

Mondira Dutta*

*Founder Chairperson, Centre for Inner Asian Studies School of International Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
(E-mail: mondiradutta@gmail.com)*

Civil Society Organisation in Combatting Human Trafficking — Experiences from South Asia

Although disasters do not discriminate among people but they exacerbates the pre-existing vulnerabilities which are often ignored or difficult to visualise by policy makers of disaster risk reduction (DRR). One such vulnerability leads to human trafficking. It simply makes a bad situation worse. Most cases of human trafficking are prevalent in areas that reel under abject poverty belonging to the most marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society. They remain confined at the tail end of the country's socio-economic profile. People who get trafficked are mostly for purposes of labour, commercial sexual exploitation, organ trade and domestic servitude. The role of Community Participation and Institutions are significant in developing the vertical and the horizontal linkages. The policy strategies formed at the top meant for the vulnerable, will remain unfinished unless they reach the grassroots. Without the CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) this would be impossible. The dots need to be joined from the macro to the micro level. The NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs and government officials need to work in conformity to get the message home.

Keywords: vulnerability, disaster mitigation, human trafficking, community participation, Civil Society Organisation, advocacy, law enforcement mechanisms, South Asia

Context

Regions that are in the grip of extreme poverty, human rights violation, natural hazards, conflict-ridden or war torn have consistently aggravated the risk and degree of vulnerability that affect men, women and children. Besides searching for livelihood options, the world today witnesses a mass exodus of people trying to wriggle out from what was their home once upon a time, due to some crisis such as a conflict, war, natural calamities, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, insurgency and so on. Fleeing seems to be the best option left for people who are worst hit. This often makes them further vulnerable to fall prey to trafficking. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina displaced more than one million people besides killing many. In fact disasters have hit women, children and people disproportionately in various vulnerable situations. Although disasters do not discriminate among people but it exacerbates the pre-existing vulnerabilities [1] which are often ignored or difficult to visualise by policy makers of disaster risk reduction (DRR). Disasters/conflict/crisis all lead to different outcomes even for demographically similar communities amplifying their poor socio economic status. One such vulnerability leads to human trafficking. It simply makes a bad situation worse. Disasters have aided traffickers to “flourish under an environment of weak law enforcement measures and extreme economic hardships” [2]. Any such crises facilitate and enable the environment for further abuse and forced confinement. Such a scenario provides a perfect situation enabling implementation of weak legal mechanisms and poverty vulnerability. This further becomes an ideal situation for creating targets of exploitation and enslavement [3]. Traffickers do not miss such opportunities and promptly strike the iron while it is hot in order to trap their victims with ease and “make hay while the sun shines!”.

Thus human trafficking flourishes amidst communities who are the most vulnerable. Studies have shown that more than 80 percent of the displaced population during the last ten years lived in Asia and a large segment was displaced due to such a crisis. Trafficking of women and children in particular has emerged as the most lucrative illegal trade among human rights violators. Similarly 500 men were trafficked by an international company to the United States of America. They were promised a rosy scenario but were cheated. There are many such instances where the vulnerable falls prey to the traffickers.

Purpose of Trafficking

The Palermo protocol suggests trafficking as the exploitation of women and children under the garb of fraudulent marriages, false job promises, religious beliefs, deceit, etc. They are the easy targets. Most cases

* Corresponding author's e-mail: mondiradutta@gmail.com

of human trafficking are prevalent in areas that reel under abject poverty belonging to the most marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society. They remain confined at the tail end of the country's socio-economic profile. People who get trafficked are mostly for purposes of labour, commercial sexual exploitation, organ trade, domestic servitude and so on. As per a report on India, the majority of the trafficked victims are labour victims (Table).

T a b l e

Rescued Trafficked Victims by Purpose, 2016

Purpose	Total	%
Forced labour	10509	45.5
Prostitution	4980	21.5
Other forms of sexual exploitation	2590	11.5
Domestic servitude	412	1.8
Forced marriage	349	1.5
Petty crimes	212	0.9
Child pornography	162	0.7
Begging	71	0.3
Drug peddling	8	0
Removal of organs	2	0
Other reasons	3824	16.5
Total Persons	23117	100

Source: Human Trafficking, Crime in India, 2016, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

This is only the tip of the iceberg as most cases go unreported, the trafficked women and girls seldom portray the right picture. The documentation in the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has started to officially document such data only since 2016. Human trafficking does not recognise the international / administrative boundaries making the cross-border trafficking even more complex. Since the borders are demographically homogeneous, sharing a similar culture, language and religion on both sides, it helps the traffickers in gaining the confidence of the victims.

While the officials are busy attending to rescue the trapped victims under debris or in water, the traffickers exploit the situation prevailing under a weak law implementing machinery to trap their prey. In addition the administrative boundaries create hurdles in the repatriation processes due to the existence of different laws on either side and at times even the officials in charge are autocratic and unfriendly in nature making the repatriation processes extremely arduous and frustrating. There is a growing recognition to "identify the needs of the community, to plan effective interventions, and to obtain the necessary support for their implementation" [3]. It is also important to engage the local stakeholders and the civil society Organisations for effective implementation.

All mitigation strategies adopted need to imbibe the element of sustainability. It requires continuity and a consistent effort over a long period of time in order to usher in a change in the situation. It not only needs to be people centric imbuing protection mechanisms for the vulnerable lot at the source, destination and market, but also needs to tackle the problem with a multi-pronged approach. The ones struggling from the aftershocks of a crisis often end up facing gender based violence, human rights abuse and violence against women. In fact, gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but is considered as a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. One of the major causes of gender inequality is lack of awareness and overcoming the existing structural rigidities. This is what grips the women to remain confined to their gender stereo typed roles. Such critical situations are exploited by the traffickers to target children orphaned or separated from their families, women in distress or even men who are in search of livelihood options during the crisis. It has been observed that such a negative impact lasts a lifetime on a trafficked victim as compared to property damaged or even lives lost.

Sustainability

According to the United Nations, "sustainable development" is defined as "development that satisfies the requirements of the present without jeopardising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs". A calamity is positively connected with poverty. Both of these are causes and effects, one effecting the other. Poverty increases disaster risks making things worse during a disaster [4]. So, poverty reduction is

a necessary component of disaster risk reduction. Therefore factor of sustainability must therefore be ingrained into all programmes.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and its 169 global targets set the standard for the 2030 development agenda. In fact the disaster mitigation through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an outcome of interconnected social and economic processes, targeting 2030 to achieve its goals. The sustainable development goals therefore recognise the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR) as an important trigger in enhancing human rights abuse. The two policy instruments of the Sendai Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals are perfectly interconnected. There is a synergy between the two. A lack of disaster mitigation undoubtedly will result in an imbalanced development which will lead to a short fall in ushering in sustainability in the 2030 development agenda.

Assessing the Magnitude of Trafficking

Globally trafficking has been categorized under four heads by the U.S. Department of State. The categories referred in the annual “Trafficking in Persons” (TIP) report are Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 3. The highest category of Tier 1 does not imply that there are no cases of trafficking in those countries. It merely states that the government in these countries attempt in fully complying with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. While countries that belong to Tier 2 suggests that although they do not comply fully with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts in trying to do so. Countries that belong to Tier 2 Watch List are those that suffer from a significantly high number of victims with extreme forms of trafficking. There is a deficit in the show of evidence of *increased* efforts to combat trafficking as compared to previous year. It could also imply that the efforts to comply are mostly on paper without any action. The last is Tier 3 where countries are not making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards whatsoever. Unfortunately, there exist several countries which are yet to adopt the modern anti-slavery laws creating a legislative vacuum.

One of the major reasons that can be attributed for the lack of attention to the subject is the absence of authentic and reliable data. Without the presence of statistics, all research gets crippled and tends to be underestimated. This becomes the main limitation for addressing issues in relation to violence against women. The estimates on the magnitude of trafficked victims among women and girls are hazy due to a lack of documentation and methodological flaws. Research studies in this field thus tend to be more qualitative in nature. The normal regular process of data collection is arduous and difficult due to the clandestine nature of operations, besides the anonymity demanded by the clientele. Moreover there is always a stigma attached for women and girls who had been trafficked and sexually abused. Hence there exists reluctance in revealing the facts. Magnitude of trafficking among women and girls for sexual exploitation in particular, has been difficult to assess and continues to remain under a veil. This makes the convictions an impossible task, widening the gap between prosecution and conviction.

However despite the weak documentation processes, human trafficking has started to draw attention from the researchers and policy makers. The mass scale trafficking of orphan children during the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the drought of 2011, famine in the Horn of Africa, the 2013 typhoon in the Philippines, the 2016 Hurricane Matthew, are all glaring examples of mass scale trafficking of children. These have been documented and attested by respective governments. South Asia particularly has been a witness to many of the trafficked victims languishing in the prisons of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan and continues to remain unclaimed. In most cases, their families back home are either eliminated in disasters or are untraceable due to some conflict. Several such examples are witnessed following a disaster/conflict in Maldives, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and even in Iran and more recently the Ukraine-Russian war. Therefore disaster/conflict and human trafficking are like two sides of the same coin. Although they are not visible side by side but together can produce a horrendous impact on the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable community.

Role of Civil Society Organisations (CSO)

The role of Community Participation and Institutions are significant in developing the vertical and the horizontal linkages. The policy strategies formed at the top meant for the vulnerable, will remain unfinished unless they reach the grassroots. Without the CSOs this would be impossible. The dots need to be joined from the macro to the micro level. The NGOs, CSOs and government officials need to work in conformity to get the message home!

Community based preventive measures forms an integral part of any strategy for eliminating human trafficking that go a long way in addressing the gendered dynamics of demand at the destinations. This percolates gender equality and women's human rights while eliminating violence against women, stopping sexual exploitation and forced labour particularly during a crisis. Preventive measures highlight the socio-economic and cultural background that makes men, women and children vulnerable in the absence of a mitigation strategy for getting trafficked in the first place. These measures provide a platform for the target group to access the rights based redressal mechanisms.

India has emerged as one of the biggest source, route and destination country in South Asia for victims of trafficking. India has ratified the Palermo Protocol but it did take more than 11 years to do so. India has been in the tier 2 watch list of the TIP report and has marginally improved to tier 2 since 2019. It still has a long way to go although its making an earnest effort towards this regard. The Government of India also adopted a multi-pronged strategy for preventing and combatting trafficking in persons. It has built strong linkages and partnerships involving various stakeholders. They include the civil society organizations, NGOs, international organizations, the corporate sector and many others. This helps in creating an integrated response to combat trafficking especially that of labour and sexual exploitation. The UN with the help of its partner organizations have been actively engaged in implementing programme on anti-human trafficking in areas of vulnerability in India.

Over the last couple of decades, NGOs have come forward on a war footing to implement a multiple number of interventions for preventing human trafficking. Many of the preventive measures are also area focused in the migration process such as the point of origin or transit, or a border, or a destination. To implement a strategy in the true sense, there needs to be continuity and regular supervision and monitoring. People who are vulnerable and illiterate can never exploit the opportunities of a policy decision made in their favour, unless they are helped and the strategy is reached to their doorstep. A majority of the preventive measures are largely focused in the source areas involving target groups such as community members, women, girls, adolescents, members of the local "panchayat", faith based organisations and the NGOs/CBOs. The local women's NGOs have often been preferred over others as they seem to be better equipped to implement preventive strategies at the grass root level. It is not uncommon to come across a successful community based preventive measure going unnoticed for want of a proper dissemination process. Documentation of the rich experiences gained in the field and the lessons learned, at source, destination and the transit areas, is of extreme importance for replication and efficacy in the implementation of the preventive measures. This has been a well attested fact that information sharing and data collection on aspects of trafficking especially for women and girls remains an under documented area.

Some of the areas where such activities have been implemented are not only along the vulnerable source areas in the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders but also in the destination areas such as Goa, Maharashtra, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and so on. Despite a focus on the rural to urban migration trend, NGO experiences reveal that there are an increasing number of women that are being trafficked from their urban places of employment. Such cases have not been a major focus among the NGO efforts barring a few exceptions. In the presence of so many networks, there is clearly some potential for overlap and duplication of activities. This has implications both in terms of efficient use of resources and in terms of the effectiveness of the activities.

Networking, Advocacy and Media interventions as a preventive tool are some of the initiatives which are of extreme significance. In fact networking is considered as one of the best means of effective advocacy. Most of their activity tends to be centred on organizing workshops and conferences to raise awareness and engage in advocacy on the issue of trafficking. While these networks have a broad based membership engaging in a wide range of anti-trafficking activities, however their effectiveness in addressing trafficking of women and children still remains in deficit. Obstacles such as ideological conflicts regarding the definition of trafficking could pose hurdles in networking and coalition building among NGOs engaged in preventive anti-trafficking initiatives. In addition to weakening the network coalitions, such an impact could create further hurdles in building regional cooperation programme.

The community based preventive measures in terms of training and capacity building necessarily operates at two levels — at the grassroots to build the capability of the different segments of the local communities and secondly, to strengthen the capacity of law-enforcement, border control and immigration authorities, parliamentarians and the police in apprehending traffickers and rescuing victims of sex trafficking. While the training for capacity building, skill development & livelihood opportunities concentrate along the borders of

Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh and its surrounding areas, the training for Policy Strategy Implementers are mostly in the metropolitan centres.

Some of the awareness and advocacy activities are case sensitive and the target groups such as parliamentarians, police or the law enforcement officials may comprehend conflicting messages and contradictory advice. There are no evaluations or assessment on the effectiveness of such intervention models, activities and approaches in place. The current trafficking interventions also lack the comprehensive and systematic monitoring and documentation. There is no standard documentation available for meaningful comparison. Hence assessing the degree of effectiveness of such programme is difficult.

The very existence of anti-trafficking activities implemented by NGOs depend upon a steady flow of donor funding, but the organizations also often have to compete with each other to secure a share of the funds that is available. It is important that the NGOs build solidarity networks and coalition partnerships to pool in resources. With a resource crunch and serious threat to the ever shrinking budget, it can be hard to achieve the long-term sustainability that is required in achieving the effectiveness of a preventive measure.

Most local NGOs depend on foreign donors and have only limited resources and the programme are generally of short to medium-term duration. Few of the NGOs working on community based preventive measures are equipped to sustain a programme over a long period of time. Without a regular source of funding for the purpose, it is likely that such an initiative may not remain active and agile in due course of time. Given their limited financial resources, NGOs are seldom able to undertake follow-up studies or to monitor the situation after the completion of the project. While most donor agencies require NGOs to develop specific indicators to measure the success of the initiatives that they have funded, these indicators are mostly about reporting on actual numbers covered rather than on the medium to long term effectiveness of the initiative. Examples include records of the number of rallies held by women's groups, the number of times that women's groups discuss trafficking, the number of participants in prevention activities, the number of written materials produced and distributed, and the number of women and girls intercepted through border rescue or community surveillance strategies.

Consequently post submission of the final report to the donor agencies, the implementing NGO, seldom involve in independent evaluations of the efficiency of the community based preventive measures that they implement. An assessment of community based preventive measures to trafficking of women and girls undertaken particularly in the source areas suggest that those efforts that integrate awareness rising with some form of participatory activity is more likely to be sustainable and effective. Developing innovative forms of community leadership, empowering the young, challenge the intensely rooted habits and perspectives about gender and the life options for women and men all usher in the real change. It is thus recommended to essentially support local-level strategies designed to nurture grassroots responses that tend to become self-generating over a period of time.

Community surveillance is found to be a most appropriate and effective tool of community based preventive measure to trafficking of women and girls involving the community in collaboration with outside support. It assists communities to develop strong networking that eventually establish systems for taking action in the event of suspected trafficking. Funding of such activities need to taper gradually rather than end abruptly. Working with children and young people through schools, teachers or young girls (*Kishori* groups) is another innovative anti-trafficking strategy. The peer group support/influence helps in the formation of such groups and also provides answers especially to those children who may face family problems and require assistance. Field experiences have shown that people are more likely to identify with peer-led education rather than that given by social workers. It is recommended that creation of groups particularly the women's group and the adolescents group be formed for gathering such information for prompt action.

There is a lack of programme monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for a vast number of the community based preventive measures to trafficking of women and girls. Most of the strategies' success is usually measured in terms of its short-sightedness based on the number game. For example the number of people that had been reached in awareness campaigns and capacity-building, the number of law-enforcement officers and border guards who received training, the number of participants in skill-training schemes or other programme, and even the number of laws that have been passed in source and destination areas to prevent female sex trafficking. However monitoring and follow up of other responses and evaluating the effectiveness of such programmes is of immense significance rather than estimating the number of people reached.

Whether it's to sharpen awareness and alert people to the potential plight of innocent victims among a particular community, portray the cunning methods used by recruiters, and demonstrate the illegality of the operations, the ultimate success of a campaign lies in the fact in bringing down the number of trafficked vic-

tims. Only then sustainability in the programme can be achieved. There remains a huge gap between the prosecution, arrests and conviction. A fast track court can settle the huge number of pending cases and punish the guilty which would in turn act as a deterrent to the traffickers. The military institutions and peace-keeping forces are encouraged to implement formal pre-emptive measures to discourage trafficking in their spheres of influence, and to incorporate education about trafficking, child prostitution, and different views of masculinity in their training of young men, and in their contact with local communities in the areas where they are posted.

Sometimes victims are more like prisoners awaiting repatriation for months on end in the shelter homes. Such experiences have been commonly observed along the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders. As witnessed from the field, the repatriation of 120 children that had been trafficked for being camel jockeys in the UAE were rescued after many difficulties and repatriated back in Bangladesh with the help of “Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association” (BNWLA). However they were all waiting to “go home” as their parents had to be identified. The fear and trauma on the faces of these 3 to 5 years old children were written large. Some of them had fresh bruises and injuries. Others had no idea who their parents were and where they belonged to. The NGO in charge was running from pillar to post ascertaining their identity and addresses to repatriate them back into their families. Children simply could not recollect the names of their parents and locality. Their childhood seemed shattered in this short period.

Another example from the Indian Ocean area was observed during the reconstruction process of Maldives post 2004 Tsunami. A group of men trafficked for labour, from South Asian regions of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka faced horrible conditions upon reaching Maldives. They were trafficked from their country to help with the reconstruction of Maldives after Tsunami. Being illiterate and unaware they were extremely vulnerable and become an easy prey to the fraudulent recruitment practices. Unknowingly they become illegal migrants and get exploited by being forced to work in situations which do not comply with domestic and international labour standards nor did they match the job profile that was stated in their work permit. They fell prey to traffickers who promised a handsome salary of 150 dollars a month, free accommodation and food. They had sold their precious belongings like land, cattle and other assets to pay the agents. Another common practice is that upon arrival the passports of the migrant workers were confiscated by their employers. This made them even more insecure and vulnerable. Those who were employed complained about this practice as they were unable to leave the country urgently in the event of a death in the family or to meet an emergency, more so if this happened to be a Friday or Saturday which was weekend for Maldives. They were forced to stay under inhuman conditions with twenty odd Bangladeshi men, who cooked beef which was a taboo for these Indian Rajasthani men. With no place to sleep, salaries not being disbursed, they literally fell from the frying pan to the fire. They simply could not understand how this was not United States of America where they were told, “dollars would rain upon arrival” [5].

The district of Murshidabad in West Bengal state of India, gets regularly flooded during the rainy season. People run helter-skelter in search of alternative livelihood options as their agricultural fields all get drowned. Women are desperate to find some work to feed their young ones. This is the ideal time for the prowling traffickers to spread their nets. Women get easily trafficked and land in the brothels of Sonagachi area in Kolkata forced to become prostitutes with no outlets to escape. Once trapped they are reluctant to return home, even if they are rescued, as they are scared to get stigmatised by their own community and relatives [6]. Instead each one tries to get another one as they get lonelier. Thus the exploited become the exploiters. Factors such as poverty and vulnerability during a disaster, forces the victim to cross the borders by any means, irrespective of what is in store for them on the other side. They just hold on to any straw of hope and believe the fraudsters blindly who are that are quick to transfer them into the world of exploitation.

Similarly there are several such examples with children being the easiest target. Children that get separated from guardians or children that are orphaned, get targeted facilitating “exploitation, forced labor and slavery” [3]. It’s been observed that acceleration of legal adoption by families have been documented which was mainly for the purpose of organ trafficking. Children as low as 9 years in age, became substitutes for their injured or deceased family members.

In 2004 during the Indian Ocean Tsunami, boats were seized carrying 100 infants from Aceh in Sumatra. During the same period 35,000 children were documented as having lost at least one or both parents. Authorities in Aceh banned children who were leaving the province, unless and until they were with a proper family member who could be verified in order to guard against predators. The 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Phillipines, found children engaged as child laborers working in the rural areas who were actually trafficked to Manila for sexual and labour exploitation. The 2010 Haiti Earthquake, which was to the tune of 7.0 mag-

nitude, witnessed yet another mass scale trafficking among children and infants for the purpose of organ trafficking. Children have been trafficked for the entertainment industry such as circus, camel jockey (despite the ban) and even to become suicide bombers.

In 2018, the Palu earthquake and the Tsunami that hit Palu in Central Sulawesi of Indonesia, resulted in a death toll of 4340 people. Cases of child trafficking were confirmed by several organizations and NGOs. Children who lost both their parents life for them was a day to day struggle. Traffickers were moving around in the guise of rescue operators and NGOs in order to capture the unsuspecting victims. The United Nations Children's Fund and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) too confirmed cases of child trafficking. Some of the non-governmental organizations expressed suspicion on the so called guardians especially when the couple was not consistent in their story as to where the child was being taken.

An impact study of COVID 19 by UN Women in 2020 [7], depicted how the most vulnerable got worse, boosting the probability of their getting trafficked in terms of men, women, children and among the LGBTQI community. Media reports showed the massive number of child marriages that took place during the period and the increase in violence and abuse inflicted especially on the women and children. The COVID 19, only made situations worse. Several factories had to be shut down. In a recent study [8] several children from the state of Bihar in India who had been trapped earlier to work in the bangle industry in Jaipur (Rajasthan) were all sent back loaded in trains to Bihar. Once the factories closed down, the factory owner did not want to feed these children without work. So they were promptly put into trains and sent back to Gaya district in Bihar. Once they arrived they had to be taken care of and repatriated back. Most of these trafficked victims had no clue as to their whereabouts.

Another conflict ridden states such as Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, people have become extremely vulnerable. The recent withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan in Aug 2021, as displayed on the television showed how parents were desperate to see at least their children and infants be taken away from Afghanistan and literally kept throwing them onto the arms of army personnel across the barbed wires in the airport. This shows the level of desperation that a parent face during times of crisis.

The innovative measures adopted by the civil society organisations are a marvel especially for handling the Cross Border Trafficking. Whether it is the formation of adolescents groups, the *Kishori* (young girls) groups and the Civil Vigilance Committee are so well conceived to nab the culprits and implement the preventive measures. Nevertheless there are some glaring differences between the civil society organisations working in the field and the institutions in force. They seem to be in competition with each other rather than complementing each other. Clearly as observed in the field, there was a lack of trust and deficit in confidence building measures. Some of these areas follows:

- A lack of law enforcement machinery on human trafficking or faulty law enforcing machinery were the biggest hurdle for booking culprits. As a result, the gaps between Prosecution and Conviction got wider and wider. Thus, focus needs to be on areas which are the greatest sources of supply in the vulnerable areas. The International Community must set a standard of laws in the context of existing vulnerabilities in the country. Laws need to bind in the factor of elasticity based on their domestic policies highlighting the links and vulnerabilities between natural disaster and human trafficking. Imbibing anti-human trafficking measures in every segment of development policy in terms of international and domestic policies is an urgent need at present!

- There was confusion on the clarity of roles and responsibilities by the various govt agencies. For example transporting a rescued victim to the shelter home was an arduous task by the officials in the borders due to budgetary restrictions. It was not clear whether the transportation charges like taxi/train/bus will be reimbursed to the officials. Sometimes such trivial expenditure became the biggest hurdle and resulted in allowing the victims to get recaptured by the traffickers. Although there existed a clear direction that such victims will be taken care of by the institutions in-charge but there was a deficit in communicating such instructions to the right quarters leading to police officials' reluctance in reaching the victims to the shelter homes. Often the difference in legal procedures on either side of the borders ended in a delay in the repatriation process. Unending wait for children make them like prisoners trapped with restriction in their movement. They end up going from the frying pan to the fire!

- Multiple communications also lead to confusion of the missing child and among the rescue team. Proper orders tend to get ignored and taken for granted. This leads to a sudden mushrooming of placement agencies that suddenly get registered. A bill was in the process to be formulated for regulating such agencies. Cross border human trafficking needs a special status for speeding up the repatriation processes.

References

- 1 Samuels, A. (2015). Narratives of Uncertainty: The Affective Force of Child-Trafficking Rumors in Post disaster Aceh, Indonesia. *American Anthropologist*.
- 2 Finn, Joshua (2016). Human Trafficking and Natural Disasters Exploiting Misery, Humanitarian Aid and Natural Disaster. *International Affairs Review, Volume XXIV*.
- 3 CdeBaca, Luis (2010). Best Practices: Human Trafficking in Disaster Zones, U.S. Department of State. May 24. Retrieved from <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/rm/2010/142160.htm>
- 4 Miko, Francis (2007). International Human Trafficking, in Transnational Threats, ed. Kimberly Thachuk. *Westport, CT: Praeger Security International*.
- 5 Dutta, Mondira (2015). Understanding Maldives in the Context of Trafficking' in Development and Regional Cooperation in Central and South Asia. *Euro-Asian Perspectives*, Edited By Henrik Berglund, Mondira Dutta & Per Hilding, Pentagon Press, Oct 2015, New Delhi.
- 6 Dutta, Mondira (2021). Disaster and Human Trafficking, *Springers*.
- 7 Nath, Madhubala & Dutta, Mondira (2020). Socio Economic Impact of COVID — 19: Gender Perspectives”, with UN Women in collaboration with NITI Aayog, (July — October). *Forthcoming Publication*.
- 8 Dutta, Mondira (2020). Impact of COVID 19 on Child Trafficking in Bihar. *World Vision, Aug, Oct*. A Forthcoming Publication.

Мондира Дутта

Адам саудасымен күресудегі азаматтық қоғам ұйымының рөлі — Оңтүстік Азия тәжірибесі

Табиғи апаттар адамдар арасындағы кемсітушіліктерге алып келмейді, дегенмен директивті органдардың тарапынан елемеудің салдарынан немесе апат қаупін азайту тұрғысынан елестету қиын болғандықтан, олар бұрыннан бар осалдық факторларын қиындата түседі. Мұндай осалдық адам саудасына алып келеді және жағдайды қиындатады. Адам саудасының көпшілігі адамдар өте кедейлікте өмір сүретін және қоғамның ең маргиналды (әлсіз) және осал топтарына жататын аймақтарда орын алады. Оңтүстік Азия елдері әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуы артта қалған елдер тізімінің ең соңында әлі де тұр. Адам саудасының құрбаны болған адамдар негізінен еңбек қанау, коммерциялық сексуалдық зорлық-зомбылық, ағзаларды сату, үй жұмысшысы ретінде мәжбүрлі еңбек мақсатында пайдаланылады. Халықтың әлсіз топтары үшін жоғары деңгейде әзірленген саяси стратегиялар, егер олар төменгі деңгейде жүзеге асырылмаса, аяқталмаған болып қалады. Қауіпсіздік басқармасының басшысы болмаса, бұл мүмкін емес еді. Стратегиялар макроден микро деңгейге дейін біріктірілуі керек. Қоғамға тиісті ақпаратты жеткізу үшін үкіметтік емес ұйымдар, қауіпсіздік бөлімшелерінің басшылары және мемлекеттік қызметкерлер осы қағидаға сәйкес әрекет етуі керек.

Кілт сөздер: әлсіздік, табиғи апат салдарын жұмсарту, адам саудасы, қауымның қатысуы, азаматтық қоғамдық ұйым, үгіт-насихат, құқыққорғау механизмдері, Оңтүстік Азия.

Мондира Дутта

Роль организации гражданского общества по борьбе с торговлей людьми — Опыт Южной Азии

Стихийные бедствия не ведут к дискриминации между людьми, они усугубляют уже существующие факторы уязвимости, которые зачастую игнорируются директивными органами или трудно поддаются визуализации в плане уменьшения опасности бедствий. Такая уязвимость приводит к торговле людьми и ухудшает ситуацию. Большинство случаев торговли людьми имеют место в районах, где люди живут в условиях крайней нищеты и принадлежат к наиболее маргинализированным и уязвимым слоям общества. Страны Южной Азии по-прежнему находятся в самом конце списка стран с отсталым социально-экономическим развитием. Людей, которые становятся жертвами торговли людьми, в основном используют в целях эксплуатации их труда, коммерческого сексуального насилия, торговли органами, подневольного труда в качестве домашней прислуги. Политические стратегии, разработанные на самом верху и предназначенные для уязвимых слоев населения, остаются незавершенными, если они не будут реализованы на низовом уровне. Без руководителя отдела безопасности это было бы невозможно. Стратегии должны быть объединены от макро- до микроуровня. Неправительственные организации, руководители управления безопасности и государственные должностные лица должны действовать в соответствии с этим принципом, чтобы донести до населения соответствующую информацию.

Ключевые слова: уязвимость, смягчение последствий стихийных бедствий, торговля людьми, участие общин, организация гражданского общества, пропаганда, правоохранительные механизмы, Южная Азия.