

Child Trafficking: Analysis of the Leading Familial Determinants

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This paper aims to analyze the familial factors that contribute to child trafficking. Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is selected for carrying out this study. A total of 392 respondents i.e., university teachers (116), journalists (103) and legal practitioners (173) are randomly selected. Questionnaire is used for data collection. Chi Square and Gamma statistics are applied for measurement of association and direction of relationship between independent and dependent variable. Positive and significant relationship is observed between family disintegration, homelessness, abuse of children at home, erosion of social network and child trafficking. For prevention of child trafficking, awareness raising campaigns are needed to cover vulnerable communities in order to sensitize them of the negative effects of their bad attitude with children. To keep check on socially downtrodden families, a local level watch-dog needs to be installed to report to government in serious cases. Poverty stricken families especially of militancy affected regions should be targeted through poverty alleviation schemes.

Key words: child, child trafficking, familial determinants, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Children are the asset of our future and every nation has lot of expectations of them to lead their respective country, but they are prone to diverse kinds of unfavorable situations in the disguises of labour, trafficking, corporal punishment and sexual abuse. Such a situation, being global in nature, is detrimental to their physical, mental and moral growth, crippling their abilities to take up the future responsibilities. There are many reasons behind their vulnerability to unwanted situation including the family failure towards its responsibility to protect them against any danger and calamity. Out of all problems related to children across the world, child trafficking has got the status of a serious social issue and attracted the attention of the governments and NGO¹s to resolve the problem by encouraging the conduction of research studies from different dimensions. The child in Pakistan is also undergoing many problems including trafficking. To discuss the problem in the context of underlying factors and vulnerabilities, it would be better to flash on the nature of the problem in the view points of various thinkers.

The UN² Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) defined child trafficking as *The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by*

means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, of abuse of power, 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, prostitutions, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The term signifies the illicit trade in human beings across international borders or within the same country (ILO³, 2002). Trafficking can be seen in different forms including the selling of children by parents for small financial return. This process usually emanates through placing the child with creditor's family as reimbursement or with a job promise/provision of quality education and training to the trafficked kids where they are kept in discharging their activities revolving around prostitution, domestic helpers and camel jockeys (Aronowitz, 2001).

World Situation

The definition and domain of human trafficking varies in number of ways and there are different understandings and explanations attached to it. The intensity of the child trafficking can be gauged from the alarming and vulnerable picture presented in research reports and studies. Approximately 8.4 million children are the victims of violation of human rights in numerous ways. Out of this total figure, 5.7million are involved in forced and bonded labour,

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¹ NGO stands for Non-governmental organization

² UN stands for United Nations

³ ILO stands for International Labor Organization

1.2 million in child trafficking, 1.8 million in prostitution and pornography, 0.3 million in armed conflict as fighters and 0.6 million are pushed into illicit activities. In addition, 0.6 to 0.8 million women, children and men are reported to traffic each year on international borders including 80% women and girls and 50% children. However, it is important to note that these estimates are about the transnational human trafficking which lacks data on millions of children who are trafficked within their own countries from one place to other (IPEC-TBP⁴, 2007; Flowers, 2001; McDonald, 2004; Monzini, 2004; and U.S. Department of State, 2005).

Country Situation

No exact estimated data of children trafficked in Pakistan exists. However, few studies reported trafficking cases from different parts of the country. Tumlin (2001) points out a very serious nature of trade-cum-sport that endangers the lives of the trafficked children in the disguise of camel jockeys. Nineteen thousand (19,000) children of 02-11 years of age were reportedly moved to Middle East. Kane (1998) estimates 20,000 to 40,000 children's involvement in the business of prostitution in Pakistan. BNWLA⁵ (1997) and TICSAs⁶ (2002) refers to the reports of SAARC⁷ and UNICEF mentioning 4500 children being used for bonded labour in exploited way after they were trafficked to Pakistan. Iijima (1998) observes that majority of the trafficked children under the age of 16 years in South Asia are moved to India and Pakistan. Most of the trafficked women and children in Pakistan are Bangladeshi where 80 percent victims are in Karachi. Mostly, they are either kidnapped or married to agents or falsely induced to better life and then abused in brothels in Pakistan, and law enforcement agencies know about the entry points of them, even police are getting their own share up to 20 percent in the sale and purchase of children and women in Pakistan (Awan, 1993; and CATW⁸, 2003). Ahmed (1997) finds that trafficked women and girls are further victimized by the Pakistani laws of Zina Ordinance 1979, the Passport Act 1974, and hence such laws and treatment of the law enforcement agencies are putting such victims in embarrassing situation.

Azam (2009) indicates to the source areas of human trafficking and smuggling in Pakistan which include Gawadar, Quetta, and Taftan districts in Baluchistan; Mardan, Peshawar, Swat, Swabi, Nowshera, Chitral and Charsadda districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin and Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab; and Jacobabad and Naushera Feroze districts in Sindh. NET⁹ (2008) reported that many internally

trafficked women and girls are sent to the Gulf States mainly for sexual exploitation. The age of nearly 86 percent of the victims is below 20 years when trafficked, and majority of them (83 %) were Pakhtun mostly from Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi and Nowshera districts while the traffickers belonged to Punjab, Kashmir, Sindh and Baluchistan.

Most of the countries responded to the problem of child trafficking from legal perspective alone. They declared it an act of violence and focused on prosecuting the offenders. Such approach is limited in its scope as it ignored to probe into the underlying factors of the problem and hence, lacks the appropriate and long term effective strategy of its resolution. The issue of child trafficking is rooted in the multidimensional factors associated with the socio-economic, political and cultural aspects. It is inevitable to explore and analyze these factors for comprehensive and everlasting solution of the problem (Chung, 2006; Limanowska, 2005; Hughes, 2000; Bales, 1999; Dessy et al., 2005; and UNODC, 2006).

Family Aspect of Child Trafficking:

The traffickers usually use the tactics of convincing the parents of children with false promise and hope of employment, better future, education, or marriage (UNICEF, 2003). Studies identify such families that are easily convinced and gave-up their children are mostly poor, needy, illiterate, disintegrated, ignorant and/or large in size (Anwar, 2004; Dowling, Moreton & Wright, n.d.; Chung, 2006; Anderson and Davidson 2003; Dottridge, 2002; Logan, 2007; Bales, 2007; Chuang, 2006; Wolthuis and Blaak, 2001; Kapstein, 2006; and Demleitner, 2001).

Tumlin (2000) found that trafficked children come from low profile families. Such families are with low socio-economic status characterized by poverty, illiteracy and ignorance (Vinolia and Fubara, 1995; and ILO-IPEC, 1998). Children from such families are the most neglected and abused one (Ogundele and Ojo, 2007). Families and its non-protective environment compel such children to earn something that could contribute to the livelihood of the family (Vinolia and Fubara, 1995; ILO-IPEC, 1998). The traffickers who are mostly known or relative to the family exploit this vulnerable situation and traffic the children being the easy accessible and trouble-free targets (Yinusa & Basil, 2008; Beauregard, Proulx, & Rossmo, 2007; Clawson, 2009; Williamson & Cluse-Tolar, 2002; Vieth & Ragland, 2005). These children are mostly trafficked for labor (Tumlin, 2000). The WHO¹⁰ (1999) declares that "worldwide 40,000,000 children suffer abuse and neglect".

Children from broken homes are more susceptible to trafficking. Studies showed that disintegrated and broken families due to separation, conflict, death or divorce is a

women rights and its protection. It conducts research on different customary practices prevailing in Pakhtun society that violates the rights of female.

¹⁰WHO stands for World Health Organization

⁴ IPEC TBP stands for International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour-Time Bound Program

⁵ BNWLA stands for Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association.

⁶ TICSAs stands for Trafficking in Children South Asia

⁷ SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

⁸ CATW stands for Coalition Against Trafficking of Women

⁹ Noor Education Trust is a non-profit organization working in Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan for the promotion of

source of stress and strain for the parents that comes out in the form of child abuse and neglect (Ogundele and Ojo, 2007; WHO, 1997). Children from such homes are without any supervision and even abandoned by families (Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005; Hanna, 2002; Farley, Lynne, & Cotton, 2005; Layden & Smith, 2005; Raphael, 2004). This vulnerability of child is associated with the selection of victims by traffickers (Beauregard et al., 2007). Such neglected and abandoned children are more easily influenced and convinced by traffickers being the easiest target (Tumlin, 2000; Olateru-Olagbegi, 2004; Economist, 2004; Carling, 2006).

Homeless and street children are vulnerable to trafficking (Clawson, 2009; Estes and Weiner, 2001, 2005). In U.S 10-15 percent of street children are at risk for exploitation (Estes and Weiner, 2001). Research studies identified poverty, war, civil unrest, militancy, disaster, parental death are the reasons which compel the children to live on street in the developing and poor countries. In developed countries the reasons of runaway phenomena are found to be the neglect, abuse, domestic violence (Baron, 2003; Cauce et al., 2006; Farrow, 2005; Molnar et al., 1998; Vieth & Ragland, 2005) and failure of the important and significant relationship at family (Peled & Cohavi, 2009; Clawson, 2009). A study carried out in U.S investigated the prior conditions of the runaway and street children found that up to 81 percent children reported physical abuse, 50% reported sexual, and many reported multiple and repeated abuses by multiple criminals (Baron, 2003; Clawson, 2009; Tyler & Johnson, 2006). Such youth, having experienced an upbringing characterized by neglect, and psychological, sexual, and physical abuse, are at high risk for further victimization and entrapment by traffickers (Farley & Kelly, 2000; Farrow, 2005; Jankowski et al., 2002; Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Saewyc, et al., 2008). Such street, runaway, or thrown away children are at high risk of exploitation (Clawson, 2009; Curtis et al., 2008; Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005; Saewyc et al., 2008; Beauregard, Proulx, & Rossmo, 2007; Williamson & Cluse-Tolar, 2002; Vieth & Ragland, 2005; Campagna & Poffenberger, 1988; Venkatraman, 2003).

Research studies found that children physically abused¹¹ at home are more prone and an easy target to trafficking. Agnew (2006) proposed in general strain theory that child abuse and neglect is the form of family strain. Children physically abused are found to be associated with depression, attachment problem, substance abuse and further victimization (Barnett et al., 2005; Fagan, 2005; Berenson & Andersen, 2006). Research conducted by Peled & Cohavi (2009) and Clawson (2009) concluded that the runaway children perceive their action as the result of the failure of the significant and primary family relationships. Almost, 81 percent children reported physical abuse before

runaway (Baron, 2003; Clawson, 2009; Tyler & Johnson, 2006) such children who are physically abused are at high risk of victimization and entrapment by traffickers (Farley & Kelly, 2000; Farrow, 2005; Jankowski et al., 2002; Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Saewyc et al., 2008).

Victims of trafficking mostly come from large size families. Tumlin (2000) reports that children compromised and sent to work are mostly from large families. On macro level analysis, Weisheit & Morn (2004) concludes that when population grows faster than economic development and growth, resources available could not meet the needs. Needs include among other things, health care, protection and policing, facilities that help in child proper development and care. Young population being the weak and incapable section of society becomes at risk. Similarly, Bales (2007), Ogundele & Ojo (2007), and Pearce & Felola (1994) argue that rapid increase in child trafficking is the result of population growth especially of developing countries.

Study carried out in Viet Nam found that due to parent's drug addiction or criminal involvement their children were at high risk. Parents with such drug abuse practices produce an abusive and damaging environment at home which severely effects the psycho-social growth of children. The children socializing in such environment often flee it and entrapped by traffickers (Henry et al., 1990) or they are easily influenced by criminal syndicates of traffickers (Tumlin, 2000; Estes & Weiner, 2005; Ogundele & Ojo, 2007).

Erosion of social network results into the vulnerability of children where they are easily targeted by the traffickers. Beauregard et al. (2007) argued that trafficker's choice of selection of victims depends upon the vulnerability of them. In other words, traffickers chose such victims who are vulnerable and can easily be controlled. Social network is a social structure based on social relationships. The destruction, loss and diminution of such structure produce an environment where social control, care, moral standards loses its strength and the feeble and fragile group in such a situation like minority groups, women, and children sections are the most affected ones. Children in such environment are abandoned by their families (Hanna, 2002; Farley, Lynne, & Cotton, 2005; Layden & Smith, 2005; Raphael, 2004). The traffickers exploit such situation as the children and women become the easy target. The responsibility of the erosion of social network lies on both natural and social factors (Miller & Mullins, 2009; Albanese, 2007; Anderson & Michaelson, 2007; Royal, 1998; Williams & Frederick, 2009; Williamson & Cluse-Tolar, 2002).

It is reported that in some cases the parent's greed of economic gain also pushes children in the hands of traffickers (Olateru-Olagbegi, 2004; Economist, 2004; Carling, 2006). The cases of camel jockeys in Pakistan are the example of this kind of practice (see for further reading Anwar, 2004). Parents are perpetrator in such cases not victims, however, it is reported that due to financial need and distress most of

¹¹ Physical abused defined as "any non-accidental physical *injury* to the child" and can include striking, kicking, burning, or biting the child, or any action that results in a *physical impairment* of the child (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2007)."

the parents act like this (Dowling, Moreton, & Wright, n.d.; Chung, 2006). In Uganda and Kenya relatives sold orphaned girls in their care to traffickers under the guise of securing them a better education, scholarship, or marriage (UNICEF, 2003). It is not the greed rather the economic needs of the family as reported by Dottridge (2002) and Chung (2006) in Sub Saharan Africa that compel them to give-up their children to traffickers.

Noor Education Trust (NET) (2008) found that so lucrative is the trade (custom of bride price "*SarPaisa*¹²") that in some cases the family (father, brother, uncle etc.) are also entrapped by the lure of easy and relatively large sum of money in one go. Some of them even join the gangs to supply girls from their family circles. The findings also discovered a new trend among some parents, who adopted the habit of selling their daughters twice and even thrice. Three such victims and their responses established the presence of this trend beyond any doubt.

Clert et al. (2005) concluded that victims are mainly sold by parents, husbands or boyfriends to recruiters/traffickers. Recruiters are often very familiar persons to the victims, such as neighbor, friend, a friend of a friend, boyfriend, acquaintance, and family friend. Tumlin (2000) contended that the quick and easy money syndrome in parents make the children vulnerable to trafficking. Studies in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand have reported that many children are attracted by this syndrome of easy job and money to prostitution.

Method

The present study is undertaken in Peshawar. A comprehensive questionnaire is used for data collection. Literature reveals that some groups of society could be the potential respondents to be approached in order to get data for the study under discussion. University teachers, journalists, and advocates are included in them. From the total population of all the three groups (i.e., 453), a sample size of 392 is derived by using Casley and Kumar (1989) formula which is further distributed proportionately and respondents were selected randomly. About 45 observations are taken as pilot test of the instrument. Chi Square and Gamma statistics are used to determine association and direction of relationship between independent and dependent variable.

Results and Discussion

Study findings on the issue of child trafficking are presented and discussed in this section as follows; Family, the primary agency of socialization, is responsible for caring and rearing of children. It covers responsibility of social control and protection of its members from both natural

hazards and social disasters. Failure of family in accomplishment of its prime responsibilities pave the way for social conditions those are disastrous for children. However, in some instances it adds fuel to the fire as in the case of child trafficking here in the study area.

A non-significant but positive ($\gamma=0.169$) relationship is extracted between family's demand and greed of economic gain and child trafficking. This result shows the tendency of human nature of the accumulation of wealth irrespective of its legitimacy or otherwise. As clear from the literature, the menace of trafficking is higher in developing countries where family members easily get convinced for selling their children for gaining handful money. Also, countries like Pakistan where it becomes difficult for some individuals to fulfill the expenditures of family, in turn, it leads to selling their children in the hands of traffickers. Furthermore, the findings also suggest that economically downtrodden families could easily be trapped by traffickers. The findings suggest that increased consumerism and a desire for material objects, on part of parents and children, pushes children into trafficking networks. Findings of the present study are in consonance with Olateru-Olagbegi (2004); Economist (2004); Carling (2006); Anwar (2004); Dowling, Moreton, & Wright (n.d); and Dottridge (2002).

Similarly, a positive ($\gamma=0.125$) but non-significant relationship is found between traffickers convince children's parents with false promise of employment and child trafficking (Table 3). From these results it could be outlined that in Pakistan the ratio of illiteracy is higher. Resultantly, understanding level also keeps low and mostly people remain ignorant. It could also be inferred from the findings that parents' ignorance and unawareness could easily be exploited by traffickers. Furthermore, incapability to handle the vulnerable environment to which their children are exposed, could make them prey to the false promises and hopes of traffickers as reported by UNICEF (2003) that the traffickers usually use the tactics of convincing parents of the children with false promise and hope of employment, better future, education, or even marriage. The findings suggest that the traffickers could possess the convincing skills through which ignorant parents complicity hand over their children to them. The findings of the present study are in line with Anwar (2004); Anderson (2003); Logan (2007); Bales (2007); Chuang (2006); Dottridge (2002); and Demleitner (2001).

A positive ($\gamma=0.448$) and significant ($p<0.05$) relationship is observed between family disintegration and child trafficking. The findings of the present study suggest that the protective power and caring norms of home depends upon the smooth running of its affairs between husband and wife. If any problem crops up in it, the future of the children would not only be bleak but could make them easy prey to trafficking. The above results are in consonance with the findings that children from disintegrated and broken homes are mostly without supervision, abandoned by families become susceptible to trafficking (Beauregard et al., 2007;

¹²Selling of daughter through a marriage contract is a customary practice prevailing in some tribes of Pakhtun society. This practice prevails in Afghanistan too. In English it is translated as bride price.

WHO 1997; Ogundele & Ojo, 2007; Hanna, 2002; Tumlin, 2000; Olateru-Olagbegi, 2004; Economist, 2004; and Carling, 2006).

Similar finding ($\gamma=0.362$; $p<0.05$) are observed between physically abuse of children at home and child trafficking. Attitude and treatment by caregivers and parents is associated with children's protective sense and feelings. The harsh and physically abusive attitude of parents mostly results into depression, attachment problem, and substance abuse which ends-up in menace like child trafficking. These inferences are in consonance with Barnett et al., (2005); and Fagan (2005); and Ebbeler (2007).

Although, non-significant but positive ($\gamma=0.178$) relationship is found between drug addiction of parents and child trafficking. The value of Gamma indicated positive relation of variables. Parents' capability of child care and protection affects due to drug use as indicated by the findings. Further, society's understanding of this association could be the outcome of increase in the open business and use of drugs along with frail and weak governance. The findings suggest that drug addiction of parents could damage the normal familial environment of home that could affect the socialization and psycho-social development of children. The findings are in line with Henry et al., (1990); Tumlin, (2000); Estes & Weiner, (2005); and Ogundele & Ojo (2007).

A positive ($\gamma=0.417$) and significant ($p<0.05$) relationship exists between erosion of social network and child trafficking. The erosion of social network could be the result of social and natural factors like earthquake and flood, war, conflicts, political and economic disturbances, familial feud and factions, parent's drug addiction and involvement in criminal activities etc. Findings of the present study suggest that collapse, loss or diminution of social network (structure) produces an environment where social control, care, moral standards (functions) erode, feeble, and fragile groups in such a situation like women and children get affected the

most. Findings of the present study are in line with Williams & Frederick (2009); Williamson & Cluse-Tolar (2002); Hanna (2002); Layden & Smith (2005); Raphael (2004); and Beauregard et al. (2007).

Similarly, a highly positive ($\gamma=0.632$) and significant ($p<0.05$) relationship is explored between homeless/street children and child trafficking. The findings indicate that homeless children are mostly without caregiver supervision due to which their vulnerability increases. Family is a strong agency for bringing social control and providing protection to its members. From the above results it could be traced that in most of the countries particularly in developing and under developed countries where the social structure is imbalanced and there is lack of harmony in social relationships at family level, this end up in the children vulnerability such as homelessness. Further, in such a situation where children lack the umbrella of caregivers at the family or government shadows of child protection centers they can easily be hunted down for trafficking. The findings of the present study are in line with Clawson (2009); Estes & Weiner (2001); Baron (2003); Cauce et al. (2006); Farrow (2005); and Peled & Cohavi (2009).

However, a non-significant and negative ($\gamma=-0.007$; $\gamma=-0.055$) relationship is detected between "large family size" and "low profile families" with child trafficking. Large family is not a harbinger to the trafficking in the study area as disclosed by the findings. Further, the traditional Pakhtun culture coupled with religious interpretation of values, where large size is considered in terms of manpower. Moreover, unawareness regarding the negative effects of large family could be another attributed factor. Population control through effective measures acceptable to the people of the study area could easily capture the threat of trafficking as reduction in number leads to reduction of frequency of trafficking.

Table 1

Showing relationship between familial determinants and child trafficking

Statements on Familial Determinants	Attitude	Child Trafficking			Total	Chi square and Gamma values
		Agree	Disagree	Not sure		
Family's greed of economic gains provides opportunity of trafficking.	Agree	210(53.6)	31(7.9)	1(0.3)	242(61.7)	$\chi^2 = 3.054 (.549)$ $\gamma = 0.169$
	Disagree	61(15.6)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	75(19.1)	
	Not sure	61(15.6)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	75(19.1)	
Traffickers convince children's parents with false promise of employment.	Agree	231 (58.9)	38(9.7)	1(0.3)	270(68.9)	$\chi^2 = 3.115$ (.539) $\gamma = 0.125$
	Disagree	50(12.8)	7(1.8)	0(0.0)	57(14.5)	
	Not sure	51(13.0)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	65(16.6)	
Family disintegration makes children vulnerable to trafficking.	Agree	260(66.3)	33(8.4)	1(0.3)	294(75.0)	$\chi^2 = 16.01 (.003)$ $\gamma = .448$
	Disagree	51(13.0)	15(3.8)	0(0.0)	66(16.8)	
	Not sure	21(5.4)	11(2.8)	0(0.0)	32(8.2)	
Children physically abused at home are more prone to trafficking.	Agree	206(52.6)	24(6.1)	1(0.3)	231(58.9)	$\chi^2 = 12.388 (.015)$ $\gamma = .362$
	Disagree	66(16.8)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	80(20.4)	
	Not sure	60(15.3)	21(5.4)	0(0.0)	81(20.7)	
Drug addicted parents make the children vulnerable to trafficking.	Agree	261(66.6)	42(10.7)	1(0.3)	304(77.6)	$\chi^2 = 2.143 (.709)$ $\gamma = .178$
	Disagree	42(10.7)	9(2.3)	0(0.0)	51(13.0)	
	Not sure	29(7.4)	8(2.0)	0(0.0)	37(9.4)	
	Agree	267(68.1)	35(8.9)	1(0.3)	303(77.3)	$\chi^2 = 2.143 (.709)$

Erosion of social network turns children an easy prey to trafficking.	Disagree	30(7.7)	12(3.1)	0(0.0)	42(10.7)	$\chi^2 = 32.891 (.000)$ $\gamma = .632$
	Not sure	35(8.9)	12(3.1)	0(0.0)	47(12.0)	
Homeless/street children are vulnerable to child trafficking.	Agree	307(78.3)	43(11.0)	1(0.3)	351(89.5)	$\chi^2 = 2.500 (.645)$ $\gamma = -0.007$
	Disagree	18(4.6)	5(1.3)	0(0.0)	23(5.9)	
	Not sure	7(1.8)	11(2.8)	0(0.0)	18(4.6)	
Victims of trafficking mostly come from large size family.	Agree	90(23.0)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	104(26.5)	$\chi^2 = .396$ (.987) $\gamma = -0.055$
	Disagree	129(32.9)	27(6.9)	1(0.3)	157(40.1)	
	Not sure	113(28.8)	18(4.6)	0(0.0)	131(33.4)	
Victims of trafficking mostly come from low profile families.	Agree	265(67.6)	48(12.2)	1(0.3)	314(80.1)	
	Disagree	57 (14.5)	9 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	66(16.8)	
	Not sure	10(2.6)	2 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	12(3.1)	

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Note* Values presented in the above table indicate frequency while values in the parenthesis represent percentage

sensitizing parents regarding their intentional and unintentional bad attitude and behavior at home with their children.

Conclusions

The present study aims to investigate and determine association between familial environment and child trafficking. Family, otherwise the basic protective and caring unit, is found to be mainly responsible for and associated with the increasing vulnerability of child to trafficking. Parents' ignorance, greed of economic gain, abusive behavior with children, family disintegration and drug abuse are the familial determinants of and associated with child trafficking. Moreover, respondents also rate the homeless children more vulnerable section of society to trafficking. Contrary to the common understanding, the idea that trafficked children are mostly those who come from large-sized family is rejected. However, erosion of social network contributes in child vulnerability to trafficking due to which fabric of social relations weakens and controlling mechanism of society becomes fragile. It could be summed-up that family greed and demand of economic gain provide chances for traffickers to easily convince parents with false promise of employment for children and thus they put their children at the sole discretion of traffickers without realizing and knowing the potential threatening milieu. Alongside, parents in such an un-easy and comfortless environment at home may frequently fight with one another which could result into disintegration, drug addiction, and adoption of the social evils even by their issues.

One of the limitations of the present study is that we could not get access to the victims and to their parents due to legal, cultural and ethical raison d'être. It is hoped that these constraints will be dealt with in future and an in-depth analysis of the issue could be possible, which is left for future research.

Recommendations

Following recommendations are made in light of the findings of this study:

- 1 Government through the support of national and international NGOs needs to launch effective awareness raising campaign through-out the country and particularly in most vulnerable areas through involving media, cultural, religious and educational institutions for

- 2 The government in collaboration with NGOs needs to plan and telecast/broadcast educational programs for shaping parents' attitude and use of language at home that can improve and make the home environment conducive and protective for children to have better socialization.
- 3 Local level watch-dog needs to be instituted to keep check on socially demoralized families with the objective to protect their children from parents' ill treatment.
- 4 Poverty is perceived to be the cause of child trafficking. A comprehensive poverty alleviation program is required to be initiated especially in the poverty stricken and militancy affected regions. This would improve the economic position of the families and would turn the family environment conducive for children.
- 5 Government and other agencies should encourage and support academicians to conduct research and to highlight the issue from all perspectives as the issue has roots in family, economic, legal, political, cultural, and educational aspects.

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