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Empowering People: Effective Social Work Approaches & Strategies



TRAFFICKING: AN INNOCENT VICTIM CHILD

KEYWORDS
Child Trafficking, Victimization, Mental Health, Personality.

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ABSTRACT *Children are assets of every nation and strength of a nation is assessed on the basis of the population of youth.Such children are under threat everywhere because of the plague TRAFFICKING, it is executed against the innocent children who are not much strong to oppose it physically as well as psychologically. The pain of trafficking is everlasting in the minds of children, which will affect their entire life either directly or indirectly even after they are rescued. The present study attempts to assess the mental health status as well as effects of victimization on personality utilizing the psychological tools, in the rescue homes situated in the State of Karnataka, India. 25 children were interviewed and the results indicates that majority of children have mental health problems like anxiety (Mean Score 40), loss of behavioral control (Mean Score 41), depression (Mean Score 17) etc,. It is also found in the study that the majority of children are suffering from the personality problems like Introversion mean score for Extroversion is 1.76, followed by Conscientiousness with the mean score of 3.28, whereas in case of Neuroticism the mean score is 2.16 respectively. The children are the treasure trove of the nation towards which more attention has to be given to safeguard as well as to nurture them effectively.*

Introduction

Trafficking is a one of the most attention seeking phenomenon which requires a multidisciplinary approach. Analysis of the root causes of trafficking should be specifically considered to the socio-economic condition of India. Trafficking is the third leading organized crime after drugs and the arms trade across the nations. According to the definition of the United Nations – "trafficking is any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or a position of vulnerability". Children are one of the vulnerable groups in society who are targeted for forced labour, domestic work, for begging, as camel jockeys, as child soldiers, work on construction sites, but most children are trafficked for sexual abuse. Generally girls are trafficked for forced labor and domestic work often end up sexually abused by their employers (Sen & et.al, 2004). The vulnerability of these children is even more when they have reached far away from the reach of their family.

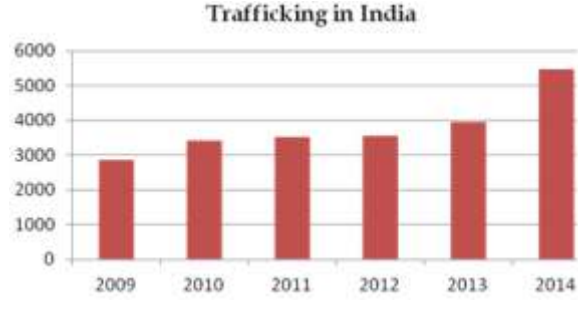
Statistics on Human Trafficking in India

India should consider itself lucky not find mention in the list of Tier-3 countries given the fact that India is a major point for sourcing, destination and trafficking of women and children. However, India is included amongst the Tier-2 countries, as per the US Government's 2014 Trafficking in Person Report.

Definition

Child trafficking has no universal definition, though many legal instruments mention it. One of these is the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, which refers to child trafficking in Article 11 line 1, stipulating that "illicit transfer and non-return of children" is forbidden. According to the 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children(2000)', child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. It is a violation of their rights, their well-being and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Table No. 1
Official Statistics on Trafficking in India



Source: Crime in India 2013 Compendium, NCRB, NEW DELHI
* Newly Modified and Inserted in IPC in 2014



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Trafficking Law and Law Enforcement in India

The Constitution of Indian prohibits humantrafficking and forcedlabor, and makes both offences punishable. Meanwhile, Article 23(1), 39 (f) also protects the children from exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (1956) (ITPA) is the one of the important legal instrumentspeaks about the human trafficking in India. It is accompanied byprovisions in certain other local laws, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC,1860) Sec 370 & 370A modified in 2014.

The IPC, for its part, contains various provisions related to child trafficking. It imposes, for instance, criminal penalties for kidnapping, abduction (including for the purpose of compelling marriage), buying or selling a minor for prostitution, unlawful compulsory labor, importing/procuring girls and buying or selling a person for slavery

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006) also speaks about the issue of child trafficking and child marriages, bymaking involvement in the promotion of child marriage a punishable offence (Section 11), and by making a child marriage null and void if the child is married in connection with trafficking (Section 12(b) and (c)).

Also relevant for the repression of child trafficking is the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2000) which includes prohibitions on cruelty to a child;employment of a child for begging; providing a child with narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances; and forcing a child into hazardous employment.

Methods & Materials

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the Mental Health status of the rescued children.
2. To assess the impact of victimization on personality of children.

The present study is an Evaluative study which is qualitative in nature. This study attempts to assess the mental health status as well as effects of victimization on personality utilizing the psychological tools like The Mental Health Inventory (MHI – 38) and Big Five Personality Test, in the rescue homes situated in Mysuru of Karnataka State. 25 children were selected on the basis of available sampling technique and were interviewed using the research tool with the prior permission from the superintendent of rescue homes. Data collected were coded, decoded and analyzed using the SPSS.

Results & Discussion

Table No: 2
Gender of the children

Sl. No.	Gender	N = 25	Percentage
1.	Boys	11	44%
2.	Girls	14	56%

The above Table reveals that percentage of girls victims is high i.e. 56% remaining 44% is boys respectively. The data indicates that the girls are more vulnerable than that of boys as the demand for girls is high for domestic work, forced labour, sex trade etc, Shakthi Vahini in 2004 revealed that the girls from the tribal settlement of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are trafficked in the name of marriage into the sex industry. It is exposed by the research that 20,000 females are being trafficked and transported from one part to other parts of India (Sen & et.al, 2004).

Table No: 3
Economic conditions of the Family

Sl. No.	Income per Month	N = 25	Percentage
1.	1000 to 3000	15	60%
2.	3001 to 5000	06	24%
3.	Above 5001	04	16%

The above Table refers the economic condition of the family which includes the earnings of all the earning members of the family. It is clear that 60% of the respondent's family income is below Rs. 3000, which indicates the economic condition is poor. The economic situation contributes a lot to trafficking in priority, (Williams & et al., 2010; Ray, 2006) and because of which the children were trafficked either with consent or abduct the children as they endure involuntary servitude as they were weak and vulnerable which will tend the employer to exploit them (Mishra, 2000; Sheikh, 2000).

Table No. 4
Type of work they indulged while rescue

Sl. No.	Type of Work	N = 25	Percentage
1.	Domestic work	12	48%
2.	Factory Labour	08	32%
3.	Others	05	20%

It is very clear from the Table that the children trafficked were forced to indulge in some sort of work it may be hazardous or non-hazardous it doesn't matters to the traffickers it is very simple for them to maintain the child labourers than that of the elder one. The table speaks that about 48% children were forced to work in domestic setup were as 32% were in factories the remaining 20% were forced to work in very hazardous situation both physically and medically which they don't want to remember.

Table No. 5
Mental Health Status

S. No	Particulars	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
1.	Anxiety	25	34.00	45.00	40.04
2.	Depression	25	12.00	21.00	17.80
3.	Loss of Emotional Control	25	32.00	48.00	41.00

The above Table indicates that mental health scores where it is found that the mean score for anxiety is 40 which is somewhat near to the maximum score which is 54 apart from this it is also clear that the mean score for depression is also comparatively high with the score 17 which is very much near to the maximum score 24 whereas, in case of loss of emotional controls the score is 41 which is very much near the maximum score 53. It indicates that the impact of victimization on children is high which is supported by the scores. Literatures have identified number of factors influencingtrauma, personality andmental health, (Bhushan & et.al, 2007; Christopher, 2004).

Table No. 6
Mental Health Status

Sl. No	Particulars	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
1.	Psychological Distress	25	98.00	118.00	108.24

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It is clear from the Table that the psychological distress among the children is high with mean score of 108 where as per the manual the maximum score should be 124 which indicates that the values of the response indicates more intense or frequent occurrence of favourable or unfavourable symptoms of one's mental health. This is supported by number of studies suggesting that most child survivors suffer from a wide range of psychological problems like psychological distress (Mazor & et.al, 1998; Tauber & et.al, 1997). Research on mental health indicators such as psychological distress has been linked with aggression (Jaser & et.al, 2005).

Table No. 7
Impacts on Personality

Sl. No	Particulars	N	Mean	SD
1.	Extroversion	25	1.7600	.663
2.	Conscientiousness	25	3.2800	1.275
3.	Neuroticism	25	2.1600	1.213
4.	Agreeableness	25	1.8000	.577

Table clearly speaks that the children are suffering from the personality problem in adjustment to normal life. Individuals scoring low on Extraversion have been shown to use negative thinking, substitution, and restraint as coping mechanisms in response to stressful situations (McCrae & et.al, 1986). Neuroticism has also been found to be associated with increased uses of hostile reaction, escapist fantasy, passivity and indecisiveness (McCrae & et.al, 1986). Brodaty & et.al, (2004) found that only higher neuroticismwas associated with significant Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Agreeableness discloses the level of their adjustments with others in general which is again not up to expected one. Shakespeare and colleagues (2005), in a study, have found that extroversion, agreeableness, and conscientiousness were significantly correlated with perceptions of Post Traumatic Growth.

Conclusion

Children are the asset of the nation, such valuable asset are endangered by its own species. It is evident from the study that children who experience trauma in their early stages of life will develop a sort of withdrawal symptoms towards their future and they give up hope and expectations for themselves to attain in their future, such feelings lead to poor self-image, self-abandonment, and self-destructiveness, so in such a condition the responsibility lies on the shoulder of the social scientist as well as social workers to empower those children and bring back to mainstream.

Suggestions

- The poor rate of prosecutions show that the governments in the region need to do much more and India must take a leading role by involving all stakeholders to fight this massive social problem.
- Whenever the incidence of child missing is reported action should be taken immediately by the concerned departments.
- Need of community intervention to prevent trafficking.
- Creation of state fund to provide compensations for survivors.
- Creating awareness about the trafficking among the children through school, mass media.
- Creating awareness about the trafficking among the parents to track their children activities.
- Needs a separate cell to handle the missing as well as the trafficking cases.

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