INTRODUCTION

The problem of human trafficking has emerged as a serious problem in recent times around the world. It is increasing in pandemic proportion even in India. Trafficking in people implies their illicit movement or improper means, such as force, fraud or deception, with an intention of exploiting them. At least 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold worldwide into commercial sexual servitude, forced labour and bonded labour (International Labour organization, 2012).

The protocol to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational organized crime (Trafficking protocol) that was adopted in the year 2000 and came into force in December 2003, has perhaps brought a much-needed and widespread consensus on a working definition of trafficking at global level. Article 3 of the protocol defines trafficking as “Trafficking in persons, shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (UN 2000).

The crux of the problem is that human trafficking, being a highly secretive and clandestine trade, remains mostly under-reported and untraced in spite of the fact that several international initiatives have been taken to impel governments into action. Conversely the increasing volume of human trafficking is also a reflection of the lack of political will on the part of the states as evident in the plethora of instances to allocate inadequate resources to combat the problem. The problem is much deeper and wider than their meager reportage to the police. Woefully, India has been placed on the tier 2 watch List for a four consecutive year in the trafficking in persons Report 2007 released by UN Government for its failure to show increasing efforts to tackle this large and multi-dimensional problem (Ghosh, 2009).

The problem of human trafficking is also grounding its roots in India. India forms a supply chain, transit zone and destination to this immense network of human trafficking. Trafficking is an organized crime that thrives on human dejection, despite strong steps by the government of India, the trafficking rackets and gangs have become more organized and expanded into newer forms of trafficking. The crime has proliferated in such a way that today almost every Indian state is affected with this social and criminal nuisance. Through trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation continues to be an area of concern of late, there has been increasing trend of migration and trafficking of children for forced labour, bondage and slavery. (UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC 2013). India recently has become a soft target for the being a source, transit point as well as destination for trafficking. There is a trend of girls from the north east being brought to Haryana for forced marriage. The districts of Karnal, Mewat, Rewari, Jind, Kurukshetra, Yamuna nagar and Hisar in Haryana are known to be a destination for girls trafficked from north east states. Bride trafficking is particularly evident in Haryana because of its dismal sex ratio (Times of India, 2012). Though human trafficking takes places irrespective of gender, but very often women and children forms a soft target to this heinous crime. This paper is therefore an attempt to know the overall scenario and trend of human trafficking in women across the country and most specifically Assam. It will also try to highlight the prominent causes and impact of the crime on victim. Further it will highlight the role of police and NGO’s in the different stages of trafficking in the state of Assam. This paper is solely based on analyses of secondary data gathered from police records, newspapers reports, books and journals.

There are several push and pull factors in cases of trafficking. The push factors include: poor socio-economic condition of families, poverty, lack of education, skill and income opportunities for women in rural areas, absence of awareness, dysfunctional family life, domestic violence against...
women, low status of girl child. The pull factors include easy money, promise of better pay and comfortable life, demand of marriage of young girls in other areas, growing demand of small kid for adoption etc. (Ghosh 2009)

Following methods have been commonly used for trafficking in women and children in India a) offering them jobs as domestic servants b) promising job in the film world c) dangling before them jobs in factories d) offering money e) luring them with pleasure trips f) making false promises of marriage g) befriending them by giving goodies h) offering take them on pilgrimage i) making other false promises j) coercion. (Sarkar 2014).

Human trafficking is a crime that ruthlessly exploits human beings for numerous purposes; it has become a central issue to human security and stability. Trafficking in persons can be characterized by the abuse of the inherent vulnerability of the victims. (Ahmed, 2017).

Trafficking today forms a important component of overall composition of crime against women today. The incidents of trafficking have been taking place from a very early time since from the time of Britishers and before. Though there are no written records of the volume of trafficking that takes place during that time. After Independence NCRB did with the task of compiling the reports of trafficking from police department to give us a comprehensive data on trafficking along with other crimes. But still the police records show only a meager proportion of what the actual picture is. Being a secretive and complex issue, many times involving powerful connections many instances go unreported. This paper analyses the cases of trafficking in persons that can be concluded three components namely recruitment, transportation and exploitation.

**SCENARIO OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN**

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![Fig 1: showing trend of trafficking cases, source: NCRB, India](image)

Trafficing today forms a important component of overall composition of crime against women today. The incidents of trafficking have been taking place from a very early time since from the time of Britishers and before. Though there are no written records of the volume of trafficking that takes place during that time. After Independence NCRB did with the task of compiling the reports of trafficking from police department to give us a comprehensive data on trafficking along with other crimes. But still the police records show only a meager proportion of what the actual picture is. Being a secretive and complex issue, many times involving powerful connections many instances go unreported. This paper analyses the cases of trafficking in persons that can be concluded three components namely recruitment, transportation and exploitation.

**FORMS OF TRAFFICKING**

Trafficfing forming the third largest organized crime in the world is a very complex and secretive phenomenon. It may take disguise in several forms but have one consistent aspect in all forms i.e the abuse of the inherent vulnerability of the victims. The victims are been transported to different sectors for varied kind of activities and purposes. Some of the forms in which human trafficking around the world takes place include:

- **Forced Labour:** forced labour can be of different forms which may include bonded labour, debt labour or other forms of labour. Women and girls forms the highest chunk of such kind of labour which are mostly being used for domestic servitude which is extremely difficult of record and report due to its veiling or secret nature. Other disadvantage group or situation is taken advantage of in such cases. Disadvantaged social group like the dalits, religious minorities, tribal communities and women and girls forms the most vulnerable group.

- **Commercial sexual Exploitation:** Sex slavery or trafficking is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international border for the purpose of forced sex work. Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking of women and girls and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. (Ahmed, 2017).

- **Bride trafficking:** bride trafficking refers to the industry of buying or purchasing bride to become a property and at many times as property that can be resold and repurchased for selling. Mostly in areas of low sex ratio, which is as a result of lower status of women in the area leading to female foeticide and infanticide which makes scarcity of women at marriageable age? To overcome this situation brides are outsourced to such areas by organized network sometimes through misleading and false promises. They are treated as commodity. Many a times the women are treated as reproductive machines to increase their clan. Once a boy child is born from a trafficked bride, she is then sold to other families and so on. This system is very much prevalent in states of western India.
d) **Organ Trafficking:** Organ market forms the backbone of trafficking. Mostly trafficking for organ transplant can be done by deceiving the victim or by cheating for the organ without paying or many times giving false treatment for ailment which does not exist thereby removing the organ without victim’s knowledge. Migrant workers, homeless persons, illiterate persons etc are generally targeted. Mostly that type of organ are traded and transported which can be removed such as kidney, liver etc. India forms the hub of such a trade, and in spite of governmental efforts it has not yet being controlled.

**IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON VICTIMS**

Trafficking is an ill plaguing our society in this 21st century. Like any other crimes trafficking too has much impact on its victims. Violent crimes affect the very existence of a victim; similarly trafficking takes the soul out of a body. The physical and social dimension that affect victim is far reaching and deep. The imprints of such crime scratch the entire life of the victim. The consequences are often hidden and difficult to see. Trafficked persons have limited access to basic necessities such as safety, food, sleep, hygiene and medical care. The effect of trafficking varies depending on the purpose for which trafficking was done and the situation.

a) **Physical impact:** victims of trafficking often face harsh physical impact due to excessive work and forced work. They suffer from much serious illness often paralyzing their entire life. Moreover increase likelihood of HIV infection is often cited as a risk among women trafficked for sexual exploitation owing notably to lack of access and use to preventive measures.

b) **Mental impact:** restlessness, anxiety, insecurity, fear and physical pain and injury will have significant effect on the mental health and well-being of trafficked victim. symptoms of psychological trauma reported by trafficked victim include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, alienation and disorientation. Many of them may have even suicidal tendency, and sometimes can be very aggressive.(Human trafficking search, 2016)

c) **Social impact:** trafficked persons may also experience social ostracism. They are often isolated from their social circles, leaving individuals unable to engage socially or reach out for help. Stigmatization and negative responses are encountered in most of the cases from family and friends which further aggravates their trauma.

**ROLE OF POLICE AND NGO’S**

Police and NGO’s play a prominent role in preventing, tracking and rescuing human trafficking victims. Since these cases are very secretive in nature so combined efforts of government and other agencies help to tackle these cases better. The administrative mechanism is the most powerful for handling the cases of trafficking, but many a times due to many bindings, protocol they may not be able to enter many complex cases having political and other influences. But NGO’s and their widespread informal network without much legal obligations can be a great success in such cases. They can also play a great role in assisting legal bodies in rescuing, rehabilitation, reintegration and carrying out legal procedures which can be of great help to victim. NGO’s can create awareness among vulnerable people which prevents such cases, and can also make awareness among enforcement authorities by providing training to police personals to tackle such cases. Some of the NGO’s working tremendously in these sectors in Assam includes NEN, Brothers, Assam center for rural development etc.

**CONCLUSION**

Trafficing is a social problem which has its roots in social differentiation which leads to creation of disadvantaged section of society. Spreading like a plague its arena has engulfed the entire world. India forms one of the hotspot for trade and transport of trafficking victims around the world becoming the 5th largest market for human trafficking. Assam too is not lagging behind, showing a fluctuating trend over the years. Illiteracy, ignorance, poverty forms the main factors enhancing the world wide trade of human beings. The range of activities for which trafficking is done ranges from domestic servitude to organ transplant market. But whatever be the reason of such a trade the imprints on victims’ life even after rescue is far reaching and deep. NGO’s along with legal bodies are playing a great role in rescuing and saving many innocent souls. But the dimension of the crime is so large that still today it acts a great barrier in front of efforts to safeguard the victims. Since the cases of human trafficking hinders the basic essence of life and posses a treat towards human rights of individuals, so combined efforts is utmost need of the hour.

**REFERENCES**


[10] www.humantraffickingsearch.net>impact