

1. Background

Nepal is one of the least developed countries of the world, lacking in sufficient economic capital, infrastructure, and developed human resources with a population Nepal's population is 30 million (CBS, 2011).

Trafficking of women and children can first be traced back to the 1950s- young girls were forced to serve as maids who were sexually exploited by the Rana rulers.

Approx. 12,000 children (14 -16 years old) are trafficked to Indian brothels and the Gulf countries every year for the purpose of commercial sex work (ILO-IPEC, 2002).

Over time, the nature of trafficking has changed- unlike before trafficking is not restricted within the purpose of sex trafficking for other purposes, for example, exploitation of children in circus, organ transplant and child labour.

Nepal is primarily a source country for destinations like India and the Middle East, India, China , South East Asia and Saudi Arabia are the major destination countries.

Nepal has ratified several international conventions as well as adopted national legislation to protect the children from exploitation and trafficking, such as, The UN Child Rights Convention(CRC) and The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children; Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Despite the international commitment, issuance of national legislations (The Children's Act of 1992, the Human Trafficking Control Act of Nepal (2007) and the National Human Rights Commission Act (1996) and active involvement of NGOs and various other organisations in anti-trafficking interventions, child trafficking has remained widespread problem in Nepal.

There is a need for research to consider the link between child trafficking and child protection so as to address the child-rights based approach to intervention and rehabilitation for trafficked victims.

This research aims to identify the problem of trafficking in relation to the gap between the international/ regional commitment and actual practice.

By doing so, the research will map the different aspects of child trafficking in Nepal and also draw conclusion on challenges, perceptions and best practice.

4. Key Findings

Three primary destinations of child trafficking :

- i) Cross-border trafficking to India and Khasa;
- ii) Trafficking outside the region: Gulf countries, Korea, China, Thailand and European countries.
- iii) Internal Trafficking

Purposes: sex trafficking, forced labour, marriage, inter-country-adoption, entertainment sectors, domestic work and organ donation.

Causes of child trafficking: Economic factors, educational factors, technological factors, political factors: social factors- child abuse and neglect and discriminatory cultural practices and beliefs permeable border and weak law enforcement.

Anti-trafficking interventions :4 Ps

Prevention- NPA, National and local coordination trafficking control committees, National Anti-Trafficking Day , Civil society's and media's initiation(awareness campaigns, IEC materials, border check posts).

Protection -Interception, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration (8 rehabilitation centres and 500 Child Care Homes, Emergency shelters / rehabilitation centres operated by the NGOs and Child Helpline-1098 and 104).

Participation- 17,000 child clubs, Child Friendly Local Governance and SAIVC.

Prosecution-240 Women and children service centres and child friendly court(In-camera hearing).

Challenges: Definition of child/child trafficking ● **Victim identification** ● **Cultural practices** ● **Weak prosecution** ● **No specialised counter-trafficking investigative unit** ● **Corruption** ● **Lack of child centric victim support** ● **Lack of Resources** ● **Weak Integrative system/inter-ministerial coordination** ● **Weak child protection mechanisms.**