**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Human trafficking is the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation. The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Its indeed alarming that along with illegal arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking is one of the largest international crime industries in the world. A report from the International Labor Organization (ILO) says forced labor generates $150 billion in illegal profits per year. Two-thirds of that money came from commercial sexual exploitation, while the rest is from forced economic exploitation.

Every continent in the world has been involved in human trafficking. In the United States, it is more prevalent in Texas, Florida, New York and California. Victims of trafficking can be of any age and any gender. Women and children are often used for sexual exploitation, while men are more likely to be used for forced labor. International trafficking is not limited to poor and undeveloped areas of the world. It is a problem in virtually every region of the globe.

There are various shocking recruitment tactics of which the female gender is more vulnerable. The four key tactics of trafficking identified include: employment-induced migration via a broker; deception, false marriage; visits offer; and force, through abduction. The majority of respondents (55%) were trafficked through false job promises ( Simkhada, 2008)

The causes of human trafficking are complex and interlinked and include economic, social and political factors. Some of those other factors include: corruption, civil unrest, a weak government, lack of access to education or jobs, family disruption or dysfunction, lack of human rights, or economic disruptions. Political instability, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict and natural disasters may result in an increase in trafficking. The destabilization and displacement of populations increase their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse through trafficking and forced labor. War may lead to massive displacements of populations, leaving orphans and street children extremely vulnerable to trafficking. These factors tend to exert pressures on victims that “push” them into migration and hence into the control of traffickers, but other factors that tend to “pull” potential victims can also be significant. The practice of entrusting poor children to more affluent friends or relatives may create vulnerability. Some parents sell their children, not just for the money, but also in the hope that their children will escape a situation of chronic poverty and move to a place where they will have better life and more opportunities.

Human trafficking can have physical, emotional, and psychological effects on anyone involved. It has the power to impact someone’s life forever. The effects include:

**MENTAL TRAUMA**

The U.S. Department of state explains, “Because traffickers dehumanize and objectify their victims, victims’ innate sense of power, visibility, and dignity often become obscured.”

Victims of human trafficking can experience devastating psychological effects during and after their trafficking experience. Many survivors may end up experiencing post-traumatic stress, difficulty in relationships, depression, memory loss, anxiety, fear, guilt, shame, and other severe forms of mental trauma.

**OSTRACISM**

Individuals who are being trafficked can quickly become isolated from friends, family, and other social circles. This may be due to their personal feelings of guilt and shame or because they have relocated and now live far away from their community. Either way, victims can become isolated, withdrawn, and lose contact with most people.

Some individuals who return home or escape a trafficking situation may even be excluded from social groups due to a stigma they now face; they may be shunned by their family and friends and feel unloved and unwanted. Unfortunately, this isolation can make them vulnerable to being trafficked again or lead them to being trafficked again or lead them to return to an abusive lifestyle.

**SOLUTIONS TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Some of the causes of human trafficking are structural in character and require long-term solutions. At the same time, the seriousness of the problem and its changing nature require immediate and rapid response, timely measures, and the flexibility to rethink and change direction where necessary. Combating human trafficking involves addressing the causes of poverty, lack of inadequate economic growth, inequitable allocation of resources, lack of social security and the absence of gender equality, democracy and respect for human rights. Therefore, Micro-credits used to help women start up and run their own enterprise are a well-tried solution.

There should be job skills training for sheltered victims. Thus, the integration program must provide victims with the ability to deal with stigmatization, acquire job skills and employment, health care educational support, food and accommodation. Increasing public awareness about the issue and supporting victims with necessary services are very crucial to successfully combating trafficking in persons.

In order to more effectively combat the practice of human trafficking, it is important to understand the characteristics of trafficked people. Thus, it is important to gain a better understanding of the economic and political conditions that make trafficking more prominent in some nations rather than others.

In conclusion, community management should be created to deal with human trafficking problems at the grassroots level. In this regard, local communities and local governments have to work together to address these issues since the local communities are the ones that can deal with them at the grassroots level. In line with this, women must also be encouraged to participate actively at all levels of social and political life. It is important to support efforts to establish comprehensive gender equality policies for the home, the workplace and in the political arena.