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Topic: Human Rights and Child Trafficking : A Case Study Of Bihar.

Abstract

This study is an attempt to understand 'human trafficking', which continues to threaten the very integrity of the victims involved and also the conscience of the unaffected. Human trafficking as an issue is an encompassing one sunk in a myriad of complexities and ambiguities and ignorance. This study, aims to contribute in analyzing this issue and also to explore the underlying complexities that undermine the attempts of finding the solution to such a problem. The study begins with an introduction to the research problem and the shortcomings in available data in drawing rationale of this study. The deliberation of the evidences of the problem as obtained by various researchers in the study area has been attempted. The need has arisen out of the given situation of the issue, the loopholes in addressing it and also arising out of the basic moral question of human rights. This study also discusses the research questions and definitions of key terms that are the foundation for the study and describes the significance of the study along with the assumptions. Assumptions and analyses are carried out with constant mention of discrepancies in the information, a move not necessarily to just critique but also to highlight and inspire solutions and efforts. The purpose of any study or knowledge is achieved only when it succeeds in enlightening the reader/readers in any way possible.

This study attempts to find out answers to the following overarching research questions: What is the meaning and level of awareness relating to child trafficking among child welfare professionals? Whether existing legal framework is adequate to deal with the problem of child trafficking? What are the causes of child trafficking? What are the processes of child trafficking in Bihar in general and Araria and West Champaran districts of Bihar in particular? What are the effects of trafficking on the lives of the trafficked children and their households? What are the serious challenges associated with the identification of victims of child trafficking? What are the reasons which have forced households to send their children out to work that indirectly led to get trafficked?

The objectives of present study on child trafficking attempts to explore an ostracised, murky and problematique nature of problem existing in Bihar. The broad objectives of the study emerged from these major concerns: To understand various trends and patterns of trafficking and the structural and functional mechanisms that reproduce and reinforce the processes perpetuating this phenomenon; to comprehend the profile of the trafficked children and the social and economic circumstances that led to trafficking; to analyze the effectiveness of existing legal framework from human rights perspective and to deal with the problem of child trafficking; to examine the role and functions of the stakeholders, formal and voluntary agencies involved in containing and combating child trafficking; to suggest the futuristic paradigm and policy prescriptions based on the findings of the study. The research design of this study is both qualitative and quantitative. The present study has used primary and secondary data/information to examine/analyze the issues involved in the deliberations on human rights and child trafficking in Bihar. The study has analyzed secondary data / information collected through government and NGO reports, books, journals, articles, newspaper clippings and documents available on the World Wide Web. However, in regard to the primary data/information, the study has employed interview method, focused group discussion method and structured questionnaire/scheduled for households and stakeholders on the subject. The study has also applied Principal Component Analysis (PCA), a classical statistical method, for linear transform which is widely used in data analysis and compression using SPSS. The PCA is based on the statistical representation of a random variable. It offers a

convenient way to control the trade-off between loosing information and simplifying the problems at hand. The present study had also worked out the certainty rate of an individual to be trafficked given sensitivity, to factors playing significant role in trafficking. The Monte Carlo Simulations techniques through Oracle Crystal Ball software were also helpful.

The present study has been divided into six chapters. **Chapter one:** Thesis begins with deliberations on the background dealing with detailed profiling of nature of child trafficking both in India, with special emphasis on Bihar as well as contemporary world. While proceeding forth, the chapter presents the diverse review of related literatures followed by concepts on trafficking. The next section of the chapter encompasses the vivid issues involved in human trafficking like internal trafficking, cross border trafficking, factors contributing to trafficking, human development and trafficking. Gaps in literature had also been focused which tinted the few lacking areas related with child trafficking. The chapter also deals with the research questions, objectives of the present study, hypothesis(-ses) and research methodology. Finally, the chapter ends up with the limitations and brief profile of the study. **Chapter Two:** Thesis draws on definitions of child and child trafficking, types of trafficking, its purpose and factors responsible for encouraging child trafficking. The chapter attempts to present various theories of trafficking and confounded the development of theory best fitting to the study area. **Chapter Three** discusses, child trafficking in the light of human rights and focuses on emerging debates and conventions in the context of racial discrimination and human rights. It throws some light on UN and issue of human trafficking. The last section of the chapter, elucidates dynamics of role of NGOs in the context of child trafficking. The chapter concludes with clarification in terms of active participation of NGOs, their evolving collaboration with other NGOs and international agencies together in controlling the emerging crime of child trafficking. **Chapter Four** of thesis highlights the socio-economic profile of area of study, the factors that encourage trafficking such as poverty, unemployment, landless labour, social vulnerability (caused by religion and caste), literacy, agricultural development, industrialisation, migration and livelihood conditions. The chapter contains two sections, one on Bihar state as whole based on the secondary sources and another on the select sample area, i.e., Araria and West Champaran based on the primary survey conducted in the area. **Chapter Five** deals with computation of results using qualitative data analysis, i.e., case study method. The information used in this chapter is through interviews conducted on various victims and care-givers in the study area. **Chapter Six** summarises the results derived through quantitative data analysis through questionnaire method. Finally, the thesis draws major conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of the study.