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Responding to The Needs of The Parents of Sex Trafficked Female Victims- A Responsibility of The Civil Society

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Abstract

Thousands of women and children are trafficked every day. Human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is a form of modern-day slavery. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking and its third largest revenue generated activity in India. Trafficking of human beings especially girl child has increased over the last decade. Nearly 60% of the victims of trafficking are below 18 years of age (NCRB 2010)

Human Trafficking occurs across the world, in various cultures, and affects people across society; this has become the severe problem of the modern world. It is a startling fact that one of the most dangerous places for a woman in society, despite the prevalence of violence against women in their own country; dozens of countries around the world do not have specific laws against trafficking, in such circumstances there is no safe place for women anywhere in the living world.

The present study focuses on how human trafficking is perceived among women, its types, magnitude of the problem, why this is practiced more with women, what are the major impacts on parents, also the study reveals parents with lack of social support are more likely to be depressed anxiety stress and quality of life and concentrated to study the civil society and responsibility of the civil society and contribution towards to combat problem of victims and parents.

Introduction

The family is a fundamental social group in society. It typically consists of one or two parents and their children. For the child's development the role of family throughout the globe is a same. The developments of children are greatly influenced by family.

Parents serve as a major influence in their children's career development and career decision-making. Parents want their children to find happiness and success in life and one factor which influences happiness and success is career choice. It is also indicates that when children feel supported and loved by their parents, they have more confidence in their own ability to think

about their careers and to choose a career that would be interesting and exciting (Keller 2004).

Throughout each form of psychosocial, sociological and moral development, parents play a vital role in the positive development of their child. Parents who influence the development of their child in a positive manner tend to have particular qualities and characteristics. These parents tend to be responsive, demanding, accepting and emphasize discussion and interaction. According to Baumrind, these parents have the characteristics of an authoritative parent (1991, as cited in Papalia 2003). Therefore, it can be concluded that parents who are generally authoritative are those who influence the development of their child in the best manner.

Social Problems:

Social problems are the general factors that affect and damage society. A social problem is normally a term used to describe problems with a particular area or group of people in the world. Social problems often involve problems that affect real life. It also affects how people react to certain situations. Some of the social problems listed below

- Sexual transmitted disease
- Human trafficking
- Anti social behaviour
- Poverty
- Drug abuse
- Alcohol abuse
- Economic Deprivation
- Unemployment
- Natural Disasters

These problems occur in almost every area all over the world, but in some areas it tends to happen more frequently, and to a more severe extent. In above listed problems researcher has planned to know through this article how parents are suffering from human trafficking.

Human Trafficking:

Each year, millions of women, men, and children around the globe fall prey to human traffickers whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic work or other purposes, both within and beyond the borders of their country. Sex trafficking, along with kidnapping, rape, prostitution and physical abuse, is illegal in almost every country in the world Human trafficking is a serious crime and a multi-dimensional threat and trafficking in human beings represents the third largest source of income for organised crime (after guns and drugs). It is a high-profit and low-risk enterprise that ranks it among the most lucrative forms of international organised crime. It is estimated to net profits of 7-10 billion dollars a year worldwide.

The Trafficking in Persons Report published by the United States' Department of State identifies India as a country having both labour trafficking and sex trafficking issues. The number of persons trafficked is estimated to be in the millions. Again, these are very vague statistics as no organization has actually been able to quantify the problem. A Status and Action Report by the Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution (1991) estimates that there are between 70,000 and 1,00,000 women trafficked and entered into prostitution in the six metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Human trafficking Impact on family:

The families of the children in prostitution are often the “poorest of the poor”. These children are from families that are “vulnerable”, “at risk”, “urban poor”, and “rural poor”. When the family is identifiable, there is often a history of one or more of the circumstances such as alcoholism, violence, drug abuse, prostitution, unemployment, child abuse, ill health, and vaguely defined family roles (Florence Bruce, 1996). Some of the families may be mobile or migratory such as those residing in rural areas or nomadic families. Some of the families are sunk in debt. Such families are more prone to dysfunction and to abandoning members of the family.

The key members of the family unit, such as the mother or father, may be responsible for repaying the debts and may be facing extreme Some of these children do have parents who care but who are forced by overwhelming poverty to turn a blind eye to their children bringing in money through prostitution. Some parents are tricked into sending their children into prostitution (Florence Bruce, 1996). Most often the issue of reintegration with the family becomes a distant reality as families are reluctant to accept responsibility for the child’s upbringing, fearing for negative societal impact or many a times it is difficult to reunite the victim with the family as they might be the traffickers themselves.

Human trafficking Impact on Parents:

Many of these children grow up with a social stigma and are often shunned and isolated from the community. Seen as shameful and a burden, it is not uncommon for children of sexual violence, especially during a period of national conflict or war, to be abandoned by their mothers. Children born of sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide are described as “children of bad memories” or “devil’s children” (Warner, 2012). While there are many mothers struggling not to “project [hate and anger] onto their children” (Warner, 2012), several are still coming to terms with accepting that the children are their own. Testimonies from Rwandan women who were sexually assaulted and gave birth to a child tell of relief when the child does not resemble the father and mother, emotional conflict if the child does, and a “divided love” that favours the legitimate children over the children born of violence (Foundation Rwanda, 2012)

The families, consequently, face a great degree of Burden and distress. Daily life of a family can be disturbed in many aspects by the unexpected incidence. Traditionally, the family has been serving as a major support system for the mentally ill. Moreover, prior to the contact with the professional help, the family decides the need and nature of psychiatric treatment required for the affected member. Very often, due to the misconceptions and apprehensions about trafficking may accrue to the victim; the family is reluctant to make use of the services available.

Parent’s Psycho-Social problems

The parents of the trafficked victim children face crisis situation. The incidences develop feeling of guilt and distress among the parents. (Healthier D Cruz & Karen Stagnitti 2010). The emotional toll may take the clinical form of anxiety, stress or depression. The filtering of social image, shattered dreams, shock by the incident, confusion in accepting back the child, difference in the opinions among themselves etc may result in anxiety, feeling of helplessness, overwhelmed emotions among the parents. The following are the clinical picture of those parents of trafficking victim children;

1. Feeling of sever apprehension and anxiety- Tension, confusion, Tremors, feeling of insecurity, helplessness, difficulty in accepting the situation

2. Feeling guilt and sadness- when parents themselves are the reason for trafficking or not, almost all parents may develop feeling of guilt and brood over what mistake of theirs resulted in the incident, which they didn't expect,
3. Grief and depression- parents may grieve over and slowly may develop depression, if not helped in time. Depression or anxiety may either covert or overt. When it is covert, a lot of somatic disturbances are common. When it is overt a lot of defenses may be exhibited.
 - Feeling of stress- Parents may feel stressed and may feel drained and burdened. They may feel lack of confidence and capacity to make any decisions. Failure in adaptability may result in pattern of expressed emotions. This would affect communication and interpersonal relationships among the parents.
 - Risk of suicide, Depression, long-term psychosomatic disorders, feeling of worthlessness, helplessness and hopelessness, deterioration in ones role functioning, lack of confidence may result among both parents and the victim child if not properly intervened.

Trafficking of one's own child cause a lot of distress to the affected individuals as well as their families. The nature and intensity of the problems depend on various factors like, the type of trafficking, age of the child s, course, and availability, utilization of services, family and community support, levels of personal and social functioning of, victim, deviance, and tolerance and so on.

Civil Society and Trafficked Victim Parents

Civil society organisations to combat trafficking duplication in civil society programmes and activities more agencies focus on awareness raising than on provision of assistance or repatriation of trafficking victim's parents.

Only a few organisations provide repatriation assistance to the victims parents of trafficking one study found only ten out of 250 trafficking-focused agencies are engaged with repatriation and reintegrating sex trafficked victims and providing assistance to the parents.

Civil Society Responsibility

Civil society is one of the three important sectors of society, along with government and business. As one of the most important elements of the democratization process, its strengths and weaknesses determine both the speed and depth of the transition and it will, in time, help to sustain the democratic system itself.

Civil society acts through 'social capital'— the capacity of people to act together willingly in their common long-term interest. Social capital is strong in a homogeneous, egalitarian society.

Civil society as a whole is, therefore, unable to play its full potential role in enforcing make good society in India except when extraordinary leadership overcomes narrow loyalties, or when an issue is of common, major concern to all sections (like natural calamities). Smaller units of governance and decentralisation of governance are, therefore, indispensable in India.

Individuals cannot take on the huge responsibility everyone have to play important role to protect women from various aspect entire civil society act on behalf of every citizen. Civil society, therefore, has to operate through compact, focused organisations based on strong social capital.

Functional Contribution of civil Society towards Victim's Parents

Civil society's functional contribution to could be innovatively contributes the needs of the parents.

- Watchdog — against violation of human rights and governing deficiencies.
- Advocate — of the weaker sections 'of women's point of view.
- Agitator — on behalf of aggrieved women citizens of the society.
- Educator — of women citizens on their rights, entitlements and responsibilities and the government about the pulse of the people.
- Service provider — to areas and people not reached by official efforts or as government's agent.
- Mobiliser — of public opinion for or against a programme or policy combat or reduce women violation and mere support for their development
- promote cooperation between civil society organisations and national law enforcement agencies
- develop policies and institutional mechanisms especially to repatriate victims parents of trafficking in a dignified and safe manner
- encourage inter-regional exchange visits and trainings, particularly with eastern states
- Train civil servants to make government schemes more gender sensitive.

Every major anti-trafficking initiative in the region has been civil society-led. NGOs have carried the main burden in reaching out to trafficked persons and helping parents to come out of this problem, providing health and legal assistance, raising public awareness, steering the national legislative initiatives and providing training and technical assistance to law enforcement and border control authorities. However, civil society involvement is quite recent and they can only provide limited services.

Conclusion

Civil society organizations have pioneered innovative and creative practices which are potentially replicable across the region and further afield. Particularly impressive are the programmes of CHILDLINE. India and government alone cannot transform the cultural, social and legal environment that gives rise to and condones widespread human trafficking against female. Parents are the real problem solver of their children here parents have very strong mind to cope with problem. Civil society has to take up more initiative to help the victim's parents.

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