

Forced prostitution of trafficked Nepalese women and girls in the brothels in India

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Sunil Kumar Joshi¹, J. N. Kharel², B. Suwal³, B. Wijma⁴, K. Swahnberg⁴

¹Department of Community Medicine, Kathmandu Medical College, Kathmandu, Nepal.

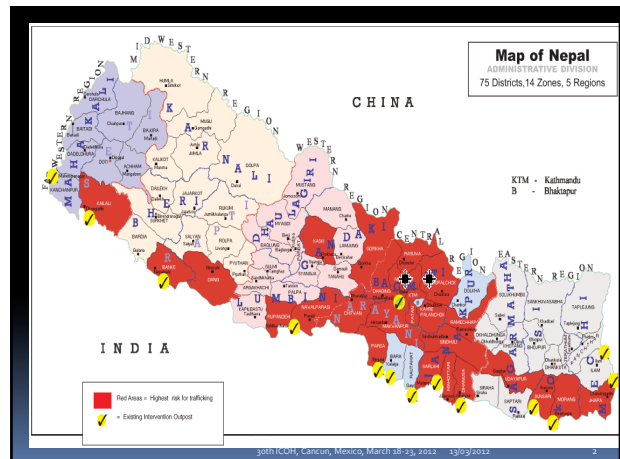
²SV Multiple College, Affiliated to Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

³Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

⁴Division of Gender and Medicine, Institution of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

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BACKGROUND

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Definition of “Trafficking”

- “the transportation, selling or buying of women and children for (forced) prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking”
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (2002) Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children

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Origin of Trafficking in Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot

In the late 19th Century, the Rana ruling classes began keeping Tamang girls as concubines in their palaces at Kathmandu. When the Rana rulers were overthrown in 1950, they escaped to India with their household servants and many young Tamang concubines. As the concubines aged, their Rana “husbands” sold them into prostitution. These prostitutes later opened their own brothels in cities like Bombay and Calcutta, and periodically returned to Nepal to recruit and/or force more Tamang girls into prostitution.

Source: Mahila Attama Nirvar Kendra, Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk, BS 2054.

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ORIGIN OF TRAFFICKING IN SINDHUPALCHOWK AND NUWAKOT



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Factors Leading to Trafficking

Socio-cultural:

- Lack of education; illiteracy
- Lack of awareness
- Gender discrimination (Low social status accorded to women and girl)
- Social and cultural norms
- Dysfunctional families
- Urbanisation (i.e. attraction to city life)
- Increasing consumerism

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Factors Leading to Trafficking

Economic & political:

- Lack of job opportunities in rural areas
- Conflicts & war (Internally displaced persons)
- Economic Migration
- Increased access to physical infrastructures and exposure to traffickers
- Poor governance and law enforcement
- Open and uncontrolled border with India

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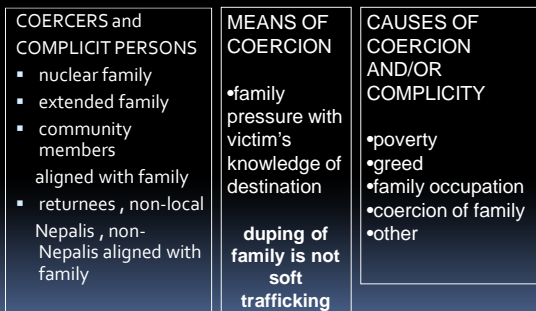
Types of Trafficking

- Girls unwillingly and unknowingly abducted, drugged, duped or otherwise dragged to the brothels could be called victims of 'hard' or 'coercive' trafficking.
- Set against this are the children whose families send them to the brothels as wage-earners – this could be called 'soft' trafficking.

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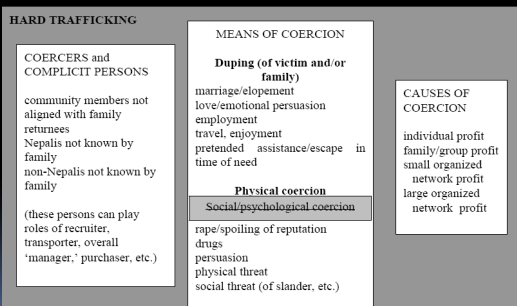
Model of Soft Trafficking



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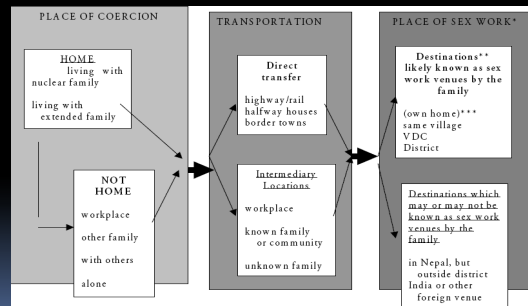
Model of Hard Trafficking



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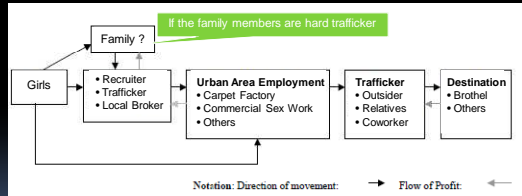
Pattern of Movement



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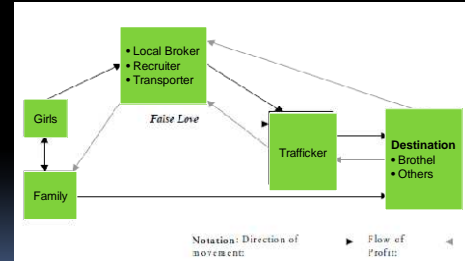
Profit from Hard Trafficking



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Profit from Soft Trafficking



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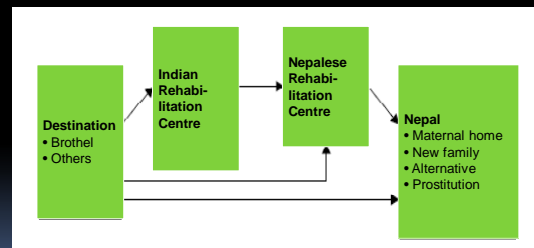
Impact of Trafficking on Victims

- Entering the prostitution
- Life conditions in prostitution
 - Hours and wages
 - Food and health
 - Resale
 - Exception to the rules
- Processes to return

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Process of coming home from brothel



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Objective of the Study

- To study the factors motivating and nurturing W/G trafficking from Nepal, to identify the routes of trafficking, modes of rescue from the brothels, and the integration process as perceived by W/G.

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Methodology

- Respondents: 14 rescued women
- Semi structured interviews
- Transcribed verbatim
- Thematic content analysis (Silverman, 1993)

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Results

- 14 respondents (6 in prostitution, 2 in other activity, 6 at rehab centre)
- 4 casts
- Age 16-40
- Trafficked age 13-35
- Duration of stay in brothel: 1 week – 4 years

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Cities in India where the girls were trafficked to



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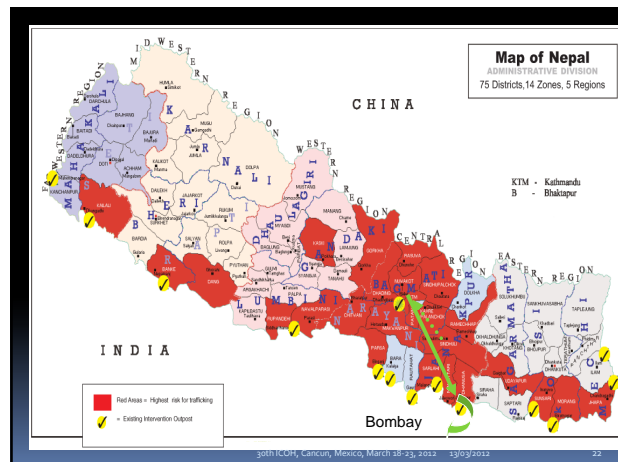
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A Case Story

- Current age: 17/18
- Age at trafficking: 15
- Education: Illiterate
- Cast: Brahmin
- District of origin: Sindhuli
- Trafficked from: Kathmandu (workplace)
- Trafficked to: Bombay via Janakpur
- Duration of stay in Bombay: 2 years

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Reason behind trafficking

- Good work with nice salary in Butwal, a city nearby Indian border.
- "I was working as a caretaker in a house in Kathmandu. That was a good job, but they fooled me by saying that they would arrange a good work with handsome salary for me. We could eat and wear nicely.....'Do not worry...we will help you'...they said. We were all together three girls....They used to give us snacks and behave like caring persons for two weeks before we left for Butwal"

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During transportation

- "We took a bus from Kalanki (*in KTM*) to Janakpur (*border with India*), then we took a train. They told us to tell that we were their daughters if somebody asked. In the train, they gave us some medicine that stop vomiting. We became subconscious, and do not remember how did we reach Bombay"

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What happened in Bombay?

- "They kept us in different rooms in the same brothel and made us satisfy the customers on the same day.....Only then I realized that was a brothel....When I disobeyed....they bit on the cheek very hard and burn my neck and chin by cigarette (*shows her scars*).....So I had to satisfy 4-5 customers every day. That place was like a living hell"

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Life Condition in Prostitution

There is a so-called sitting room to select girls. The owners force the girls to be attractive and attract clients. They have to act happy and smiling. The room is of low height. The girls have to get made-up and smart and should stay in the sitting room from 3 p.m. until mid-night. The gharawali (brothel owner) hits girls with a bottle of beer, with a stick, and passes electric current into their bodies if girls refuse to be involved in prostitution, if they cannot earn much, or if they attempt to run away.

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Rescue

- "My husband (then customer) used to come to that brothel...but not regularly.....He fell in love with me and wanted to marry me...He said that place was bad and I had to move from there before I get some dangerous disease. My husband paid money to the brothel owner and we returned to Nepal. We came to Kathmandu directly and we married....."

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Integration

- Living with the husband and doing a small business (selling of garments) together.

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Turning point

- "One day my husband did not return from the shop. I did spend 12 thousand rupees in 15 days searching for him.....I sold my gold ring.....Nobody told me anything.....It happened that civil police arrested him for alleged drug business...My brother in law accused me of sending him to jail....I did not get any help from his family...I could not go to my mother too....."

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What are you doing for survival?

- What to do.?? I do not have any skill..... I have to take food to my husband to jail daily, otherwise he will starve..... what to do..... I have no way to survive and I had to start the same work. I tried to join other job, but could not find.....If I get job, I will leave this work immediately..... I do not know how long I will have to do this....."

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Discussion

- W/G fall prey to the actions of traffickers in search for a better life for themselves and their families.
- Traffickers' network used different propaganda to lure W/G into trafficking.
- At the brothel life was reduced into one purpose 'how to satisfy brothel's customers'.
- W/Gs experience a widespread violence against them.

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Discussion

- There is a nexus between corrupted police administration, traffickers and brothel owners, and a lack of effective action to break such nexus from the State
- Coming home from the brothels is like reincarnation of life to the survivors as per their perception, but the panic story begins when they reach home because of the problem of reintegration.

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Discussion

- The treacherous path that leads people into the trafficked situation requires in-depth research and understanding.
- How to promote re-integration, and the effectiveness of rehabilitation?
- How can survivors left out from rehabilitation and reintegration programme be reached?

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A Big Question !!!

- How this situation can prevail in Nepal where more stringent anti-trafficking laws and regulations have been enforced and expanded trafficking prevention programs are in operation.

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Maiti Nepal



Anuradha Koirala is CNN Hero of the Year 2010

"One day we will really stop it,
the trafficking will end"

<http://www.maitinepal.org/>

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Shakti Samuha



Ms. Charimaya Tamang, a trafficking survivor
is the
2011 Hero Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery
Award

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Shakti Samuha

Empowering women to access their rights



Awareness raising program

Activities include orientation to the adolescent girl's groups and school children, street drama and cultural/video show.

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