficking is full of miseries as the undertakers often bear physical and psychological abuse in addition to social cohesion.

The routine trafficking of masses through Indian Ocean uncovers various reasons. There are various sources of huge supply of this commodity and a large number of industries in various other venues await them at first and second world countries. The Slave trade marks the notorious phenomena that continue in the Indian Ocean for centuries. This human trafficking began in Indian Ocean as a "Slave Trade" which dates back to the Islamic period. Certain documents can prove the existence of this trade that took place in the 2nd century AD. The first know transportation of slaves was conducted in the Pleriplus of Erythraean Sea which took a momentum during Arab monopoly of the ocean and maintained afterwards too. However, Arabs did not transport Asians in considerable numbers. Rather, it was Europeans and particularly, Britain's, which shifted millions for various undertakings.

When the extraction of oil reached its zenith in 1970, millions of the labors moved to the Middle East and Iran and this inter-regional migrations contained workers of; Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia. The Middle East also experienced inter-migrations usually from the non-oil producing countries such as; Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen and they were awaited in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This migration was highly necessary for the operation of oil facilities, health, banking, management of engineering and various other activities.

Given to the political upset, rampant poverty and poor law and order in various developing states and many other factors, the global migration has propped up to an alarming rate. The nationals of such countries move from one corner of the world to another in search of offers and opportunities which are not available in their hometown. In fact, human trafficking is exploiting the vulnerable and distressed persons. As per the estimates of the United Nations, “there are currently more than 12 million people in forced labor, bondage, force child labor and sexual servitude.” (Institute for security studies, paper, 2012)

A good number of trafficking mafias commute people across the Indian Ocean. Human trafficking is much income oriented source, after arms and drugs. Ironically, it seems that human trafficking is now surpassing the arms and drug smuggling. (Alias)

In this century, no country is free from human trafficking. Each state is source country, a transit or destination and sometimes may be all the three. This challenge needs a stern international focus than what it is actually paid. The smugglers often use everything to commute the victims and those running by will. They can use various boats and large containers and it is container traffic that has today assumed major concern. As around seven million containers, of various size move from one coast to other on daily basis and it is the inability of the customs officials in searching into the containers, exposing their weaknesses in this regard. Recent experience has indicated that containers are used to smuggle everything from al-Qaeda operatives and armaments to illegal waste. This certainly falls in the realm of maritime security and calls for more effective law enforcement. (Gumedze, 2008)

Presently, the United Nations (UN) and various states are making efforts to check the trafficking and smuggling of persons who is very common in the Indian Ocean and particularly, the gulf of Persia. The previous slave trade still persists but today it has assumed a new shape,

new name and new pattern and with varying motives such as economic, proxy, forced labor and prostitute. However, it is a crime in all the three aspects. It is a very successful crime, often conducted through oceans, land and air, yielding impressive amounts for the smugglers but with all risks being borne by the migrants.

Literature Review:

In the study of human trafficking, various sources shall be consulted to investigate the factors which give rise to the issue. It will be an attempt to highlight the miseries of persons that are transported from region to region for the sake of two obvious reasons; forced labor and sex work. The intercourse among the responsible reasons that encourage trafficking in persons, shall also be laid down. In order to reach at a good conclusion, Dr. Feroze's book, "Pakistan: Ghulami ke pachas saal" shall be resorted. For latest facts and figures, some dailies, research articles and papers published by various institutes for security studies shall be consulted in addition to internet source.

Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling:

The movements of the people are categorized into two aspects: the ones that are smuggled and the ones that are trafficked. The trafficking is an undertaking often against the wishes of the sufferers whereas, the smuggling of the migrants is termed as collaborative plan hatched by the smugglers and those smuggled to escape posts responsible for the regulation of immigrations. There are economic reasons too but the main difference between them is of the consent.

Human Trafficking According to UNO:

The UN Trafficking Protocol or "Protocol to Prevent" Identifies human trafficking in the following words:

"The recruitment, transportation and transfer of persons by any of the means which involves coercive measures, the exploitation of persons and the transfer of fewer than eighteens under any of the above mention means constitute trafficking."

(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>)

Universal Causes of Human Trafficking:

1) Poverty:

For the purpose to understand poverty as a universal cause, it is necessary to investigate its three major aspects; the supply, demand and the interaction among these forces. The former aspect highlights that the people who are in need of survival stuff and there are countless means to acquire them. While the demand side of poverty means those sectors which demand labor of the deprived people to attain good profit. And it is this interaction between these elements that encourage for human trafficking. All those states which are going through extreme poverty offer the supply side while those offer needs help in the realization of the supply side.

The major economic reason related to human trafficking is routed in the crippling poverty in the impoverished nations which cause their nationals to move economically strong nations e.g. Pakistan to the Gulf states and South Asia to Australia and Bangladesh to Malaysia etc. The Indian Ocean is mostly being used in these activities. Patrick Belser of ILO estimated a global annual profit of \$31.6 billion in 2005. In 2008, the United Nations estimated nearly 2.5 million people from 127 different countries were being trafficked into 137 countries around the world.

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_081971.pdf

A number of Pakistanis' migrate to Gulf and European countries to make better earnings. The findings of "Labor Migration of Pakistan" revealed that in 2014 around 1,000, Pakistani labors were deported from foreign countries, the largest number across the world, while 2, 50,000 having been deported during the last three years. Many labors lose their lives on their way to destinations mostly escaping the naval security forces. The smugglers do not only promise them fake bright destinations but also loot the victims by providing them fake visa while leaving them in lurch. In 2016, a strange case was reported in Turkey when six Pakistani migrants were kidnaped for ransom. However, the abductees were produced afterwards and culprits arrested. The police investigations stated that the smugglers had kidnapped the victims and were asking for ransom from their families in Pakistan. It declared that the smugglers have a Trans-national links and prey the vulnerable movers. Four of the victims were from Gujranwala, one from Mardan and Peshawar each. Besides, it

was reported in one of the Kuwait's daily that 10,000 prostitutes were transferred from Pakistan into Gulf countries and United Bank had set arrangements for the foreign exchange. (Baig, 2017)

Political Instability:

The growing unrest in the Middle East and Afghanistan caused millions to find shelter in stable and peaceful states. However, this migration was not always passive and peaceful; rather, the traffickers also played their role and tactics by transferring families from source countries to destinations. It is often this migration that offers opportunities to traffickers to prey the homeless. Coomaraswamy rightly remarked that the traffickers often fish in the stream of migrations.

The last 7 years saw a momentum in mass migrations, given to the rising unrest in Middle East. The findings of UN estimated that 6.5 million people have so far been displaced within Syria, while around 3 million have escaped Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. In 2007, around 2 million Iraqis escaped Iraq, while 1.7 million made their way to Europe and other countries in the region.

Globalization:

Globalization, too, contributes much in the global traffic in persons. It is generally commented that the running phenomena of globalization has much bolstered the smuggling of people. Terminologically, globalization is referred as a network among the least developed and developed countries, sharing untold essentials.

It was 1970's and 80's that the modern round of globalization began. Prior to it, human trafficking though existed; the trafficking was largely bound within the borders of each country. However, in some specific cases, the trafficking may have involvement in a few cross-border movements as well, but among the neighbors and was particularly limited to specific regions of the world. With the development of communications, human trafficking stepped up to a larger extent and spread all around the world, transcending the previous limited region and victims began motion from one corner of the world to the next. Globalization has developed poverty which in turn developed trafficking in persons. In the first place, the widening rift between the haves and have not's on the globe which has rose from 30 to 1 in the 60's and 74 to 1 in the late 20th century.

The globalization has also exposed the supply side of poverty, the victims knowing the fact that many of their needs are not fully met. Besides, the

growing demand of low wage or no wage workers has developed in the industrial and agricultural sectors by mounting economic specialization. The tightening of national borders has also contributed in the rise of human trafficking. Though the process of legal movements has increased, a few countries still adopt strict border security measures to appear to be taking strict stance against such activities.

Globalization has also decreased the costs and troubles which accompanied moving trafficking victims over the vast distances, making the movement much impressive to those who look to profit. Both the online communication and travelling has today brought the 7.6 billion people close to each other.

Sex Tourism:

The travel and tourism witnessed a momentum in the 70's when travel became easily affordable. Since then, travel and tourism have become major relying sources of many economies. The governments sketched out tourism policies with the aim at promoting the growth. It was an important source of income for the newly developing countries.

The growth in tourism gave birth to the sex-tourism. Sex tourism refers to the practice of individuals or groups travelling to a foreign country and paying a fee to engage in sex acts with men, women or young children that are often considered illicit or illegal within their home country. The introduction of this sector was deliberately ignored by the national governments of the destinations, particularly in the developing nations, as it contributed much in the economic growth. The revolution in communication, when the internet facility was introduced, further encouraged the sex-tourism. Now, potential sex tourists delve into internet and search for luxurious lodges, services offered and the costs in various destinations across the world. Around thousands of porn-sites advertise updates and the services which allure seekers from every nook and cranny of the world. These sites even inform the users about possible police raids and what bribes may be essential to escape the prosecution by the concerned government. There exist, too, such services that provide all the facilities of the trip which include; flights, accommodations and sex services.

It was sex tourism that accelerated the demand for women and children in order to quench the demand of users and support the economies of those nations. Thus, this demand exposed those women who willingly worked as prostitute and extended an opportunity to traffickers to traffic uneducated,

poverty-ridden women and children. Generally, prostitution is illegal and shameful act for every community but the rise of this industry fetched both; those who came by consent and those who were commuted for economic gains, causing the governments to provide them with certificates to accept their legal status in the country.

From what data is available in South Asia, it appears that the worst forms of trafficking relate to the illegal movement of women and children for the purposes of exploitation in sectors such as commercial sex work, and child labor of all forms. (Asian Development Bank, 2003). The discrimination in gender, stereotypes and the marginalized status of women throughout South Asian has resulted in the violence of women which acts as a catalyst for women trafficking.

Lack of Women Rights:

Women's deprivation of their rights has been recognized globally as the root cause of woman-trafficking. These phenomena have caused the academics to conduct research so as to point out exact ratio of trafficking for such a purpose. Hence, the genuine reasons will be uncovered that how lack of rights for women boosts this job up.

In the early researches, lack of women's rights was considered as the primary cause for human trafficking. Many organization, while conducting researches on the concerned issue, came to the conclusion that it was the denial of women's rights that has caused the sexual slavery is proved as females' general oppression across the world and particularly in South Asia.

When human trafficking received greater attention by media and the institutions recently, the reality came to the fore that how lack of rights acts as a cause for such trafficking. One of the most important manners in which the lack of women's rights manifests itself as a cause is the recent trend of the feminization of both the formal and informal labor sectors. This phenomenon has caused the world to view women as the modern source for domestic servitude, manufacturing goods and stuff, as entertainer and in many other areas. A number of such women employed into these jobs usually lack needed skills and general education and are utterly in search for job to their families. These factors have procreated a new trend for increased reliance on the females for labor and porn-market throughout the world.

The impacts of lowering of women's rights are obvious. Many countries still avoid offering women the legal rights, civil status and political

representation which their men enjoy. Very often, these women are regarded as instruments to be used and exploited rather than as a victim.

Education Level:

The lack of education is, indeed, one of the most straight-forward of all the causes that the trafficking victims have. However, some efforts have been taken by non-governmental organizations to educate the vulnerable populations and contain the thriving challenge. Yet, a significant number of victims are exposed to the traffickers who successfully drive them through Indian Ocean waters to various destinations.

In fact, the trafficking victims of Middle-East, Cambodia, Afghanistan, etc. have got few options other than the migration in order to escape the hard-realities of their present status. In the modern globalized world, the migration poses a serious threat to those who go through it. Hence, a number of migrants rely on International organizations, governments and few individuals to help facilitate their travel. Given to the lack of quality education pertaining facts of trafficking, the victims often opt to depend on various organizations which promise robust employments but as a matter of fact, they aim at employing those individuals as manual workers and sex-slaves.

Trafficking: A Humanitarian Issue:

Trafficking in persons is a global rights issue that contains serious consequences for millions of men, women and children every year. It has been termed as the slavery of modern age as the victims are either willingly or forcefully coerced into the chains of labor and sexual exploitation. No state is immune, today, from the shipping of men, women and children. They are herded every year from various source countries. Despite that fact that it is regarded crime against the mankind, the traffickers yet continue their business in this vast enterprise. It is estimated that the trafficking involves \$7 billion worldwide. Each year, around eight million people are driven across the international borders and millions are enchained within their own countries.

Besides, a traditional game in the Arab countries, jockey, and demands child jockeys to undertake the game. In order to provide child jockeys, hundreds of the children are abducted from the South-Asian countries. This camel race involves torture, health hazard and often serious injuries that the children bear during the play. The camel racing industry get the children as young as 4 go through sexual and physical torture and often they are mentally stunted so that they may not develop weight. The child

jockeys are stampeded to death by camels too. They abode at isolated locations in an unfamiliar culture, surrounded by barbed wire. The U.S. Government estimates there are thousands of trafficking victims being exploited for use as camel jockeys throughout the region.

Recommendations:

Human trafficking is known as a global issue that can be checked effectively through a global effort and the assistance of state governments. Given to the rising number of victims that accounts in millions yearly, the media has given a good coverage to the issue, inflicting pressure upon national governments and rights organizations to chalk out pragmatic measures for the eradication of the issue. Resultantly, the state governments and several organizations began to invest in the collection of data related to trafficking throughout the world, with a view to ascertain the nature of trafficking.

On account of philanthropic coverage to the cause, various governments have taken anti-trafficking measures to address the concern. Though encouraging, these policies need reform as most of them are framed to curb trafficking in a particular state. Various academics, organizations and rights activists have offered patterns to understand the nature of the issue which is multi-headed. Until and unless the root causes are identified, it is certain that the policies will shut against the challenge. This paper shall suggest for stern and practicable measures to address the issue, protecting the herds of men from prey and apprehending those behind this hunting-feast. The following recommendations will highlight those methods;

1. To counter human trafficking, it is the need of hours to re-frame the global law, with provisions of previous conventions, which should encompass both the types of trafficking.
2. The United Nations and regional organizations such as SAARC, ASEAN, and NATO etc. should play an effective role in the elimination of the issue.
3. The developed nations should offer their help in training the law enforcing agencies of the countries of origin, as it will check it at home.
4. International conventions concerning the issue need to be comprehensive and the municipal laws should be adjusted or amended as per those protocols.
5. Social campaigns should be encouraged globally.

6. An effective network of law enforcing agencies must be created with the sole objective to trace the trans-national criminals involved in the trafficking from the source and destinations.
7. The coalition forces and the United Nations should strengthen cooperation with the port authorities of both; the source countries and the destinations to reduce the maritime trafficking.
8. The policy makers should benefit from the knowledge and expertise of experts based in various countries.
9. Before the formulation of policies, governments must develop understanding of both the global and regional causes of both types of human trafficking.

Conclusion:

Human trafficking which has earned the title of modern slavery is called the modern day slavery. It has caused the humanity to cry for the sufferings caused by its own species. No state can claim to be free from the human trafficking as it can exist anywhere in as each states constitutes one of its three elements: a source, route or destination. There are many reasons which breed this crime. Among them, the deep-rooted five universal causes; poverty, globalization sex-tourism, lack of women's rights and the low literacy rate particularly among women, contribute much in the development of poverty. Each of the above-mentioned factors has far-reaching impacts within societies. Because of the weak cooperation among the nations and ineffectiveness of immigration regulation authorities, the challenge seems to be untenable. These factors contribute collectively and therefore, none of them can be blamed individually for the current level of human trafficking. The findings which have shown that around 800,000 men, women and children as are trafficked annually from one corner of the world to another, can be addressed through adequate and effective policies. If the national governments failed to curb the present level of transportation in human, it is feared that the ratio can double within the following ten years.

The miseries of the smuggled and trafficked persons can be checked at home when the state authorities frame solutions for the foregoing reasons. However, the Least Developed Countries LDC's may not be able to contain the issue at their own until the rights organizations, regional alliances and the United Nations have collectively agreed and extended their support for the elimination of the factors breeding the crime. All these reasons need to be treated individual, but the poverty must be

checked as early as possible and the investments must be undertaken at the educational sector.

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