
Unit-05 □ Problems of Trafficking of Girls and Women

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5.1 Nature, Extent, Magnitude of The Problem of Trafficking of Girls and Women

Some dishonest persons to usurp a lot of money transfer poor girls and women by allurements to different territories through illegal means. This is called women trafficking. A single person cannot do this. They're a group of people involved in the process. They work as a group or a racket. The process of trafficking is organized at different stages. Some people among them roam about in villages in search of those girls who fall easy – prey to such non-institutional means. They work as messengers of the trafficking racket. Then after identifying these girls they take up different means to allure the girls or the members of the family. At first they identify with the families and then present differing proposals to them such as marriage proposals, better jobs, better ways of living, of to take the girls out for a short tour to a nearby place etc. those who fall prey to these allurements are first kept at a safe place for sometime. Here they are often sexually harassed or even physically tortured. After this they are transported to a different area-state or even outside the country. In this way some people are profiting by taking the opportunity others' distress. Today this problem is not limited within India only. This is now become an international problem. And more importantly the men involved in such activities are from among those who are common man. Theirs net is widespread connecting many states and countries. The men involved in these rackets are organized internationally and they are educated and connected to mafia leaders as well.

The girls and women transferred in this way are more often forced to work as sex workers. But their owners take the larger amount of the share from such activities. In some cases however they are forced to work as housemaids. As a result they go through

different forms of oppression and exploitation. These Indian girls are transported in this way to different parts of the globe, for example to nations like Afghanistan, Pakistan, or to different cities such as Dubai. In this way the poor girls from India are transported in a chain system. Therefore such heinous crime is being organized by exploiting the ignorance illiteracy and poor living conditions of the women of these areas. Many of these girls are trafficked from the third world countries by tempting them of lavish lifestyles, better job opportunities, prospective marriage with a eligible groom. Small, medium or large gangs conduct the search for girls who can be easily allured. Some gangs may be regional. There are also some who operate internationally. Whatever may be the size they operate in exchange of a lot of money.

The women are girls are actually not given the proper opportunity of education, health, food, or are deprived of proper nurture of their potentiality, or are even deprived of rights and status of a human, which in a sense help to create such cases of abduction and trafficking. And there are some miscreants who take this opportunity to earn out of buying and selling women as commodities. Whatever has been published so far on the issue it is considered to be one of the heinous crimes of all.

5.2 The Causes of the Problem

There are many reasons why this type of crime is becoming an important one in India so far. But the main causes are as follows —

1. **Poverty** : Poverty is identified as a primary problem of girl trafficking. As because a number of women and children live below the poverty line in this country some people take this opportunity and these women fall prey to their temptation.
2. **Illiteracy and Low level of Consciousness** : This is another important source of the problem for which the girls can be easy prey to the traffickers.
3. **She is a woman; She is weak** : due to the sexual inequality that exists in this country, women feel that they are the weaker sex. This gives them a sense of non-belief in their physical and mental strength. So these women take for granted the coercive ways of their family members as well as that of the traffickers. This subordinating mentality helps the traffickers in a way to maintain their superordination on the girls and to serve their goals.
4. **The profit making sex business** : One of the foremost and oldest businesses is the sex business. This has still remained and is eventually growing in recent years. India is no exception to the rule. Different means are being exploited to increase the demand of such business. In order to sustain such business what is needed is a constant flow of girls. So the business of trafficking is flourishing day by day in an organized but secretive way.

5.3 The Legal Measures to Combat the Problem

It is an imperative that different measures have to be derived to combat this growing problem. Some of them are —

- 1. Social Measure :** It is certain that the time has come to give women the same status as that of men so that they treat them, or other women as not someone low in status or deprived. It is important to see that social inequality does not take shape due to sexual inequality. There are opportunities of enacting the rights one has. This consciousness has to be rekindled. If all kinds of social discrimination based on sex is eradicated women's confidence and sense of prestige will develop. This will lead to a situation where they will be able to take decisions on their own. So the social inequality needs to be eradicated. The opportunity of education for all, decline of illiteracy, social justice, social recognition and social equality, will also help to combat the problem. But the government has to take definite steps in this regard. If committees of men and women of a particular area can be formed to combat trafficking it can be a useful social work to combat the problem.
- 2. Economic Measure :** as poverty is an important condition for girl trafficking, she is dependent. More importantly as women survive with the help of others her wishes do not have much significance to her family. Therefore special measures have to be taken in order to combat the problem. It is therefore important to make women eligible for working outside home by developing opportunities for education and vocational education. Only in this way the women can become independent and therefore take progressive steps on their own. It becomes imperative to make women economically independent. This will help them to combat other difficulties in life.
- 3. Legal Measures :** There are some legal measures to combat trafficking. But stronger laws have to be enacted to catch hold of the traffickers. It is important to set scope for exemplary punishment. But the government has relatively failed to propagate on the issue. It is important to combat the issue on the local level by forming committees in rural areas. One of the significant areas is that there are laws by which criminals can be brought to justice but the women do not get the opportunity of using the law to her benefit. Therefore by educating women on their rights, opening any scope for education, or economic development is necessary. Legal measures are important for combating the crime and for setting exemplary punishment. It is suggestive that if such measures such as letting the administration know when a woman moves out of her residence also may help the police and the administration to be more vigilant.

Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act has been there from 1956. Due to this law trafficking of girls and women is considered a crime. Before this there was

Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, which was functional from 1933. This law stated that it is criminal to transport anything such as commodities, women, labor, etc without permission. But by the latest law it has been stated that there is a provision for payment of fine and rigorous imprisonment for the convict.

5.4 References

1. Malladi Subbamma : Personal Laws and Women.
2. Prabha Krishna : The Law of The Land.

5.5 Exercises

1. Analyze the scope and extent of the problem of girl and women trafficking ?
2. What according to you are the economic, social and legal solutions to the girl trafficking problem ?
3. What according to you are the possible ways to combat the problem ?