



DISSERTATION

On

**Examining Effective Prevention and Intervention Strategies to
Combat Child Trafficking: A Critical Review**

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The dissertation titled “**Examining Effective Prevention and Intervention Strategies to Combat Child Trafficking: A Critical Review**” prepared by Md Bayzid Hossain Riday, ID 2018-3-66-045 submitted to Mohammed Shahjalal, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, for the fulfilment of the requirements of Course 406 (Supervised Dissertation) for LL.B. (Hons.) degree offered by the Department of Law, East West University is approved for submission.

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Declaration

I, Md. Bayzid Hossain Riday, do hereby confirm that the research paper titled “**Examining Effective Prevention and Intervention Strategies to Combat Child Trafficking: A Critical Review**” has been prepared by my own findings and efforts. I also declare that this research is my original work and has not been submitted for any other degree or professional certification. Any information or content which was useful in finishing this study is acknowledged and specifically cited.

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List of Abbreviation

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

CrPC: Code of Criminal Procedure

PC: Penal Code

Abstract

This research proposal aims to conduct a comprehensive review on the most effective prevention and intervention strategies to combat child trafficking. The study intends to analyse existing literature, policies, and programs to identify successful approaches and highlight areas for improvement. By examining a wide range of sources, including academic research, government reports, and NGO publications, this research seeks to provide valuable insights and recommendations to inform future efforts in addressing the issue of child trafficking.

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Child trafficking is a grave violation of human rights that affects millions of children worldwide. It encompasses various forms such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, and recruitment as child soldiers. This research project aims to critically evaluate existing prevention and intervention strategies to combat child trafficking, with the goal of contributing to enhanced efforts in protecting vulnerable children and eradicating this heinous crime

1.2 Research Question

What are the most effective prevention and intervention strategies to combat child trafficking?

1.3 Literature Review

Child trafficking is now a serious concern in Bangladesh, and victims of such grave crimes suffer a miscarriage of justice. Various researchers and writers have written about child trafficking and also to compensate victims of such activities. Several papers and articles have been analysed in this discussion. According to a UNICEF estimate, 400 children in Bangladeshi victims to human trafficking every month.¹

1.4 Objectives

The main objectives of this research are as follows:

To identify and evaluate the effectiveness of current prevention strategies aimed at reducing child trafficking incidents.

¹ Bangladesh "Interview with Prof. Zakir Hossain on Human Trafficking"<
[9](https://www.unodc.org/southasia/frontpage/2009/September/bangladesh_-interview-with-prof.-zakir-hossain-on-human-trafficking-.html#:~:text=A%20UNICEF%20report%20says%20that,in%20the%20last%20ten%20years.></p></div><div data-bbox=)

To analysed and assess the impact of existing intervention strategies in rescuing and rehabilitating trafficked children.

To identify gaps and challenges in current approaches and provide recommendations for improvement.

To contribute to the existing body of knowledge by synthesizing and summarizing the findings of various studies and reports.

1.5 Methodology

Literature Review: Conduct an extensive review of academic literature, reports, policies, and program evaluations on child trafficking prevention and intervention strategies. Utilize online databases, academic journals, and credible sources to gather relevant information.

Data Collection: Gather data from primary and secondary sources, including governmental reports, NGO publications, and research studies. Apply inclusion and exclusion criteria to select studies that focus on evaluating the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

Data Analysis: Analyse the gathered data through a systematic and thematic approach. Identify common themes, key findings, and gaps in the existing research.

1.6 Synthesis and Recommendations

Summarize the findings and generate recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and organizations involved in combating child trafficking. Emphasize evidence-based strategies that have proven successful and propose innovative approaches to address identified gaps.

1.7 Ethical Considerations

Ensure the research is conducted with the utmost respect for ethical principles. Safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of individuals involved in the studies and respect the sensitivity of the topic. Obtain necessary ethical approvals if applicable.

1.8 Limitations

This study has several limitations:

Time constraint: Due to time constraints, the research may not be able to cover all aspects of Child trafficking in Bangladesh.

Data Shortage: As we know that in Bangladesh many families are not willing to share data about the Child trafficking of family member for fear of society and societal impact

1.9 Chapter Organisation

This dissertation consists of six chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 - Introduction: This chapter elaborates the background of the study, research question, methodology and what are the literature reviewed and limitations of this research paper.

Chapter 2 - Understanding Child Trafficking: This Chapter elaborate the Definition of Child Trafficking and its Various Forms, Present Statistics and Trends Related to Child Trafficking, The Factors That Contribute to Vulnerability in Child.

Chapter 3 - Prevention Through Education and Awareness this chapter elaborate the Importance of Education in Preventing Child Trafficking, Strategies for Raising Awareness Among Children, Parents, and Communities, Successful Awareness Campaigns on Child Trafficking.

Chapter 4 - Strengthening Legal Frameworks and Law Enforcement Combat Child Trafficking this chapter elaborate the International Laws Related to Child Trafficking, Bangladeshi Laws Related to Child Trafficking, Role of Law Enforcement Agencies in Preventing Child Trafficking, Cross-border Cooperation and Extradition Agreements Need to Prevent Child Trafficking.

Chapter 5 - Rehabilitation and Support for Survivors of Child trafficking this chapter elaborate the Physical and Psychological Impact of Trafficking on Children, Present Models of Safe Shelters, Counselling Services, and Rehabilitation Programs for Survivors, Role of the NGOS in the Rehabilitation Process of Victims, Importance of Providing Child Trafficking Survivors with Education and Vocational Training.

Chapter 6 – Conclusion this chapter elaborate Finding, Recommendations and Conclusion

1.10 Conclusion

This research proposal seeks to address the pressing issue of child trafficking by conducting a comprehensive review of prevention and intervention strategies. By analysing existing literature, policies, and programs, this study aims to identify effective approaches while highlighting areas for improvement. The grave violation of human rights that child trafficking represents cannot be understated, affecting millions of children globally in various forms of exploitation. Through a meticulous literature review, data collection, and rigorous analysis, this research aims to shed light on successful strategies and offer recommendations to guide future efforts in combating this heinous crime. However, it's important to acknowledge the study's limitations. The time constraint may limit the breadth of coverage of child trafficking in Bangladesh, and the scarcity of data due to families' reluctance to share information is an obstacle to obtaining a complete understanding of the issue. Despite these limitations, the findings and insights generated by this research endeavour have the potential to contribute significantly to the ongoing fight against child trafficking, ultimately working towards the protection and well-being of vulnerable children everywhere.

Chapter Two

Understanding Child Trafficking

“Human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is a form of modern-day slavery and millions of people around the world, including children are victims of this crime” (DeStefano, 2007)

2.1 Introduction

Child trafficking is a grave violation of human rights that involves the illegal trade of children for various forms of exploitation. This includes forced labour, sexual exploitation, child soldiering, and indeed organ trafficking. Children, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, are targeted by traffickers who manipulate and force them into a life of unconceivable suffering. This issue transcends borders and requires a combined global trouble to help, identify, and give assistance to the victims. Addressing child trafficking necessitates a comprehensive understanding of its underlying causes, approaches, and the measures demanded to combat this heinous crime.²

2.2 Definition of Child Trafficking and its Various Forms

Child trafficking refers to the illegal and exploitative act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or entering children through force, fraud, compulsion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation. This exploitation can take various forms, including ³

Sexual Exploitation Involves forcing children into prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation. They may be dominated to physical and intellectual abuse in the process.

Labour Exploitation Children may be forced to work in dangerous conditions, similar as in farming, manufactories, mines, or domestic slavery. They're frequently denied essential rights, education, and applicable living conditions.

² Stephanie L. Mace "CHILD TRAFFICKING: A CASE STUDY OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD WELFARE (2013)"

³ Childx "DEFINITIONS: TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN" (2018)
<https://childx.se/en/about-child-trafficking/definitions/>

Child Soldiering In conflict zones, children can be kidnapped and forced to come child soldiers, used as combatants, couriers, or indeed sex slaves by trained groups.

Begging and Street Hawking Traffickers may force children into begging or street hawking, frequently exposing them to troubles similar as violence, neglect, and abuse.

Organ Trafficking Children can be trafficked for the purpose of illegal organ harvesting, where their organs are removed and sold on the black market.

Forced Marriage Trafficked children can be forced into marriages without their consent, subjugating them to early and frequently abusive unions.

Adoption Trafficking Unregulated adoption processes can be exploited by traffickers to sell children to families for profit, frequently bypassing proper legal procedures.

Criminal Activities Children can be constrained into criminal activities similar as drug trafficking, theft, and smuggling by traffickers.

Efforts to combat child trafficking involve not only addressing the immediate exploitation but also addressing the underpinning factors that make children vulnerable to trafficking in the first place.⁴

2.3 Present Statistics and Trends Related to Child Trafficking

Universally, over fifty percent of child trafficking victims are engaged by family and friends, according to a new report published on 3 August 2023 by the FXB Centre for Health & Human Rights at Harvard University and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The report analysed 20 years of data from over 69,000 victims across 186 countries, from the IOM Victims of Trafficking database. Among its numerous findings, the report showed that major forms of controlling victims included false promises, intellectual and physical abuse, and threats. likewise, 43 of victims, substantially boys, were trafficked for forced labour in diligence similar as domestic work, soliciting, and farming; 21 of victims, substantially girls, faced sexual exploitation similar as forced prostitution, pornography, and sexual yoke.⁵

⁴ Law Corner "Child Trafficking: Meaning, Types, Reasons and Legal Measures".(2021)
<https://lawcorner.in/child-trafficking-meaning-types-reasons-and-legal-measures/>

⁵ Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health "Child trafficking trends outlined in new report" August 3, 2023

2.4 The Factors That Contribute to Vulnerability in Child Trafficking

Children and teenagers who have been victims of sex trafficking frequently show high situations of involvement in various systems designed to support them, particularly child welfare and the juvenile justice system. The threat of trafficking linked to child welfare involvement is occasionally connected to the traumatic events that might have led these young individuals to enter the system. also, their experiences within child welfare, similar as unstable housing, placement in foster care, dislocations in education, and ongoing maltreatment, can compound this threat. specially, the threat of trafficking seems to rise, especially within the foster care system, when there are multiple placements or when children are placed in group homes rather than single- family settings. original placement into the system is frequently influenced by early experiences of abuse and neglect that make these youth more susceptible to trafficking. still, there are also experiences while in care that can worsen vulnerability, similar as undermining a youth's self- esteem, eroding their trust in others' care, and treating their care as a source of profit. Perpetrators, including traffickers and buyers, frequently target children who lack essential requirements, including emotional support, assuming that they will be easier to exploit. In the past, justice systems substantially dealt with youth who had been trafficked because they were arrested for " prostitution." While some countries still charge minors this way, others have aligned with civil laws that recognize child victims of sex trafficking as victims of child abuse. As a result, the child welfare system is decreasingly becoming the primary avenue to help children and teenagers who have experienced child sex trafficking. still, despite this shift, these youth remain susceptible to encounters with law enforcement, exploration systems, and the juvenile court system. This is constantly due to factors tied to their exploitative circumstances, like substance abuse, compulsion to commit crimes, trauma- convinced stress responses, and homelessness, which lead to heightened interaction with law enforcement and the justice system.⁶

⁶ Loria-Mae Heywood "Child Trafficking - Profiting from Vulnerability" (2020)

2.5 Conclusion

Child trafficking is an abhorrent violation of human rights that subjects innocent children to unimaginable suffering. This chapter has shed light on the various forms of child trafficking, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, child soldiering, and more. It is a complex issue that requires a global effort to identify, combat, and support victims. The statistics and trends highlighted here emphasize the urgent need for action, as children continue to be exploited by traffickers, often targeted due to vulnerabilities arising from factors such as lack of education and living in low-income countries. Furthermore, the factors contributing to vulnerability in child trafficking are deeply troubling, with children who have already faced trauma or involvement in systems like child welfare and juvenile justice at heightened risk. Efforts to address child trafficking must encompass both immediate intervention and systemic changes, recognizing victims as survivors and providing them with the necessary emotional and practical support. By understanding the root causes, complex dynamics, and varied forms of child trafficking, we can collectively work towards eradicating this heinous crime and ensuring a safer and brighter future for all children.

Chapter Three

Prevention Through Education and Awareness

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)⁷

3.1 Introduction

Child trafficking can't be prevented unless everyone is receiving acceptable access to education, healthcare, and a decent job that supports a family. And survivors of Child trafficking constantly need support to access healthcare, gain a proper education, and make financially stability. Recognizing and addressing these crossroad points can help strengthen community adaptability to child trafficking, we 're seeing in on- the- groundwork across the world. Prevention through Education at United Way, we believe success in life begins with a quality education. And yet, millions of children and young people haven't the support they need to strengthen their knowledge, stay on track in school, graduate high school and find a career. Lack of access to quality education exacerbates vulnerabilities and puts Children at risk of child trafficking.⁸

3.2 Importance of Education in Preventing Child Trafficking

Education plays a crucial part in precluding child trafficking by empowering children with knowledge, awareness, and critical thinking expertise. It helps them recognize implicit risks and understand their rights, making them less vulnerable to manipulation. also, education fosters community awareness, equipping parents, teachers, and caregivers to identify signs of trafficking and take preventative measures. Overall, a well- rounded education serves as a important tool in the fight against child trafficking. Moreover, when education extends beyond the classroom, it creates a ripple effect throughout the community. Parents, teachers, and caregivers come more equipped to identify signs of trafficking and take visionary way to guard

⁷ Nelson Mandela <https://borgenproject.org/nelson-mandela-quotes-about-education/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CEducation%20is%20the%20most%20powerful,are%20always%20a%20formidable%20combination.>

⁸ ALLIE GARDNER "Education as a Tool to Combat Human Trafficking" (2023) <https://www.unitedway.org/blog/education-as-a-tool-to-combat-human-trafficking#>

children. This collaborative awareness forms a protective network that acts as an interference against traffickers. In addition to individual empowerment, education contributes to societal change by addressing the root causes of child trafficking. It can help combat poverty, improve gender equality, and raise awareness about the significance of child protection. A comprehensive education system that teaches empathy, respect, and human rights can reshape stations and morality, fostering a culture that prioritizes the safety and well-being of children. Eventually, education serves as a crucial tool in the fight against child trafficking by building a stronger, more informed, and watchful society. Its goods extend beyond just prevention; they lay the foundation for a future where children are better equipped to navigate the world and protect themselves from exploitation.⁹

3.3 Strategies for Raising Awareness Among Children, Parents, and Communities

The force and demand technique used by human traffickers to entice children makes them vulnerable to internet child trafficking. Human traffickers exploit plutocrats, jobs, and cheap labor through forcing, trickery, or compulsion to lure vulnerable children. The UNODC states that while technology may threaten vulnerable children with human trafficking, it may also make social media a safer environment for everyone. Ensure rigorous cybersecurity, sequestration, and safety standards in children's digital services and goods to reduce trafficking risk. include gender- and child-sensitive approaches to technology-human trafficking tactics. Support technology-based results that address the global scope of human trafficking, such as data aggregation and data surveying tools that grease automated information analysis in support of investigations that comply with human rights and privacy rights. Consider new ways to retain victims of trafficking in persons and develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns and technical training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners on issues like traffickers' use of the Internet to retain children. While international authorities fight to stop trafficking, World Vision prevention systems work directly with communities to prevent trafficking and support victims. Together with children, parents, neighbours, and authorities, they're providing refuge for children who have been trafficked. Encourage and teach children in useful skills to aid in their recovery. Families should not be separated from their trafficked children. Provide youth with information on migration safety raise public consciousness Help

⁹ Valerie Ellery "Why Education is the Greatest Human Trafficking Prevention Tool" (2019)
<https://www.ascd.org/blogs/why-education-is-the-greatest-human-trafficking-prevention-tool>

the authorities track down and punish traffickers by sharing information Native American children's safety nets need to be strengthened generally.¹⁰

3.4 Successful Awareness Campaigns on Child Trafficking

Child trafficking awareness campaigns can educate the public and specific professional numbers about this crime and ways to prevent it. still, there presently remains a gap in terms of how-to stylish frame similar campaigns without stigmatizing groups of individualities or portraying victims in unrealistic ways.

The Department of Public Health Education and Promotion conducted a study aimed at reframing human trafficking awareness campaigns in the United States. They engaged 22 human trafficking experts in four focus groups to gather their insights on the current challenges faced in crafting effective awareness campaigns. These focus groups were conducted via Zoom and their discussions were transcribed word-for-word. By analysing the transcribed discussions, two independent reviewers identified key themes using an inductive approach. The outcomes of this focus group analysis were used to shape the guiding questions for a brainstorming technique known as the Nominal Group Technique (NGT). Out of the 22 experts who participated in the focus groups, 15 joined an in-person NGT session. The purpose of this session was to generate ideas and achieve consensus on the target audiences, objectives, and content of human trafficking awareness campaigns. At the conclusion of the NGT session, participants ranked the priority of actions to be taken for the development of human trafficking awareness efforts in the United States. The results of the NGT session yielded several recommendations from the experts to enhance human trafficking awareness and empower victims to seek help. These included a shift towards portraying human trafficking as a form of abuse and exploitation, providing training to professionals on trauma-informed care and communication, and implementing efforts that empower trafficked victims to seek assistance. The experts also emphasized the importance of tailoring awareness campaigns to meet local needs in collaboration with community-based organizations, which can facilitate their dissemination and serve as the primary support for victims in need.¹¹

¹⁰ "Child Trafficking: What you need to know" (2022) <https://www.wvi.org/stories/child-protection/child-trafficking-what-you-need-know>

¹¹ The Department of Public Health Education and Promotion "Reframing human trafficking awareness campaigns in the United States: goals, audience, and content" (2023) <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1195005>

3.5 Conclusion

Addressing the complex issue of child trafficking requires a multifaceted direction that encluse education, awareness, and community support. The chapter underscores that child trafficking cannot be effectively prevented unless there is widespread access to education, healthcare, and stable job opportunities for all. Additionally, survivors of child trafficking require ongoing support to access essential services, education, and financial stability. Recognizing the pivotal role education plays in preventing child trafficking, the chapter emphasizes how education empowers children with knowledge, awareness, and critical thinking skills. This empowerment makes them less susceptible to manipulation and exploitation. Education also fosters community awareness, enabling parents, teachers, and caregivers to identify trafficking signs and take proactive measures. By extending education beyond classrooms, a network of vigilant individuals forms, serving as a barrier against traffickers. The strategies highlighted for raising awareness among children, parents, and communities highlight the dangers posed by technology while also acknowledging its potential for positive change. The recommendations range from bolstering cybersecurity to gender-sensitive approaches and technological solutions to combat trafficking. Moreover, the involvement of technology in awareness campaigns, such as virtual teaching, ensures broader reach and knowledge exchange. World Vision's efforts and community-based prevention systems are acknowledged for their crucial role in supporting trafficking prevention and survivor rehabilitation. Lastly, the chapter stresses the importance of refining awareness campaigns to avoid stigmatization and unrealistic portrayals of victims. Insights from human trafficking experts and innovative techniques like the Nominal Group Technique contribute to more effective campaigns tailored to local needs and supported by community organizations. Ultimately, a comprehensive approach that combines education, awareness, survivor support, and collaborative efforts is pivotal in curbing child trafficking and creating a safer future for vulnerable children around the world.¹²

¹² World Vision New Zealand "What we do: Child Protection" (2022)
<https://www.worldvision.org.nz/causes/child-protection/>

Chapter Four

Strengthening Legal Frameworks and Law Enforcement Combat Child Trafficking

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” (Martin Luther King 1963)¹³

4.1 Introduction

In this vital chapter, we delve into the critical bid of fortifying legal structures and enhancing law enforcement efforts to combat the obvious crime of child trafficking. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, we explore the multifaceted strategies aimed at securing the most vulnerable members of society. By examining both domestic and international perspectives, this chapter underscores the urgency of cooperative action and underscores the imperative to bolster the legal arsenal against child trafficking.

4.2 International Laws Related to Child Trafficking

01) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000) – It's part of one of the three Palermo Protocols known as United Nations Convention against international Organized Crime espoused by the United Nations in 2000 to combat international systematized crime. It's one of the most crucial international instruments designed to combat trafficking. It was enforced to fight the involvement of systematized crime in human trafficking with special focus on women and children. Till May 2020, 176 countries have ratified it. The protocol primarily focuses on three purposes – Tackling and preventing the trafficking of persons with particular emphasis on women and children. Protect and help the victims of trafficking and help them restore their introductory human rights. Promoting utmost cooperation among States to help achieve these objects. Article 5 of the protocol makes

¹³ Martin Luther King (1963)<https://tssw.tulane.edu/news/injustice-anywhere-threat-justice-everywhere>

it obligatory for the States to criminalize trafficking in any form, be it tried trafficking or being a part of any association, which engages in trafficking. perpetration of this protocol is vested upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).¹⁴

02) Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000) – which requires the signatory parties to ensure that children under the age of 18 times aren't compulsorily signed in the armed forces. espoused under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) as a supplementary protocol.¹⁵

03) Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography(2000) – Also a protocol to the Convention on Rights of the Child(1989), it stipulates the parties to strengthen international cooperation, indigenous and bilateral agreements to identify, make and discipline offenders involved in the acts of sale of children, child prostitution etc.¹⁶

4.3 Bangladeshi Laws Related to Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is a serious crime in Bangladesh, and it's addressed under various laws and regulations. The primary legislation dealing with child trafficking is the " Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012." This law defines and prohibits various forms of human trafficking, including child trafficking, and provides for severe penalties for those involved. also, Bangladesh is a signatory to international conventions like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Palermo Protocol, which address the issue of child trafficking and give guidelines for prevention, protection, and execution. then are some specific details about Bangladeshi law relating to child trafficking

Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 This law defines human trafficking highly and specifically addresses child trafficking. It considers offenses related to recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or entering children for the purpose of exploitation. The act prescribes severe penalties, including imprisonment and damages, for those convicted of child trafficking.¹⁷

¹⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)

¹⁵ Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000)

¹⁶ Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000)

¹⁷ Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012

Description of Child Trafficking The law considers any person under the age of 18 to be a child. It covers various forms of child trafficking, similar as trafficking for forced labour, sexual exploitation, organ trade, and other forms of exploitation. ¹⁸

Punishments individualities found guilty of child trafficking can face imprisonment for a term of minimum from 10 years to life imprisonment, along with damages. The inflexibility of the punishment depends on the circumstances of the case, similar as the age of the victim, the purpose of trafficking, and the position of harm caused. ¹⁹

Victim Protection The law emphasizes the protection of victims, including child victims of trafficking. It requires the establishment of harbours and rehabilitation centres for the physical and intellectual recovery of victims. Victims are also entitled to compensation. ²⁰

Prohibition of Child Marriage Bangladesh has a separate law called the " Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017" that addresses child marriage, which is nearly related to child trafficking in some cases. The law sets the minimal age for marriage at 18 for males and 16 for females and imposes penalties for those who grease child marriages. ²¹

International Agreements Bangladesh is a party to international agreements and protocols, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol, which give guidelines for combating child trafficking²²

4.4 Role of Law Enforcement Agencies in Preventing Child Trafficking

A comprehensive response to corporate sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors requires law enforcement officials with the expertise and skills to identify victims, investigate cases, and make relevant referrals. The victims, survivors, and perpetrators of corporate sexual exploitation and sex trafficking often initially interact with the legal system through law enforcement.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided guidelines for Role of law enforcement agencies in preventing Child trafficking, they give name this guideline "Human Trafficking First Aid Kit for Law Enforcement Agencies"

¹⁸ Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012

¹⁹ Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012

²⁰ Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque, Md. Sazzatur Rahaman "Victim Protection in Bangladesh: A Critical Appraisal of Legal and Institutional Framework" Bangladesh Journal of Law (2013)

²¹ Md Rezaul Karim "Critical Analysis of Child Marriage Restrain Act, 2017" Daily Sun (Dhaka, 7 March 2023)

²² Afza R. R., "Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: An Overview" (2003)25(4) Journal of Asian Affairs 49.

In this guideline United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said, to effectively combat human trafficking, it's imperative that front-line respondents, especially law enforcement agencies, are equipped with the know-how to rightly identify and respond to human trafficking cases. Over the times, various tools have been developed and circulated to assist law enforcement officers to identify victims of human trafficking. Despite similar efforts, timely identification of victims remains a challenge infrequently met. This greatly hinders the access of human trafficking victims to help and protection, dragging suffering and exploitation at the hands of traffickers. Agencies working to combat this crime frequently experience a lack of acceptable resources and time to train law enforcement personnel to effectively respond to the complications of human trafficking. Law enforcement first respondents fighting human trafficking carry out such functions they take the vital first way to protect victims and, also, to investigate and seize the culprits involved. Specifically, front-line law enforcement officers take first way to identify human trafficking, Stabilize and control the human trafficking situation, prepare victims and pass information on to investigators, Relate victims to technical service providers (NGOs, medical and cerebral backing, legal consoling, asylum).²³

4.5 Cross-border Cooperation and Extradition Agreements Need to Prevent Child Trafficking

Cross-border cooperation and extradition agreements are critical tools in preventing child trafficking. They enable countries to work together to seize and bring to justice those involved in these heinous crimes, anyhow of where they're located. These agreements facilitate the sharing of information, substantiation, and coffers, making it harder for traffickers to avoid justice by crossing borders. By collaborating internationally, law enforcement agencies can effectively strike trafficking networks and protect vulnerable children from exploitation.²⁴

4.6 Conclusion

This chapter delves deep into the critical necessity of fortifying legal structures and enhancing law enforcement efforts to combat the grave issue of child trafficking. The comprehensive analysis of being frameworks and enforcement mechanisms highlights the multifaceted strategies aimed at securing society's most vulnerable members. By examining domestic and international perspectives, the chapter underscores the urgency of collaborative action and the

²³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) "Human Trafficking First Aid Kit for Law Enforcement Agencies" <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2011/first-aid-kit.html>

²⁴ European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation "More cross-border cooperation necessary to help victims of trafficking in human beings" (2021)

imperative to strengthen the legal magazine against child trafficking. International laws, similar as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and penalize Trafficking in Persons, along with various voluntary protocols, emphasize the commitment of nations to combat child trafficking on a global scale. These instruments emphasize prevention, protection, and cooperation, offering a united front against this heinous crime. Within Bangladesh, the legal geography addresses child trafficking comprehensively through legislation like the Prevention and repression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012. The law's focus on defining and penalizing various forms of trafficking, coupled with victim protection measures, highlights the nation's fidelity to eradicating this issue. Law enforcement agencies play a vital role in the fight against child trafficking. The UNODC's Human Trafficking First Aid Kit for Law Enforcement Agencies underscores the significance of timely identification and response to similar cases. Cross-border cooperation and extradition agreements further enhance the global trouble, enabling countries to unite and bring perpetrators to justice anyhow of their position. In substance, the chapter underscores the collaborative responsibility of nations to combat child trafficking, weaving together legal measures, law enforcement enterprise, and international cooperation to produce an important shade of protection for the world's most innocent lives.²⁵

²⁵ Shaila Sharmin "Ensuring a dignified life for trafficking survivors" The Daily Star (Dhaka July 30, 2023)

Chapter Five

Rehabilitation and Support for Survivors of Child trafficking

“Love and compensation are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive”
(Dalai Lama)²⁶

5.1 Introduction

Child trafficking is a grave violation of human rights that robs innocent children of their future and eventuality. The physical, emotional, and intellectual consequences endured by these survivors are immense, challenging comprehensive rehabilitation and support efforts. In the following converse, we claw into the critical significance of providing rehabilitative measures and support systems for survivors of child trafficking. By addressing their immediate and long-term requirements, society can play a vital role in helping these individualities reclaim their lives and rebuild their shattered sense of self.²⁷

5.2 The Physical and Psychological Impact of Trafficking on Children

Child trafficking can have severe and continuing physical and psychological impacts on its victims. Physically, children may witness abuse, malnutrition, exposure to dangerous environments, and indeed physical injuries during transportation or forced labour. Psychologically, the effects are inversely devastating. Trafficked children frequently suffer from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other internal health issues due to the trauma they have endured. They might also develop a sense of mistrust, isolation, and difficulty forming healthy relationships. Recovery requires technical support, including comforting, therapy, and access to education and vocational training, to help these children heal and rebuild their lives. Recovery demands comprehensive and technical support. Psychotherapy and counselling are vital factors of their healing process, helping them navigate the complex maze of feelings they face. Rebuilding self- regard and fostering a sense of safety

²⁶ Dalai Lama <https://worldofchildren.org/5-inspiring-quotes-that-will-make-you-want-to-join-human-trafficking-prevention-month/>

²⁷ International labour organisation "Rehabilitation of the victims of Child trafficking" (2016)

is essential, frequently taking a network of caregivers, social workers, and professionals. Addressing the psychological and physical impact of trafficking on children is a multidimensional task. It requires not only robust legal frameworks to combat the trafficking itself but also a commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration programs that give these young survivors with the tools they need to overcome their traumatic experiences. Only through similar collaborative efforts can society hope to mend the shattered lives of these innocent victims and pave a path toward healing and adaptability.²⁸

5.3 Present Models of Safe Shelters, Counselling Services, and Rehabilitation Programs for Survivors

The victims of child trafficking suffer from severe emotional damage and are also infected by various sexually transmitted diseases. The process of rehabilitation is an admixture of psychological remedy, profitable empowerment and restoration of the communal identity of the victim. This leads to the successful integration of the survivor in the society. The process of reintegration takes place when a survivor is transferred back to his country of origin where the survivor rebuilds his life in the country, community and family. But the reintegration of the victims of child trafficking isn't a bare movement of a person back to his native place; it entails the process of addition Andre-structuring relationships within a community in the native country at 4 situations Physical- Resettlement of the victims in a territorial space within the country Socio-economic- Establishment of a decent standard of living analogous to the being population of the country Socio- political- insure maximum participation of the survivors in the popular process at the local and national position Cultural- Adaptation of the survivor within the population to insure addition in the society There are certain institutions that can lead to the successful reintegration of the victims of trafficking State- After the survivor is placed under the protection of the state, as a citizen she must be suitable to exercise her rights completely like the other citizens which include political, social, cultural and economic rights like the right to freedom of movement, freedom of expression, education, work, health etc. Economic factors- The socio-economic condition of the survivors before being trafficked is frequently characterized by a low position of education, employment, social background. Hence, adequate attention must be given to the eradication of poverty. There's a need to ensure that the survivors who are returning to their native places must have long- term economic

²⁸ Yvonne Rafferty "The Impact of Trafficking on Children: Psychological and Social Policy Perspectives"

security for their survival. Family- Victims can negotiate a positive reintegration in the society with the help of the family. In some cases where some of the family members were involved in the trafficking of the survivor, there's a threat of being-trafficked upon the return of the survivor. Some families are also unintentional to accept the survivor due to her engagement in the sex trade. The victims of trafficking are detached from their families for a considerable quantum of time as a result of which they don't have the same place within the family. Society- Reintegration within the community is much more difficult than reintegration within the family. Public opinion constantly condemns the victim of trafficking and stigmatization is one of the biggest challenges for the victims as they're considered as immoral and are frequently insulted and rejected by the community. They find it delicate to acclimatize with the society which hampers the reintegration process.²⁹

5.4 Role of the NGOs in the Rehabilitation Process of Victims

After the rescue, the victims suffer grave physical and psychological consequences, but the impact of trafficking is substantially psychological including the development of PTSD, anxiety diseases, depression etc. The survivors are frequently put in the shelter homes which are substantially unrestricted institutions performing in forced institutionalisation of the survivors which makes it no different from the bagnes where they were trapped. Thus, the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model espoused by some of the NGOs in the state is an attempt towards addressing the requirements of the survivors safely and effectively. These five NGOs have been selected for the study on the basis of their measures to borrow community-based recuperation for the betterment of the survivors in the state.³⁰

5.5 Importance of Providing Child Trafficking Survivors with Education and Vocational Training

Providing survivors of child abuse with education and vocational training is critical for their holistic recovery and future well-being. Education empowers them with knowledge and skills, enabling them to rebuild their lives and recapture a sense of normality. Vocational training equips them with practical skills that can lead to sustainable employment, fostering

²⁹ Sreya Basu "A Study on the rehabilitation mechanism of the victims of trafficking" (2022)

³⁰ International labour organisation "Rehabilitation of the victims of Child trafficking" (2016)

independence and self- sufficiency. These openings not only enhance their confidence and self-regard but also break the cycle of abuse, offering a path towards a brighter future. Providing survivors of child abuse with education and vocational training is of consummate importance for several reasons:

Empowerment: Education and vocational training empower survivors by equipping them with knowledge and skills. This can boost their self- regard and confidence, helping them recapture a sense of control over their lives.

Independence: Education and vocational skills enable survivors to come financially independent. This reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, as they're less reliant on others for support.

Reintegration: Education and vocational training aid in the reintegration of survivors into society. They're better equipped to make new connections, find employment, and contribute appreciatively to their communities.

Breaking the Cycle: By providing education and vocational training, we can break the cycle of abuse. Survivors who gain skills and knowledge are less likely to immortalize abusive behaviours in their own lives or with their own families.

Bettered Mental Health: Education can improve intellectual health issues for survivors. It offers a sense of purpose, intellectual stimulation, and managing mechanisms to deal with the trauma they've experienced

Economic Growth: A well- educated and skilled pool contributes to the economic growth of a community or nation. When survivors come productive members of society, it benefits the overall economy.

Social Addition: Education and vocational training help survivors overcome social insulation. They can connect with peers, develop social skills, and come active participants in their communities.

Prevention: Educated survivors are more likely to recognize signs of abuse and take steps to prevent it in their own lives and in the lives of others, therefore contributing to the prevention of child abuse.³¹

³¹ Kila Reimer "What do we think we know about... education and training for children affected by sexual exploitation and related trafficking?" (2019)

5.6 Conclusion

The profound physical and psychological impacts of child trafficking necessitate comprehensive and multidimensional efforts for recovery and rehabilitation. The trauma suffered by trafficked children requires a combination of psychological remedy, counselling, and educational support to prop in their healing process. Rebuilding self- regard and trust within a network of caregivers, social workers, and professionals is vital. Addressing the physical and psychological fate of trafficking involves further than just legal measures. cooperative efforts are pivotal, encompassing not only combating trafficking itself but also committing to rehabilitation and reintegration programs. These enterprises empower survivors to heal, acclimatize, and restrict into society. The success of reintegration depends on factors similar as state protection, economic stability, family support, and community acceptance. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in the recovery process through community- based rehabilitation models. These models give a safe and effective way to address survivors' requirements. Education and vocational training are necessary aspects of survivors' recovery, offering empowerment, independence, and the capability to break the cycle of abuse. These enterprises contribute not only to individual well- being but also to social addition, economic growth, and the prevention of child abuse.³²

³² Livia Ottisova "Psychological consequences of child trafficking: An historical cohort study of trafficked children in contact with secondary mental health services" (2018)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5843209/>

Chapter Six

Recommendations and Conclusion

6.1 Findings

Child trafficking is a complex issue with various obstacles to prevention both in Bangladesh and internationally. Some crucial findings that punctuate these obstacles include

Poverty and Economic Vulnerability: High situations of poverty in Bangladesh and numerous other countries produce a terrain where families are more susceptible to trafficking due to economic despair. **Lack of Education:** Limited access to education in certain regions can make children and families less apprehensive of the risks and rights associated with trafficking, framing them easier targets. **Weak Law Enforcement and Corruption:** Corruption within law enforcement agencies and a lack of fund devoted to combating trafficking can hamper efforts to prevent it. **Cross-Border Trafficking:** International trafficking frequently involves moving victims across borders, making it challenging to coordinate efforts between countries and apply laws effectively. **Demand for Cheap Labour and Commercial Sexual Exploitation:** The demand for cheap labour and commercial sexual exploitation drives child trafficking, making it essential to address the root causes of this demand. **Gender Inequality:** Gender difference can make girls more vulnerable to trafficking, as they frequently face discrimination and limited openings compared to boys. **Lack of Victim Support Services:** low support services for trafficking victims, similar as shelter, counselling, and legal aid, can discourage reporting and hamper rehabilitation works. Efforts to combat child trafficking must address these obstacles exhaustively, involving governments, NGOs, and international organizations to produce a further defensive environment for children.

6.2 Recommendations

Combating child trafficking in Bangladesh and internationally requires a multifaceted approach involving governments, NGOs, communities, and individuals. To address this critical issue effectively, several recommendations must be considered: Firstly, strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms is paramount, with a focus on enhancing legislation related to child trafficking and imposing stricter penalties for perpetrators. Ensuring the effective

implementation of these laws is equally crucial. Secondly, awareness campaigns should be conducted, targeting vulnerable communities, parents, and children, to educate them about the risks of trafficking and how to identify potential threats. Thirdly, improving access to quality education, especially in rural and marginalized areas, can empower children and reduce their vulnerability to trafficking. Additionally, implementing poverty relief programs can address the root causes of trafficking, as poverty often drives families to send their children in search of better opportunities. Fourthly, community-based interventions should be developed to create support systems capable of identifying and reporting trafficking cases while helping victims. Fifthly, strengthening border controls and collaborating with neighbouring countries is essential to prevent cross-border trafficking effectively. Sixthly, comprehensive victim support services, including shelter, medical care, counselling, and legal aid, must be provided. Seventhly, international cooperation with organizations and neighbouring countries is vital to combat cross-border trafficking effectively. Eighthly, investing in research and data collection is necessary to better understand the dynamics of child trafficking and tailor interventions accordingly. Ninthly, empowering children with knowledge about their rights and self-protection strategies is crucial. Tenthly, ensuring and enforcing international treaties and conventions related to child trafficking, such as the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, is essential. Eleventh, media engagement can play a role in reporting on cases and raising public awareness. Lastly, fostering cooperation between governments, NGOs, and the private sector is essential to create a coordinated response to child trafficking. Combatting child trafficking is a complex and ongoing challenge that requires sustained efforts and cooperation at local, national, and international levels.

6.3 Conclusion

Child trafficking is a deeply complicated issue, marked by a range of challenges both within Bangladesh and on the international platform. Our findings bring out the harshness of this problem, featuring critical factors similar as poverty, lack of education, corruption, and gender inequality that contribute to the weakness of children to trafficking. Cross-border trafficking and the demand for cheap labours further complicate this issue, while the absence of victim support services hinders recovery. To effectively combat child trafficking, it's imperative to borrow a multifaceted approach that involves various stakeholders. hardening laws and

enforcement, conducting awareness campaigns, improving access to education, addressing poverty, and establishing community- based interventions are crucial way. also, bearing border controls, enhancing victim support services, and fostering international cooperation are essential for success. Research and data collection, empowerment of children, adherence to international treaties, media engagement, and collaboration among governments, NGOs, and the private sector are all vital factors of a comprehensive strategy. It's important to recognize that eradicating child trafficking is an ongoing challenge that demands patient efforts and collaboration at local, national, and international situations. Only through combined action can we hope to bring a protective environment for children and alleviate the devastating impacts of child trafficking.

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