



Human Trafficking in Pakistan: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract: The research article aims to evaluate the various causes of domestic and international trafficking of girls, women, and children in Pakistan, as well as the scope and nature of the problem. Additionally, this study aims to pinpoint the most vulnerable demographic in Pakistan. First, the article will explain the concept of human trafficking then the research will be tried to analysis on the different forms of human trafficking in Pakistan. Secondly, the article will analyse the current legal framework for human trafficking and the challenges facing this legal system in implementation. It has been applied to the following article's qualitative research methodology. The findings of this research have broad practical ramifications, including suggestions for identifying the causes of this kind of trafficking and, in turn, learning which societal segments are more susceptible to both domestic and international trafficking. According to the study, internally displaced people are frequently more vulnerable to this threat.

Introduction

Human trafficking is an evil crime with significant global implications. Internally syndicates of organized crime that deal in smuggling migrants, drugs, and weapons frequently also oversee human trafficking. People are recruited and transported as part of the trafficking process, after which they are sold or compelled into all types of labor and servitude, such as forced prostitution and forced marriages. Without mentioning the risks to national and international security, trafficking is a criminal offense that violates the basic human rights of its victims and has a number of negative repercussions for the involved countries of origin, transit, and destination (Yousaf, F. N. [2018](#)).

Trafficked women who are forced into prostitution and forced labour are presumed to originate, transit, and end up in Pakistan. It has only recently escaped the thorny Tier 2 status it had been saddled with for failing to comply adequately with the “*Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*. (TVPA)”. Boys and girls are frequently traded and started renting in this area to work in prostitution, forced labour in the home and on farms, and organized begging syndicates (Wooditch et al., [2009](#)). According to nongovernmental organizations and watchdog groups, women, girls, and children are actually traded like wild animals in Pakistan's slave markets. “The 2013 Trafficking in Persons report from the US State Department” provides horrifying details about the prostitution-related

trafficking of women into Pakistan from Iran, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Since the beginning, there has been a large number of women trafficking into and out of Pakistan. On both sides of the Indian and Pakistani borders, thousands of women were kidnapped during the partition and taken to be sold or forced into prostitution. Thousands of women flooded into Pakistan as a result of Bangladesh's creation, and this trend has persisted for more than 40 years. A significant barrier to controlling the threat is the law enforcement agencies complicity, active support, and especially the police's culpability. Leaders have never been able to deal with the problem due to a lack of political will and ability. Trafficked women have never been tracked by our government agencies (Wilson, M., & O'Brien, E. [2016](#)).

Additionally, many cases of women trafficking go unreported and unrecorded, particularly internal trafficking. Trafficking victims are punished rather than offenders by our police force. There have been no bilateral agreements between our governments and their neighbouring countries to address this threat, which is particularly concerning. In this study, we will investigate what leads to high-level domestic and international trafficking of women. Research in this field attempts to determine the reasons behind women's trafficking's widespread practice. In addition, it identifies the most vulnerable segments of the population. Additionally, it refers to the inequity of social status, the crime against humanity, the brutal violence against women's rights, and general lawlessness. Women are easy targets for sexual predators because of these factors. In addition, trafficked women are frequently socially isolated in our patriarchal society and helpless to repair their reputations when they are trafficked.

The Concept of Human Trafficking

Trafficking in humans, also known as human trafficking, is the force or misleading transit of persons for the purpose of labor, sex trafficking,

or other acts where people profit financially. Human trafficking is a global problem that has an impact on millions of people. In the United States, victims of sex trafficking are transported to 20,000 to 50,000 destinations each year, one of the most popular tourist destinations for them.

Despite being recognized as a worldwide issue, there is no agreed-upon definition of human trafficking. According to the UN, sex trafficking is classified into three categories: slavery, human trafficking, and removal of body parts. A human trafficker harbors, transport, or receives people in order to exploit them or remove their bodies. It also includes the initiation of an individual into the sex trade via coercion, fraud, or force. Nevertheless, the United States does not include organ harvesting in its interpretations; it does, notwithstanding, include sex and modern slavery. The US also describes trafficking in persons as the willful movement of an individual with the goal of victimizing them (Tyldum, G. [2010](#)).

Human traffickers frequently use international channels to transport migrants, most of whom are compelled to work with smugglers due to their difficult living conditions. For the purpose of finding immigrants, recruitment agencies use a variety of sources, including the Internet, job boards, the media, and local connections within the countries in which trafficking in persons is generally first discovered, including East Asia, East Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Often, the intermediaries and the migrants have cultural traits in common because they both bring in clients from their home countries. The purpose of smuggling services is to enable migrants to escape the deplorable conditions that exist in their home countries and move to safer and more developed regions (Pati, R. [2013](#)).

Those who engage in smuggling provide victims with all the necessary tools in order to make the process of obtaining meaningful travel documents extremely difficult. Aside from

training victims on how to obtain fake passports and visas, they also instruct them on how to avoid being caught by border control agents. Transporters, on the other hand, continue the migration process by using land, air, and ocean modes of transportation. The majority of victims are cognizant that they have been the target of a human trafficking operation, even though many do so voluntarily. Numerous others are enticed with fake career opportunities, passports, or visas, while some are kidnapped or forced. Compensation for human trafficking victims is paid only after they have been delivered from their country of origin to the responsible party inside the destination. Traffickers seize all immigration documents, regardless of whether they are genuine or false. In addition, victims are often subjected to physical or sexual abuse, and many are forced to work or participate in the prostitution trade in order to repay their debts resulting from their forced migration.

Some of the things that lead to people being trafficked into their countries are political unrest, religious intolerance, a lack of jobs, unemployment, fights, and natural disasters. The globalization of the economy has also contributed to the rise of living standards and the growth of the world economy. The globalization of the economy has hurt the market for moving people around the world without papers. It has become easier for organized crime to expand its network and for migrants to move around the globe as a result. Several orphanages and communities in Sub-Saharan Africa have been created as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, according to the US Department of State. As a result, slavery and human trafficking are unavoidable (Costa et al. 2019).

As per Tom Obokata, it is becoming more widely acknowledged that trafficking may be one of the “*most serious offences of global concern overall or delicta juris gentium*.” Sex trafficking has been classified as a horrendous crime by the international community among the various types of crimes. “*In Re Prosecutor v. Kunarac, the*

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)” decided that human trafficking and enslavement were both crimes against humanity. This is a thriving global enterprise where dishonest criminals profit to the number of billions of dollars at the expense of countless innocent individuals whose rights, dignity, independence, and so much more are stolen.

It could be argued that the overwhelming bulk of nations on earth is affected by this epidemic. These nations might play a part in human trafficking by serving as the source, helping with the transit, or even becoming the subsequent focus of the traffickers. Each year, approximately 700,000–900,000 people are trafficked across international borders, and millions more are detained in their countries of origin. According to estimates, human trafficking generates between \$3.2 billion and \$8 billion annually. Human trafficking has become widespread over the past ten years, with an estimated \$ 41 billion in global sales every year (Murphy, S. D. 1999).

It is estimated that 13.3 million adults and children are subject to “*professional sex slavery*” and other forms of forced labor at any given time. Both domestically and internationally, 1.39 million individuals are the casualties of “*commercial sexual servitude*.” The statistics show that traffickers frequently chose the most vulnerable populations to target for their ruthless trade: Girls and women make up 56% of enslaved servitude victims. There are thought to be approximately 800,000 and two million people following global trends.

Despite the absence of disaggregated information on sex industry earnings, country reports show clear trends. According to a study of that country's economy, Thailand's economy may be worth up to \$3.2 billion in women trafficked from Bangkok to Tokyo, Europe, and Taipei. In 1993, Thai women engaged in the Tokyo sex trade earned more than \$5.7 billion. Using information from captured traffickers,

O'Neill and Richard (1999) estimated that American traffickers make between \$2.5 million and \$210,000 a year through their networks. Their tactics include misleading people into believing they can find employment, get an education, or get married. Human trafficking has consequently affected some people throughout their home countries, while others relocated to better their lives by accepting positions requiring minimal training and experience (Jahic, G., & Finckenauer, J. O. [2005](#)).

History of Human Trafficking

Throughout the history of humanity, males, females, and children have been decided to sell against their will and forced into prostitution and slave labor. According to Warnath, the trafficking of children and women has been a problem throughout history. Organizational crime is becoming more involved, and its operations are becoming increasingly complex. The trade of human lives for goods or services is one of the most shocking and disgusting things about all of this. Across the globe, they have become an international sensation. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the term “*trafficking*” was first used as an allegory for purchasers and sellers and “*moving back and forth*.” Human trafficking, also known as the “*white slave trade*,” had evolved by the nineteenth century to incorporate trade in people. On the other hand, the concept of “*slavery*” was first introduced by United Nations methods.

To safeguard women and girls from the slave trade, the Worldwide “*Agreement for the Silencing of the White Slave Traffic*” was negotiated in 1905. Traffic at the time was defined as the movement of women for the purpose of prostitution, which is socially unacceptable. Prostitution and sex trafficking were consequently linked to human trafficking. At a League of Nations-sponsored international treaty, representatives from 34 nations demanded that trade in women and children take the place of the white slave trade. This led to the

adoption of “*the International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women*”, which broadened the description of human trafficking to incorporate both minors of both sexes and non-white females. Because of this, males could become human trafficking victims. It also highlighted how crucial it is to spread accurate information in order to safeguard women (Lee, I. C., & Lewis, M. [2003](#)).

The first lawfully enforceable document was “*the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Others' Prostitution*”. Hardly 66 nations have ratified it as of this writing, although it came into effect in 1951. Mauritius signed the “*Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2002*” and primarily addressed child trafficking, and in addition to these measures, specific human trafficking-related issues were also addressed in the implementation of this protocol. “*The Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention of 1999*”, which Mauritius enacted in 2001, is one of the anti-child labor treaties that the ILO also brought with it. The UN Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, which is an international treaty against trafficking in people, has been around for 51 years. Sex trafficking as a crime is now defined to encompass all types of exploitation. The document is the first of its kind to do so in international human rights law. Moreover, it ensures that victims' rights are protected and that legislation is properly enforced. Additionally, forced labor and the connection between trafficking and migration are hot topics internationally (Mollema, N. [2013](#)).

Human trafficking is an evolution of slavery from its most primitive to its most sophisticated forms, which will only increase due to globalization and the rapid pace of technological advances. The global community has fought against human trafficking, including both traditional and contemporary forms of oppression, and it still does. On a number of platforms, including through the use of law and policy instruments, the United Nations has

denounced various kinds of slavery along with their practices. Despite significant efforts to stop it, human trafficking is still a widespread and terrifying issue worldwide.

Human Trafficking: Major Forms

The issue of trafficking women for the purpose of exploiting them sexually is not new. It has been around for a very long time and is still present today. The pandemic of sexual exploitation knows no boundaries in terms of geography or demographics. Female trafficking is a serious issue that cannot be solved "from behind" or superficially. Due diligence and close attention are required due to the seriousness of the situation. Female trafficking is a worldwide issue that impacts both post-conflict countries and those in both political and economic transition. Additionally, it affects all major industrialized countries worldwide as well as both economically advanced and developing nations. Many developing or third-world governments are going to attempt to brush this problem under the rug because they lack financial or legal resources (Makisaka, M. [2009](#)).

However, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, the smugglers traveled to the nations of Western Europe. Human trafficking victims typically come from Asia as well as Latin America. Nevertheless, there was a clear change in the environment after communist governments fell in the 1990s. East European women are increasingly the most commonly trafficked "goods" in Western Europe. Two post-communist Balkan countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania are in the same situation. Even though we may claim that trafficking in women for the infamous sex trade is a very old issue, it has only recently come to light in these two countries. It emerged after the post-communist era and picked up speed with the existing transitions in both countries (Ross-Sheriff, F., & Orme, J. [2015](#)).

Female human trafficking has indeed been described as a contemporary form of slavery. Sex trafficking is far too frequently disregarded because it is mistaken for prostitution. Identifying the differences between "*trafficking in females*" and "*prostitution*" is important since the general public has consistently misunderstood their existence. The findings of an IOM survey support this conclusion, as the vast majority of respondents (62 percent) believe that prostitution is voluntary and paid while trafficking is forced. Only 19.4 percent of those polled claimed to know the difference between prostitution and female trafficking. But what is really the main distinction? A common trait is a readiness to engage in prostitution. It is claimed that these people (girls) have the option to leave the oldest sector in the world when they so choose. On the other hand, we cannot disregard the inflationary difficulties they experience and the coercion of the traffickers. But when girls are trafficked, they lose this chance along with their passports, ID cards, and other papers. Also, these girls are afraid of being turned away and treated badly by their families and communities.

Another misconception is that trafficking in human beings only happens across international borders. Trafficking takes place within a nation's borders and involves moving women from one part of the nation to another. Human traffickers frequently prey on rural women who move to cities in search of better opportunities and higher pay by misleading them with promises of a promising future. In addition to being a global issue, human trafficking of women is also a national issue. As a consequence, we count residents of one nation who are migrated inside another as victims of trafficking in addition to women who are transported from their home countries to other countries (Palmiotto, M. J. (Ed.). [2014](#)).

With most governments, trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of women has long been an "*unresolved issue*" and a "*tough challenge*." National government

corruption frequently benefits female victims of human trafficking and people in general, both in the victims' home countries as well as in the countries of passage and final destination. When you consider that the “industry” of trafficking in human beings is among the most lucrative in the world, with an approximate yearly revenue of over 8 billion us dollars from prostitutes alone, this percentage is not as shocking or improbable.

In addition, two important factors, including demand and supplementation, encourage the growth of human trafficking, especially sex trade employment. Male demand for the services of sex workers and male perceptions of women's status in society both contribute to the exploitation of women. Women are pushed into commercial sex trade work and situations where they face the danger of being manipulated on the food security side due to their poor economic standing, lack of real employment and educational opportunities, increased destabilization of certain regions after conflict, and development of transnational criminal organizations.

Taking action against this major issue and transitioning into democracy, transitioning out of the recent transition, and setting up international tools to combat human trafficking in general, as well as trafficking in women, can be very helpful for countries like Bosnia – Herzegovina and Albania. The domestic law enforcement agencies and lawmakers of these two countries can make smuggling less common and more controlled by enacting international law and imposing more severe penalties on those who violate/commit crimes against humanity.

In Pakistan

Currently, Pakistan is thought to be a major hotspot for the following types of modern slavery:

Sex Trafficking: Sexual exploitation of women and girls is one of the most common forms of trafficking in Pakistan. Many women who work in

agricultural and micro businesses have been identified as sex trafficking and forced labour victims. They endure sexual abuse while working as bonded laborers and frequently receive pitiful or no pay. There is a patriarchal society in Pakistan where basic human rights are not respected, women do the majority of housework, people do not communicate with one another, and people are not knowledgeable enough. Forced marriages, prostitutes, and the sex trade are carried out on a global scale by women from emerging economies, including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

Forced Child Labour: Due mostly to inadequate education, extreme poverty, and unemployment, many youngsters are trafficked in Pakistan to work as domestic servants. They are subjected to extortion, sexual and physical abuse, incarceration, and isolation from their parents while working as domestic servants. Young boys are sexually exploited near hotels, bus terminals, and truck stops. Teenagers and children are also abducted for the trade in organs when crucial organs like kidneys are extracted and sold for exorbitant sums of money. Families who are not able to conceive children are sold, newborns. Young girls may occasionally be considered as a commodity and traded among two distinct groups of individuals to resolve differences or debts. Almost two million children in Pakistan work in brick kilns, live in slave-like conditions and are forced to work for 14 hours a day, six days a week, without basic labor protections or social security benefits (Ahmad, A. N. [2016](#)).

Bonded Labour or Debt Bondage: A severe variation of modern slavery is bonded labour. When their labour is used to pay a landlord or factory owner a sum of money called peshgi that was given in advance, an individual or family may be forced into servitude. In Pakistan, bonded labour is common in the carpet, tanning, brick kiln, and agriculture industries. Debt bondage is not permitted under Pakistan's Constitution. The

Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1992 additionally imposes harsh penalties for anyone who participates in debt bondage exploitation. Additionally, Pakistan has adopted ILO Convention 29 regarding forced labour. Despite this, the circumstances of bonded workers remain unchanged, and they are constantly exploited, especially in Sindh, where an aristocracy is predominant, and landowners have a significant impact on politics and the economy. They prevent laws and policies from favouring workers and the peasantry, who are either paid extremely little or nothing since they are the main parties in the legislative and administrative systems. Scheduled Castes (Dalits) in the agricultural industry and “low-caste” Muslims in the brick kiln industry make up a sizable portion of bonded labour victims who are powerless in the system of government. They lack social security, labour rights, and even registered to vote because they are viewed as “disposable,” frequently have unregistered nikahs, and frequently lack CNICs. Because they don't have a base of voters, their issues are frequently discounted and disregarded. Human trafficking, on the other hand, involves their financial exploitation under the guise of peshgi. The liberation of 63 slave laborers who had been sold into slavery by the owner of a brick kiln near Multan in 2019 was made possible by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).¹⁸ And over 4.5 million people work in more than 20,000 industrial facilities in Pakistan, and many of them have been victims of labour abuse. It's crucial to remember that bonded labor exposes women and girls to sexual exploitation.

Forced Marriage: The scourge of trafficking in human beings in Pakistan has also been fuelled by forced or fraudulent marriages. In traditional countries like Pakistan, young women often see marriage as a way to secure their social status. Many women and girls who are not married are forced or tricked into arranged marriages, both inside and outside of their families. In many

cases, traffickers use marriage to trap young women and girls and to protect them from the law. Some people say that teenage girls and women have been sold in order to settle family disputes and correct wrongs committed by family members. They may have been affected by customary practices such as bridewealth and *watta satta*.

Based on research by the Noor Education Trust, bride prices and human smuggling in women and girls in Pakistan are closely related. According to the survey, clients from all across Pakistan and overseas marry or buy young women from economically depressed regions where the transaction is conducted under the guise of the bride-price custom. To verify the transactions and prevent any legal implications, bogus nikahs—the Islamic tradition of a formal marriage contract—are frequently performed. The young women are subsequently coerced into prostitution or forced labor. Minors are of particular interest to traffickers because they are more amenable to training, control, and long-term gains. Similar connections between trafficking in women and weddings were found in a 2009 study on trafficking in Pakistan by Enterprise for Development and Business Management. Pakistani girls who are underprivileged and trafficked overseas for exploitation and marriage have been reported in the media recently (Yousaf, F. N. [2018](#)).

Begging: The main cities of Pakistan are known to be a hotbed of kidnappings for the forced begging of women and children. According to the “*Integrated Regional Information Network (2011) and TIP Review for 2015*”, some reports also claim that disabled people in Pakistan, including children, are transported both domestically and overseas to beg. According to the Asian Human Rights Commission, human traffickers in Pakistan take advantage of thousands of microcephalic kids by forcing them to beg. Children can be taken from vulnerable families or kidnapped to beg, or they can be rented out to

beggars for a set price. It has also been reported in the media that women and children are trafficked out of Pakistan for food and begging on the streets of other nations.

Legal Framework for Trafficking in Pakistan

Slavery, forced labour, and human trafficking are outlawed in Pakistan, and the government is expected to take the appropriate precautions to safeguard people, particularly women and children, from any and all kinds of exploitation. For instance, the Constitution's Article 11 declares:

- a) Slavery is unheard of and illegal, and no law may allow or encourage its entry into Pakistan in any way.
- b) Forced labour and human trafficking are prohibited. There is no age limit for working in a factory, mine, or any other hazardous occupation for children under 14.

Until 2002, Pakistan lacked any specific legislation to deal with human trafficking. So, in October 2002, the Pakistani government passed the “*Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO)*,” whose rules were made public the following year. This law says what human trafficking is and sets up the rules for how the country will deal with it. Even though the PACHTO was a good first step toward recognizing that human trafficking is a problem in the country and taking steps to fix it, it had a number of major flaws. It was one of the biggest flaws of the PACHTO that human trafficking and people smuggling were treated as separate crimes. Furthermore, because the code exclusively defined trafficking in terms of cross-border travel, it completely ignored the existence of domestic trafficking. Two significant regulations, “*the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act (PTPA) 2018 and the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act 2018*”, were passed by the Pakistani government in 2018 in order to address the PACHTO's restrictions and raise Pakistan's status from Tier 2 Watch List. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan are effectively

dealt with by different laws that address both situations. Under the new law, people who have been trafficked for exploitation in Pakistan or who have been brought from other countries into Pakistan are now considered victims of trafficking. The PTPA says that trafficking in people is when someone uses force, fraud, or intimidation to hire, house, transport, give, or get another person (Coomaraswamy, R., & Satkunanathan, A. 2006).

According to the Act, those who engage in human trafficking “shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to seven years or with fine which may extend to one million rupees or with both,” When the offense is committed against a child or a woman, the penalty is significantly higher, “the person who commits the offense shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years and which shall not be less than two years or with fine which may extend to one million rupees or with both.”

In addition, the Act provides that offenders will be sentenced to imprisonment of up to 14 years, but no less than three years, as well as fines of up to two million rupees if the offense involves serious injury, threats to life, illness, or death, organized crime, confiscation of travel documents, and repeat offenses by the same offenders against human trafficking victims. It is anticipated that the Pakistani government will introduce the “*Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Rules 2020* in October 2020”, which will serve as the regulations for implementing the PTPA.

According to the new legislation, the FIA is now responsible primarily for handling cases of cross-border trafficking, while provincial governments and the police are tasked with dealing with domestic trafficking. But right now, police can't find or stop human trafficking because they don't have the knowledge or tools to do so. FIA has developed a five-year “*National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and*

Migrant Smuggling” in addition to recently enacted anti-trafficking laws by 2021-25. In accordance with the National Action Plan, the FIA intends to collaborate with government agencies, the UN, and civil society in order to:

- a) Bolster the statutory and regulatory frameworks.
- b) Increase the representation of women in the institutions charged with preventing human trafficking and migrant smuggling (HTMS), especially in the judiciary, criminal justice system, and law enforcement.
- c) Increasing capabilities for victim identification, punishment, interrogation, and defense.
- d) More gender- and age-specific information is needed about the type and scope of migrant smuggling and human trafficking.
- e) Improve national, provincial, and international cooperation while raising awareness of HTMS offences.

The National Action Plan for Pakistan's fight against human trafficking includes a very thorough road map, but implementing it will be the real challenge since earlier plans failed to meet their objectives because of a lack of funding and the organization's limited capacity.

Several laws were enacted to address offenses connected to trafficking in persons before the adoption of the specific anti-trafficking laws. For instance, the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC)'s sections) discussion of some aspects of internal trafficking:

- a) “Trafficking by way of kidnapping or abduction. [Section 359-366] § Procurement of minor girl [Section 366-A]
- b) Importation of a girl from a foreign country [Section 366-B]
- c) Kidnapping or abducting in order to subject the person to grievous hurt, slavery [Section 367]
- d) Buying or disposing of any person as a slave [Section 370]
- e) Habitual dealing in slaves [Section 371]

- f) Selling minors for purposes of prostitution, etc. [Section 372]
- g) Buying minors for purposes of prostitution, etc. [Section 373]
- h) Unlawful compulsory labour [Section 374].”
- i) Bonded or forced labour is also addressed in the following laws:
- j) “Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1992 (applicable to ICT and Balochistan)
- k) Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1992 (adopted by Punjab in 2012)
- l) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2015
- m) Sindh Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2015
- n) Punjab Prohibition of Child Labour at Brick Kilns Act, 2016”
- o) There are several legal clauses associated with external trafficking that are specific to the FIA:
- p) “Emigration Ordinance, 1979
- q) Passport Act, 1974
- r) Exit from Pakistan (Control) Ordinance, 1981
- s) Foreigners Act, 1946
- t) Relevant sections of PPC dealing with forgery in identity documents, cheating, impersonation, etc.” (Mirza, M. A. 2010).

Challenges in Law Enforcement

The smuggling of migrants and human trafficking are two distinct crimes that are currently addressed by separate legislation. However, stakeholders still mistakenly use both since they have a similar meanings. The following difficulties must be overcome:

- a) Learning new information is straightforward and simple, but unlearning is challenging, particularly when stakeholders' goals diverge and there is resistance to change. Officers, regional prosecutors, and network operators must assume accountability.
- b) People in Pakistan, especially the police, don't know what their roles and responsibilities are when it comes to

stopping internal trafficking. This is a direct result of newly enacted legislation. Therefore, various PPC sections or earlier legal requirements continue to be used to register and investigate cases involving human trafficking. Because of this, victims of internal trafficking are not protected or supported.

- c) A lack of awareness of trafficking and a poor system for identifying and reporting trafficking incidents contribute to the low number of cases reported under the PTPA.
- d) The prevailing consensus among LEA officials is that they should investigate other (more serious) offenses besides trafficking. Fighting trafficking appears to be a minor issue for LEAs.
- e) The LEAs are unable to assist victims of trafficking because of financial restrictions or limits.
- f) Sex trafficking and forced labour are rarely prosecuted and rarely found guilty, and the offenders rarely face severe punishment in the provincial or federal sectors.
- g) Even though it is important to have a thorough law against trafficking and relevant rules and procedures, it is still hard to put them into practice. Human trafficking can be effectively addressed through stakeholder collaboration. The departments of labor, social welfare, and women's development, as well as the LEAs, prosecutors, and judges, are not located in the same building. The working practices of stakeholders are also unknown to each other.
- h) To assist victims of trafficking, there is no directory or list of institutions or prospective providers of services from the public or private sectors.
- i) Victims frequently lack trust in the LEAs and therefore refuse to comply with them. This is among the causes of weak case development.
- j) Human trafficking in Pakistan is characterized by a lack of knowledge, a lack of study, and a lack of primary and secondary data that prevents a description of its forms and forms and identifying the gaps in the current anti-trafficking measures.
- k) The LEA often says that people who are victims of human trafficking put themselves in a position where they could be used. Victims of such crimes are often ignored because their vulnerability is insignificant.
- l) Under the new law, suspected cases of bonded labour are not reported to authorities for a criminal investigation as cases of trafficking. The provincial police, labour inspections, and social services personnel lack the necessary training in SOPs for crime investigation and referral to treatment programs.
- m) In general, stakeholders do not view bonded labour victims as trafficked individuals, which limits their access to resources like housing and legal representation.
- n) The absence of financial and social support increases the likelihood that victims of internal trafficking, particularly those who are forced or bonded labour, will quickly relapse into victimization after being rescued.
- o) Many kids are made to beg by their impoverished parents. The youngsters end up repeating the same behaviour because the parents give them their own justifications and explanations for letting them beg.
- p) The state has not provided enough funds to offer services and protection to trafficking victims. In addition, there is no plan in place for the long-term rehabilitation of trafficking individuals, particularly women and children. Most kidnapped women and girls suffer because there is no effective

system in place to address their needs and weaknesses (Abbas, H. 2011).

Conclusion

In the study, it has been shown that there are numerous social injustices, injustices ingrained in a patriarchal society, strongly rooted customs, and traditions that don't even perceive internal trafficking as a crime against women and society. The elements that encourage women trafficking in Pakistan are poverty, illiteracy, financial gain, and criminal intent on the part of the traffickers. Additionally, a pitiful percentage of reporting trafficking occurrences and insufficient enforcement of the current antitrafficking laws encourage this threat to persist unchecked. It is concluded that a number of causes support this horrible business in Pakistan. These include women's utter powerlessness in this patriarchal system, illiteracy, and unethical traditions that do not view women's trafficking as a crime against humanity or society. Women from very low socioeconomic backgrounds are particularly vulnerable to exploitation because of their illiteracy, ignorance, and exposure to the worst forms of social injustice, crimes against humanity, excessive brutality against women's rights, and overall illegality.

Recommendations

A mechanism for gathering, compiling, and reporting statistics on the various aspects of human trafficking in Pakistan is needed in order to pinpoint its roots and scope. The capacity of LEA and concerned government department employees to recognize and report crimes should be strengthened. Research studies should be promoted by academia and civil society organizations to gather primary data and reveal the trafficking's unrecognized facets.

Authorities of LEAs should be compelled to report trafficking-related crimes only under the PTPA following the development of their capacity. This will lead to the provision of

protection and other resources to the trafficking victims that they are entitled to under the law, in addition to providing accurate data.

To report any suspected cases of trafficking and to receive assistance from LEAs and service providers, there should be a nationwide human trafficking hotline.

Implementation of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation and a national action plan is crucial to making them effective. The prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims, and the punishment of traffickers require tight synchronization between all parties.

Identifying gaps and assessing the need for future interventions could be easier if a national mapping exercise of available services is conducted at the national level by government and non-governmental organizations.

To prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking again, it is crucial to address the long-term weaknesses of trafficked women and girls. A comprehensive plan for the reintegration and rehabilitation of trafficked women and girls into society should be created by the government. Short-term defence alone is insufficient.

Revictimization occurs in a sizable fraction of trafficked women and girls. On how women and girls might avoid becoming victims of trafficking in the long run, there is very little information. Therefore, research should be done to identify the elements that enable victims of human trafficking to survive.

Interventions that are intended to increase public awareness of the problem of trafficking are crucial. People could be instructed on how to safeguard themselves against traffickers and how to quickly report any suspected cases to the relevant agency of law enforcement through print, digital, and social media.

Government efforts for vulnerable communities should have been explicitly targeted to prevent exploitation since traffickers frequently prey on their vulnerabilities.

The government needs to set aside sufficient funds for the delivery of services to trafficking victims and the deployment of anti-trafficking activities. Close cooperation and coordination among the parties involved could also aid in the efficient use of resources while keeping in mind the need for kidnapped women and girls.

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