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Awareness of Rural Parents on Women Trafficking—A Study

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Abstract

Women trafficking is a major worldwide problem of concern and is a curse to the human civilization. It is considered that women trafficking is one of the most profitable immoral business where more and more criminal network are getting involved with it. There are so many reasons are associated with the problem of women trafficking. This problem is more critical in rural areas where most of the people are less aware or unaware about women trafficking. These people trust on the propaganda of traffickers and send their daughter and young girls to unknown place away from their village without knowing and verifying address given by traffickers. Therefore it is an urgent need to study the awareness level of rural parents regarding women trafficking. For the study, the investigator has selected five villages of Kamrup district of Assam. Out of these five villages, two hundred parents (100 literate and 100 illiterate) have been selected as sample parents by using simple random method. Collected data were analyzed by using statistical method.

Key Words: *Human trafficking, Women trafficking, rural parents, awareness, trafficker's propaganda.*

Introduction: Today human trafficking is considered as one of the most vulnerable problem of human civilization. Human trafficking means criminal practice of exploiting human being by treating them like commodities and it is an extreme form of human rights violation. Trafficking of women violates their right to life, health, education, dignity, security and privacy. Women trafficking is an organized criminal activity and contrary to the principles of freedom, dignity & empowerment of women. It is an extreme form of human rights violation against women. The concept of women trafficking refers to the criminal practice of exploiting women by treating them like commodities for profit. These women and girls are more or less forced to work as sex workers undergoing several exploitation and abuse. The problem of women trafficking is more serious in rural areas where majority of the people are economically not sound, suffering from lack of proper education & employment, brain drain problem, migration of rural people to urban areas & natural calamities such as flood and erosion result in displacement, poverty among them.

The constitution of India under Article 23(1) has prohibited human trafficking. The Indian Panel Code which was enacted in 1860, also have several provisions which try to protect women and girls from exploitation. The following are some of the sections related to trafficking in India Panel Code. These are as bellow---

363A--- under this section kidnapping or maiming minor for purpose of begging is offence. As well as kidnapping with intention to confine secretly and wrongfully a person is also a offence.

366—Under this section kidnapping, abducting or inducing women to compel her to marriage is a offence.

366A—procuration of a minor girl.

370—Buying or selling of any person as slave.

372---Selling minors for purposes of prostitution.

373—Buying minors for purpose of prostitution.

376—Punishment for rape.

Need of the Study: Human trafficking particularly women trafficking is a major problem in many states of our country. This problem of women trafficking is increasing cumulatively in Assam specially in rural Assam. There are so many reasons behind the problem of women trafficking. Poverty, illiteracy, lack of employment opportunities, multi-dimensional violence and impact of natural calamities on rural people are the root causes of women trafficking from rural Assam. Therefore it is an urgent need to study the awareness level of rural parents of Kamrup district of Assam on women trafficking.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the awareness level of rural women regarding women trafficking.
2. To study the causes of women trafficking in rural areas.

Methods:

Descriptive survey method has been used to collect data from the rural Women.

Area of the study: Five villages have been selected from Kamrup district of Assam.

No. Of sample: 200 rural parents consisted of 100 literate and 100 illiterate.

Age Group of Sample parents; 20years to 40 years of age.

Tools: Self- made questionnaire for literate parents and Interview techniques for illiterate parents.

Sample selection procedure: By using random sampling method the investigator has selected 100 literate and 100 illiterate rural parents from Kamrup District of Assam.

Limitations of the study: The first limitation relates to the area under study. Only five villages of Kamrup District have been taken as the field of the study.

The second limitation relates to the age group taken in this study. Rural parents within the age group of 20-40 years were selected for the study.

Analysis of the objective no. 1

To collect data for objective no.1, seven questions are prepared for rural parents to know how much they are aware of women trafficking. Collected data are arranged in the following table no.1.

Table No. 1

Content	Responses					
	Literate			Illiterate		
Statement	Yes	No	Not sure	Yes	No	Not sure
1.Women trafficking is a serious problem for rural Assam	50%	39%	11%	21%	78%	11%
2. Women trafficking is one kind of violation of women’s human rights.	55%	40%	05%	19%	77%	04%
3.Women trafficking is a crime against women.	43%	53%	04%	11%	84%	05%
4.Women trafficking mainly for sexual exploitation .	69%	28%	09%	10%	82%	08%
5.Rural unemployment among women trigger women trafficking.	65%	29%	06%	57%	41%	02%
6.Impact of women trafficking may cause of diseases like HIV/AIDS etc.	67%	20%	13%	06%	82%	12%
7.Women trafficking also related to organ trade.	53%	37%	10%	11%	78%	11%

From table no.1, it is found that literate people of rural Assam are more aware regarding the women trafficking than the illiterate people. Illiterate parents(78%) are not ready to accept that statement that women trafficking is a serious problem, only 21% parents are able to understand the gravity of seriousness of women trafficking. Through various awareness programmes , T.V. programmes, Cinema and documentary these 21% rural illiterate parents able to understand the seriousness of the problem where 50% literate parents are agreed with the statement that

means rest of the 50% literate parents till today unaware about women trafficking. Second statement mentioned about human rights which should be gender neutral. Women trafficking means human rights of women are not recognized and protected. Although in the present time, protection and promotion of human rights are given top most priority in almost all countries which means to safeguard the rights of the women fraternity but still today a large number of incidences on the violations of women's rights are being taking place all over the world even in the developed countries including our country. The scenario of Assam is not different from rest of the country. Regarding second statement 55% literate parents are aware about human rights and they believe women trafficking is the violation of these rights but only 19% illiterate parents are agreed with the statement. Till today a major portion of illiterate parents(77%) are unaware of human rights and its violation. Women trafficking is considered as a heinous crime and is a threat to the human civilization. 43% literate parents agreed that women trafficking is a crime against women and it threat to morality. Among illiterate parents only 11% can realize the same where 84% parents till today they unable to realize women trafficking as a crime against women. The most common form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls. There are some women who previously engaged themselves in prostitution are now working as agents for the same purpose. 69% rural literate parents aware about the sexual exploitation in the name of women trafficking where only 10% illiterate parents are able to realize the same. Unfortunately 82% of rural illiterate parents till death on this matter. Rural unemployed women and girls want to be self-sufficient through good employment or through marriage. Traffickers take advantage of such hidden wishes of women and girls. With various types of false promises such as must provide very good employment with high salary, good role in cinema in Bollywood or do unconditional marriage with them etc. It is observed that traffickers become successful in rural Assam specially poor illiterate families. Both literate(65%) and illiterate(57%) rural parents agreed with the statement that rural unemployment among women trigger women trafficking. Regarding six statement, 82% of rural illiterate parents are unaware about this serious problem where only 6% parents are aware about these diseases like HIV/AIDS etc. of course 67% literate section of rural parents aware about these serious problem. Today organ trade spread all over the world which also directly and indirectly related with human trafficking. Indian constitution tried to safeguard Indian people from this immoral trade. Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994—this act deals with commercial dealing of human organs. According to the act it is a punishable offence. Under the act appropriate authorities are being appointed who is responsible and empowered to check illegal activities of human organ trafficking. In the present study, 53% of literate parents where only 11% illiterate parents are aware on this immoral trade of dealing with human organs.

Analysis of the objective no. 2

There are so many problems related to women trafficking. In the present study, the investigator has tried to find out the possible causes related to women trafficking in rural areas of Kamrup district, Assam. Collected data on causes of women trafficking are arranged in the following table.

Table No.2

Content	Responses					
	Literate			Illiterate		
Statement	Yes	No	Not sure	Yes	No	Not sure
1.Insurgency is a major cause of Women trafficking	70%	19%	11%	51%	38%	11%
2. Poverty is another major cause of Women trafficking.	85%	10%	05%	59%	32%	09%
3.Lack of awareness among parents encourage women trafficking.	79%	20%	01%	53%	42%	05%
4.natural calamities and its adverse impact trigger women trafficking.	69%	28%	09%	30%	52%	18%
5.Gender discrimination is one of the cause of women trafficking.	69%	25%	06%	16%	72%	22%
6.Lack of birth registration of rural children facilitates traffickers.	59%	25%	16%	26%	73%	01%

From table no. 2 , it is found that there are so many reasons for women trafficking. From collected data ,it is found that major problems related to women trafficking in rural areas are insurgency (70% literate and 51% illiterate parents agreed that insurgency is one of the major cause of women trafficking in rural Assam. Poverty is very common criteria among people of rural Assam. Poverty affect the health, education and life style of common people. In

the present study, both literate and illiterate parents 85% and 59% respectively agreed that poverty is one of the major cause of women trafficking. Women trafficking is a serious crime against women which need awareness among parents to prevent this crime. Data collected in the present study shows that 79% literate and 53% illiterate parents agreed that awareness is must to prevent the crime of women trafficking which is still lacking among the a large section of rural parents. Lack of awareness about human trafficking ,poverty and higher ambition to earn more money with poor skill efficiency among girls and women help the traffickers to become successful in their work. Adverse impact of natural calamities mainly flood on people of rural Assam which completely and sometime partially change their life style and bound to lead a life in pitiable condition. Attitude of gender discrimination among the rural parents is one of the cause of women trafficking. The unfair and unequal treatment starts even before a girl child is born. Most of the parents prefer male children due to some social and cultural reasons. In the present study , data shows that 69% literate parents and only 16 % illiterate rural parents agreed that there should not have any negative attitude towards girl child. 72% illiterate parents till today unable to realize the importance of equal psycho-social treatment to girl child. Another reason related to women trafficking is lack of birth registration among rural children specially among children of home delivery. Due to the above mentioned reasons traffickers are successful in their attempt till today. They (traffickers) promise women and girls to provide a better life with good jobs and salaries and sometime promise them to marry very soon. Both men and women are engaged in women trafficking. There are some women who previously engaged themselves in prostitution are now working as silent agent of women trafficking. The rural parents believe these rural based women and other traffickers and send their daughter for better placement without knowing anything about this placement , address of the workplace. On the basis of trust, rural people run to unknown place without any written agreement. Those men and women are worked as agent of trafficking group, use propaganda of better establishment for both literate and illiterate girls and women without any verbal and written interview. In this way they motivate the rural parents to send their daughter in urban area away from their village.

Findings of the study:

1. Lack of awareness among rural parents regarding women trafficking is a major problem where Literate parents are more aware than the illiterate parents regarding the problem of women trafficking.
2. Women trafficking is one kind of violation of women's human rights and crime which also related to sexual exploitation.
3. Rural unemployment is one of the major cause of women trafficking .
4. Poverty among the rural people is one of the cause of women trafficking.
5. Gender discrimination is one of the cause of women trafficking.
6. Negative impact of women trafficking may cause diseases like HIV/AIDS etc.
7. Women trafficking also related to organ trade.
8. Insurgency is one of the major cause of women trafficking.
9. Lack of birth registration of rural children specially among the children of home delivery facilitates traffickers.

Conclusion: Women trafficking is a global problem and is a curse to the human civilization. It is regarded as a reprehensible and heinous crime and is a threat to the morality and humanity of the human civilization. There are so many reasons are related with this most

profitable trade of women selling and buying . The most common reasons are poverty, lack of awareness , unemployment, insurgency, high expectation with low quality, natural calamities, gender discrimination, lack of birth registration etc. But in the recent years there has been an increasing awareness and recognition of the women among the rural people for their contribution of all round development of the family in particular and nation building process in general. In this context Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru mentioned—“when women move forward the family moves, the village moves, and the nation moves.” Therefore it is an urgent need to change the entire rural environment for empowerment of rural women and girls. The government of India has launched a comprehensive scheme to address the sexual exploitation of women and children. Collaborating with the UNICEF the Ministry of Women and Child Development also plans to undertake programmes for stakeholders from SAARC countries. India’s

Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing three pilot projects. These three projects are—

1. To combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation under the sanction of tradition.
2. To combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation in source area.
3. To combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation in destination areas.

These three projects have been converted into a comprehensive scheme in the 11th plane. Accordingly , the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched “Ujjawala”, a new Central Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial sexual Exploitation. There are another some schemes have launched for empowerment of women which may directly and indirectly help to prevent Women Trafficking . Of course, mere implementation of Laws and Launching of Schemes are not enough to change the entire environment related to women trafficking. There are some suggestions for improvement of the present situation regarding Women Trafficking—

1. To create a mass awareness agitation against Women Trafficking.
2. Steps should be taken for improvement of economic condition among rural people and eradicate poverty .
3. Suitable policies, programmes and strategies should be taken for prevention of Women trafficking.
4. NGO’s should be encourage to perform a fourfold activities which are -- establish a relationship between police and common people, identification of traffickers and their network, rehabilitation of trafficked victims and arranging programs for psycho-social adjustment of them.
5. Steps should be taken to prohibit discrimination against women in education, health care and employment.
6. Government should take initiative to improve border security for prevention of trafficking.
7. Sympathetic attitude and a wider mindset should be develop to deal with rescued victims because most of them carry many sexually transmitted diseases(STD) like HIV/AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhoea,etc.

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