



## EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ODISHA

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### Introduction

Trafficking is inhuman. This is against the principles of human rights and degenerates the existence of a trafficked person to the extent of being a slave. Despite this, trafficking is rampant. Moreover, it affects the disadvantaged, marginalized and people at the periphery of development in worst manner. Human trafficking is one of the gravest violations of human rights and dignity. Human trafficking has received increasing global attention over the past decade. Initially, trafficking of women and girls for forced sex work and, to a lesser extent, domestic servitude, were the sole focus of advocacy and assistance. Today, there is recognition that women, children and men are trafficked into many different forms of labour, and for sexual exploitation. It is a process of people being recruited in their community and country of origin and transported to the destination where they are being exploited for purposes of forced labour, prostitution, domestic servitude, and other forms of exploitation. Labour-related trafficking occurs in a wide range of sectors, such as agriculture, fishing, manufacturing, mining, forestry, construction, domestic servitude, cleaning and hospitality services. Trafficked people may also be forced to work as beggars or soldiers, and women and children can be made to serve as 'wives'.

### Objective

The main objectives of the paper are:

1. To analyse the present condition of human trafficking in Odisha.
2. To describe the cause, sectors and forms of human trafficking in Odisha.
3. To analyse the measures taken by the Govt. of Odisha to stop this social crime.
4. To focus the role of society and their views.

### Methodology

1. The paper is based amply on the secondary literature & primary experiences.
2. This present paper is also based on information which has been taken from previous research paper mainly different journals.
3. Different type of news paper has been used for analyse the case study analysis.

### Causes

The various causes of human trafficking includes a) Political conflict and war, b) Poverty, c) Demand of Cheap Labour, d) Migration, e) Limited economic and educational opportunity, f) Lack of rule of law, g) Social exclusion, h) Social and cultural structures (power, hierarchy and social order), i) Marginalization and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, disability, and religion, j) Community's tradition of movement and other social practices, k) Climate change and natural disaster

### Common Sectors and Forms of Trafficking

The various sectors and forms of trafficking includes i) Agriculture, ii) Mining, iii) Logging IV) Construction, v) Fishery, vi) Sweatshop factory (e.g. garments, packaging, food processing), vii) Domestic Servitude, viii) Begging, ix) Drug dealing, x) Janitorial, xi) Food services, xii) other service industry, etc.

### Human Trafficking Issues in Odisha

In Indian society, women have been subjected to humiliation of one sort or the other since time immemorial. Among all, women trafficking are the worst form of exploitation to the fairer sex in recent times. According to the United Nations' report, more than 4 million women, children, and men are victims of international trafficking each year. As many as 8,099 people were reported to be trafficked across India in 2014. Most of the victims (3,351) were registered under immoral trafficking. Traffickers import women and girls from, Indian



states aside, a variety of countries, such as Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Chechnya and Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Thailand, according to this United Nations report.

These helpless people of the state are mainly vulnerable to trafficking and therefore exploited in physically, morally, economically and sexually. For instance, about 5000 tribal girls have gone missing from the Sundargarh district in the last five years, according to a complaint lodged with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). When the State's northern part, especially Mayurbhanj, was agog with mob policing over alleged child traffickers, the grim reminder for Odisha is three children from the State got trafficked every five days in 2016. According to the State police data, a high of 206 children (below 18 years) were being trafficked in 2016. What is alarming is the trafficked children numbers grew by an eye-popping 44 per cent in 2016 in the State. And, district-wise data reveals the trafficking hubs in State are Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Baleswar, Kandhamal, Sundergarh, Balangir, Nuapada, Koraput and Ganjam.

### **Approaches to Deal with Human Trafficking**

The following measures should be initiated in order to deal with the human trafficking.

- 1. For Policy-Makers and Other Decision-Makers:** At a policy level, regulatory steps are needed to increase awareness of the risks of human trafficking, especially among individuals intending to migrate. Migrant workers in destination settings should have the same protections and legal redress mechanisms as those in the domestic workforce.
- 2. For Health-Care Providers:** Health care providers and organizations involved with trafficked persons should increase their capacity to identify and refer people in trafficking situations and provide sensitive and safe services to people post-trafficking.
- 3. For Researchers and Funders:** Empirical research on human trafficking is limited. Particularly lacking are studies on larger, more potentially representative samples of trafficked people, and longer-term studies to better understand post-trafficking health changes. Empirical data on trafficking of men, their health needs and service access, is especially scarce. Similarly, more data are needed on trafficking across the full range of labour sectors involved. Rigorous evaluation studies of policies and programmes are needed to identify the most effective counter-trafficking strategies and most appropriate care for the people affected.

### **Other Measures Which Are Very Much Important In This Context Includes**

1. Awareness and educational campaigns are intended for both primary prevention (Reducing vulnerability to trafficking) and secondary prevention (Early victim identification and intervention)
2. Empowerment Programs build protective factors, such as education and career counselling and address risk factors and barriers to existing, such as homelessness, substance use history of violent victimization and unavailability of support.
3. Policy efforts at the local, state, national and international level also address prevention, although most U.S policy focuses on prosecution of traffickers and services for victims.
4. A guide for companies on responsible recruitment and employment of migrant workers.
5. Governments should mandate acute and longer-term provision of health care to trafficked persons. This could be achieved, for example, by granting such individuals immediate rights to state-supported health services, regardless of their ability to pay or willingness to participate in a criminal action against traffickers, and committing the necessary financial and human resources.

### **Measures of the Odisha Government**

The Odisha government in December 2009 formulated a policy to address the growing incidence of trafficking in women and children issue. The policy provides adequate steps for psychological support, economic empowerment and reintegration to ensure that the rescued victims of trafficking do not get drawn into the trade again due to non-availability of other options for livelihood.

Meanwhile, human rights lawyer and social activist Rutuparna Mohanty created "Maa Ghara" (Mothers Home), which provides a shelter for rehabilitating trafficked and sexually exploited women and girls. The home has served 5,000 women since 2004 through rescue, care and legal protection.



According to the NHRC Task Force on Child Trafficking, the police investigating teams need to involve the community at large, such as representatives of PRIs/ Municipal Committees/ Neighbourhood Committees/Resident Welfare Associations, etc, in addition to existing help lines so as to enable the community to get fully involved along with the police in tracing the missing children.

The NHRC committee has advised the DGP to seriously consider taking full advantage of these agencies in the task of not only investigating crimes relating to children but also in tracking down missing/trafficked children. The role of the Panchayats and such bodies should be extended, like prompt reporting of missing children, prompt dissemination of intelligence, if any, to the law enforcement agencies, rendering assistance to law enforcement agencies for tracing children and providing timely feed-back to the law enforcement agencies about child's return," the committee observed. Rights activists, therefore, feel the time is now opportune to implement the NHRC advisories to fight this social-crime menace.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

Most trafficking victims are not aware of their rights, and even if they know their rights, they are afraid of testifying against traffickers who might threaten and harass them and their family. The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) points out two important components of access to justice for trafficked victims: the right to information and victim protection. Reinforcing delivery of basic services in areas with high levels of victimization is an indirect but effective way to prevent trafficking; education, employment, health, social protection, violence prevention and child protection are all very important. However, the following specific actions are the key to preventing human trafficking.

1. **Social protection:** Enhancing a safety net system to target those who are vulnerable to trafficking in the project area.
2. **Employment:** Providing job training and creating more jobs in the community at risk of trafficking so that vulnerable populations do not necessarily need to go to the city or abroad to obtain a job.
3. **Labour safeguards:** Ensuring labour safeguards that include an anti-trafficking component in development projects for the following sectors that are particularly common for labour trafficking – mining, fisheries, agriculture, logging, and construction.
4. **Education:** Incorporating information on human trafficking, child labour, migration, and skill development into school curricula and training programs to educate children and young adults about the danger of human trafficking and their human/labour rights, and also to develop useful skills to have sustainable employment.
5. **Health:** Improving access to healthcare for vulnerable groups of human trafficking (such as sex workers and illegal migrant workers) and educating on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.
6. **Migration:** Raising awareness about human trafficking and informing about the risks and consequences of work abroad and their labour rights.
7. **Access to law and justice:** The Access to Justice for the Poor strategies empowers the vulnerable people to assert, enforce and access their individual and property rights.

Trafficked persons should be well informed about their legal rights, options and services so that they can make informed decisions about their future. Victim protection measures need to be strengthened so that the victims and their families in trafficking cases feel safe to testify against traffickers.

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