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# **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ANDHRA PRADESH OF INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT :** Trafficking in human persons had been part of human history. Enslavement of whole nations through wars and conquests was a practice in early history. In the middle ages, people were trafficked for slavery and children for cheap labours in the industrialized world continued right up to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Those marginalized by dominant forces always faced the risk of being exploited for unjust gains. Illegal trade in arms and drugs was thought to be the major contributor to the growing power. With the onset of globalization, trafficking of women and girls has become a major black market activity. Trafficking of women and girls is not an isolated issue but it affects individuals, families, societies and the nation at large. It is an organized crime to women and girls. The incidence of trafficking is partly inked to the level of socio- economic development of an area and partly to the attitude and approach of the parents. Trafficking of women and girls reflects the violations of womens' rights leading to exploitation, deprivation of social equality, security, lack of opportunities for health, education and financial independence. Hence this study was intended to know the human rights violation and its repercussions on trafficked women and girls.

**KEYWORDS:** Magnitude, Causes, factors and repercussions of Trafficking, human rights violations, methodology, findings, measures and social work interventions.

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**Introduction:** Trafficking is a growing phenomenon in international, national and regional and it considered as a contemporary form of slavery and a gross violation of basic human rights by the international community. India is one of the main sources, transit point as well as destination for trafficking in women and girls. Toady trafficking has emerged as a low risk, high return and well organized criminal activity. Human trafficking is the third biggest money earning illegal trade. Trafficking does not seem to have any boundaries irrespective of push and pull factors. Trafficking in human beings taking place in almost all the countries, only the magnitude differs.

Trafficking in women and girls is the most abominable violation of human rights. Perhaps not many crimes are as ghastly as trading in human misery. Human rights guaranteed by the Indian constitution are intolerable, non- negotiable and universal. trafficking in women and girls is a violation of several human rights, including the very rights to life, the right to liberty, human dignity and security of person, the right to freedom from torture or cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to a home and family, the right to education and proper employment, the right to health care and everything that makes for a life with dignity. The common place of understanding of trafficking as a kin to prostitution was one of the major reasons why the human rights violations inherent in trafficking were never understood. The complexity of the phenomenon, its multi dimensional nature, its rapid proliferations, continued persistence and the confusions surrounding the concept has made the need for a deeper comprehension of trafficking top priority.

**Causes for trafficking Supply side:** There is an increase in the feminization of poverty, as women's employment opportunities have diminished and access to resources has left vulnerable. Desire to have security and status and eliminate stigmatization, women are ready to accept any situation. Since the majority of the women are illiterate they are unable to develop their capabilities and take up skilled employment. Civil and military conflicts push women and children to flee their countries, encouraging cross-border trafficking. Consumerist attitude of the families encourage the sale of women and children. Trafficking influences employment and national income and contributes significantly to the region's economic growth. The expansion of drug trafficking networks act as mechanisms and measures paved the way for trafficking of women and children. Export of labour is a strategic response of governments in the current economic crisis in Asia, and it motivates trafficking of women and girls for various profit motives. Conflict in many regions has resulted in vast number of internally displaced people. Internal displacement and migration has increased the number of refugees and most often the women and girls were caught up in the process of trafficking. Those who have been forced to flee from natural disaster, environmental degradation, become extremely vulnerable to trafficking as they are often left homeless without any financial support. Limited access to government services and programmes, poor law enforcement and lack of access to decision makers are the dynamics of human trafficking.

**Nature of the trafficked women and girls:** Women and children are the key target group, because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the invisible informal sector. People from impoverished and low income households in rural areas and urban slums, especially women engaged in small farming, petty trading, vending, as labourers, scavengers and in other low status work and services, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, hill tribes, refugees, and illegal migrants, people with low levels of education, a few years of formal schooling, some primary school education, or illiterate. Young girls running away from home or girls from families that expect their daughters to financially contribute to their support are easy targets for traffickers. People who lack awareness of their legal rights, their exploited situations, and have no channels for seeking redress, physically challenged women and girls are often victims of trafficking.

**Determinants of trafficking:** Poverty heightens children's vulnerability to traffickers. One of the most obvious ways material poverty leads to exploitation and abuse is through child labour poverty frequently forces vulnerable children to turn to hazardous work. Those who attempt to sell children into slavery or sexual exploitation look in the poorest shanty towns or most underprivileged rural areas. The legal and social inequality of women and girls is a breeding ground for trafficking. Where women and girls are objectified and seen as commodities, a climate is created in which girls can be bought and sold. Often girls are denied the opportunity to go to school and instead are forced to stay at home to perform household chores. As a result they remain unskilled and uneducated. Girls are frequently abused within their families making the lure of traffickers seen like an escape from domestic exploitation and violence. Trafficking and the skyrocketing demand for exploitative labour and sexual services are inexorably linked.

**Vulnerability factors of trafficking:** In the literature surveyed, there seems to be a broad agreement on the factors that lead to trafficking, though there is uncertainty on their precise roles. While some report view vulnerability factors to be the root cause of trafficking. Others state that "they merely exacerbate the vulnerability of the marginalized and disadvantaged groups and render them increasingly more amenable to a variety of harm". Vulnerability factors relate to the socio-economic and political contents of people that are interlinked and can be divided into two categories that are personal circumstances and socio-structural factors.

**Social repercussions on trafficked women and girls:** The trafficked women and children are victims of violence and force, deprived of their freedom of movement, confiscate their identity papers and travel documents. Thus their social contacts are curtailed and they are constantly supervised. The trafficked women and girls have no opportunities to seek redress as victims of abuse. They are treated as illegal

immigrants and often face criminal charges, while users and profiteers escape consequences. Family separation and disintegration is core problems faced by the trafficked women, girls and their family members. They are branded as social outcasts, untouchables, immoral and agents of social evils.

**Economic repercussions on trafficked women and girls:** Trafficked women and girls are deprived of the money they earn. Low wages or no wages, earnings are often unknown to workers and withheld by traffickers or employers. After a prolonged stay in the brothel houses they become unable to involve in any skillful work in their old age. Due to various psychological and health problems they are not able to appropriate employment for them. Since the trafficked women and girls live in a controlled atmosphere, they lose their confidence in their bargaining capacity even after their rescue. The trafficked women and girls experience prolonged indebtedness to traffickers, employers, and brothel owners and they will be ignorant of debt terms.

#### **Laws related in prevention of trafficking of women and children**

International convention for the suppression of traffic in women (1921) prohibits the enticing or leading away of a woman for immoral purposes, to be carried out in another country. Article 6 of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) (1979) requires state parties to take all appropriate measures including legislation to suppress all forms of traffic in women.

United Nations convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (1984) provides against the expulsion or return of a person to another state if there are substantial grounds for deeming him/her to be in danger of torture. Tourism bill of rights and the tourist code (1985) adopted by the WTO, the code prohibits that state tourism to exploit others for the purpose of prostitution. Article 11 of the convention on the rights of the child (1989) requires that state parties to take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non- return of children abroad. Under article 34 and 35, state parties must take appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral steps to protect children from all form of sexual exploitation and abuse and also prevent the abduction, sale and trafficking of children.

**The Indian Penal Code, 1860 :** The Indian penal code and the immoral traffic prevention act (1986) provide for strict actions against persons who drag children into flesh trade. Immoral trafficking prevention act (ITPA) amendment bill (2005) states that the clients who visit the sex workers can be fined up to Rs. 5000 and jailed for six months. The indecent representation of women (prohibition) Act, (1986) puts a restriction on the publishing or sending by post of books and pamphlets containing indecent representation of women and prohibits all persons from getting involved directly or indirectly in the publication or exhibition of any advertisement containing indecent representation of women in any form.

Though a plethora of laws, conventions and bills have passed in international, national and regional level by the international bodies, government, non- governmental organizations and individuals to curb the problems of trafficking still trafficking of women and girls are escalating in alarming way in different parts of the world.

#### **Methodology**

The present study is on human rights violations and its repercussions on trafficked women and girls in the districts of Karimnagar, Warangal, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh

#### **Objectives of the study**

To know the initial phase of trafficking and the difficulties faced by the trafficked victims. To study various human rights violations faced by the respondents. To identify the consequences of the respondents as perceived by them. To suggest measures to eradicate trafficking of women and girls.

#### **Importance of the study**

Trafficking involves the violations of a whole gamut of laws and human rights. It becomes a threat to the

societies because traffickers operate across borders with impunity with the growing involvement of organized criminals and by generally undermining the rule of law. Trafficking threatens the very fabric of society because it involves not only criminal but also law enforcers. It manifests and perpetuates patriarchal attitudes and behaviour, which undermine efforts to promote gender equality and eradicate discrimination against women and children (George Mathew, 2007). The common places of association of trafficking with prostitution have hidden several human rights violations inherent in all the forms of trafficking. The complexity of the phenomenon, its multidimensional nature, its rapid proliferation, continued persistence and the confusion surrounding the concept has made the need for a deeper comprehension of trafficking top priority.

### Sampling frame

Name of the district and areas of study	Number of trafficked women and girls identified	Present position of the respondents	
<b>KRISHNA</b>			
Tadepalli	3	rescued	
Rajarajeswaripeta	4	rescued	
Kandrika	7	rescued	
Vambay colony	7	rescued	
Krishna lanka	4	rescued	
<b>KARIMNAGAR</b>			
Huzurabad	5	under	vigilance
Hasanabad	14	under	vigilance
Karimnagar	8	under	vigilance
<b>WARANGAL</b>			
Warangal	8	with brothel owners	
Hasanaparthi	8	with brothel owners	
Athmakur	12	with brothel owners	
<b>WEST GODAVARI</b>			
Tadepallegudem	7	shelter home	
Tanuku	5	shelter home	
Bhimadolu	6	shelter home	
Denduluru	9	shelter home	
<b>GUNTUR</b>			
Sattenpalle	5	community	
Tadikonda	5	community	
Manglagiri	3	community	
Repalle	4	community	
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>		

**Sampling size and technique:** Due to time limit and availability of the respondents the researcher has selected all the respondents who were identified so the study consisted of the entire population that is 124. A door to door survey was conducted to identify the trafficked victims. The researcher followed the snow ball sampling technique. This refers to a form of sampling in which the researcher first found a few respondents, who were easily could identify. The researcher came to know about others trafficked women from their companion. Since there is a network among the trafficked women, they could easily give their information about others.

**Research design and tools of data collection:** The researcher chose descriptive design for her study. This design provided provision for a detailed study and a vast amount of information on the social setting and their problems. The tools administered for data collection was interview schedule, case study, observation method, and interview guide.

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**Findings of the study Human rights violations:**

- Among the respondents, 50 percent of the respondents felt that their right to equal in dignity was violated by their parents, 15 percent felt that their relatives did not understood their dignity as human beings.
- Among the respondents 90 percent of them expressed that they were treated like slaves by their parents, friends, relations and traffickers.
- The research study revealed that 63 percent of the respondents were denied their right to information by their parents.
- Of the total, 90 percent of the respondents were denied their right to education by their parents.
- A majority (52 percent) felt that the brothel owners were a threat to life.
- Among them, 93 percent expressed that their parents violated their right to health.
- Of the total, 69 percent of the respondents felt that their right to equality was curtailed by their parents.
- The analysis shows that a majority (61percent) of the parents did not allow their daughter to express their opinion.
- A majority (85 percent) of the respondents felt that their parents did not allow them to take their own decisions and thus brought harm to their personality.
- Among them, 69 percent felt that their parents did not allow them to participate in any social function.
- The majority (53 percent) of the respondents expressed that the brothel owners have violated their right to protection.
- The analysis shows that a majority (54 percent) of the respondents" right to freedom from exploitation was curtailed by the brothel owners.
- Of the total, a majority (69 percent) of the respondents" right to privacy was violated by their customers.
- A majority (52 percent) of the respondents" friends did not maintain confidentiality
- Among them 42 percent of the respondents" customers did not keep up the confidentiality.

**Conclusion:** Gazing through the facts of human rights violations against trafficked women, it calls all of us to an urgent intervention. There is a lot of scope for those involved in social work especially for women. There is a greater need to promote human rights among women and to bring wholeness and enlightenment into the lives of those who are battered physically, verbally and psychologically. It is up to each one of us to help the women, whose rights are violated, through our effective intervention and social work practice. It was a great opportunity to the researcher to involve with women and girls who were in vulnerable conditions. Besides the study the researcher identified many more vulnerable women and girls and offered life skills to protect themselves and took various sessions on the importance acquiring various skills to empower themselves. The progress depends on the ability to build on experience, to learn from each effort no matter what the outcome is. The progress made to date will help to chart future directions. Social workers need to expand proven strategies and develop new approaches to those women and can turn hope into reality and truly live lives free of violence. The ultimate success lies not only in liberating women from the clutches of exploitation and discrimination but also in empowering them to become independent and proud citizen of India. We need to create a world where power and courage are honored in both women and men and where both have the opportunity to reach this full potential.

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