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## CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA: A THEORETICAL REVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

Child trafficking is severe offence prevalent worldwide. Children are abducted, forced or transported for sexual or physical exploitation, prostitution, begging, slavery or other kind of crimes. Exact figure or rate of this crime is very difficult to estimate because there are many cases which are not even reported. In India, where 44 percent population is near or below poverty line, this heinous offence affects the security of children nationwide and large numbers of children are trafficked every year. There are many forms of child trafficking such as child labour, sex trade, domestic slavery etc. In India, poverty and unemployment are discovered as major cause of trafficking. Other cause such as lack of education is also emerged as a problem behind child trafficking. It is very difficult to fight against this form of exploitation against children until and unless we cope with the challenges that come across. Also, there is need of strict implementation of laws against trafficking in country and no person should be left unpunished who try to infringe the child rights and exploit them in any way. Corruption is a factor that compromises the protection programs in the nation; therefore reduction of corruption to enhance the child security is necessary. Public awareness and involvement of police, parents and other government or non-government organizations is equally important for protecting children from trafficking and other forms of crime.

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## INTRODUCTION

Children are the building block of the society. Their healthy development and growth is very essential as their growth decides how the world is going to be in future. They must be provided with safe and secure environment where they can experience crime free childhood and can flourish their future to become responsible adults of the society. Even though children have the most crucial role in the society, they are the most vulnerable population too. All around the world, they are subjected to several miserable situations such as inadequate health care, nutrition, and other basic and primary requirements of life. Not only this, they are at high risk of children related crime. They are exposed to violence, exploitation or abuse worldwide due which their rights and liberties are lost in the society that leads to breakdown of their individuality and self-esteem. Exposure to any form of abuse deeply impacts the mental, physical and emotional well being of children. It traumatizes the victim for long-term and many times, it become impossible to recover from those devastating experiences.

To avoid this, children and their childhood must be safeguarded. But in the current scenario violence against children are is at its peak and it has become extremely essential to keep children safe. Child trafficking is one of such heinous offence that is highly condemnable worldwide. It has deleterious effect on the future of children and this serious crime is prevalent in many developed or developing countries. Child trafficking is tricking, forcing or persuading children to leave their homes and then they are moved or transported for exploitation, forced work or selling. Children are trafficked for sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, forced marriage, domestic slavery, forced labour or other crimes like theft, drug paddling, and begging (NSPCC). Child trafficking definition according to United Nations Palermo Protocol is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of child for exploitation. This definition of child trafficking is internationally accepted as it is considered by majority of countries worldwide (ecpat, U.K. , 2017). As per Article 3 of Palermo Protocol, persons are trafficked by means of threat or force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, deception or fraud (Hardy, 2018). Child trafficking is a severe issue of concern globally. Its rate is high in India and needs affirm steps to curb this problem. Millions of children in India seek help due to their growth and upbringing in vulnerable atmosphere. Childhood must not be passed with fear and danger of being subjected to violence.

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It is important to know the about child trafficking so that parents or caregivers can protect their children from the evil practice of child trafficking.

**Global prevalence:** Human trafficking is the most abusive form of offence against mankind according to the estimation of The World Health Organization, 1 billion children are exposed to physical, sexual or emotional neglect globally in the year 2019 (WHO, 2020). As estimated by The Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), female victims of trafficking are in large proportion from year 2007 to 2017 as most of them are trafficked for sexual exploitation while half of the victims trafficked are under 26 years of age. Largest group of victims identified by CTDC is between age group 15 to 17 years (Migration Data Portal, 2020). According to International Labour Organization (ILO), there are 3.8 million adult victims of sex trafficking while child victims of forced sexual exploitation are 1 million in 2016 worldwide. During same year, 99 per cent victims of sexual exploitation were women and girls. ILO also estimated that more than 70 percent victims of sex trafficking are in Asia and Pacific. Around 14 per cent of them are in Europe and Central Asia and 4 per cent are in Americas. In United States of America (USA), according to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, more than 23, 500 runaway children reported to civil society or non-government organization were victims of sex trafficking. Children, mostly girls living in foster care or shelter homes are at increased risk of trafficking globally (Kelly, 2019). Global statistics of forced labour is 24.9 millions (Hodal, 2019).

**Status in India:** According to census 2011, there 16.45 Cr children between 0-6 year and 37.24 Cr children are between 0-14 years in India where 48 per cent of the population in later group is of female (Central Statistics Office, 2018). India is the nation with largest juvenile or adolescent population in the world. It is the home to millions of individuals between the age group 10-19 years (Hindustan Times, 2011), according to census of India 2011, youth population (age group 15-24 years) constitutes 19.1 per cent which is one-fifth of the total population, it is expected to reach 34.33 per cent by 2020 (Central Statistics Office, 2017). In such a vast country it is very difficult to find the actual figures of trafficking as many cases are not even reported and not even identified. Thousands of children are abducted, trafficked to other countries and imported from foreign countries by traffickers to India. Trafficking for prostitution, sex trade and for other purpose of exploitation is severe issue in India. In 2017, total numbers of crime against children in India were 129032. In such a large number children trafficked this year were 738 and cases were 330. There were total 3382 incidents of procurement of minor girls under section 366 A IPC, 2 incidents of importation of girls from foreign country, 3386 incidents of other kidnapping and incidents and 4 cases of buying of minors for prostitution (NCRB, 2019).

In 2018, there were 435 incidents and 1042 victims of child trafficking, incidents and victims of selling of minor for the purpose of prostitution were 42 and 54 respectively. Incidents of buying minors for prostitution were 8 and all were girls. In this data, clarifications were pending from West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim (NCRB, 2020). As per a news report based on National Crime Record Bureau, highest number of women and children are trafficked from Kolkata and Mumbai cities in India. Highest number of children reported missing are also from Kolkata in West Bengal state with total 2,584 incidents in the year 2018 (Tripathi, 2020). This year, highest number of children reported to be trafficked from Kerala state where 73 incidents and 87 victims of trafficking were recorded followed by Jharkhand where 66 incidents with 67 victims and Madhya Pradesh with 29 incidents and 52 victims (NCRB, 2020). A news report highlighted that, India witnessed 38,503 victims of trafficking between year 2011 and 2019 (Khan, 2020). It was mentioned in the "Trafficking in persons report 2019" by US State Department that terrorist or Maoist rebels recruit or traffic young children in Jammu & Kashmir to handle weapons and other explosive devices (Chouhan, 2020). According to a news report, seventy thousand children recorded missing every year officially in India.

This estimation can be high if considerable amount of cases do not go unregistered (BBC News, 2020). An infamous NGO "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" which is headed by Nobel Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi filed a petition in Supreme Court in June 2020 that cases of child trafficking will have massive increase after the lockdown in country due to Covid-19 pandemic (Nigam & Kundu, 2020).

### Forms of Child Trafficking

**Sexual exploitation:** Commercial sexual exploitation has been proved as one of the leading form of trafficking. It is also classified by U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (TVPA) as a severe form of trafficking (Reid & Strauss, 2019). Harboring, recruitment, transportation or maintenance of a minor for commercial sexual exploitation is sex trafficking of children. By influencing minors with fake promises and false trust traffickers engage them into prostitution and then trap them by physical, emotional or psychological abuse to continue their sexual exploitation for the purpose prostitution. Age, race, socio-economic status and place of living are major factors behind sex trafficking of children (The U.S. Department of Justice, 2020). A Report mentioned that trafficked women and girls are sexually forced by the traffickers to conceive and deliver babies for the purpose of sale. Not only this, children, most young girls even five years old are abducted from public places, enticed with drugs and hormonal injected to look older and forcefully engage them into sex trafficking (Chouhan, 2020).

**Forced labour:** As indicated by UNODC Global report 2018, 35 per cent of the persons trafficked for forced labours were female and girls (Tripathi, 2020). Forced labour is a non-voluntarily offered service and work exacted on a person under coercion or threat (International Labour Organization (ILO)). As estimated by ILO, more than 12 million children are exposed to child labour or forced labour all over the world (Rashi, 2018). In the present scenario also is prevalent in India even though it is criminalized and abolished in nation. A report of ILO in 2017 indicated that highest rate of child labour is represented by India in South Asia as there were 5.8 million children between 5 to 17 years of age who work as labours under poor condition (Sekhon, 2017). There were 810 victims of child labour in year 2018 under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act (NCRB, 2020). This number was 685 in year 2017 (NCRB, 2019).

**Organ trade:** Trafficking for the purpose of illegal organ trade is a grave offensive act. As per the estimation of The World Health Organization (WHO), around 6000 kidneys are transacted internationally in a year (Rashi, 2018). According to a research report, nearly thousand victims of human trafficking for organ removal were found in India between September 2010 to May 2012 (Budiani-Saberi et al, 2013). WHO estimated that more than one kidney is black marketed worldwide every hour (ACAMS Today, 2018).

### Factors responsible

**Poverty:** Poverty has emerged as biggest factor behind child trafficking. As per the report of Indian Human Development Survey of 2019, about 47.9 percent families with more than five children lack shelter, water, education, health and sanitation. According to the World Bank, 24 percent of the world's poor live in India (Ali, 2019). Poor families have no other options than leaving their children at the risk of trafficking. Children on streets and roads due to poverty or as orphans are at high risk of trafficking (Busuttil, 2011). Poverty driven people become trafficker and poverty stricken families are compelled to sell their children or other family members. Poverty stricken population often migrates from one place to other and advantage of this helpless situation is taken by traffickers to targets children from these families (Soken-Huberty). In India, problem of human and child trafficking is emerged as unnoticed issue even though its prevalence is high in poor rural areas. Tribes of North east, Jharkhand and some regions of Andhra Pradesh are very prone to trafficking (dianova, 2019).

**Lack of employment or economic opportunities:** according to a State of India's Environment (SoE) figures in 2019, unemployment rate is doubled in India from 2017 to 2019. This rate is increased by 7.6 per cent in the past two years. Rate of unemployment among youth between 20-24 years has increased by 15 per cent in these two years (Pandey, 2019). This rate has increased to 8.4 per cent in August 2020; due to fall of rural jobs (Sharma, 2020). Unemployment is an important factor. People deprived of economic opportunities become traffickers to earn livelihood for themselves and their families (Bhanu & Mishra, 2016). Traffickers offer the job to the people who lack employment opportunities and push them into forced labour, sex trafficking etc (Soken-Huberty). Traffickers target the unemployed individuals and agree them to leave their country and city for the sake of job. Initially they provide information of the job that sounds beneficial for the individual but then they are forced to something which is completely different and devastating (Hartmann, 2018).

**Migration:** Migration is one of the root causes of trafficking (Sharma D., 2020). Migration of population who are deprived of basic resources becomes high risk factor for them because they are helpless and can easily be influenced by the traffickers. Also, migrants lack home and shelter that give free chances of abduction of children to the traffickers. War, armed conflicts, climate emergencies and other migration journeys increases the risk (Wood, 2020). According to International Labour Organization, 1 in 8 persons is a migrant globally. Millions of children below 18 years of age are included in these migrants who are migrated nationally or internationally with or without their parents. Not all children are exposed to trafficking but they are highly prone to it (International Labour Organization).

**Sex tourism:** A severe cause behind child trafficking is sex tourism. As per the information by U.S. Department of State, child sex tourism is the involvement of persons travelling from their own country to place to another and grip children for commercial sex (U.S. Department of State, 2005). Travel industry in India is a fast growing process and this has increased the scenario of child sex tourism. Famous coastal regions of the country such as Goa, has reported as a destination of child sex tourism (ECPAT, 2016). A report from a decade ago mentioned that, India is rapidly becoming a hotspot of child sex tourism with Goa and Kerala as places where girls and boys are procured for sex. It was found in investigations that children were exposed to sexual acts for few hundred rupees with so many tourists (Simpson, 2006). According to 'The US Trafficking in Persons Report 2020', India is a source for child sex tourists and destination for child sex tourism. This report highlighted that traffickers target Indian women and girls and also recruit girls and women from Bangladesh and Nepal to India for sex trafficking. Women and children are exploited by traffickers in sex traffickers in small hotels, private residents, vehicles or other places (NewsRoom 24\*7, 2020).

**Internet Pornography:** grooming and trafficking children for pornography is serious factor that must not be left unnoticed. Paedophiles use media such as internet to attract or seduce the young people and also expose them to pornographic content for the purpose of making relationship with them (Impact of media use on children and youth, 2003). Teenagers and adolescents are at increased risk of cyber bullying. Posting and spreading non-consensual explicit images with or without consent (Hilliard, 2020). It is found that in 90 per cent of the cases sex traffickers use social media to engage their customers (Edex Live, 2020).

### Challenges to curb child trafficking

**Technology:** Rapidly technology has become an indispensable part of the world. It has made world to walk on the path of globalization that include digitalization and urbanisation. It is undoubtedly a key source of the developing society in the present time but at the time it is misused by the offenders to commit heinous offences. Technology has so many bright sides that benefitted the world in every way but its dark side is worse as it enables the traffickers to reach the vulnerable person, mostly children or teenagers. Use of technology based platform such as internet and social media platforms by the traffickers

in rural areas has increased. There is strong need of awareness to keep check upon this issue (UNODC, 2019). Traffickers also depend upon the online marketing like any other business for the demand and supply of their trafficking business (Equality Now, 2019). Targeted groups are first contacted by traffickers or recruiters and then the one who respond is trapped by them. Victims are compelled to perform sexual act which is recorded by them in the form of video in mobile phones (U.S. Mission OSCE, 2019). Children are groomed by traffickers online. They are first influenced by the traffickers and then extorted by them (BGR.in, 2018).

**Lack of coordination:** Coordination is the most vital element to combat any issue in the nation. When women or child security is concerned, it is essential that government as well as non-government organization must collaborate together to implement or organize the program and rules that can strengthen the women and child protection in country. This lack of coordination is a factor that acts as a hurdle to curb the child trafficking in India (Rashi, 2018). Coordination lacks between police, Anti-trafficking and other local and national agencies. Absence of collective efforts and networks to weaken the growing roots of trafficking is a big challenge to retard the speed of trafficking in the country (Toast Advisory, 2019). An integrated approach and systematic system without conflicts is a way important to tackle trafficking. Lack of harsh punishment for the traffickers, recruiters or brothel keepers is also a challenge that needs to be overcome (Rashi, 2018). Absence of limited or less stringent punishment cannot develop fear inside the offenders.

**Corruption:** Corruption is the most challenging element as it exists from grass root level to the apex all over the world and this has become a global issue. Corruption is dishonesty and illegal behaviour by the people in power or authority. The act of abusing public power is corruption. When it is discussed about trafficking, corruption is 'elephant in the room' (International Bar Association, 2016). Corruption in human trafficking occurs through a chain of corrupt actors. Police, custom officers, consulates, border control authorities, law enforcement agencies or security forces who influence the public officials and other public or private sectors, may involve in the chain of corrupt actor and they ignore, tolerate or participate to organise the trafficking of person (UNODC, 2011).

**Health consequences:** Trafficking leads to brutal exploitation of the person. Victims are exposed to Sexual or physical abuse, physical exploitation due to forced labour and other forms of violence. Long term exposure to any form of violence gives rise to several physical, mental and psychological illnesses to the victim. Physical injuries can be healed with time but long term violence leaves lifelong scars on the mental state of the victim. Victims of sex trafficking who are exposed to sexual exploitation for a long, suffers from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and pelvic pain (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020). Unsafe abortions, health issues due to unsafe sexual practices or complication from high risk pregnancies are some severe outcomes (Rafferty, 2008). Malnutrition, dental or oral problems, gastrointestinal issues, head and body aches, physical injuries such as burns, cuts, musculoskeletal issues and other chronic or persistent physical health problems are experienced by the victims of trafficking (Halverson & Welch, 2015).

Feeling of fear, distrust, shame, anger, hopelessness, constant stress, irritation and humiliation with sleeping problems and nightmares are psychological outcomes experienced by the survivors of trafficking (Levine, 2017). These are clinically known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorders or PTSDs. These are psychiatric disorders or mental health outcomes experienced by survivors of sexual violence, accidents, militant attack or other traumatic events (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Other symptoms of PTSD can be ongoing fear, feeling or thoughts of re-victimization, some specific fears, thoughts of the violent incidents experienced, concentration issues and feeling of being detached (Brazier, 2019). They have poor social and emotional development due to limited or no access to education (NSPCC). They dissociate themselves from social life as they face social or community denial and experience social stigma.

This dissociation also increases the risk of being vulnerable and re-victimization (Hartmann, 2018).

**Laws or legal provisions in India:** Minor girl children are trafficked for prostitution, forced marriage, illegal adoption, unpaid labour or organ harvesting. Girl child prostitution is the major reason for high rate of trafficking (Kumar). There are following Indian Penal Code sections and legislations to the eradication of trafficking in person:

**Procurement of Minor girls (Section- 366 A, IPC):** According to this section of Indian Penal Code, any person who induces any minor girl to go any place or do any act where she is exposed to seduction or forced illicit intercourse with any person shall be punished with maximum ten years of imprisonment with fine (Indian Penal Code). This offence is classified under non-bailable and cognizable (Devgan, 2018).

**Importation of girls from foreign country (Section 366 B IPC):** If any girl under twenty one year of age is imported to India from any other country with the intent that she will be seduced for illicit intercourse with any other person (Indian Penal Code). This is a non bailable offence and offender is punished with minimum one and maximum five years of imprisonment with fine (Devgan, IPC Section 366 B, 2018)

**Selling of minor for prostitution (Section 372 IPC):** If any person who sells or let others to hire or dispose of any minor under age of eighteen, for the purpose of prostitution or illicit intercourse with any other person for unlawful and immoral purpose or employed for any such purpose, that person is punished with maximum ten years of imprisonment (Indian Penal Code).

**Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956:** this act was introduced to curb the immoral trafficking in the country. The important sections of this act clearly mentions about the punishment for keeping a brothel or using premises for brothel, punishment for living on the earning of prostitution, trials and punishment of those who induce or procure the person for the sake of prostitution, detaining a person in premise where prostitution is carried out, trial against the person who carry out prostitution in public places, search without warrant in suspected places and closure of brothel and eviction of offenders. Removal of prostitutes from any place and establishment of protective homes are also mentioned in this act. Production of records and establishment of special courts for speedy trials are important sections of this act (The Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, 1956).

**Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2000:** This act was enacted to amend the laws related to juvenile in conflict with law and children in need of care, protection and developmental needs. This act also provides establishment of child welfare committees, rehabilitation of children and protection of human rights (Rai, 2020). This act provides the approach for juvenile delinquencies as well as the framework to provide child protection (Saini, 2020). According to this act, juvenile (a person below eighteen years) who is found begging, without shelter, being threatened by the guardian or any other person, abused, tortured, found vulnerable to trafficking or drug abuse shall be protected under this act.

**Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:** This act came into existence to regulate the provisions of child labour in India. These provisions were made regarding the employment of children below 14 years of age. According to this act, employment of children below the 14 years of age is strictly prohibited in certain occupations and processes (Paliwala, 2019). Objective of this act was to completely prohibit the child employment, regulation of the condition of children where employment is allowed, to impose the enhanced penalties on violation of the act and to empower the central government for the constitution of Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee (Rathee, 2016).

**Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994:** This act governs the process of organ donation or organ transplantation in India. Main

objective of this act is to regulate the storage, removal and transportation of different human organ for the use of therapeutic purpose. This act also deals with the prevention of illegal or commercial use or dealing of human organs (Kotamraju, 2018). Major purpose of child trafficking is the organ donation in any country. Illegal buying and selling of human organs to earn profit become source of income for the traffickers for which they abduct the vulnerable children and remove their body organs for illegal commercial dealings.

## Prevention

**Spread of education:** Is an important way of prevention and knowledge and education in society can beat traffickers (United Nations, 2011). Despite of having world's biggest education system, India has low literacy rate. High rate of dropouts and poor enrolment are the reason behind this. Due to lack of education parents are not alert, aware and well versed to understand the risk of child trafficking. Education provides the opportunities for growth and development in life that can give children an ambitious community and atmosphere away from trafficking (Save the Children, 2016). Youth of any country are the most contributing factor who can bring enormous change. College students and other *youth organizations* should establish a joint club that raise awareness in society about child trafficking. They can pursue research on this issue and can initiate action plans on academic level (U. S. Department of State).

**End of occupations that promote child labour:** Is a necessary preventive measure to combat child trafficking. It is essential to sensitize the trading organizations to end appointing children as labours in homes and other occupations. Restriction on Indian business from hiring children in hospitality, industries or other trades must be monitored by NGOs to enhance child labour free business (Save the Children, 2016). Easy access of education to every child can intervene against the increasing rate of child labour (Srivastava, 2011). *Abolishing the culture of violence against women* is very important all over the world to prevent trafficking. Women in India are trained to remain inside the lock and silent with no arguments or advices in the family matters and to depress the sense of individuality (dianova, 2019). Women are considered as object since decades even after so many years of revolutions to provide equal status in the society. Women are often exposed to domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, mental torture and other form of exploitation that causes irreparable harm to their mental and physical state. Image of women or girls, as an object of desire should be discarded in the society. Women must be considered as an important and irreplaceable part in the nation building, innovation of the society and maintaining a balanced family so that no one can have a thought of infringing the boundaries of dignity of women by exploiting them. Strengthening and empowering the image of women in the society must be the prior effort to reduce the violence against which leads to trafficking.

**Participation of Non-Government organizations:** Non government organizations (NGOs) are indeed a complementary organ of the society. It is a non profit organization or group or individuals, activists and volunteers who together work for social development and welfare of society. A half decade old news report mentioned that there are total 3.1 million NGOs in 26 states of India. This number was 82,000 in seven Union Territories (Anand, 2015). NGOs prevent trafficking of groups which are vulnerable or at risk. They take initiatives to save the lives of poor and uneducated people, mostly girls and women as they are targeted by the traffickers. They can also recommend trafficking prevention policies to the government, train and educate children about trafficking, its consequences and how to escape from any danger (Valarmathi & Ramesh, 2017). In India, there are various NGOs that prevent, rescue and rehabilitate the children and victims of trafficking. For effective outcomes of rescuing and rehabilitating coordination and cooperation of government organizations to NGOs is very necessary. They organise vocational training sessions for vulnerable groups and conduct welfare programs with limited source of funds. Re-integration of children to their families, efforts to provide respect in society, treating and monitoring physical and mental health

of the rescued victims are highly commendable jobs of NGOs in India as well around the world (Kumari, 2014).

**Suggestions:** Children living in economically weaker section of the society are at high risk of trafficking. It is foremost priority of the government and non government organizations to organize awareness programs for the parents in such sections and make them understand about child trafficking and other abuses that can harm their children. Right from the beginning of moral values at home, parents must give knowledge and conscience to respect every woman and girl. The root of violence and exploitation of women is degradation of values among men. Parents should equally teach girls and boys about their boundaries, limits and ways of behaving with mankind. Providing basic human values to a child do not need high profile education and degrees, even an uneducated parent can also put courtesy and humanity in child. Children begging on the streets are also prone because traffickers target children who live alone or children whose parents or caregivers are absent around them. Protection of such children is very important. No child should be left without shelter; this should be the priority of government at all levels. Providing shelter may reduce some possibilities or risk of abduction.

A record of children living in economically weaker section must be there with the local police. Helping desk that works 24 hours for child protection of such areas should functionalize in appropriate manner. Special officials must be assigned for the surveillance of proper functioning of this desk. Checking of illegal transportation across the states should be very strict. It is often seen that illegal transportation is ignored due to corruption. Affirm steps and policies should be framed to keep check on this because illegal transportation is the key source of trafficking. Police must treat the complainer sympathetically. There must not be any delay from police department in filling complain of abduction or missing complain of any child. To monitor this, there should be a senior officer who looks upon the smooth working of the department upon the filed reports. Complain reported by the people who are from poverty sector areas must not be avoided and immediate action must be taken to search the abducted child. A monitoring team should regularly visit the areas near schools, colleges and other institutes. This will create fear inside traffickers to commit any crime near this area. Police must also organize awareness and defence program on child trafficking for school and college going children to raise their knowledge on protecting themselves. Parents must be very attentive towards their children. Ignorance creates a risk zone around them and traffickers get free chances of forced abduction or grooming them. It should be the utmost priority of parents or guardians to teach their children not to get lured with the strangers. Parents should guide their children about appropriate or inappropriate touch. They must teach their children to scream if anyone touches them with wrong intentions. Parents must keep supervision on internet usage of their children. Online exploitation of children is prevalent worldwide in the present scenario. Grooming, convincing or blackmailing of children through online platform can be controlled by parental involvement in their child's daily routine activities.

Trafficking racket working on the local level must not be left out; this could be associated with the large racket nation or wide. Local government bodies and police officials must keep sharp eye on the working of such rackets in small towns and cities, where they carry sex trade and other illegal business using trafficked children. Sudden inspection of shelter homes should be conducted by higher authorities to check the functioning and condition of such homes. Checking complete records of children living there or children missing should be checked precisely. Children should be interrogated by officials about their security and safety in the shelter homes. Immediate action against the occupations hiring child labour should be taken. Who so ever find child labour around must complain to the authorities to come and rescue the child and officials must ensure that the child should be given basic education for free in the schools. Children rescued from the clutches of traffickers must be counselled and clinically treated for well being of their mental and physical health. Several counselling sessions should be conducted for them to overcome the trauma of past experience. A healthy environment should be provided to them.

Rescued children must be rehabilitated to lead normal life in the society. It becomes difficult for the children to continue the life easily due to long term exposure to exploitation. In such cases role of families and civil society is very crucial. They can help children to get back to their life by providing them love, affection, care and mental peace. Children rescued from trafficking are very sensitive to deal. Caregivers should keep in mind that they must not come across any incident that could trigger their tragic memories. Acceptance in family and society can treat children rapidly. Children are blamed for the offence even if they not at fault. They must be accepted by the society to live an easy life where they can receive education, nutrition care and protection. Human traffickers do not deserve limited punishment. Provisions for more strict and stringent punishment should be framed by the law and policy makers. Traffickers just do not abduct innocent children but also exploit them brutally. Harsh punishment, fast trial and conviction should be done in these cases. Such people are enemy of mankind and should never be left unpunished under any circumstances.

## Conclusion

Child trafficking is the most outrageous offence against the right, dignity, childhood and liberty of children. It is considered as extremely severe crime internationally. Child trafficking is the hidden but bitter truth of the Indian society, where children living in vulnerable surrounding are at high risk. In developing countries like India, although the laws and legislations are framed to combat such offence but not all the measures can be found and established by the government and policy makers. Individual effort and community or social participation incorporated with legislations is very essential to restrict such practice in any country. Child trafficking is a fact that is not known to many people in country, therefore, raising awareness and monitoring of poverty stricken sectors along with strict action against the traffickers must be taken against them. A cooperative effort is an important factor that can help to reduce and curb illegal activities in society. No severe problem can be resolved in a day, in the same manner the evil of child trafficking cannot be eradicated within a short period. It requires a stringent implementation of laws and a tightened dragnet upon the people who help the traffickers in fulfilling their objectives of harming children. Child trafficking is an offence against the self-esteem and life of young children who can become responsible adults to serve the country in future. Trafficking within a country and trafficking of children internationally is a matter of child security in the nation, and therefore, it is a national concern that must be primarily checked and monitored from the grass root level within country. Every individual must be responsible towards the nation. Coming across any illegal act around, a person should immediately report it to the police officials to save a life. Each and every single step towards the safety of children in a society is important to bring change and to provide a safe environment.

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