

## **Child trafficking in India: Realities and realization**

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### **Introduction**

Trafficking in human beings, especially in women and children has become a matter of serious national and international concern today. Perhaps not many crimes are as horrifying as trading in human misery. Women and children have been exposed to unprecedented vulnerabilities commercial exploitation of these vulnerabilities has become a massive organized crime and a multimillion dollar business. Trafficking of children is a worldwide phenomenon affecting large numbers of boys and girls every day. Trafficking violates a child's right to grow up in a family environment and exposes him or her to a range of dangers, including violence and sexual abuse. In India too, over the decades, the volume of human trafficking has increased though the exact numbers are not known, it is one of the most lucrative criminal trades, next to arms and drug smuggling undertaken by highly organized criminals all over the world.

### **Concept of trafficking**

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines traffic as 'trade, especially illegal (as in drugs). It has also been described as 'the transportation of goods, the coming and going of people or goods by road, rail, air, sea, etc. The word trafficked or trafficking is described as 'dealing in something, especially illegally (as in the case of trafficking narcotics)'

The most comprehensive definition of trafficking is the one adopted by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime in 2000, known as the "*UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,*" 2000 under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This Convention has been signed by the government of India. Article 3 of the Convention says:

- a) Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring 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 of receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another persons, 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 services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subpara graph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, habouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in persons' even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in sub paragraph
- d) Child shall mean any person less than eighteen years of age.

The definition of trafficking can be found in the various sections of ITPA. Section 5 speaks about procuring, taking and even inducing a person for the sake of prostitution. According to this section, even attempt to procure and attempt to take or cause a person to carry on prostitution amounts to trafficking. Therefore 'trafficking' has been given a broad scope.

A detailed definition of trafficking is available in the Goa Children's Act 2003. The definition is comprehensive. Under section 2 (z), "child trafficking" means "*the procurement, recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, legally or illegally, within or across borders, by means of 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 giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for monetary gain or otherwise*".

### **Child Trafficking in India**

#### ***Magnitude and facts***

In India, a large number of children are trafficked not only for the sex 'trade' but also for other forms of non-sex based exploitation that includes servitude of various kinds, as domestic labour, industrial labour, agricultural labour, begging, organ trade and false marriage.

Trafficking in children is on rise, and nearly 60% of the victims of trafficking are below 18 years of age (NCRB, 2005).

A rough estimate prepared by an NGO called *End children's prostitution in Asian Tourism* reveals that there are around 2 million prostitutes in India. 20% among them are minors.

The invisible and clandestine nature of trafficking and the lack of strong data collection make it difficult to know the global number of child victims. However, according to the latest estimates available, some 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide every year (ECPAT International, 2009).

In East Asia and the Pacific, most trafficking is into child prostitution, though some children are also recruited for agricultural and industrial work. In South Asia, trafficking is often related to debt bondage (Asian Development Bank, 2002).

In Europe, children are mainly trafficked from east to west, reflecting the demand for cheap labour and child prostitution.

Approximately 150,000 women and children are trafficked from South Asia every year and most of them from, via and to India (*Global Monitoring Report*, 2006).

Trafficking in children for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the primary manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation of children in India, which exists on a large scale and in many forms (*NHRC, Action Research Study*, 2005).

Lack of legal documents/identification makes trafficking victims highly vulnerable to threats of apprehension by authorities, extortion, detention, prosecution and deportation.

The specific legislation in India dealing with trafficking is the *Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act* (1986). However, this Act only refers to trafficking for prostitution and therefore does not provide comprehensive protection for children.

The substantive law in India is the Indian *Penal Code* (IPC) of 1860. The IPC addresses issues of the buying and sale of minors, importation of girls etc. Existing rape, assault and abduction laws can also be used to address the abuse of women and girls in brothels.

### **Who gets trafficked?**

Children, especially those from poor families, are most vulnerable to trafficking. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Action Research Study conducted in 2005 found that a majority of trafficking victims belong to socially deprived sections of society, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc. Children from drought-prone areas and places affected by natural or human-made disasters are also more likely to fall prey to traffickers (*Report on the Trafficking of Women & Children in India 2002-2003*).

The NHRC estimates that almost half of the children trafficked within India are between the ages of 11 and 14; they are subjected to physical and sexual abuse and kept in conditions similar to slavery and bondage (Terre des Hommes, 2006).

Debt bondage is one of many strategies used by exploiters to keep children in constant servitude. Children from Bangladesh and Nepal are trafficked into India and through India to Pakistan and the Middle East. Though the exact numbers are not known, it is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked into India for sexual exploitation every year (Shakti Vahini, *Trafficking Report 2004*). They have also given missing statements of women in Delhi.

**Missing Statement of Women reported in Delhi from the period 2008-2010 in Delhi**

Name of the Districts	2008		2009			2010		
	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>West</b>	384	14	432	343	14	283	200	12
<b>South East</b>	301	146	361	284	107	347	248	81
<b>IGI Airport</b>	1	0	4	4	0	1	0	0
<b>New Delhi</b>	39	2	46	41	0	34	22	1
<b>North</b>	139	5	146	119	14	106	71	10
<b>South</b>	218	5	298	212	7	268	197	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1039</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>117</b>

**M- Missing**

**F- Found**

**P- Cases Prosecuted**

(Shakti Vahini, *Women Trafficking Report 2010*).

In recent years, there have also been cases of trafficking of girls from India to Bangladesh for child marriage. Many of these girls eventually end up being sexually exploited in other ways.

However, the majority of trafficking in underage girls for sexual exploitation, however, happens within the country. Children are trafficked to and from states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar,

Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. For instance, among the 23 districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh, 16 are identified as sending districts (Ibid).

Similarly, in the State of Bihar, 24 out of 37 districts are highly affected by trafficking in women and children (*Trafficking in Persons Report 2009, India*).

There are so many Human Rights violations that take place on trafficked person which are as follows:

1. Deprivation of the right to life (slave like conditions).
2. Deprivation of the right to security.
3. Deprivation of dignity.
4. Deprivation of the right to access to justice and redressal of grievances.
5. Denial of access to health services.
6. Denial of right to self determination (e.g. when the victim is re trafficked).
7. Denial of right to return to own community.
8. Double jeopardy (e.g., a person trafficked across a border is sometimes convicted for non-possession of passport/visa, etc. and is simultaneously punished for ‘soliciting’).
9. Denial of right to representation.
10. Denial of right to be heard before decision making.

**Child ‘Trafficked’ and ‘Trafficker’**

Child trafficking is a combination or series of events that may take place in the child’s home community, at transit points and at final destinations. The recruitment and movement may appear voluntary initially but then take on aspects of coercion by a third person or a group. The relocation may be across borders or within a country. Exploitation may occur at the beginning, middle or end of the trafficking process or indeed at several points.

Child trafficking is difficult to stop because of its clandestine and dynamic nature. Those who engage in it may operate independently or in networks, following trafficking routes that change to evade law enforcement. Sometimes corrupt law enforcement officials facilitate trafficking or may be involved themselves in many ways. Trafficked children frequently find themselves shifted from one form of work into another depending on the will of the traffickers.

**What are children trafficked for?**

<b>Children trafficked for</b>	<b>Key areas</b>
1. Labour	- Bonded labour - Domestic work - Agricultural labour - Construction work - Carpet industry, garment industry, fish / shrimp export as well as other sites of work in the formal and informal economy.
2. Illegal Activities	- Begging - Organ trade - Drug peddling smuggling
3. Sexual Exploitation	- Forced prostitution

<p>4. Entertainment and Sports</p> <p>5. for and through marriage</p> <p>6. for and through adoption</p> <p>7. as child soldiers or combatants in armed conflicts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Socially and religiously sanctified forms of prostitutions</li> <li>- Sex tourism</li> <li>- Pornography</li>   <li>- Circus, dance troupes, beer bars etc.</li> <li>- Camel jockeys</li> </ul>
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### Causes, risk factors and vulnerability of trafficking in India

Over the years, trafficking was thought of in the narrow sense of kidnapping, abduction and selling of children. Experience gained from numerous projects to combat child trafficking carried out by the ILO and other organizations has demonstrated that the issue is considerably more complex today and has multiple causes, risk factors and manifestations.

Poverty usually plays the key role, but poverty alone does not explain why certain poor families fall victim to trafficking and others not. However, there are often a number of risk factors at source, transit and destination points that, if combined, make children more likely to be trafficked. Additional risk factors include, for example, parent illiteracy, illness or death of one of the main family breadwinners, unemployment, early school drop-out of the concerned children, absence of workplace inspection or policing, and a specific demand for child labour.

Other factors responsible for child trafficking

1. Low valuation of girls
2. Vulnerability of children as compared to adults
3. Loss of traditional sources of livelihood
4. Growing unemployment,
5. Inadequate legislation
6. Weak law enforcement
7. Increasing breakdown of social structures (Which results in a loss of family and community support networks, making families, particularly women and children, increasingly vulnerable to traffickers' demands and threats)
8. Globalization and economic disparities between countries, and porous borders (facilitates easy movement of people and large-scale illegal migration of women and children into India from the neighbouring countries and this illegal migration are exploited by the traffickers to traffic women and children into exploitative situations, including prostitution and labour.
9. **Supply factors** such as:
  - Poverty
  - Female
  - Foeticide / Infanticide
  - Child marriage
  - Natural Disasters (floods, cyclones etc.)

- Domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Lure of job / marriage with false promises
- Domestic servitude
- Traditional / Religious prostitution (Devdasi system)
- Lack of Employment opportunities

**10. Demand factors** such as:

- Migration
- Hope for jobs / marriage
- Demand for cheap labour
- Enhanced vulnerability due to lack of awareness
- Creation of need and market by sex traffickers for ‘experimental’ and ‘tender’ sex.
- Sex tourism
- Internet pornography
- Organized crime generating high profits with low risk for traffickers.

**Legal framework for trafficking**

**International Laws**

International laws, conventions lay down standards that have been agreed upon by all countries today. To ensure compatibility and implementation, the standards set forth in these international conventions are to be reflected in domestic law. The following are the most important International Conventions regarding trafficking of children:

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.
2. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000.
3. The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW) 1979.
4. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
5. Declaration on Social and legal principles relating to the protection and welfare of children, with special reference to foster placement and adoption nationally and internationally, December, 1986.
6. SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangement for the Promotion of Child Welfare, 2002.

<b>International and Regional Conventions/Laws</b>	<b>Date of Ratification by India</b>
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	1992
Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (to the CRC; Optional Protocol)	2005
The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	Signed in 2002; not yet ratified.
ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Child Labour	Not yet signed nor ratified.

**Legal framework to address trafficking in India**

***Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, (ITPA) 1956*** [renamed as such by drastic amendments to the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 (SITA)]

It deals exclusively with trafficking and objective is to inhibit / abolish traffic in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution as an organized means of living. Offences specified are as:

- Procuring, including or taking persons for prostitution;
- Detaining a person in premises where prostitution is carried on;
- Prostitution is or visibility of public places;
- Seducing or soliciting for prostitution;
- Living on the earnings of prostitution;
- Seduction of a person in custody; and
- Keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as a brothel.

#### ***Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986***

Prohibits employment of children in certain specified occupations and also lays down conditions of work of children.

#### ***Information Technology Act, 2000***

Penalizes publication or transmission in electronic form of any material which is lascivious or appeals to prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprive and corrupt persons to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied therein. The law has relevance to addressing the problem of pornography. India has also adopted a code of conduct for Internet Service Providers with the objective to enunciate and maintain high standard of ethical and professional practices in the field of Internet and related services.

#### ***Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000***

- Enacted in consonance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- Consolidates and amends the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and to children in need of care and protection;
- The law is especially relevant to children who are vulnerable and are therefore likely to be inducted into trafficking.

#### ***Indian Penal Code, 1860***

There are 25 provisions relevant to trafficking; the most significant among them are:

- Section 366A – procurement of a minor girl (below 18 years of age) from one part of the country to another is punishable.
- Section 366B – importation of a girl below 21 years of age is punishable.
- Section 374 – provides punishment for compelling any person to labour against his will.

Some states also enacted their own Acts like:

#### ***Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982***

Act of dedication of girls for the ultimate purpose of engaging them in prostitution is declared unlawful whether the dedication is done with or without consent of the dedicated persons. Some states also enacted some Acts related to trafficking.

#### ***Andhra Pradesh Devadasi (Prohibiting Dedication) Act, 1989***

Penalty of imprisonment for three years and fine are stipulated in respect of anyone, who performs, promotes, abets or takes part in Devadasi dedication Ceremony.

#### ***Goa Children's Act, 2003***

- Trafficking is specially defined;
- Every type of sexual exploitation is included in the definition of sexual assault;

- Responsibility of ensuring safety of children in hotel premises is assigned to the owner and manager of the establishment;
- Photo studios are required to periodically report to the police that they have not sought obscene photographs of children;
- Stringent control measures established to regulate access of children to pornographic materials

### **Initiatives undertaken by the Indian Government to improve the protection of children**

1. ***Establishing Child Line***: This 24-hour phone service can be accessed by a child in distress or an adult on his/her behalf by dialing the number 1098. Child Line provides emergency assistance to a child and is based upon the child's need.
2. ***UJWALA Scheme***: Launched by the Ministry in 2007-08 for the benefit of women and girls in difficult circumstances, with specific focus on the special needs of trafficking victims.
3. ***Kishori Shakti Yojana***: A holistic initiative supporting the development of adolescent girls (11-18 years) to promote awareness of health, hygiene and nutrition, as well as link girls to opportunities for learning life skills, returning to school and developing a better understanding of their social environment.
4. ***Scheme for rescuing trafficking victims***: This scheme is to address trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through small pilot projects.
5. ***Community-based prevention measures on child trafficking***: Preventing children from falling prey to sex traffickers is the first step that must be taken in the range of comprehensive measures needed to guarantee the protection of children. Prevention encompasses a broad range of multi-dimensional interventions from mobilization and awareness building among families and the general public to more targeted and specific interventions that reach children at risk and vulnerable due to specific conditions in their lives. Comprehensive prevention programmes to combat child trafficking have to encompass measures at different levels to address the specific vulnerabilities of children and reinforce the families' abilities to care for and protect their children; to mobilize all stakeholders in the community and at the state level to establish strong protection systems for children, including social welfare and justice systems, but also to target the traffickers and curb the financial profits they are making through these criminal activities.

The Indian government launched in 2008 an *Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with special focus on Children and Women*, with the objective to mainstream and to reintegrate the women and child victims of trafficking in society. This Plan of Action contains several community-based initiatives to prevent trafficking such as awareness-raising programs directed to particularly vulnerable communities and the involvement of communities to act as watchdogs and informants on traffickers and exploiters.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has adopted in 2007 a *Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Ujjawala)*. This Comprehensive Scheme contains specific community-based programmes to prevent trafficking in women and children including the formation and functioning of Community Vigilance Groups including youth groups: Balika (adolescent girls)/Balala (adolescent children) Sanghas and

awareness raising campaigns through mass media including kalajathas, street plays, puppetry or through any other art forms, preferably traditional. However, the implementation of the Integrated Plan of Action at Central and State level appears to be still weak due to the lack of financial resources allocated to carry out these initiatives; in 2009-2010 the share of the Union Budget allocated to the Child Protection Sector Union Budget represents only 0.02 per cent of the whole budget resources (*Centre for Child rights, Union Budget 2009-10*).

The Ministry of Women and Child Development's (MWCD) Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution (CACCP) consists of multiple stakeholders derived from the Central and State Government, UN agencies (e.g. UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNODC), national and international NGOs and other civil society key actors. The CACCP leads and monitors overall the Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with special focus on Children and Women and State Advisory Committees do so at state level. Similar to the CACCP, the State Committees comprise members from selected local and international NGOs, UN agencies women's commissions, senior police authorities and social welfare directors, etc. The Committees issue regular reports pose questions to authorities on action being taken in and across states disseminate information and meet to review progress every three months. Furthermore, a Think-Tank on Public Private Partnership to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Women and Children under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development was created in 2008 in order to involve the corporate sector within the multi-stakeholder approach to tackle trafficking in women and children (*Ministry of Women and Children Development, Annual report 2008-09*).

### **Specialized Support Services for Child Victims of Trafficking in India**

Child victims of trafficking especially for sexual purposes require specific rights to protection from sexual exploitation which entails receiving appropriate care and assistance to provide for their special needs and requires.

Children who have been trafficked have suffered a number of abuses and violations of their rights and the State is responsible to provide them with adequate care and protection delivered in the best interest of the child, in respect of the child's specific needs and without any discrimination based on their origin or immigration status.

<b>Specialized services for child victims of trafficking</b>			
<b>State-established Helpline</b>	<b>State established Shelters</b>	<b>Medical Services offered to child victims of trafficking</b>	<b>Psychological Counseling Services</b>
A childline 1098 is operated nationwide and 24h to provide assistance to children in need of help but it is not specialized to offer appropriate support	Even though Government shelters for sex trafficking victims are found in all major cities in India, these shelters are not always specialized for child victims of trafficking	In general medical services are available for all children who require	Although States have made some improvements to their shelter care, victims in these facilities do not

for child victims of trafficking.	and the quality of care varies widely and needs to be standardized. These Government shelters are working closely with NGOs and the Child Welfare Committees to improve the care standards in these institutions, but significant efforts are still necessary.	special care and attention, including child victims of trafficking although they are not seen or recognized as a different category of children in need.	receive comprehensive protection services, such as psychological assistance from trained counselors. These services are hardly available and totally inadequate in light of the needs. What services exist are mostly provided by NGOs.
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Since 1996 the Union Government of India sponsors the CHILDLINE 1098 which is the first nationwide toll-free 24/7 emergency helpline aimed at providing support and assistance to vulnerable children. This helpline is operated by various NGOs all over India (in 82 cities and towns), in collaboration with central and state police forces. Although this helpline provides assistance, support and orientation to many children in need, it appears that it is not adequately equipped to respond to the very specific needs of children victims of trafficking.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed a Protocol for Pre-rescue, Rescue and Post-rescue Operations of Child Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation under which every identified child victim of trafficking should be placed in a specific shelter or home which can provide him/her with adequate support. In India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development runs many shelters and homes for victims of trafficking all over India. However, these shelters are mainly tailored to provide assistance and support to women victims of trafficking thus they may not be able to respond to the specific needs of children victims of trafficking. Children can also be placed in shelters run by NGOs however the majority of them aim to assist vulnerable children in general and not children victims of trafficking specifically. Furthermore, there is not enough shelters to accommodate the large number of child victims of trafficking and “protection efforts often suffered from a lack of sufficient financial and technical support from government sources” (United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 - India*).

### **Important and relevant areas of concern should be**

Since the *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People* campaign was launched in August 2009, thousands of customers have already demonstrated their commitment in contributing to this social change to secure a safe world for children. But, there are some more important relevant areas to be understood such as:

1. Limited understanding of child trafficking keeps many forms and purposes of child trafficking away from the possibility of policy intervention and action on the ground.
2. Dearth of comprehensive statistics on child trafficking, both within the country and across the borders. Absence of a tracking system makes it difficult to assess the real situation and plan for it. Records of migration are not also maintained, birth registration is

poor, and registration of marriages is a big problem. In such a situation, very often policy and decision makers do not easily understand the magnitude of the problem.

3. Very little emphasis on investment in prevention of trafficking. In India, such investment in prevention should be at the heart of all action plans to combat trafficking.
4. The laws and legislations do not seem to be adequate or comprehensive in dealing with the various forms of trafficking.
5. Greater media exposure and the representation of women as sex objects have been identified as one of the causes of increasing trafficking of women and children. Media representation of women reinforces the notion that women are sex objects for the gratification of men”.
6. Tourism industry aims to become the second largest foreign exchange earner in India, more children are likely to be ‘at risk’ and vulnerable to sexual exploitation.
7. There are no services available for the boys who are victims of trafficking. No protection is available for them under any law, policy or programme. The outreach of short-stay homes such as those under Swadhar is limited to girls and women.
8. India has signed the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The delay in its ratification impedes serious action through law and policy.
9. Current schemes and programmes for trafficked survivors are very inadequate practically.
10. Witness protection and witness assistance remain serious challenges in the absence of child-friendly laws and legal system in India.
11. Delayed trials, inadequate legal machinery, lack of trauma counselling centers and legal aid services further deny justice to victims of trafficking.
12. Police and judiciary both need to be sensitized.

Though government of India has been initiated so many laws, programmes, specialized support services for child victims of trafficking, but the reality is still wretched. So, we need to take effective and efficient action immediately from all corners involving all the institutions/stakeholders/civil society/social workers/legal officials/police and legal system and other partners.

### **Need of the hour to prevent child trafficking in India**

1. Understand the concepts and issues.
2. Building a protecting environment for the children.
3. Establishment of specific shelters for child victims of trafficking or existing shelters to be equipped to provide systematic adequate assistance and protection services, especially psychological counselling.
4. Notifying the Advisory Body (of NGOs mentioned in ITPA Act): As many states have not taken any initiatives in this direction, so all state governments should consider constituting an advisory body consisting of NGOs and respected members of public who are committed and working against trafficking.
5. Forming rules under ITPA: State governments should revise the rules mentioned long back under SITA (Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1956) and issues a fresh set of rules under the ITPA. Rules should also list out the procedure and protocols to be followed in rescue and post-rescue operations.

6. Need a multidisciplinary approach in combating trafficking: All the ministries and departments should work together for the integration of policy, programmes and projects on this issue concerned.
7. Urgent Ratification of the UN Trafficking Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
8. Religious and culturally sanctioned prostitution of children, particularly among scheduled tribes and castes, must be systematically combated: the Government's Tribal Development Programme must foster partnerships with civil society organisations to continuously implement programmes that sensitize such communities, and rescue and support prostituted children - particularly in areas such as Bihar, MP, UP and Rajasthan.
9. The Government must make further efforts to protect trafficking victims, such as institutionalizing child-friendly procedures in law enforcement, child protection policies in relevant agencies and state operated shelters. At a minimum, child victims must be provided with health and psychosocial care, vocational training, legal counselling and repatriation/reintegration services.
10. National Nodal Agency is required: To counter trafficking needs to be set up a National Nodal Agency by integrating the anti-trafficking activities of the central and state governments especially involving DWCD, department of labour, social justice, home, tourism, railways, information and broadcasting, law and justice and other agencies like NACO, CBI etc.
11. GO-NGO partnership and NGO Co-ordination at the National level
12. Improve distribution of state and central government rehabilitation funds to victims under the Bonded Labor (System) Abolition Act (BLSA).
13. Corporate response also required
14. Role of UN Agencies and INGOs: Need a strong network for maximum and effective utilization of resources and to ensure the non-duplication of their efforts and wastages of resources.
15. Commitment and accountability of development agencies.
16. Integrating anti-trafficking issue in the training curricula.
17. Increase intrastate and interstate investigations, prosecutions, and convictions on all forms of trafficking, including bonded labor
18. Bilateral trans-border cooperation among countries.
19. Political will to understand and address various issues related to trafficking: The sensitization of policy makers, parliamentarians, legislators, elected representatives, PRIs to prevent trafficking and also bring about required changes in the laws its implementations wherever is required.
20. Need a vulnerability mapping of the source areas and demand areas.
21. Public awareness campaigns, open discussion and sensitization of adolescents: The participation of media and civil society can inform and educate communities about the dangers of trafficking. Awareness and advocacy is required at the policy level i.e. National Planning Commission, bureaucrats, politicians and the elite of the society. Awareness at the local level, in the community through workshops, songs, drama, poems, meetings, leaflets and posters especially in the rural areas is also required. Gender sensitization must be conducted by NGOs. The key to prevent trafficking in children and

- their exploitation in prostitution is awareness among the children, parents and school teachers. Police advocacy is an important intervention that has to be fine-tuned.
22. Role of family both directly and indirectly in trafficking process.
  23. Community policing to bridge the gap between police common public.
  24. Role of Media: The media should transmit appropriate message to ensure that the victims learn that they are not alone. Victims can be made aware of places and institutions where they can seek help without any hesitation. Wide publicity should be given regarding the legal, penal provisions against trafficking and the modus operandi of the traffickers through radio, television etc.
  25. Medical care and proper attention for the rescued persons and psycho-social intervention.
  26. Link of homes with local police and NGOs.
  27. Strengthen justice delivery system and prosecution system.
  28. Strengthen both central and state government law enforcement capacity: to fight against all forms of trafficking (no doubt the government made progress in law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking, but concerns remain visible. It is seen that India prohibits and punishes most, but not all forms of human trafficking under a number of laws. The government prohibits bonded and forced labor through the BLSA, the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLA), and the Juvenile Justice Act. These laws were unevenly enforced. Moreover, prison sentences were rarely imposed on offenders. India also prohibits some, but not all, forms of sex trafficking through the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA). The ITPA also criminalizes other offenses. Even The ILO has noted that enforcement of the BLSA remains weak. Law enforcement efforts against bonded labor were also hampered by instances of police complicity, traffickers escaping during raids or on bail, or cases dropped by officials for a variety of reasons, including insufficient evidence, witnesses turning hostile, and intimidation by traffickers)
  29. Human rights perspective in law enforcement.
  30. Conjunction of the JJ Act, IPC, Other laws with ITPA to ensure justice delivery to the victims.
  31. Stringent action against exploiters.
  32. Government commitment and capacity: To protect child victims of trafficking, governments must ratify international legal standards that address all forms of exploitation, as well as develop bilateral agreements to facilitate cross-border cooperation.
  33. Legislation and enforcement: Far too often, trafficked children are arrested and detained as illegal aliens, rather than recognized as the victims. The prosecution of criminals needs to be complemented with legislation and law enforcement needs to ensure that children in custody have access to their families and other support services.
  34. Attitudes, customs and practices: Inequality between men and women, boys and girls contributes to child trafficking. Abuse will also flourish if it is socially acceptable for men to purchase sex with children, for families to use children as domestic servants.
  35. Capacity building of families and communities: To protect and assist vulnerable children, parents, teachers, police, health and social workers need skills, capacity, knowledge, authority and motivation. Strengthening existing welfare systems and improving reliable access to these services is the core of successful interventions.

36. Essential services, including prevention, recovery and reintegration: Full access to child welfare services, health and education should be granted to children, regardless of their legal status.
37. Monitoring, supervision, reporting and oversight activities: Every state should maintain effective monitoring, supervision and oversight mechanisms to collect reliable data and information from all the ground level.

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