



CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA: A STAID PREDICAMENT

Asif Khan*

Abstract: Every day, children are being bought, sold and transported away from their homes. The trafficking of human beings particular children has become a multi-dollar business that appears to be growing. Child trafficking is illegal. It is also extremely harmful, as trafficked children are physically and sexually exploited. The United Nations estimates that 246 million children across the world are involved in exploitative labour and that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. About one million children are exploited in the multi-billion dollar sex industry. Next to drug and gun trafficking, human trafficking is the third top criminal industry in the world. What used to be reported as a one billion dollar trade annually in early 2000, is now reported to generate a yearly profit of around US\$ 10-12 Billion. A US state department report has placed India on its second worst category of human trafficking watch list for the fifth year in a row, for allegedly failing to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat the problem. In the report, India is described as a "source, destination and transit country for men, women and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Ignorance, limited resources and poor execution of the protective programmes and policies for children further creates many problems and the problem of trafficking seems to be finding no redress in the near future. It is in this backdrop the present paper attempts to suggest some possible suggestion to check the problem of social menace i.e. child trafficking.

Key words: Child Trafficking, Missing Children, Poverty, Problems, Causes, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

*Research scholar, Department of Social Work, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh



INTRODUCTION

Children across the globe are considered as supreme assets of the nation. India particularly is home to almost 19 percent of the world's child population. More than one third, around 440 million of the India's population is below 18 years of age. The strength of any nation lies in having healthy, protected, educated and well-developed children who may grow up to be productive citizens of the country. Children are the future human resource of any country indeed and therefore, have to be taken care of. Their welfare and protection become the most important concern. Numbers of efforts have been made in India in order to improve the well being of its children. Significant progress has also been made in many fields in assuring children their basic rights but still much needs to be done. The country has renews its commitment and determination to focus its highest priority to the basic needs and rights of all its children. Children are the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. It is estimated that around 170 million or 40 percent of India's children are vulnerable or experiencing difficult circumstances attributed by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations. (WCD Annual Report, 2013-2014).

Many children and young people living in communities are forced to live their life in difficult circumstances. Many children live without proper housing, clean water or adequate sanitation. Numerous children suffer from chronic illnesses; many do not attend school and a sizeable proportion work at an early age. There are also a significant number of children that unfortunately experience circumstances that are extremely complicated. These children and youth suffer from inadequate care ranging from gross neglect to violent forms of mental, physical or sexual abuse and are facing commercially exploited by being trafficked or sold for labour or sex trade. (The Essentials of Child Protection: A Handbook for Beginners, 2008). All these children need special attention with particular attention should be paid to girl child because girls from poor families, unable to survive on the streets as in India, are often trafficked into child labour or prostitution. Almost always, children in actual or potential conflict with law emerge out of the children deprived of the basic needs for survival and in urgent need of protection, and more so from underprivileged families and communities. (Blind Alley, 2010).



THE PROBLEM OF MISSING CHILDREN

India is home to more than 400 million children below the age of 18 years, and is considered one of the countries in which youth and children comprise more than 55 percent of the population. These children represent diverse cultures, religions, castes, communities and social and economic groups. The government is undoubtedly committed to doing its best for its children however, despite its best endeavours; there are countless children who are subjected to exploitation and atrocities of various kinds committed by perpetrators living in our society. Moreso, numerous children go “missing” every year. These cases of missing children represent a conglomeration of a number of problems, including abductions, kidnappings by family members, abduction, kidnapping carried out by non-family members or strangers, children who run away on their own or are forced to run away due to compelling circumstances in their families and extended surroundings, children who face unfriendly and hostile environment and are asked to leave home or who are abandoned, children who are trafficked or smuggled or exploited for various purposes, and children who are lost or injured. Undoubtedly, each of these groups of children exemplifies different social problems. Since, as a group, missing children are so heterogeneous, there is no adequate data or consistently applied set of definition to describe them. In addition to it, many cases of missing children are not reported to the police at all for various reasons, and police involvement in the resolution of different of cases varies widely across the country. All this poses a serious problem. The NHRC in 2005 has shown that in any given year, averages of 44000 children are reported missing; of them as many as 11000 remain untraced. (Sharma, 2007).

DEFINITION OF MISSING CHILD

The Centre uses definitions found in International Conventions and Legal documents to define a “missing child”. Based on those, a missing child is defined as “any child under 18 years of age whose whereabouts are unknown by his/her custodial parent (s) or legal guardian(s). (<http://www.hamogelo.gr/81.2/Defining-Missing-Children>).

Some Statistics

Between 2013 and 2014, at least 67000 children in India went missing, of whom 45 percent were minors trafficked into prostitution. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a girl is abducted every eight minutes in India. A United States report on human



trafficking states that India is one of the world's main hubs for child sex trafficking. The number of child rapes in India has also been rising at an alarming rate. The 2013 report of the NCRB reveals there were 48,338 recorded cases of child rape from 2001 to 2011. In 2001 there were 2,113 cases recorded, while in 2011 there were 7,112, a rise of 336 percent. The report also revealed that 43 percent of these rape cases were abducted minor girls. (Arjunpuri, 2013).

In India missing children is a new problem which has been emerged as the most dangerous situation recently. A bench Supreme Court of India expressed its anger over 1.7 lakh missing children and the government's apathy towards the issue, had remarked: "*Nobody seems to care about missing children. This is the irony*". Close to one and half years later, government data show over 1.5 lakh more children have gone missing, and the situation remains the same with an average of 45 percent of them remaining untraced. The Home ministry has put the data on missing children last year in Parliament reveal that over 3.25 lakh children went missing between 2011 and 2014 (till June) at an average of nearly 1 lakh children going missing every year. National Crime Records Bureau, in fact, deciphers missing children figures in India in terms of one child going missing in the country every eight minutes. It is highly unfortunate that girls in particular come across with serious issues at most stages. Therefore, specific concentration is being extended to the endeavours to ameliorate the life and opportunities of the girl child particularly. This situation is more worrisome for girls because 55 percent of those missing children are girls and 45 percent of all missing children have remained untraceable as yet raising fears of them having been either killed or pushed into begging or prostitution rackets. (Tiwary, D. TOI, 2014).

In Indian states Maharashtra is one of the worst states in terms of missing children with over 50,000 having disappeared in the past three and half years. Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh are distant competitors with all recording less than 25,000 missing children for the period. Worrying, however, all these states have more missing girls than boys. In Maharashtra, 10,000 more girls went missing than boys. In Andhra Pradesh, the number of girls missing were 11,625 is almost double of boys who stood at 6915. Similarly, Madhya Pradesh has over 15,000 girls missing compared to around 9000 boys. Delhi, too, has more girls (10,581) missing compared to boys (9367). In Maharashtra, Mumbai particularly is facing acute problem of missing children. The city police have traced 2091 children out of



2527 children who went missing in 2014 in the special drive to trace the missing children and interestingly, out of this 2091 traced children 1249 were girls and rest were boys in the age group of 2-16 years old. According to the statistics of 2013, there were 2979 children including girls and boys went missing of which police traced 2243, out of which 968 were boys and 1275 were girls. Police were of the view that around 10 percent of children are still missing and they are doing their best to trace them. Many of these children found begging outside religious places and some of them were push into child labour. (TOI, 2015).

As per the report of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a New Delhi based non-government organisation (NGO), the actual number of missing children is far more than has been mentioned in reports published by authorised institutions across the country. The report says that according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of missing children (kidnapped and abducted, procuration, selling and buying of minor girls) stands at 17279 for the country. However, figures through Right to Information (RTI) applications reveal a different story. As per data collected by BBA through RTI, 1, 17,480 children are reported missing and 41,546 children are still untraced from India. Whereas, as per NCRB data; 13,554 children are missing from 20 states and 04 union territories. Interestingly, the number of untraced children (41,546) in RTI data is 2.5 times more than number of children missing provided by NCRB (17,279). Hence, only 12 percent of the total reported missing and 33 percent of the total untraced children get registered in the NCRB database as missing children. As per National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) report on trafficking, on an average 44,476 children are reported missing in a year whereas as per RTI figures 58,740 children are reportedly missing every year (in 392 districts). The reported missing has shown an increase of 32 percent over a period of 7 years. However, besides reported missing, the children remaining untraced have also shown an increase in the percentage change. As per NHRC report (2001-02) 11,000 children remain untraced whereas according to RTI figures (2009-2010) 20,773 children were untraced. In 10 years time the percentage of untraced children to reported missing children went up from 25 to 35 which is an increase of 40 percent. (Bachpan Bachao Andolan, 2014).

MAJOR CAUSES OF MISSING CHILDREN

Children due to their age are more vulnerable to face difficult circumstances and this condition goes worse if a child is poor. The underlying cause of most children go missing is



'child trafficking' which is mostly happening with those children who are facing poverty and penury. Children need to earn money, and because they face few or no other opportunities to do so, they may migrate in order to eke out their livelihood and from this helpless situation their vulnerability regarding facing trafficking goes much higher. Children particularly due to their age factor are more vulnerable than adults to face menace of trafficking. They are more able to be tricked or deceived because of their less experience and exposure to the outside world. They are less able to demand their rights and can be exploited more easily for example, children will more readily work long hours for very low or no pay. In some industries particularly in flesh trade there is a particular demand for young girls. (World Vision, 2005)

Child Trafficking

Trafficking is defined as a trade in something that should not be traded in for various social, economic or political reasons. Thus, we have terms like drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. The concept of *human trafficking* refers to the criminal practice of exploiting human beings by treating them like commodities, for profit. Even after being trafficked, victims are subjected to long term exploitation. The working definition of United Nations Protocol to prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in persons, Especially Women and Children, 2000 is "*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, or deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, 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 or service, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organ*". (p. 02). (Mathew et al. 2005).

Whereas, Child trafficking according to UNICEF is defined as "any person under 18 years who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purpose of exploitation either within or outside a country. According to United Nations Commission for Human Rights "trafficking refers to the recruitment, transportation, purpose, sale, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by threat, use of violence, abduction, use of force, fraud, deception or coercion (including abuse of authority) or debt bondage for the purpose of



placing or holding such person whether for pay or not in forced labour or slavery-like practice in a community other than the one in which such person lived at the time of the original act described. (<http://thepeacegong.org/child-trafficking/>).

Trafficking has been described as modern day slavery, as there are virtually no differences in the ways in which people are now trafficked as compared with the ways in which traditional slaves were brought and sold in earlier centuries. Slavery practices traditionally involved the sale and purchase of human beings as chattel, treating them as commodities that could be bought and sold. The owner maintained absolute rights over the slaves, who were considered his private property. 2007 marked the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. However, recent reports by the United Nations and non government organisations suggest that the slave trade is very much alive and one of the worst manifestations of this is through trafficking of both adults and children. An article in the UN Chronicle claims that “slavery is back in full force”, and that it is no longer restricted to young Africans; millions of women and children are enslaved in almost every continent. With 27 million people across the world enslaved, there are now many more slaves than when the traditional trade was at its height four hundred years ago. (HAQ, 2008).

Children are trafficked into a range of exploitative practices that include:

Child labour Exploitation

Numerous children are going missing from some of India's remote tribal areas as human traffickers respond to a surge in demand for domestic child labour in booming urban districts. Between 2011 and 2013, more than 10,500 children were registered as missing from the central state of Chhattisgarh, one of India's poorest states. The majority are believed to have been trafficked out of the state and into domestic work or other forms of child labour in cities. According to child rights activists of the region, this is something new development to come across with. They are of the view that this situation may be because of raising demand for domestic maids due to rising income in urban areas and wide scale poverty in rural areas. The trafficking of children shows the rise of massive inequality in India. The missing children in Chhattisgarh represent a small percentage of the estimated 135,000 children believed to be trafficked in India every year. Yet, the rate at which they are going missing from remote villages in the south of the state is causing alarm. The pathetic situation needs to ponder over is police do not consider trafficking as a crime. They just see



it as poor children migrating for a better livelihood and therefore, do not take these issues seriously. (Suhariah, 2015).

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Sex trafficking whether within a country or across national borders violates basic human rights including the rights to bodily integrity, equality, dignity, health, security and freedom from violence and torture. Key international human rights treaties including the Convention on the Discrimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), consider sex trafficking a form of sex discrimination and a human rights violation. Trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. This, despite the fact international laws of 134 countries criminalise sex trafficking. As per the estimates, at least 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold worldwide into commercial sexual servitude, forced labour and bonded labour. About 2 million children are exploited every year in the global commercial sex trade. Almost 6 in 10 identified trafficking survivors were trafficked for sexual exploitation and the most striking reality is that female constitutes upto 98 percent of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Survivors of trafficking reveal some horrific realities of physical, mental and emotional torture including symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD), HIV/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrom (AIDS) and unwanted pregnancy. (<http://www.equalitynow.org/node/1010>). Child prostitution is another worrying factor. About fifteen percent of the nearly two million prostitutes are believed to be children. Minor girls are preferred in the flesh trade since they pose a lesser AIDS risk to their clients. Young girls are purchased or kidnapped and then tortured and sold in various red light areas. A hospital based study in New Delhi has shown that out of the 362 patients who were suffering from STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases), 58 were below 14 years of age. (Bagulia, 2007).

Military Conscription

It is estimated that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world. Some children join fighting forces due to poverty or abuse, others are forcibly recruited or abducted. Children's roles in conflicts vary. They are used as messengers, porters, cooks, 'wives' who provide sexual services or as combatants. Children are most vulnerable to recruitment if they are poor, separated from their families, displaced from their homes, living in a combat zone, have limited access to



education or are orphaned. (UNICEF, 2005). Some 19 out of the 28 states in India are facing internal armed conflicts, which are characterised by gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws, both by the security and the armed opposition groups. Be it Naxalite, government security forces and *Salwa Jadum*, all have recruited and used children in the ongoing conflict in internal violence affected areas. Naxalite militants and the government security forces are all recruiting children (both boys and girls) to training camps where they are taught to use weapons and explosives. Many children have dropped out of school and become Special Police Officers but also routinely got killed or attacked because they are suspected Naxals or attacked by the Naxals as informers. (Blind Alley, 2009).

FACTORS THAT MAKE CHILD VULNERABLE

Poverty

There are many causes of trafficking but the most chief cause is poverty. It is long been the reason behind the migration of workers from rural to urban areas. Other causes include increasing income disparity, improved communication and unkept promises. In addition, adventurous mind of some section of people have added momentum in trafficking. All over the world, the child's vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation lies in his or her family circumstances. The majority of sexually exploited children are either from marginalized families, and destitute families, or children of women already in the flesh trade. (Deb, 2007). Poverty is the most important variable that heightens children's vulnerability to traffickers. One of the most obvious ways material poverty leads to exploitation and abuse is through child labour. Poverty frequently forces vulnerable children to turn to hazardous work. Those who attempt to sell children into slavery or sexual exploitation do not seek prey in comfortable suburbs; they look in the poorest shanty towns or the most underprivileged rural areas, where grinding poverty can heighten children's vulnerability to protection abusers. With promises of employment opportunities abroad, families in extreme poverty may send their children away to work. Not all poor children are trafficked. They are most vulnerable, but vulnerability increases through a confluence of such factors gender and ethnic discrimination. Those who are most at risk are also in close proximity to an environment where trafficking is pervasive. Due to extreme poverty and penury, children may be recruited and trafficked to earn money for others by begging or selling



goods on the street. In some cases, child beggars are maimed by their captors to engender sympathy and greater charity.

Inequality of Women and Girls

The legal and social inequality of women and girls is a breeding ground for trafficking. Where women and girls are objectified and seen as commodities, a climate is created in which girls can be bought and sold. Far too often girls are denied the opportunity to go to school and instead are forced to stay at home to perform household chores. They remain unskilled and uneducated. Girls are frequently abused within their families, making the lure of traffickers seem like an escape from domestic exploitation and violence. For many, migrating or seeking jobs outside their community is not just an economic decision; it may be a quest to find personal freedom, better living conditions or a means to support their families.

Low School Enrolment

Children who are not in school can easily fall prey to traffickers. The estimated global number of children not attending school is 121 million, the majority of whom are girls. School enrolment is a critical factor in the fight against traffickers. Uneducated children have few opportunities for their future, and are therefore more vulnerable to traffickers' promises of money and a 'better life'. Additionally, most prevention messages are aimed to children who can read, placing illiterate children at a disadvantage position. School can also provide a haven to keep children off the streets. (UNICEF, 2005). Apart from the above stated reasons, the lack of enforcement of legal measures, lack of political will and inaction of the various state and civil society agencies are responsible for the continuance, and in fact, proliferation of child prostitution. (Deb, 2007).

Heavy Demand for Exploitative Sex and Cheap Labour

According a World Health Organisation (WHO) report, 150 million girls and 73 million boys were subjected to various forms of sexual assault. The number could be much higher, as many children and their families do not report such incidents due to social stigma and fear of being sexually ostracized. According to a report by childinfo.org, the UNICEF June 2011 study based on surveys carried out from 2000-2009 reported that in India, 5 percent of girls between age group of 15-19 years were victims of sexual violence. Apart from above mentioned reasons, there could be many more reasons like humanitarian disasters and



armed conflict, children who are having no one to look after them, children who are living in difficult circumstances are also vulnerable to face trafficking. India is also a transit point for young boys who are sent to Dubai and other middle-East countries for manual work but very often they got sexually exploited and kept as bonded labourers. Another area where children are frequently sent to is Saudi Arabia where begging is an organised billion dollar industry, especially during Haj. In India, begging syndicates often maim children and put them on to the streets to get maximum collection from them. (Debu, 2005).

The State commits to taking special protection measures to secure the rights and entitlements of children in need of special protection, characterized by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations, including their need for rehabilitation and reintegration, in particular but not limited to, children affected by migration, displacement, communal or sectarian violence, civil unrest, disasters and calamities, street children, children of sex workers, children forced into commercial sexual exploitation, abused and exploited children, children forced into begging, children in conflict with law, child labours, trafficked children, children in bondage, children of prisoners, children affected by terminal diseases, the girl child, children with disabilities, children affected by alcohol and substance abuse, children of manual scavengers and children from any socially excluded group, children affected by armed conflict and any other category of children requiring care and protection. (The National Policy for Children, 2013).

Child Protection

Every child has a right to protection. This not only includes children who are in difficult circumstances and those who have suffered violence, abuse and exploitation, but also those who are not in any of these adverse situations and yet need to be protected in order to ensure that they remain within the social security and protective net. Child Protection refers to protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Violations of the child's right to protection, in addition to being human rights violations, are massively under-recognised and under-reported and are barriers to child survival and development. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of: shortened lives, poor physical and mental health, educational problems (including dropping out of school), poor parenting skills later in life, homelessness, vagrancy and displacement. Child Protection is about protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger/risk to their life, their



childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and in harmful situations. It is also about protecting children against social, psychological and emotional insecurity and distress. It must ensure that no child falls out of the social security and safety net and those who do, receive necessary care and protection to be brought back into the safety net. Child Protection is integrally linked to every other right of the child. The failure to ensure children's right to protection adversely affects all other rights of the child and the development of the full potential of the child. Child Protection is about protecting every right of every child. It must also relate to children's capacity for self-reliance, self-defence, and to the roles and responsibilities of family, community, society and state. (The Essentials of Child Protection: A Handbook for Beginners, 2008).

HOW PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING CAN BE ADDRESSED?

Preventing children who have been sexually abused is generally a matter of ensuring that they have carers who are capable of preventing the abuser (or abusers) from being given further opportunities to abuse them. This often entails assessing, and trying to support and strengthen the ability of other adults around the child to stand up to the abuser, and to recognize and resist his attempts at manipulation. Of course, where the abuser is an important figure to the child, the ideal intervention entails helping the abuser to give up abusive behaviour, but the treatment of sexual offenders and assessment of the risks that they continue to pose is a difficult and complex area, and is not something that should be undertaken by professionals who do not have specialist knowledge and experience. In the absence of clear and compelling evidence to the contrary from an authoritative source, child protection plans need to be based on the assumption that a sexual abuser continues to present a high risk indefinitely if he is allowed unsupervised contact with a child. (Beckett, 2007).

Strengthening of Laws: The government need to redefine laws to make them more stringent and need to ensure strict and severe punishment delivery mechanism. The government needs to ensure that the necessary and effective infrastructure is in place to identify, arrest, prosecute all involved in this 'dirty business'. Unless the entire chain of those involved in trafficking chain feels the heat of the prosecuting agencies with active support from non-government organisations and civil society actively working for the humane cause, our children would always be vulnerable and in threatening position.



Strengthening of criminal laws related to trafficking, as well as creating more protective laws and policies that directly affect trafficking, such as immigration, labour and child abuse/family violence laws. Anti-trafficking work is most effective when it is multi-sectoral and responds to criminal action and victim needs. Child protection is an integral part of all law enforcement activities. Laws that provide for protection and assistance for victims are essential to a complete legislative framework on trafficking. Laws that criminalize trafficking are insufficient without clear measures to provide assistance to victims.

Need To Check Migration of Children: It is been observed that large chunk of children migrate from one place to another in order to search a means of livelihood so that they can support financially to their family's income and in that process they usually come in contact with organised gangs operating in urban areas allure innocent children to get easy money and forced them into the world of crime. Trafficking of innocent children is one of the chief activities of these gangs. Migration and labour laws also have a direct effect on child trafficking. It is imperative to review legislative frameworks to ensure that labour and migration policies are enacted with an eye towards protecting children.

Terminate Gender Based Inequality: Gender based inequality breeds the problem of child trafficking. Discrimination against girls and women is pervasive. The subordination of girls and women in law, policies and practices leaves them vulnerable to abuse. Attitudes and beliefs about the relative worth of girls and women can lead to a climate in which they are bought and sold. The gender based discrimination starts from the birth of the girl child and creeps into the family and then it goes on to school, in communities and in fact every arena of life. Therefore, effective anti-trafficking policies must focus upon protection and strengthen the legal and social equality of women and the human rights of women and children. It must concentrate on supporting programmes that encourage "the complete participation and empowerment of women in their societies, in particular, in educational facilities and economic life".

Need to fill up the Gap of Vast Socio-Economic Disparity: Poverty alleviation in a day or two is impossible and same is the case of making every citizen rich. Therefore, efforts should be put down to fill up the wide gap of socio-economic disparity. According to an estimate few families own the wealth of entire world. This vast disparity is the causative factor of breeding different types of crime and trafficking of children is one of the outcomes



of this disparity. Programmes should be formulated with the specific objective of alleviating poverty and those programmes should be implemented in their later and spirit. Effective monitoring should be done of all such type of programmes so that effective measures can be taken at the early stage. Alleviating marginalisation of vulnerable groups particularly women and girls through improved governance, material support, social protection and employment and sustainable economic development.

Community Participation and Mobilizing Civil Society: No programme can get expected success if it not supported by the local community and therefore, in order to get effective execution of the programme and expected outcome of the same, participation of the community members is the most important thing in this process. Seeking partnership within civil society, including the private sector, will strengthening domestic anti-trafficking programmes. Community-based organisations often are best suited to raise awareness and support victims, and should be supported to engage in this work. Family, school, community and the participation of children in raising awareness into the society regarding this social menace is the most important work needs to done by all the stakeholder if they want to make their community best to live in. Awareness campaigns need to work at local, national and regional levels to highlight the problem and mobilize action by concerned parties from the community up to policy making bodies; create the environment for a social movement at regional, national and international levels to stop child trafficking. As well as increasing the awareness of the local/affected populations, their participation in the devising and implementation of measures is vital, as is the establishment of rural support work. (Deb, 2007).

Capacity Building to Ensure Support for Children without Caregivers: The numerous numbers of children who have lost their parents or caregivers need attention and protection as do the families and institutions caring for them. It is vital that the structures in place have the capacity to care for these children. It must be ensured that children who have lost parents have access to family-based care, with institutional care as a last resort and to restructure the system of public care in order to diminish the use of institutions, develop alternative care approaches and strengthen effective community-based preventive and protective social services. The appropriate government agencies should establish programmes designed to assist those concerned to recover their identity. Civil defence ad



disaster-management plans and training programmes should be reviewed to ensure that they are responsive to the need to protect the identity of children separated from their parents. (UNICEF, 2004).

Integrated Approach: In order to address the problem of child trafficking, there is a need for a proactive multifaceted approach. While progress has been made in taking measures to address these issues individually, there is a need for greater co-ordination and consistency in their application at the national level. With active cooperation of government and Non-government organisations (NGOs) of national and international level, some targeted strategies can be formulated for identification of families living below poverty line and alternative options can be offered to people according to their capabilities. A similar level of attention is required for the recovery and reintegration of victims, helping them, their families and their communities cope with the experience (psychosocial recovery) and also the empowerment of girls through skills training, coupled with initiatives to help families better provide for them.

CONCLUSION

Trafficking of children is the burning example of one of the deep-rooted problems of society that has lost the ability to take care and protect its children. Economic disparities and widely spread poverty and penury is the foremost reason of this social menace. Every year numbers of children go missing and mostly they face trafficking which is linked all countries and regions in a web of international crime. Every year, numbers of children are smuggled across the borders and sold like commodities. Others are trafficked within their home countries, usually from rural to urban areas. Trafficking violates the human rights guaranteed to children under national and international laws, most notably the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Children's survival and development are threatened, and their rights to education, health and protection are denied. Child trafficking is social menace and in order to prevent this horrific practice people should come forward and work as a unit along with the cooperation and collaboration of governmental and nongovernmental bodies. As, it has been observed that poverty is one of the chief reasons of child trafficking, therefore, effective anti-poverty programmes and policies should be framed their implementation should also be checked. Proper monitoring of these programmes and policies will be proved vital in the wake of



addressing problem of child trafficking. Gender inequality has also been seen as the one of the most imperative reasons of trafficking and therefore, gender-gap should be filled up to have justice prevail in all wakes of life. Unchecked migration has also added many problems including commercial sexual exploitation of children and eventually to child trafficking. Child protection though is the prime concern of government and numbers of legislation have also been framed but the beneficiaries hardly get their dues. Therefore, liaisoning should be done and the beneficiaries should get advantage from all the resources available for their betterment. Community mobilization should be the primary tool to make people aware from the problems that they are coming across and how they address these problems. Proper integration among all the stakeholders will prove as significant endeavours to address child trafficking menace.

REFERENCES

1. Arjunpuri, C. (2013, March). *India Faces epidemic if Missing Children*. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/02/2013219121326666148.html>.
2. Bachpan Bachao Andolan, (2013). *Missing Children of India: A Synopsis*: New Delhi: Bachpan Bachao Andolan. Retrieved from <http://www.bba.org.insitesdefaultfilesSynopsis.pdf>.on 23.04/2015.
3. Bagulia, AM. (2007). *Child and Crime*. New Delhi: SBS Publishers & Distributors Pvt. Ltd.
4. Beckett, C. (2007). *Child Protection: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
5. CHILDLINE India Foundation. (2008). *The Essentials of Child Protection: A Handbook for Beginners*. Mumbai: Silver Point Press Pvt. Ltd.
6. Debu, C. (2014, June). *Child Trafficking: India's Silent Shame*. Retrieved from <http://www.mapsofindia.com/myindia/government/childtraffickingindiassilentshae>.
7. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights. (2008). *Still Out of Focus: Status of India's Children 2008*. New Delhi: HAQ: Centre for Child Rights
8. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights. (2009). *Blind Alley Juvenile Justice in India*. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights.
9. <http://thepeacegong.org/child-trafficking>. retrieved on 130/04/2015.
10. <http://www.equalitynow.org/node/1010>. retrieved on 30/04/2015
11. <http://www.hamogelo.gr/81.2/Defining-Missing-Children>. retrieved on 02/05/2015



12. Mathew, G., Sen, S. & Nair, P.M. (2005). *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*. New Delhi: Orient Longman.
13. Ministry of Women and Child development. (2013). *The National Policy for Children*. New Delhi: WCD.
14. O'Donnell, D. (2004). *Child Protection: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*. UNICEF: SRO-Kundig, Switzerland.
15. Sharma, P.C. (2007). *Report of the NHRC Committee on Missing Children*. New Delhi: NHRC.
16. Suhariah, S. (2015). *Child Trafficking In India: It Was Only After A Few Years I Realised I Had Been Sold*. Global Development: The Guardian. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/globaldevelopment/2015/apr/28/childtraffickingindia domesticlabourchhattisgarh>. on 4/30/2015.
17. Times of India. (2015, February 21). *Over 2,000 missing kids found*. New Delhi: TOI.
18. Tiwary, D. (2014, August 7). *One Lakh Children Go Missing In India Every Year: Home Ministry*. New Delhi: The Times of India.
19. UNICEF. (2005). *Combating Child Trafficking*. France: SADAG S.A.
20. WCD. (2013). *Annual Report, 2013-2014*. New Delhi: WCD.