

Health and Social Consequences of Trafficked Girls / Women of a Rehabilitation Center

Indira Sundas Shrestha, MN
Nursing Campus Maharajgunj

Abstract

Trafficking is an International issue and it was more prevalent in developing countries like Nepal. This study was conducted to identify the prevailing health and social consequences of trafficked girls/women. The research design is exploratory as well as descriptive in nature and purposive sampling technique is used. The total 50 sample was taken from Sakti Samuha, Gaurighat, Rehabilitation Center. To collect the related data, the researcher had used the tool of interview schedule.

Present study revealed the causes of girls trafficking is related to several factors. The age of trafficking is higher 25(50%) among teenaged 13-17 years. The highly affected district is Nuwakot and 22(44%) unmarried girls were trafficked. (I. Shrestha 2068) Poverty and illiteracy are the most affecting factors of the trafficking. They are trafficked with promises of good job and income in Indian cities. One of the strong medium of trafficking is false marriage. Most of girls are trafficked with attraction of easy and luxurious life. Majority of the respondents had faced strong discrimination in household activities and treatment between son and daughter. Most of the respondents says the life was very difficult in their parents' home. Majority of respondents lured by factory workers. Most of the respondents serving 10-15 clients per day and night but all the earnings belongs to brothel owner (Gharwali), instead of getting money they had to pay money for food, nice cloth, makeup and ornaments. Regarding the consequences of girls trafficking - the study found that health

and social consequences among trafficked women- in health consequences majority of diseases are found as STD 52%, Malnutrition - 12%, loss of appetite and weight loss 6 % and itching around the vulva is 4%.

In relation to social consequences - social exclusion 30%, family discrimination 16%, family exclusion 10%, community discrimination 10%, problem of reintegration 10% and family torture 8%.

Introduction

No country in the world immune from human trafficking and this continues to thrive even after the universal declaration of Human rights, 1948. Estimates show that each year 800,000 to 900,000 people including women and children are trafficked across international borders (US Department of state, 2005) The number varies from one country to another depending upon various vulnerable factors of human trafficking. Especially women and children in Nepal are trafficking to work forcefully in sex work and also in other areas including the work in circuses. Human trafficking is a institutionalized slave trade. Nepal is one of the trafficking prone country in south asia, has it people trafficked to work in circus, agricultural farms, factories, road construction, forced beggary, domestic workers and sex market working in inhuman condition. Many factors are responsible for trafficking of the Nepalese people inside and abroad. Major socio-cultural factors that promote trafficking including low social status of women and children, lack of education and literacy, lack of

awareness, gender discrimination, violence against women and children including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, problem in family and increased consumerism. Similarly economic and political factors such as job opportunities in rural areas, unemployment in cities, migration, internal displacement due to political instability and arms conflict. Action to combat trafficking in Nepal has been taken as a concern of GOs, NGOs, and development partner of Nepal. Nepal Government through international commitments and national commitments did formulate national policy, plans and laws to deal with issue of trafficking. But the issue is growing day by day.

The trafficking crime has taken an insidious form in our country. Girls trafficking is a major sexual exploitation in Nepal. Every year a large number of Nepalese girls are trafficking to India and other parts of the world for prostitution. An estimated 200000 Nepalese girls are commercial sex workers in India (Ghimire, 1998). Every year 1200 Nepalese children are trafficked (ILO/IPEC, 2001). The problem is initially confined only within the adjoining districts of Kathmandu like Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading etc. Targeting Tamang community but now a days has spread to various districts like Rautahat Sarlahi, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Chitwan, Jhapa, Sunsari, Morang etc. (Maiti Nepal, 2004)

When these trafficked girls and women have released from the brothels they will face the problem of reintegration in the community. Socio-cultural role is very important aspect in human life, it affects in development and survival of individual. The trafficked girls and women suffer ill consequences. There fore this study was conducted with the objective of identifying the health and social consequences among the trafficked girl and women.

Methodology

This study used descriptive research design. It attempted to describe the health and social consequences of trafficked girls/women.

The study population included the girls and women who had been trafficked and returned back from the brothels, of India and rehabilitated in Shakti Samuha, Gaurighat. There were in total 50 rehabilitated women in Shakti Samuha and all of them were included in the study. Data was collected by the researcher her self using a pre-tested interview schedule.

Findings

This study revealed that girl trafficking was related to several factors. Majority of respondents 14(28%) was from Nuwakot district. Among the survivors 24(48%) respondents were from Tamang ethnicity. Twenty two (44%) respondents were unmarried. Out of 50 respondents 30 respondents (60%) belonged to the age group of 20-26 years during the period of interview.

About the nature of sibling among the trafficked respondents (48%) of respondents had 4 females siblings. The study revealed the higher the number of daughters higher was the trafficking. Trafficking was also higher 80% where the girls were illiterate and where fathers were also illiterate (80%).

Among 50 respondents - 25 (50%) respondents were serving as a maid servant in town (Kathmandu) before trafficking.

Half of the respondents 25(50%) lured by factory workers for trafficking. Most of the respondents 25(50%) are trafficked at the age of 13-17 years. The causes of trafficking 25(50%) are false promises of good job and income of money in India. But the reality 30 (60%) respondents did not get enough to eat at the brothel. All their earnings were taken by Gharwali 40(80%) and 10(20%) said instead of getting money they had to pay money to the Gharwali for food, nice cloth, makeup and ornaments. So the labour of the victims was exploited in the brothel.

About the consequences of trafficking majority of respondents (60%) had STD/HIV infection. Higher proportion of respondents (40%)

suffered from depression and 2(4%) had attempted suicide. Most of the respondents who had been reintegrated with the family, they suffered the problem of backbiting from the community and family. They were also isolated from the community involvement, received mental torture and lacked employment.

As a result they had initiated to established the Shakti Samuha for rehabilitation. At the time of interview in Shakti Samuha rehabilitation center there were 7(46.6%) respondents who were suffering from long term STD/HIV/AIDS. Five (33.3%) had chest pain and 2(13.3%) had weight loss, indigestion and diarrhea and other respondents had no problem as they were rehabilitated. In "Shakti Samuha" rehabilitation home, their health was monitoring by regular medical checkup and illness were treated by doctor.

All the respondents (100%) said that the money which they earned in the brothel they could not bring in Nepal. Most of the family response (75%) to respondents were negative when they were reintegrated in the family. The feelings of respondents when the family response was negatives, the reply was 12(60%) respondents "if here is nobody to support me why should I live with the family?" "Interaction of family when dealing with respondents 70% dealing with hate. Majority of respondents 10(50%) getting mental torture from brother and brother-in-law and community people. 80% of respondents are not able to move freely around the community.

Discussion and conclusion

In the process of literature review there were so many research reports and other related documents were found focusing mainly on the process of trafficking, life in brothel, rescue agencies and rehabilitation to the victims but not much studies had been done on the aspect of health and social consequences of trafficked women which is very important in the field of trafficking. So the researcher had selected the research topic to do the study and there is no

comparison with other studies.

Trafficking is deeply rooted social problem in the country. There is only the words in the speech which is talked by the political leaders and the people who are working in NGOs in the field of trafficking about combating the problem but the problem is growing day by day in the country. The government should give high priority in National plan to stop the problem of trafficking. The subject of trafficking should be included in the school curriculum from primary level. The family should be council in the community for giving equal opportunity in education to both male and female children. The community people also should be council and educated to see and treat the girls / women with respect after coming back from the brothel.

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