

‘Current Trends of Human Trafficking in Nepal’

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by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human trafficking is the illegal commerce that innocent people are likely to be drawn into - and is a facet of modern slavery. The victims of human trafficking are commonly used for prostitution, forced labor, and other forms of servitude. Among those trafficked people, women and girls are likely to be more vulnerable and victimized both physically and mentally by being engaged in sex trafficking.

In Nepal, human trafficking has been a steadily growing problem due to the high number of females estimated to be trafficked - mostly to India. Due to the illegal nature of the activity, there are no official statistical data available or research done. Those who were trafficked to brothels across the border have faced tremendous difficulties. Once they are placed in brothels outside of Nepal, they are continuously abused sexually, physically and mentally and live in constant fear of arrest and imprisonment. Even after they are released from brothels, many are likely to be infected by HIV or chronic diseases due to poor hygiene and lack of nutritious food.

In the past ten years, the demand for female domestic workers in the job market has been also increasing. These migrants are also often sexually abused by home owners and their relatives and exploited with long working hours, insufficient food or physical violence. (*ILO, 2005*)

Many organizations on international, national and community levels have been working on anti-sex-trafficking in order to eradicate this modern slavery by preventing, rescuing, and restoring them. Despite many such advocacies and activities, the situation of human trafficking and sex trafficking abides. The more demand increases, the criminal activities supporting them have become more clandestine as a consequence of NGOs' activities and awareness among police authorities, citizens, and political bodies. The trend of human trafficking has been changing in the methods of recruitment, destination, and complexity of networks in transporting people. Moreover, despite knowing the risks of human trafficking, many young girls/women are drawn into human trafficking and end up being sex workers or sexually abused in different ways.

It is often said that poverty is the major root cause of vulnerability for people to be drawn into human trafficking. However, as the political frameworks altered, the root causes of trafficking have been changing; for instance, internal armed conflicts and

displacement cannot be ignored as a cause of triggering trafficking. Nowadays, it is not just absolute poverty that drives girls and women into trafficking. Incentives for being drawn into trafficking have also been changing as developing gender equality allows girls and women to have similar desires and aspirations as men do for betterment of their life. These motivations and home environments drive them into migrating countries as foreign workers who then become vulnerable to trafficking. In contradiction to literature reviews, not everyone is forced to go abroad; yet, most of the interviewees spoken to here were a part of the decision-process in determining their own future - willingly going abroad for work. However, they sometimes felt information or promises given by agencies were different from what they expected.

This study aims to define current trends of human trafficking - especially focused on females in Nepal. Part one identifies different trends by looking at the overall history of human trafficking and the current trends of being drawn into human trafficking. Demographic data is explored along with the examining of secondary data from NGOs, Police 'women cells' in Nepal and the National Human Commission Office in Nepal.

Part two showcases the motivations to go abroad among girls and women from the primary data obtained from my interviews. By integrating data from both primary and secondary sources, the necessity of advocating several key activities (i.e., providing safe labor migration and personal business plans for the women) and the decentralization of NGOs are proposed.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Human Trafficking in Nepal

The process of human trafficking cannot be viewed in isolation from trafficking for other purposes - or from the process of migration itself. The United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (2000), signed by 80 countries, officially recognizes all types of human trafficking - including sex trafficking - as a modern form of slavery and forced labor that relies on coercion, fraud or abduction in order to flourish (*UNDP 1999*). In 1987, the 'Human Trafficking Control Act' declared elements of human trafficking as:

- Sale and purchase of a human being for any purpose
- Taking the person to foreign countries for the purpose of trafficking
- Involving a woman in prostitution by enticing or alluring, by undue influence, by fraud, threat, force or by any other means
- Pandering or encouraging others or try to do any, or all of the above mentioned deeds

(*UNDP, 1999*)

In 1999 Nepal was identified by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Trafficking Program as one of the key countries in urgent need of intervention (*Asia Foundation and Population Council 2001*). Since human trafficking is illegal action, there are less statistic data available. Yet, International Organizations estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked for sex work each year and 200,000 Nepali women and girls are working in the sex industry in India (*Monique Hennink and Padam Simkhada 2004*). Most of the trafficked are teens: ages ranging from 12 to 19. In Nepal, 77.2 % of the women who were involved in the sex business have little education (*ILO 2001*). Female victims are likely to be more vulnerable than males.

1.2 Human Trafficking leading to commercial sexual exploitation of children and women

Typically, more young girls tend to become entangled in human trafficking and those who become involved in trafficking in Asia are likely to end up engaging in the sex business. The incentive for entering human trafficking is often compelled by harsh

economic circumstances and social inequality. Some enter the sex business voluntarily; however, according to reports or testimony by victims of human trafficking, in some cases girls or women enter the sex business by force or deception - such as through the sex trafficking trade. Sex trafficking often involves migration, either within nations or across national borders. However, the boundaries between migration and sex trafficking are often unclear, because an activity may not be recognizable as sex trafficking until the destination is reached and the deception is revealed. Until then, such a journey may be indistinguishable from voluntary migration (*Huntington 2002*).

Alternatively, those who became part of sex trafficking through indirect routes usually migrated from rural villages to urban areas for employment - such as cheap labor in carpet factories or servants in rich families - and then were trafficked from these factories to India for the purpose of sex work. Others first become trafficked for labor exploitation - typically through a *dalal*¹ - and then experience a second stage: sex trafficking. Girls aged over 14 to 16 years old are more likely to have entered sex trafficking through a route of fraudulent marriage. Traffickers conduct a phony marriage ceremony and subsequently take the 'bride' to settle in India, or traffickers pose as marriage brokers for businessmen in India. Alternatively, young women and girls are offered the chance to visit India for employment as housemaids, actresses or to establish a small business.

Once the young women are involved in sex work, the brothels become the hub of their livelihood. Most of the returners are fortunate to be rescued. For instance, 128 girls have been rescued by the Maharashtra (Mumbai) Government of India on the order issued by the Chief Justice of Maharashtra High Court and have been brought back to Nepal (*Gauri Pradban. 1997*). Some escaped or are released. However, releasing is most rare. (Most of the time, the reason for being released is the low working-capacity of sex workers due to chronic diseases. When they are released, they are likely to have a short life.)

¹ Dalal is a broker or pimp.

2. CHANGING FORMS AND TYPES OF TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL

Trafficking has a long history since the Rana Regime (1847-1951). As socio-political contexts and economic resources have changed, the forms, meanings and scenarios of trafficking have also been altered. The altering forms are categorized as follows:

- **Rana Regime (1846 – 1951)**

Girls from the surrounding hills of the Kathmandu Valley and young mountain girls from Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot were recruited as professional dancers, singers, and housemaids. These girls mainly migrated internally from rural areas to Kathmandu. During the Rana regime, Tamang females were categorized as professional sex workers (*NHRC, 2005*). Despite the first written law called 'Muluki Ain' promulgating the abolition of the slavery system, girls and women continued being sent to the palace from mountain districts (*Shakya, 1999*).

After the Rana Regime collapsed in 1951, some Rana families were exiled to India - particularly, to Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Simla with their servants and entertainers for luxury and sexual pleasure.

- **Post-Rana Regime and Panchayat Regime (1960 - 1990)**

Due to the migration of the Rana families to India, some of their housemaids ended up in brothels in India and some were sold by Rana families. This stimulated cross-border migration. Some women ultimately started to recruit Nepali women and girls from the areas of their origin. During the period of Post-Rane and Panchayat regimes, Nepali sex workers became a high-demand product for many reasons in India: due to the high number of Nepali workers in India at that time, attractiveness to Indian buyers, and the concept of buying safer prostitutes (*NHRC 2006-2007*). In the 1960s, due to increasing demand for Nepali sex workers in India, brothels established a business process of recruiting Nepali girls and taking them to India for the purpose of sex work. By the 1970s, the criminal links within the process of sex trafficking had been well established with Indian pimps. (*Pradhan, 1996*)

During the Rana regime, women and girls from certain areas in the Kathmandu valley, were recruited for entertainment; however, after the Rana regime, trafficking-prone

districts spread to the hill districts surrounding the valley - such as Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Dhading, Kavre, and Makwanpur. The route of trafficking extended from the village areas to urban Nepal and then urban areas of India.

- **Late 1980s – mid-1990s: Period of flourishing carpet industry**

In the late 1980s, the carpet industry enhanced the Nepali economy and was tremendously developed in Nepal. The industry became one of the biggest contributive resources to Nepal's Gross Domestic Product. The total export of carpets to Europe, USA, Canada, and Australia thrived to 126 million USD in 1992 (*NHRC 2006*).

Main export items became carpets to India. In the late 1990s, the merchandise trade balance improved with the growth of carpet industries. The new trends for human trafficking were developed during that time.

Despite the economic contribution of the carpet industry, both internal and external trafficking in women and children increased. The carpet industry became one more junction for engaging in trafficking. A number of girls under 16 years old were trafficked by the brokers from the carpet industries and those girls were mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation. It is known that the workforces in the carpet factories were Tamang children and women. (*NHRC 2005*)

Fake Marriages and Seduction or Romance

Some girls were lured into fake marriage with the hope of a better livelihood and economic improvement. Girls were enticed by various types of techniques: Traffickers pretend to be potential husbands. By promising a luxurious life in India and even giving money to the families of the bride, they often deceived the families (*Huntington 2002*). Another technique is fake seduction or romance. Some victims of forced prostitution ended up in brothels through promises of love. According to studies of sex trafficking, the boys who deceived girls were merely agents; they approached attractive and vulnerable girls in rural areas, and by seductive romance, they built hope of a life together abroad - often India. Due to the close border from Nepal to India, it was easy for girls to move into India. When those girls arrived at their destinations, they were forced into sexual enslavement (*Siddharath Kara, 2008*).

In order to combat the issue of sex trafficking through fake marriage and seduction, many NGOs actively implemented awareness programs to prevent these incidents.

Despite a decreasing number of these incidents, the technique is still used even now. Every year, according to data from an NGO, (CWIN) data has shown cases of victims of fake marriage.

Selling children

Since recruitment of girls is actively and openly worked in rural districts of Nepal - and people in rural areas suffer conditions of poverty - many family members often knowingly sold a child into slavery. (*Govind Subedi Yogendra Bahadur Gurung, Keshab Prasad Adhikari, 2001*). Due to low educational levels, some parents committed the flesh trades unaware of the sex trafficking and slavery that their daughter would have to endure. Girls were sold on average from Indian Rs. 25,000 to 30,000. The price of selling girls has gone up to Indian Rs.75,000 depending upon their beauty and age (*NHRC, 2005*). Well-established criminal organizations lured innocent and financially vulnerable rural women and girls into recruitment of trafficking. (*Siddharth Kara, 2008*)

- **Mid-1990s up to present internal armed conflict and displacement**

The conflict between Maoists and the State of Nepal has forced vulnerable Nepalis to migrate internally and externally. Due to the conflicts, mass displacement, abduction and killings - particularly in rural areas - between 100,000 to 150,000 people were displaced (*Sangroula, 2001*). Due to the fear of kidnapping children and forcing them to join the rebel armed forces among parents in rural areas, many children were sent to Kathmandu by their parents. Some of these children ended up working in sexual industries - such as massage parlors and dance bars in Kathmandu (*AATWIN, interview*). Due to the conflicts, many men were killed; widows and their children often left the villages in search of security and better livelihoods without financial support. These women and children were left in more vulnerable positions for being trafficked. The conflicts induced inflows of women and children within the country - and outflows from Nepal to India.

- **2000s up to present foreign labor migration**

Millions of people from around the world (especially from the developing world) mobilize themselves to seek the betterment of their livelihoods. Globalization and integration of regional economics have added impetus to the growing mobility of workers across borders (*ILO, 2003*).

Historically, a large number of Nepalese workers were likely to go abroad to work

during the off-seasons of agriculture or the absence of fruitful local employment opportunities. Migration is not a new phenomenon to Nepal and the total stock of Nepalese nationals working overseas is estimated to be about half a million (*ILO-DFID 2002*). Migration to foreign countries continued to rise during 2008 in Nepal. According to official figures from the Department of Foreign Employment, a total of 266,666 Nepalis got final approval from the government to work abroad in 2008 through private licensed recruiting agencies and an individual application, compared to 232,628 in the year 2007 (*Nepal Institute of Development Studies, 2008*). According to data from the Department of Foreign Employment, there were more than 17,500 people going abroad per month. Despite the fact that male workers were more likely to go abroad than females in 2008, the official number of female Nepali migrants has increased in comparison to 2007. Those female Nepali migrants move to other countries due to seeking better jobs, and marriage.

Female migration has been consistently increasing despite unofficial and official restrictions on going to work in the Gulf countries. Though the data reveal an increase in documented female migration from Nepal, there are potentially a high number of Nepalis who travel to various countries for foreign employment via major cities - for instance, via India or even through Bangladesh. (*NIDS 2008*) A strikingly large proportion of labor migration takes place illegally, aided and abetted by a clandestine and often criminal industry. Simultaneously, governments of both sending and receiving migrants, have to regulate and manage the labor migration. By using the name of foreign labor migration, some criminal agencies lured girls by promising decent work - such as domestic work in gulf countries - and send them to India. Not all of the applicants successfully reach the final destinations where the girls were promised by the agencies - even though those applicants paid commissions to the agencies.

A job for domestic female workers is an emerging business in Middle Eastern countries, such as Israel and Lebanon. Migrants often attempt to go to Middle East countries to become domestic workers in order to avoid the risk of being sex workers. However, there are only a few cases reported regarding exploitation and abuse. Around 50 % of female domestic workers are under 16 years old. (Compared to the average age range among male domestic workers, 2 to 3 years younger candidates are likely to be demanded for female domestic workers.) The study of domestic laborers working outside of Nepal revealed that 55% of respondents were literate, whereas 41% of them could neither read nor write among female domestic laborers. The respondents said that

indifference of the parents toward their child’s education was the highest reason (76%), economic hardship within the family (37%), and the necessity to work (18%). Due to several factors: lack of education, age, and financial burdens, they are likely to be engaged in trafficking.

2.1 Current data from 2000 to 2008

Despite many efforts by NGOs, according to a newspaper survey conducted by CWIN, the number of females trafficked has steadily increased from 2002 to 2005 - and in 2006 the number of trafficked women doubled compared with 2002. Ages below 16 are now more likely to be engaged and trafficked. Girls below 16 years old that were trafficked in 2006 were approximately three times more than those in 2000. The sample numbers are too far close to the estimated number projected by international agencies such as ILO due to lack of statistical resources in this field.

Year	Number of cases reported	Age group	
		Below 16	Above 16
2000	240	73	167
2001	265	90	175
2002	137	49	88
2003	186	74	115
2004	230	89	141
2005	371	191	180
2006	338	172	166

Table 1: Number of girls trafficked from 2000 to 2006²

On the other hand, the number of culprits (Traffickers) who were not arrested has increased from 2002 to 2006; therefore, many cases of human trafficking were increasingly not dealt with. Apparently, there are certain gaps in not being able to track these cases owing to more sophisticated ways of recruitment, disparities within police operations, or lack of awareness among government policy makers.

² CWIN Newspaper Survey from 2000 to 2006

Mediator/Culprits	Number of cases in years						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Female broker:	15	13	22	9	31	3	43
Relatives	7	2	4	7	6	6	1
Gangs	27	94	23	18	60	18	87
Neighbor	50	34	13	31	12	9	3
Employers	82	7	63	93	61	67	136
Husband	4	2	2	5	7	6	-
Parents	-	9	2	1	2	-	3
Others	55	32	8	25	51	162	65

Table 2: The number of culprits and traffickers from 2000 to 2006³

Involvement in human trafficking through third parties - such as female brokers, gangs and employers - significantly increased through the 6 years examined, compared to other acquaintances of victims - which are likely to have kinship or an indirect relationship - such as relatives, neighbors, and parents. It shows that more professional agencies tend to target potentially gullible and vulnerable candidates. Over 6 years, the patterns of channeling victims to mediators are likely to be further altered.

³ CWIN Newspaper Survey from 2000 to 2006

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

A recent study regarding girls trafficked in Nepal analyzed cases of female human trafficking and trends of the past decade. The study challenges the lack of proper investigation processes by inadequate participation of police enforcement. Moreover, the strikingly rapid growth in modern transport, technology and communication, has created even more sophisticated activities among trafficking brokers. Activities of traffickers and agents are also more consolidated and syndicated so that police forces cannot follow up. (*Dhan Roy Panduy, 2005*)

The International Labor Organization (ILO) conducted a study regarding the process of trafficking and its magnitude in Nepal. By collecting data from key informant interviews with trafficked girls, the report by the ILO stated that the 'previous attitudes and the present problem are different'. Previously, it was the problem of certain ethnic groups in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk. Now, it is a problem throughout Nepal for all the castes and communities. The original concept was that those trafficked are from the villages in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk, but it has now extended into the cities also. Not only young females are trafficked but young males too.

Previously, trafficking was largely into India, but now trafficking takes place within Nepal into India and into other countries. The ILO paper clearly showed that the phenomenon of trafficking has become diverse and crosses boundaries of caste, ethnicity, and regions in both rural and urban areas - despite a descriptive process of engaging the trafficking.

The ILO study also pointed out that laws are likely to fail in capturing the problem. Lack of implementation of existing laws and regulations causes the structural failure in the framework of the legal forces. The ILO study advocated that legal forces keep an updated pursuit of current problems - since the problems throughout Nepal regarding human trafficking have become more diverse and intricate. The ILO presented areas of research required in order to define updated processes of trafficking: Networks - such as models of trafficking, means of transport, types of brokers, techniques of agents or brokers - are the areas where only few researches have been done. (*ILO, 2005*)

Based upon qualitative study of current and former traffickers - and quantitative data about current trends of sex trafficking - the author found that the ways of recruitment

are intricate and there are many steps in the process of luring people into human trafficking. The outcome of the research showed there is usually a two-step process from a rural area into an urban center in the same country - followed by the international transportation of a select number of slaves for exploitation internationally. By looking at the data shown on background, employers, agents and brokers are highly involved in the recruitment process of human trafficking.

One scholar discusses the trans-national crime to be so complex that authorities are unlikely to get a clear understanding of the organized crime sub-culture because many criminal participants are very sporadic which makes investigations more difficult to trace. Therefore, she argues that those criminal syndicates maximize networks and purposefully make detection and crackdowns difficult. (*Kathryn Farr, 2005*) As the author argues, many migrants are also likely to move voluntarily (or from forced circumstances) from one place to another and eventually end up engaging in the sex business.

A study inside the business of sex trafficking argues that many workers are likely to be sold several times over en route to a final point of exploitation. Through interviews the author conducted, some girls from Nepal were employed as factory workers first, and through individual trafficking operations - where the agencies have established contacts within the factories - those factory workers are manipulated into working in red light districts (*Siddharth Kara, 2009*). This modus operandi makes it difficult for family members and police forces to trace the missing children. Those migrants unaware of the webs being woven for sex workers, might become more victims. As Table 2 has shown, within ten years the types of mediators are likely to be more 'non-acquaintances' that engage in human trafficking - such as employers, female brokers and gangs. Assuming a growing network and technology-based society, those potential migrants are likely to be drawn into using more of these agencies unawares.

Few sex workers abroad would plan to migrate to work in brothels. If their goal is to migrate to other countries in order to get laymen's jobs, it is important to look at the incentives of migration patterns: According to several studies, human trafficking is closely linked to poverty. Due to financial crises, there are more risky migratory endeavors. Poverty does not allow people to pursue better education; therefore, naïvete and lack of awareness, make them vulnerable to 'sweet talk' from traffickers. Poverty also causes low social status which makes them more susceptible to abuse and creates a

desperate attempt to improve their livelihoods and to supply daily needs (*Sverre Molland, 2007*).

While traffickers actively promote foreign labor market, poverty is undoubtedly one of the major factors that motivate migrants to move from one place to another in order to seek betterment of their lives. However, several studies also recorded that poverty is only one of many reasons why people migrate (*UNICEF, 2004; UNIAP, 2005*). Curiosity, consumerism and pressure from others (agents or experienced migrants) are quoted as reasons with similar frequency. The UNICEF report notes that, "trafficking seems to occur irrespective of economic wealth - especially in lowland situations. Poverty was cited as a cause, but equally the desire for material goods, land, modern conveniences and permanent housing was of equal motivation." (*UNICEF, 2004*). This indicates that motivation for migration might be changing due to material-driven desires - or dreams of being wealthy among local people - even though their livelihoods might not even be under the poverty line.

4. FINDINGS-TRENDS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Two methods will be used to integrate data and analyses trends of human trafficking on the demand side: 1) interviews with national and local level NGOs in order to obtain their perspectives of current trends of human trafficking and how it has been changing. (*NGOs are listed in APPENDIX*) 2) secondary data from police authorities⁴ and National Human Rights Commissions. Those data of socio-cultural trends and demographics helped to identify age groups, destination, places of origin, education, ethnic groups and types of initial work in which many victims were engaged.

4.1 NGOs: conceptualization of perspectives regarding the trends of human trafficking

A total of 57 NGOs have actively been working against trafficking in Nepal in 2005 (*ONRT, 2006*). There are various realms of focus in individual NGOs in working on national and community levels- prevention, interception/surveillance at border check points, rescue and repatriation at cross-border areas and in India, rehabilitation and reintegration, advocacy in political and legal aspects. Despite 57 NGOs, for this study, a few well-known NGOs on a national level were selected and interviewed to gather information regarding their understanding and perspectives of current trends of human trafficking and how it has been changing.

Maiti Nepal

Maiti Nepal was formed in 1993 to especially focus on trafficking for forced prostitution, rescuing victims of human trafficking and rehabilitating them. It has highlighted the trafficking issue with its strong advocacy from the local to national and international levels. Target groups have been sexually abused girls, abandoned children, potential victims of trafficking, destitute women, prisoner's children, returnees from Indian brothels, girls and children infected with HIV and Hepatitis B.

Maiti Nepal observed the trend of human trafficking within a decade has been changed in terms of destination and multi-net work. According to the organization, India is still the major destination due to free border access. Nowadays, human trafficking also

⁴ Police Cell: the Nepal Police established the Police Women and Children Cell (PWCC) in 1996. The department is a separate unit of women police from a headquarters in Kathmandu. Due to emerging issues of trafficking, the PWCC aims to control and prevent crimes against women and children, such as trafficking, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, polygamy, and child marriage.

occurs through India to Gulf countries due to high demand for domestic workers. In crossing the border from Nepal to India without passport and visa requirements, they get all necessary documents in India to the Gulf countries for domestic work. In this case, since those potential workers go thru and obtain proper official documents, they will not be categorized as human trafficking. However, many female workers are sexually abused by employer/owners or their relatives. Due to their going via India, there is tremendous risk for female migrants to be sold into brothels. Even though some of these migrants safely reach a final destination, the work is often exploitative. Due to illegal alliances, these female workers are likely to be more vulnerable once they are exploited.

Another trend is multi-networks conducted by human traffickers. By utilizing final destinations, many trafficking agencies work closely in order not to be tracked by police authorities. Sometimes, they are handed over to more than 3 to 4 agencies. The trafficking is more clandestine and organized meticulously. Even for legal migrations, there are no safe working conditions for female migrations: e.g., being a domestic worker a female is likely to be more vulnerable and abused sexually. (*Maiti Nepal, 2009*)

WOREC

WOREC is also one of the well-known advocacy organizations on a national level. WOREC has two branches of advocacy: violence against women and social-cultural rights. Under the two branches, ship migration and rehabilitation are mainly implemented. In seven districts, WOREC provides rehabilitation for external and internal migrants; specifically, professional psychological treatment and reuniting with family members and victims. In the ship migration center, WOREC works closely with the Nepal government foreign department where passports are issued. WOREC offers orientations to potential migrants who come to the government foreign department to get their passports. The main objective of orientations is to increase awareness of language barriers, risks of health and wellbeing, and safe network places for any victims who are migrant laborers to contact in the foreign countries.

According to WOREC, the major changing trend they noticed through implementing their programs was that the trafficking has been taking place all over Nepal. It used to be recognized in 27 districts close to border sites. Now human resource 'agencies' and middle men who deal with the recruitment process are likely to spread to any district in

Nepal. In addition, regardless of which areas people reside, anyone can access information about foreign laborers and engage in human trafficking (*Interview, WOREC 2009*).

AATWIN

Established in 1997, AATWIN aims to sensitize concerned authorities into changing policies and strategies for the reduction of human trafficking. In order to eradicate this situation, ATTWIN allies with the Nepal government to advocate the following:

1. Compensation thru law cases to victims
2. Organizing capacity-building for victims in order to empower knowledge about human rights and build leadership skills to run programs: rehabilitation and safe homes (run by NGOs and funded by the government)
3. Building networks to related stakeholders: government, other NGOs, and international organizations, etc., to share and integrate resources.

According to AATWIN, they focus mainly on the changing dimensions of the methods for recruiting girls. Fake marriage was often used to lure girls by seducing them by romantic love and providing forged information. The 'husband' eventually took the wife to India and sold her to brothels. Currently, 'paper marriage' is the major way for girls to be drawn into human trafficking. This criminal activity has appeared within the last two to three years. Destinations are likely to be stated as *North* Korea or the USA. The paper marriage is likely to be operated by brokers or middle men. These brokers tend to target vulnerable young girls into signing official marriage documents without giving any correct information. Once they go abroad, they find that the photo and information they saw before marriage is likely to be very different from reality. After arriving in Korea, they are forced to move to rural areas and the person the girls 'married' was totally different (often an old man). Due to this issue, South Korea's government issued a regulation that no visa will be issued unless the couple has more than two children. The women are trapped in the country since they cannot stay without a visa unless they give birth to two or more children. They also cannot come back to Nepal and therefore are trapped. In the case of the US, the girls were sold into brothels.

Compared to the situation some years ago, the concept of foreign employment and working abroad has become more familiar; therefore, many openly go abroad for work. Due to globalization, information has become more accessible - and young people under

18 often have the desire to work abroad and openly leave their village due to the lure of foreign employment.

Due to current high technology, victims are now unlikely to stay in brothels. Many are scattered and are called by mobile phone whenever they have to serve customers. Therefore, for government and NGOs, it is more difficult to rescue these people. Therefore, there are many missing cases of girls trafficked with undocumented papers - and who not registered in Nepal by the migration minister.

Previously, due to poverty, girls were forced to engage in human trafficking. Nowadays, incentives are more likely to be the seeking of a higher quality of life (materialized motivation). Therefore, the trafficked women decide themselves to go abroad. (*AATWIN, Interview, 2009*)

Pourakhi-Nepal

Pourakhi means self-reliant, an NGO for women migrant workers established in 2003 by women who experienced foreign labor. As globalization and trade liberalization have evolved, Nepali women are involved in various types of work abroad and contributing to the economic prosperity of their families. However, female migrant workers are more likely to be deceived by human resource agencies and abused by employers. Moreover, due to a lack of awareness regarding legal status, these migrants are also likely to be drawn into human trafficking. This NGO aims to ensure the rights of women migrant workers in the entire process of foreign employment. They provide important information regarding legal documents and investment plans (present value and future value of money) for the potential migrants. Capacity-building is also offered to former migrants and various business trainings for them to become independent. According to Pourakhi, it is a new phenomenon that more women tend to go abroad for foreign employment through human resource agencies. Despite attempting to work closely with those agencies, they are unable to fully provide important information to potential migrants so that more advantage ultimately goes to the agencies and middle men. Since those agencies often commit human trafficking by taking the potential migrants (especially women) to India and issue undocumented papers, migrants have become the new way to funnel human trafficking and sex trafficking. (*Interview, Pourakhi, 2009*)

4.2 Internal Migration

According to demographic data collected from 2000 to 2008 by a local organization, Child Worker in Nepal (CWIN), an average age group from 11 to 14 tends to internally migrate. Over the 8 years, due to an increasing educational level in Nepal, the illiteracy rate has been decreasing among internal migrants. From 2000 to 2004, 31.44% of girls who registered in CWIN's Balk center⁵, came to Katmandu for the purpose of domestic work, and 27.5% of the girls were not working. They often moved from rural to urban areas without any job security. Those girls are at high risk of encountering human trafficking or the sex business in Katmandu. Many girls interviewed escaped from their work where they often worked as domestic workers or in carpet factories. Exploitive environments could not be tolerated by these girls.

The places where internal migration has occurred in the past 8 years are within Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, and Sindhupalchok. The CWIN Balk center assembles and reintegrates these children and their family members; however, some girls unsuccessfully reunite and are not accepted by their families. These are likely to come back to the center for further rehabilitation and trainings. Interestingly, girls from Kathmandu were more successfully re-integrated with their families over 8 years; however, in Lalitpur the percentage of those returning to the center was 44%, Rupandeshi had the highest rate of 86%, and Kaski was the next highest at 50% of returns despite the small number of internal migration from 2000 to 2004. In Lalitpur, after 2004, around 92% of girls returned to the Balk center as well as from Kaski (more returners came for rehabilitation from other NGOs). Lalitpur is geographically located next to Kathmandu; therefore internal migration occurred here more often than in other regions; however, Kaski is a state located far west of Kathmandu. There would obviously be some social, economic, and political instability to lead people to engage in internal migration. By examining the CWIN data from the districts near or around Kathmandu which are more prone to have high human mobility. Girls under 16 years old are most likely to internally migrate. Those girls who do not have connections to find work are likely to be more vulnerable. In terms of ethnic and caste groups - although lower caste 'untouchable' people were more likely to engage in migration - nowadays, all groups of castes participate ranging from high to low caste.

⁵ CWIN Balk Center: The center has been run since 1994 dedicated to girls who work and live in vulnerable and abusive circumstances. The center protects the rights of girls at risk - and empowers them by providing a place to stay with education and training.

4.3 Data from Nepal Police-Women Cell Department

Police-Women Cell was recently established to focus on violence against women in Nepal. The department often gives training to women and child help centers in each district in order to prevent human trafficking. They have recently started to file cases for the purpose of data analysis for the past three years. The data was collected based upon reports from victims' families who informed NGOs. By integrating data from NHRC and police authorities, it helped to illuminate the altering trends of trafficking. The data included a number of cases regarding human trafficking of both males and females from 2006 to 2009. [This study focuses on female data only.] The numbers of cases males reported were strikingly higher than cases females reported. It indicated that voices of females who were victimized by human trafficking might be more neglected and silenced due to social stigmas. Yet, the overall reported cases have been increasing: from 36 cases in 2006 to 58 cases in 2008.

- Caste/Ethnic composition of trafficking survivors in 1994 and 2001

Among the trafficked, the hill ethnic groups form the highest proportion (43.13%), followed by Brahmins/Chhetris (23.8%) and occupational castes (22.4%). According to the data from The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), people from the Janajatis group - which is understood as a nomadic and non caste ethnic group - were likely to be drawn into trafficking. The share of Brahman/Chhetri trafficked people was the second lowest percentage of 19.3 in 1994. However, in 2001, the percentage of Brahman/Chhetri trafficked people was the second highest rate among other caste groups. The data refute the myth that only some particular caste or ethnic groups are vulnerable to trafficking. The data reveals the new phenomenon of trafficking has crossed the caste/ethnic groups in Nepal. (*APPENDIX 1*)

- Religions

In terms of religions, it cannot be concluded that one particular religion is more drawn into human trafficking; however, the data from Women Cell Department of police authority revealed that 83% of Hindu females were reported as victims of human trafficking in 2006. In 2007, this skewed trend was not shown and human trafficking was seen in other religious groups as well: 76% Hindu and 23% Buddhist (*Police Women Cell Department in Nepal, 2009*). From the data of religious components, trends cannot be seen by looking at religious groups alone since there are many social implications and factors those victims - or victims' families - cannot report or were unwilling to publicize it by reporting to the police. (*For details see APPENDIX 2*)

- Ages

Even though many literatures showed data that the under-16 ages are more prone to be victimized by human trafficking, the data from Women Cell Department of Police represented that there was no single report informed by victims who were under 17 years old - or victims' families whose daughters were trafficked under 17 years old. In 2006, the age group of 17 - 25 years old was 47%; however, in 2009, younger age groups were more reported: 2 cases of the age group of 13 - 16 years old, 4 cases from 17 - 18 years old, and 16 cases from 19 - 25. Despite the limited age groups shown in the data, regardless of age or generation, people became vulnerable to human trafficking. Girls of younger age groups - such as the under-16 years old - would have higher risks of vulnerability to being drawn into sex trafficking through human trafficking or migration. Three years of data could be too short to reach a conclusion of any dichotomy between data from police and other studies. *(For details see APPENDIX 3)*

- Education Status

According to the data, the majority of victims are literate. In 2006, the highest percentage of cases of victims who were illiterate was reported at 36%. There was less victims who obtained a level of School Leaving Certification (SLC) – after tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades (IA) level - which is equivalent to higher secondary level. *(For details see APPENDIX 4)*

- Professions

It can be assumed that most female victims of human trafficking were from rural areas and engaged in agriculture. In 2009, 74% of females were used to engage in agriculture. Since agriculture would not financially fulfill needs of survival (or satisfaction), many female farmers in rural areas were required to go abroad. *(For details see APPENDIX 5)*

- Destinations

Generally, data of human trafficking show a lack of resources, and many workers and migrants are prone to use the cross-border into India. As workers, many females (and males) go to India to get unofficial documents. In the process of recruiting workers in Nepal, there are often no official contracts between candidates and employers; therefore, agencies utilize fraudulent contract papers issued in India. Human trafficking through India makes it extremely difficult to trace back a victim's background and any criminal acts done to them. Due to this difficulty, all the data on destinations for human

trafficked women and girls is not available; however, by examining the data of legitimate foreign labor migrations - those who had official documents and were registered by the Nepali government - trends of migrating people can be examined. Within two decades, the number of labor migrations for both males and females has increased from 3,308 in 1994 to 128,713 in 2007 (*UNIFEM, 2007*). According to NHRC, the gulf countries had demand for foreign laborers since 1994; especially, as the following table showcases, the number of female migrants have strikingly increased from 2001 to 2006.

Gulf countries	Year 2001	Year 2006
	Population Census (Female)	Population Census (Female)
Saudi Arabia	831	30,000
Lebanon	No data	4,000
Kuwait	644	1,870
Qatar	189	1,600
UAE	246	1,550
Bahrain	121	1,340
Israel	No data	350
Oman	No data	30
Iraq	No data	No data
Jordan	No data	No data
Total:	<u>2,031</u>	<u>40,740</u>

Table 3: Foreign Labor migration to Gulf countries (excluding India)

- Prone district areas



Total sample data: 168,735

Figure 1: Prone district areas

Source: Police Women Cell Department in Nepal and NHRC, 2007

The map shows the original places where the trafficked women were from. The data revealed that the mapping of prone districts has spread to all Nepal; but the absolute numbers vary by districts. The most vulnerable districts are likely to be border sites; nine out of the top ten districts (38.7%) are from the Tarai region alone and one is in the Western hill district - Tanahu. The vulnerable districts are likely to spread to the North part of Nepal rather than the West. According to the data of victims of human trafficking, 33 cases out of 139 cases are reported from the Eastern region - 24%; 34 cases from the Central region - 24.5%; 24 cases from the Western region - 17%; 21 cases from the Middle West region - 15%; 11 cases from the Far West region - 11%; 16 cases from the Valley - including Kathmandu, Lalipur, and Bahktapur - 12%. The cases of human trafficking also tend to be generally widespread all over Nepal.

5. FINDINGS- CONCEPTUALIZING CURRENT TREND OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Findings were divided into two components- conceptualizing altering trends for entering human trafficking, concluding trends of more vulnerable and victimized groups of people by examining secondary data from police authority and NHRC and interviews with NGOs.

6.1 Findings: Conceptual Framework of Trend of Human Trafficking

The previous methods of human trafficking were less publicized activities such as fake marriage and individual migrations. The following figure conceptualizes the previous route from entry to exit of human trafficking/sex trafficking:

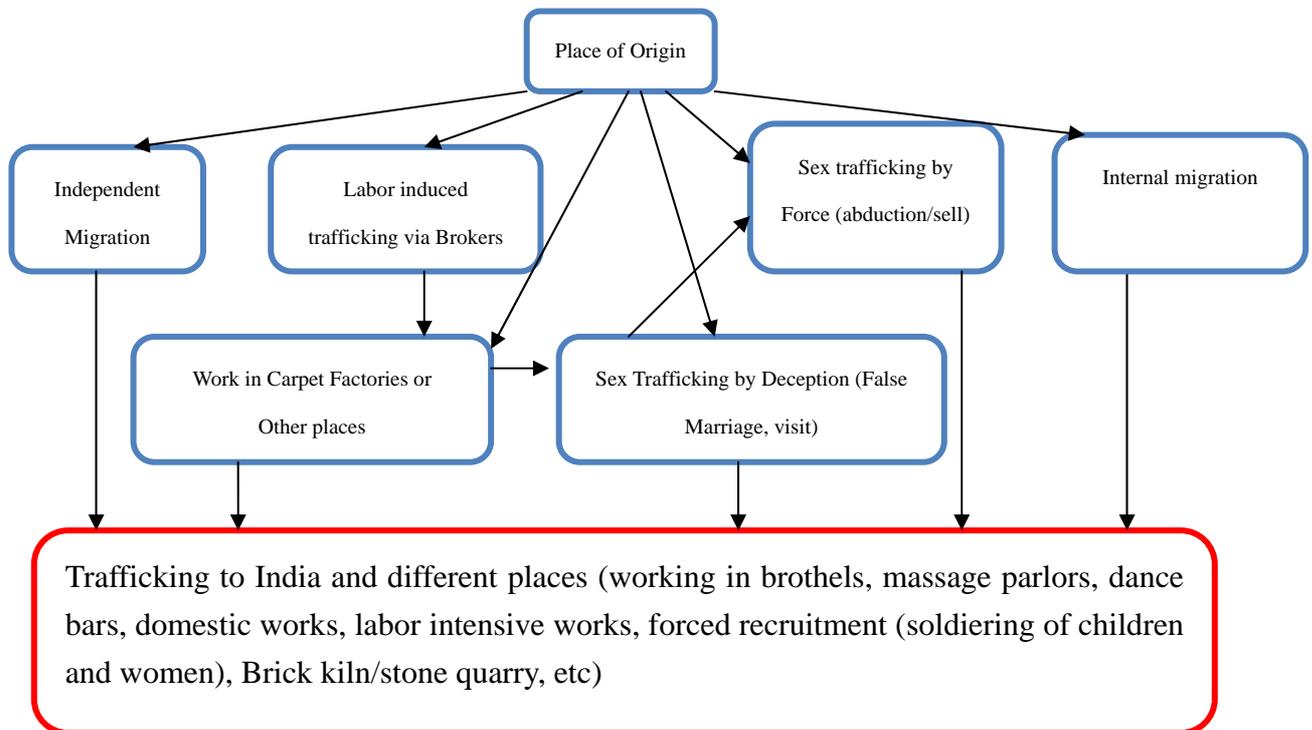


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework of Trafficking

Source: ILO, 2005 and Monique Hennink & Padam Simkhada, 2004

Transferring carpet factory workers to engage in human trafficking was often not openly operated by agencies. Gender discrimination and unequal power relations favoring males were likely to create the idea of less importance of a female child among families and this attitude attributed to the sending-sometimes selling-of female children to carpet factories and brokers with the knowledge that the children would go into sex slavery.

From an economic development perspective, there are several factors to transfer agro-laborers to areas where they are able to gain sufficient resources to improve their livelihood. Migration which leads to employment and better wages, directs the enhancement of financial capital thru remittances and social capital resulting in return migration and creating opportunities to work abroad (*Sarah Cook, Margaret Maurer Fazio, 1999*). In the 1990's, Gulf countries were the major places to work among Nepali males; however, the mobility of migrants - in both leaving and returning back to their places of origin - tends to bring information of job markets. Recently, Gulf countries have also become high-demand destinations for job markets among Nepali females. Moreover, recently - due to better understanding of human rights and women's rights as a result of NGOs' activities and awareness programs - women are more aware of equal opportunities to work abroad as well as men.

By seeking better job opportunities, such as being domestic workers abroad, diversification of job destinations has been the new trend. As the interviews and data show, foreign labor markets openly emerged for women from 2000. For the purposes of foreign labor, many girls and women proceed to final destinations (mainly Gulf countries) through India. These foreign labor markets would become a new way to enhance human trafficking and sex trafficking. This new trend is showcased as follows:

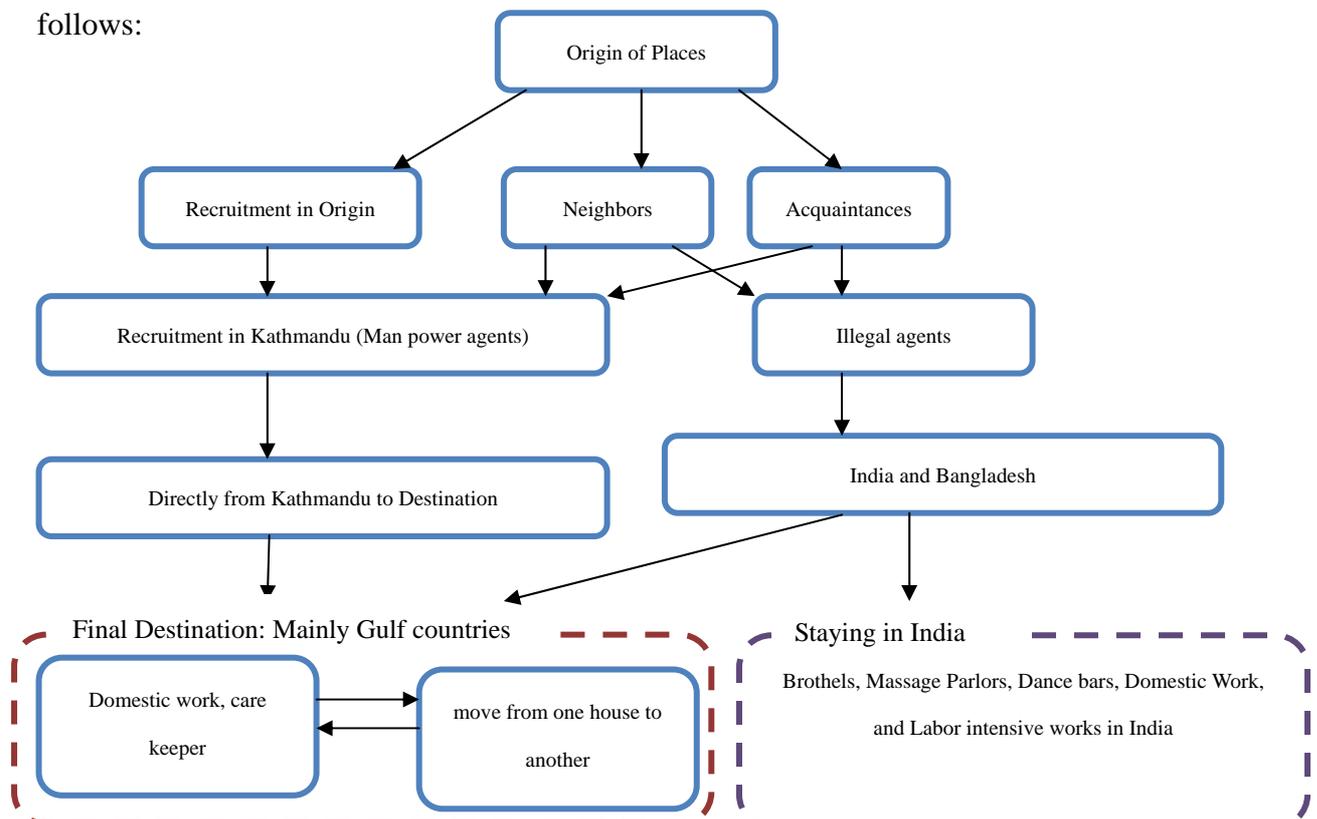


Figure 3: Conceptual Framework of Trafficking (New Trend)

To be a foreign labor, many girls and women attempt to go thru India to reach their final destination. Not all potential workers successfully reach the final destination they were promised by the 'agencies'. Some unfortunate workers are prone to be forced into brothels or slavery works in India. Since foreign labor creates the concept of decent work for potential workers, by using the name of it, agencies often lure vulnerable people; therefore the foreign labor market becomes the latest major route to draw innocents into human trafficking and sex trafficking.

As the data described, the problems of trafficking are no longer confined to a specific ethnic or caste group. In terms of regions, there used to be specific vulnerable districts where girls and women were prone to become engaged in human trafficking. However, over the years, human trafficking has been spreading over almost all districts. Although the data for susceptible age groups from the police authority did not showcase it, according to interviews with NGOs, many teenagers are often victimized by human trafficking.

6. NEW CHALLENGE OF LABOR MIGRATION

Sex exploitation of migrant workers - especially domestic workers – has become a new challenge to be handled. Job destinations to Middle Eastern and East Asian countries have become more popular in the past decade. Female migration has constantly increased despite unofficial restrictions for going to Gulf countries. Due to unofficial regulations imposed in 1997 and 2008, and the open border from Nepal to India, female migrant workers are still opting to fly abroad for work via India. This can increase their vulnerability to the extent of migrants being targeted in India by traffickers. For instance, three Nepali females who were heading for the Gulf countries from Nepalgunj via India with two sub-agents, were rescued by Nepal police in Bagechi District in December, 2007 (*Migration report, 2008*). Since the Nepal government has banned women from going to the Gulf countries for the purpose of foreign labor, the regulation has made women more vulnerable. After the govt. regulation, trafficking to India to obtain visas and necessary documents to go to a final destination, became the major route among labor migrants. In addition to the regulation, at present, there are no embassies of Gulf countries in Nepal despite the large number of foreign migration there each year. Therefore, if labor migrants took adequate steps to get visas - such as support letters from employers, bank statements, medical statements, etc. - the Nepali government has no active operation with those countries to accept those labor migrants and to provide official documents and visas. Consequently, lack of information and bureaucratic support in Nepal has forced labor migrants to go to India to get any necessary documents.

Not all girls and women are able to reach their final destinations. Those migrants using the route to India are likely to stay in India for 2 to 3 months to get visa and document which are not issued by government. During the time of processing visa, some girls were withheld their passport and send to brothels or different works in India. Labor migrations became one of major routes into human trafficking and sex trafficking.

Those female migrants who successfully reach their final destination also encounter difficulties. Since they do not carry legal papers provided by the Nepal government, girls and women are often abused sexually by owners or their relatives, and physically by working long hours without payment, and psychologically (*Tanka Pant, 2002*). In summary, those workers who successfully reached their final destinations and are able to work, have often faced abusive and intense working conditions. Women often face

problems such as whom to contact if the job is not as agreed upon; what to do if their passport has expired; where to report a case of exploitation. Lack of information and support systems for these labor migrations attributes to their oppression.

Another problem is the lack of connections to borrow money and knowledge of business and investment plans. Commission fees paid to agencies is not often affordable. Additionally, if these migrant girls and women need to borrow money, due to poverty, they often access unknown lenders who charge 30 - 50% interest rates per annum. Since girls and women from rural areas do not have much knowledge of business plans and interest rates and are working abroad, some women tend to encounter accumulated payment to lenders which may lead to further coercion and exploitation.

PART 2

7. TRENDS OF HUMANA TRAFFICKING-ALTERING MOTIVATIONS

There are several incentives why women and girls decided to go abroad. Push and Pull factors represents motivations of those women and girls who go abroad and those families committed to selling a daughter. The Push and Pull factors also have trends and many factors – such as degree of poverty, concept of globalization, and building gender equality and the rights of migration among women.

7.1 Push and Pull factors

Factors motivating girls and women to be engaged by human trafficking are complex and intertwined. The incentives and reasons are multiple and intricately combined. The incidents of leaving their own villages aiming to thrive have individual desires among girls and women - regardless of the different ways they are engaged by human trafficking (i.e., fake marriage, carpet factory, displacement due to conflicts, and foreign labor migration). These forced or voluntary motives can be explained in terms of ‘Push and Pull factors’. Push factors usually are attributed to negative characteristics occurring in the places where people move from, whereas, pull factors often have characteristics that fulfill the needs and demands of the push factors (*Pranti Datta, 2004*). Push and Pull factors are exemplified as centrifugal and centripetal forces. The degree of centrifugal impulse is directly connected to the result of centripetal urge. As the trends of the demand-side of human trafficking have changed - e.g., fake marriage, carpet factory, and foreign labor migration - the motivations and reasons would also have been changed.

7.1.1 Push Factors

Economic Push Factor:

Economic push factors are critical in causing human trafficking. According to several studies, the economic push factors that motivated people to leave their original places have been 1) Instability and economic depression, 2) Poverty, 3) Lack of employment opportunity, 4) Struggle for livelihood, 5) Forced taking of landed property from minority groups, 6) Economic insecurity, and 7) Lack of industrialization (*Datta, 2004*). For instance, during the late 1980s to middle 1990s, absolute poverty attributed to parents selling their own daughter/s to brokers.

Social Push Factor:

Due to gender discrimination in Nepal, social factors also play pivotal roles in causing human trafficking. Unequal opportunity to receiving education among female children - due to the concept of the unimportance of education for females - attributed to sending female children to carpet factories. The practice of child marriage and pressures of marriage transactions (or *dowries*) are also one of the factors in causing fake marriages. Broken families also attributed to children running away from their families - due to alcohol problems, domestic violence, and sexual abuse by relatives and family members.

Political Push Factor:

Due to political instability, many children were displaced during the time of the middle 1990s until now. Over 5,000 children became orphans. Each day 500 children were sent to India for the purpose of fleeing warring conflicts (*NHRC, 2005*). The armed conflicts have also increased child marriage in various part of the country. At an early age, due to fear of abduction by the armed insurgents, young daughters were often married to bridegrooms. With the promise of a better life in India by 'bridegrooms', many parents sent their daughters away. These girls were likely to end up in brothels.

Multiple Push Factors:

Most of the reasons and motivations for being engaged by human trafficking were described in multiple push factors; fake marriages were attributed to a complex of economic vulnerability and social push factors; poor families are often in great debt, and female children were prone to be thought of more as a burden than male children due to the traditional practice of expensive '*dowries*' for girls. '*Dowries*' is a new idea and started to practice in last 20 years. Therefore, fake marriages with those grooms from India - who promised not to take any dowries and to send remittances to the brides' families after the brides come to India - lured vulnerable parents.

7.1.2 Pull Factors

The centripetal impulse depicted as Push factors interrelates with pull factors that identify the characteristics at the center of destination. Pull factors tend to meet the needs of Push factors; in terms of economic opportunities - such as job availability - to achieve betterment of livelihoods, political stability, a secure environment and

livelihood, and better education. Thus, many children internally and externally migrated from rural to urban areas and abroad.

8. METHODOLOGY

For understanding the trends of human trafficking in terms of motivations, a method of key informant interviews were utilized. Qualitative analysis by conducting key informant interviews with age groups of 13 to around 25 was conducted to see incentives of going abroad. Previously, the motivation of going abroad was forceful due to low economic status. The key informant interviews identified changing trends of motivations/reasons for going abroad while knowing the risk of being drawn into human trafficking.

The target audiences were questioned regarding 1) desire to go abroad and work abroad 2) incentives and reasons to identify push factors, 3) knowledge regarding accessibility to get job opportunities abroad 4) factors which fed the knowledge of accessibility in order to identify the routes and connections to engage human traffickers among girls, 5) decision making; this allows understanding how girls and women made - or will make - decisions for going abroad, which indicated the degree of gender equality and the concept of the role regarding independence within families.

The study was conducted at three different villages: Maneguan, in Nuwakot, Trishuli District, Helambu area in Sindhupalchok, Timbu, Ghangyul, and Sheramathang. 115 people currently live in Maneguan; most of them live by farming and animal husbandry. One primary school near the village and one secondary school are located 1-hour walking distance. Despite the hilly and secluded area where the Maneguan village is located, there is an accessible road reaching to the entrance of the village from the bottom of the mountain where frequent buses to Kathmandu are available. Most of the villagers are Tamang people in the village.

Helambu is located in Langtang National Park where there is at least one lodge for tourists. The main resource for income is agriculture. In three villages in the Helambu area, interviews were conducted: Timbu, Ghangyul and Sheramathang. Timbu is the last bus stop from Kathmandu and more accessible to Kathmandu than other villages. Because of the existence of a secondary school in Timbu, many children come from other villages to attend the school.

Ghangyul is 3 hours from Timbu by walk and located at the top of the mountain. Most of the villagers there engage in agriculture. Around 40 houses are in the village; 38

houses out of this total contribute to the community ritual. The 38 houses are obligated to donate crops and money to the village support and to organize several ritual festivals. Since there is only one primary school on the outskirts of the village, most children - after the primary level - tend to go to Kathmandu to continue further study or to go abroad for work. During my visit to the village, there were more middle aged people than young children.

Sheramathang is slightly more developed than other villages since there is a boarding school (65 students), community health center, and a mothers group center; however, according to villagers, the community health center was closed a few years ago. Currently there are 84 houses; 50 % of the houses are empty since most of the residents moved to Kathmandu for work or went abroad.

Regarding limitation, having only a short period of time - around 2 months for my research - the time restriction was one of the major challenges to complete data collection and analysis. Quality of collected data depends upon the number of participants and their interest in being part of the discussion. Even though some members were carefully selected in the beginning for a focus group discussion and key informant interviews, some were too shy to express their opinions or enter the discussion or lost their interest to participate. These incidences affected the quality of data we gathered.

Regarding data collection: since the research that was used reported documentation from police forces - and there could be many unreported cases in Nepal - the data and analysis would be necessarily incomplete – but still allowed for a trend analysis.

Even though Nepali-speaking researchers conducted interviews, the language barrier between the facilitator and key informants was also one of the major challenges - since few interviewees spoke fluent Nepali. Moreover, since scripts had to be translated and analyzed, nuances of expression in Nepali might not be applicable to some English dialog.

In recognitions of valuable subjects-human trafficking, I was cautious about ethic issues during the time visiting field sites and conducting interviews. I went through Institutional Review Board and consent forms with each interviewees.

9. FINDINGS-TRENDS OF HUMNA TRAFFICKING IN TERMS OF MOTIVATIONS

In the one village in Nuwakot and three villages in Sindhupalchok, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted. Two focus group discussions and eight key informant interviews were done in Mhanegang in Nuwakot, Trishuli district. One focus group discussion and one key informant in Timbu, and one focus group discussion and five key informants in Ghangyul, one focus group discussion and eight key informant interviews in Sheramathang.

Although I felt no particular negative impressions while conducting interviews in Mhanegang- in two villages- Timbu and Ghangyul in Sindhupalchok- I sensed the negative perspectives of talking with these women who go abroad. The study revealed that most girls currently abroad are in the age group of 13 - 22 years old. The lack of accessible key informants became a limitation of the study in Timbu. A relative of one of the key informants was unwilling to let her talk openly about her foreign labor migration. According to the interviewee⁶:

‘In some countries, I heard, girls have to work as prostitutes. We (people in Timbu) know that many girls went and worked there. They maybe would like to keep silent about their past.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

There would be some victims of sex trafficking that people in villages were aware of, and there is certainly discrimination toward those returnees. Therefore, when the time for marriage comes, those girls who have been abroad tend to encounter difficulties.

‘They (the people in villages) view them (women who returned from abroad) in a negative way; people call such women ‘randy ‘ – or promiscuous. I heard villagers say that. When abroad, owners exploit female workers and forced sex on women.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

In one of the villages in Sindhupalchok – Ghangyul - there was the same limitation I faced in Timbu due to a lack of number in target audiences in Ghangyul. Despite no

⁶ Institution Review Board (IRB) approved the study, and consent forms were signed by interviewees

outright comments related to discrimination toward women who had working experiences abroad, people in the village were unwilling to openly discuss about migrations - especially female migrations - because there were several cases of sex trafficking from the village. According to local villagers, over 5 to 6 years, gradually young girls who finished primary school openly went abroad, especially to Kuwait and Israel.

Although there are around a total of 40 households in this village, the population of girls above 13 years old was much less than people above 40 (considered being middle aged or elderly). According to locals in Ghangyul, after finishing primary school, girls go abroad for work and the rest of the girls (whose family can afford it) go to Kathmandu or other places for further study. Therefore, there are few girls above 13 years old. A girl, one of my key informants, mentioned that 'there were many friends of hers a few months back - but a few friends left now'.

People in Shermathang, and the next village of Ghangyul, talked more openly and willingly about migrations; although again, many girls were not present in the village due to schooling in Kathmandu or working abroad. In Shermathang, labor migration has been regular and open for the past 4 - 5 years. The several key informants who are around 15 - 16 years old, described that many girls from the village have gone abroad (even under 13 years old) by obtaining fake passports and going to Dubai; thus, those who remained in the village were likely to be the older generation: several lodge owners, and their servants. Due to lack of manpower in lodges or households, people are likely to hire female servants from ages 13 - 16 years old who come from other villages; those girls have internally migrated from village to village.

'There is one proverb in Nepali, "din khako junga naaako" which means: 'old enough but does not look that much old'; this fits well to many Nepalis. She may look small but she is old enough. If anybody asks, in Nepal, everyone would believe it. Saying these things, many small children have been going abroad.' (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

'I am doing farming only. When school opened women started going to school, but during the period of time when the school was closed, they started going abroad to earn money.' (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

The citations show that population considered to be child-above 13, go abroad to work.

9.1 Desires of going abroad: destination and its reasons

In Mhanegang, 60 % of girls we interviewed had desires to go abroad. Out of that 60%, half of the girls mentioned Japan, America, and the UK as desired countries. According to the many other girls who would like to go abroad, Israel is one of the most ideal countries for work. In Sindhupalchok, 80% of girls would like to go abroad in the future – especially to Dubai, Qatar and Israel for work. The rest of them prefer to pursue further study in Kathmandu. According to the interviews, it is commonly believed that in Israel working conditions for Nepalis is abusive. One of several girls described the reason: *‘Because, in Israel, my father’s sister is there. And Israel is also considered as a good country to go for Nepalese.’* By talking to family members, relatives, or neighbors who have been or are currently abroad, became the roots of desires for going abroad for work and seeking better working conditions.

According to key informant interviews, most of the girls mentioned that the ideal work was domestic work and care-giving. As the following illustrates, these kinds of work are more accessible and suitable:

‘Maybe because these kinds of work (domestic work and care giving) are easier than other work. It’s also because in our village, from childhood, we did these kinds of work and we feel easy and comfortable too. And we have to maintain expectations according to our ability’.

Domestic work is the high-demand job abroad - especially in Gulf countries - while for these girls who are often uneducated, the work is suitable work.

9.2 Role of Decision Making

In Sindhupalchok, there is a tendency toward two choices for girls after primary school within the communities: either obtaining further education or going abroad for work. Some key informants in the ages above 16 years old, tended to play a role in their own decision making and managed to learn the way of going abroad by themselves. Yet, for some under-16 year old girls who are not likely to have the power and knowledge of decision making:

‘Their parents decide, in our village a father forced his daughter to go abroad by making her passport. There are many little girls who have gone abroad by the making of falsified passports for 13 or 14 year old girls; thus, those girls do not go happily.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

‘Once a vice-secretary of Maiti Nepal⁷ came to our village to implement their awareness program. Maiti Nepal rejected the idea of making passports for these little girls. However, one of the fathers threatened the workers of Maiti Nepal and tried to push them away from the villages. Eventually, the father made a falsified passport and sent his daughter abroad by using agents. There are many little girls who have gone abroad by using falsified passports in that village.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

This quotation identifies that, despite warnings from NGOs, some parents are willing to hand their daughters over to agents. NGOs do not have the right to force people to accept their warning. Due to the lack of practical and functional regulations and laws, the voices of NGOs sometimes tend to be ineffective.

On the other hand, in Mhanegang, all interviewees who desired to go abroad are planning to migrate after completing their education. Some key informants emphasized the importance of obtaining education - at least a secondary level; therefore, most of these interviewees did not want to leave their village until they completed their secondary level. These girls who wish to go abroad, have the responsibility of decision making since by the time they go abroad, they are likely to be 16 years old. In Nepal above 16 years old is legally recognized as an adult. Thus, the role of decision making is likely to be their own. This quote exemplifies the role of decision making:

‘She (an interviewee’s elder sister) just got her Visa on her first attempt and without thinking she went. She just went. She said everyone is going abroad (of the village people), then she also wanted to go. Her uncle’s daughter also told her to go; so, she went.’ (Interview in Nuwakot)

In Mhanegang, the interviewee’s elder sister has been in Saudi Arabia working as a

⁷ Maiti Nepal: the organization was formed in 1993 for especially focused on trafficking for forced prostitution, rescuing victims of human trafficking and rehabilitating them. It has highlighted the trafficking issue with its strong advocacy from the local to national and international levels.

domestic worker. As compared to the previous trends where the power-relationship of decision making was likely to be parents or relatives, nowadays girls, even under 16 years old, mentioned that going abroad was their own decision. Therefore, these girls who do not know the risks of labor migration and the roots of human trafficking, are likely to be lured and deceived by agencies.

9.3 Accessibility and Influence

Relatives or family members of those girls who answered willingness or desire to go abroad had experiences of labor migrations or currently work abroad which means that there are certain influential catalysts within family members. The main countries they worked in are Israel, Qatar, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia. According to the interviews, female relatives, such as aunts - or family members like mothers and sisters - have had experience with foreign labor migration. Therefore, by communicating with those relatives, the desire for working abroad must certainly have influenced the younger girls. According to the interviews, except in one case, all of the girls whose relatives or family members currently work abroad often talk to them on the phone. Most of the time, they do not talk about their working conditions but rather general topics, such as health, are the common subjects both in Mhanegang n and Sindhupalchok. In the case of Sindhupalchok, influential catalysts were likely to come more from circles of friends who have been abroad than relatives. Since most friends of key informants are currently outside of Nepal for work, the girls who remain in the village often heard from friends about their livelihoods and income abroad.

On the other hand, there were a few girls we interviewed who were unwilling to go abroad. Interestingly, none of the relatives or family members of those girls had been abroad. In the interviews, despite acknowledging the fact that they will have to work eventually after completing their education, they seemed to be nonchalant about working abroad since there was not an accessible catalyst within their families.

9.4 Pull and Push factors

Most of the interviewees pointed out the crucial economic factors caused by lack of employment in village and urban areas. Some girls mentioned that 'due to an economically poor and high population and no employment we need to go to abroad'. Even though some girls obtained a higher education than primary school level, they

knew that they have to wade through hardships to get a job in Nepal; therefore, going abroad where there is a demand for women to work as domestic workers, means a greater chance to get a job and earn money - despite the risks of being trapped into human trafficking. Most of the interviewees described their economic status as a poverty situation:

‘How many people out here have a large land and can afford fertilizers? Life in a village is hard for women as well: wake up early in the morning get tea and have to head off into the forest to collect fodder and wood for cooking; some go in the fields, some of us have to go to forest areas. Those who do not have land face more difficulty working as a wage laborer from early to night. Otherwise, we cannot survive.’
(Interview in Sindhupalchok)

Due to the economic hardship of village life, the opportunity of foreign labor plays a significant role in fulfilling their financial needs. According to interviews, this frank comment presents a prevailing view of girls: ‘There is no use keeping girls in the village; not much income - but only lose everyday’ - this shows that girls going abroad to work would be a significant contribution to other family members.

These financially poor are likely to suffer from loans, medical expenses, education fees, having alcoholic or drug addicted family members or relatives, and unemployment. In Sindhupalchok, despite an insufficient amount of crops to feed family members, many rituals such as ‘chewar’ and ‘ghewa-funeral’ require money of around 5,000 to 6,000 rupees - and their food.

On the other hand, a key informant whose daughter is currently in Saudi Arabia working as a domestic worker mentioned that ‘they (girls who are willing to go abroad) are crazy to go abroad. They do not have to go abroad. You can see that we are economically fine. We do not have the type of problems (debt) for people to force them to go abroad. Everyone went abroad, so she (the mother’s daughter) went’:

‘If they work hard here, I am sure they can survive, but who wants to prefer hard work? If people devote the same amount of time working abroad, they can receive double the amount of income. Since they know it’s an easy way to earn money, parents and their own children come to want more money and materials- never satisfied. Even for those people who have land properties, they become greedy and money-minded.’

(Interview in Sindhupalchok)

Although poverty is a major push factor, the scale of poverty - as compared to the situation of absolute poverty a few decades ago - has been improving and ameliorating literacy levels, life expectancy, and health factors caused by absolute poverty. As in the quote, one key informant describing her current own livelihood, exemplified that the scale of poverty has been altered. Compared to past livelihoods, desires such as seeking better and higher education, and a more material life has mushroomed among parents and their children; therefore, those young people migrating might have been brainwashed by outsiders and catalysts to believe in labor migration as the way to fulfill their material desires, according to key informants.

Another high 'push' factor was driven by social influences and catalysts. Young girls were influenced - and felt pressured by - family members or relatives; one girl mentioned that 'my mother kept saying other people went abroad and earned lots of money. She often talks about other people by mentioning their experiences abroad; money they earned; TV or other material things those people bought by using the money earned abroad'. The girl was herself unwilling to go abroad, since she would not want to leave the comfortable place and her village; however, unconsciously, her mindset might be now influenced to engage in labor migration.

Another push factor caused by political and educational consequences was found especially in Sindhupalchok. For the past 8 years, a boarding school in the villages was affected by the Maoist conflict; therefore, there was no other option for students but either going abroad or to other areas for study. For the poor, due to the political conflict, providing further education opportunities in their village was affected financially and gradually was neglected; instead, they sent children abroad.

9.5 Knowledge of going abroad

It seems that the higher access girls have to knowing about foreign working opportunities abroad, the more detailed information the girls knew. However, the interviews revealed that the information was so sporadically known that there were many risks of the girls being drawn into human trafficking and sex trafficking. Although some did not know where to access recruitment, most of the interviewees knew details of accessible recruitment. According to one girl, 'If one person has experience, then it

spreads to everyone else because they share with others'. Another girl vividly described how the key informant got information regarding the process of migration:

'She (her sister) got the information from another sister of the same village. And there are some middle men in this village as well. People accessed the middle man and finally went to Kathmandu.' (Interview in Nuwakot)

As the quotation shows, there are middle men dealing with the recruitment process in the village. Although a few girls did not know how the process of going abroad functions, some interviewees - even under 16 years old - shared vivid stories and information of the process of going abroad.

9.6 Knowledge of process: agencies

A striking number of interviewees mentioned that those who currently work abroad - or had experience of working outside - reached final destinations through India. In Sindhupalchok, according to several interviewees who have been abroad for work, they first were sent by agents (Nepali people called them 'Man-powers') in Kathmandu to Delhi. In Delhi, they stayed for 15 to 16 days; but some had to wait for 2 months or longer. The main reasons of using this route, according to interviewees, is that there are no embassies of Gulf countries in Nepal and agents will provide everything including fake passports and visas in an efficient manner. One of the local NGOs working for migrations, Pourakhi, mentioned that there is a process where labor migrants are able to get visas to Gulf countries in Nepal; however, due to a lack of knowledge and false information from agents, innocent girls are sent to India and face vulnerable conditions.

Most of the girls who were interviewed knew how the process of going abroad works as well as the risks of false migration as well. Though some girls vaguely described procedures of applying for jobs abroad, they knew that agencies ('Man-power') would provide information regarding jobs, take care of visas and support documents and commission fees. Regarding commission fees: even those girls who did not know how the agents work for applicants, knew how much agents charged for commission fees.

In order to go to Saudi Arabia, a daughter of a key informant interviewee in Mhanegang had to stay in India for one year. Despite no details regarding her life back in India during the interview, the daughter often lost contact with her family while in India and

Saudi Arabia, according to the interviewee. Despite unknown details of how those interviewees got the information, all of the key informants knew details of commission fees for agents; e.g.) Minimum 80,000 to 90,000 rupees, 1 lakhs Dubai, 4 to 5 lakhs Israel, 7 to 10 lakhs UK (Maximum 14 lakhs), around 90,000 rupees Saudi Arabia. Not only the destination, but also the network and illegal documents determine the price of the commission fee; for instance, if applicants do not know anybody in an agency (Man-power), the commission fee tends to become doubled. Making a falsified passport is often charged 50,000 to 60,000 rupees.

From the interviews, many girls were aware of false migrations and its risks. In Mhanegang, 4 girls out of 16 key informants knew about the risks of sex trafficking and its working conditions by saying: 'they (agents) try to lure us about the job. Then they take us to Bombay. They do trafficking of girls to Bombay'. This means that some girls are also aware of the risks of relying on agencies. However, many said that due to a lack of knowledge of other cultures abroad and the legal process - such as support documents and visas - there is no other option but to rely on the agents. There are pitfalls girls are likely to be trapped in that push them into vulnerable positions. The following example, despite the case being a male, described by one key informant in Mhanegang showcases how a lack of understanding can lead to a very bad result.

'There are still some places to trust but it is agreed that there are some man-powers who deceive. I have a cousin who took a loan around 1 lakh to go to Saudi Arabia. When he went to the airport, he showed two passports: one was original and another was a forged one in which his age was older than his actual age. Due to his being unaware, he showed both passports to the police in the airport. Consequently, the police sent him to jail where he was not given food and beaten. He said that he cried a lot. Now he is back in the village.' (Interview in Nuwakot)

Compared to Mhanegang, in Sindhupalchok, many interviewees who were willing to go abroad knew less about the risks of false migration. The study revealed that in Sindhupalchok girls under 16 years old are sometimes likely to be (illegally) forcefully sent abroad by parents. These parents may not be concerned with the dangers of false migration as long as their daughters are successfully working abroad.

Nevertheless, except in the case of forced migration, many girls access agencies - since there is no other place they can rely on in terms of information of other countries and procedures for visas and passports. Although some girls are aware of the risks of false

migration, there are other needs to fulfill regarding knowledge of working conditions, cultural behavior, foreign languages, geographies of the ideal countries girls would like to go to for work - and the process of preparing documents required in order to avoid the route into human trafficking by trusting only in agencies. Most informants who work outside Nepal kept in touch with their relatives and family members. However, a daughter of a key informant seemed to have difficulty in contacting family members in Nepal.

‘My daughter is not allowed to make a phone call; thus, she seldom called us. The other day, she stole a phone and made a phone call, saying that she ran from the house. Now she is going to meet Dai (meaning her brother in Nepali) who is from the village and will go to the police’ (Interview in Nuwakot)

After the phone conversation, the interviewee did not receive any phone calls from her. There is a tremendous lack of support legally, physically, and socially; therefore, such migrants are likely to be vulnerable and abused. Even though there are voices seeking help, due to a lack of protective asylum and laws abroad for Nepalis, the voices tend to be suppressed.

9.7 Working condition in abroad

Two in Maneguan and four key informant interviewees in Sindhupalchok had working experience abroad. Some who never have been abroad also contributed important information heard from their family or friends. A few interviewees who worked in Israel had satisfactory working conditions. Yet, some other interviewees were exploited;

‘My daughter (working in Saudi Arabia) was not provided enough food. The employers have not given her salary till now (it has passed one year). Not even one Rupee. They always say that they will give it to her when she returns home. When she asked for salary, the employer scolded her saying ‘We will not eat your money; we will give you money later’. Long working hours is required of her as well.’ (Interview in Nuwakot)

Physical exploitation is likely to commonly happen. One interviewee had to work from 5 am to 2am of the next day and described her life as a living jail. Illegal migrants who went via India are in a more vulnerable situation. Since the employers often hold migrants’ visas and passports (and the girls exploited until the visa expires) the girls tend to be forced to work in the same house.

Girls are often sexually abused in their working place. In Sindhupalchok, several interviewees shared cases of girls who were sexually abused. The following quotation also exemplified how vulnerable illegal female workers are. The voices of victims are apt to be shattered:

“A” got a falsified passport and managed to go to Dubai. She told me thru letters that her master tried to sexually molest her. One of the family members she works for showed his sex organ trying to get her attention. She said she tried not to have time alone with him; but due to working as a domestic worker, there is no privacy and space to hide.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

9.8 Expenditures

According to interviews, most key informants who have been abroad borrowed money from relatives or middle men. Interest rates ranging from 30-50 % were often charged; thus, even though people earned money abroad, the income often went to paying loans, or ritual festivals. The average money earned abroad is hardly one and a half lakh. Those girls who have less education have no idea of business plans or interest rate and making regular payments; therefore, the money earned by working like slaves often is eaten by interest rates. The lack of business understanding may be a crucial factor for girls facing poverty and creates a push factor to return back abroad and their risking a fake migration.

Some young girls spent extravagantly and profligately according to key informants whose daughters have been abroad. Those family members who expected to receive money from daughters also faced poverty due to the profligate life of their daughters.

‘A’ spent money just buying clothes in Dubai. Her father sent his money to her which he had saved by working hard. However, ‘A’ could not pay her interest rate back when she returned. She gave a big headache to her father.’ (Interview in Sindhupalchok)

Knowledge of business plans - including interest rates and savings – is necessary in order for the money earned abroad to be purposefully utilized and contribute to their needs - and not just desires.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By examining the current trends of human trafficking, foreign labor migration is the major method and potential way to be drawn into human trafficking. Jobs - like domestic workers or care givers - are likely to be in high demand in Gulf countries. Even though the data from the police women cell department in Nepal showcased that the majority of the victims of human trafficking were more than 16 years old, the findings by interviewing target groups (especially in Sindhupalchok) revealed that under-16 year old girls were often forcefully sent abroad to Gulf countries with fake passports by their parents. Not only these young girls, but also above 16 year old girls who are able to get official citizenship of Nepal, tend to use the route of passing thru India in order to obtain visas and unofficial support documents there. Because they entered and have worked in outside countries with unofficial documents, they are recognized as illegal and it makes them more vulnerable in society. Thus, many girls had to face many kinds of exploitation. In order to ameliorate the issues of exploitation, the following factors would be recommended on the NGOs' level:

In order to increase the opportunities for safe migration of Nepali women, NGOs need to provide full details of their potential work situations by using panel discussions with former migrants and openly talk about risks of false migrations in order to prevent utilizing the illegal route via India. False information agents are likely to urge women or girls to go through India who lack accessibility of acquiring visas and supporting documents in Nepal. This should be made clear to potential migrants as they then become vulnerable to exploitation.

A business plan is also one of the major crucial programs to be implemented. Lack of connections for borrowing money and knowledge of business and investment plans tend to be the root of the problem; commission fees to agencies is not often affordable. Additionally, if these girls and women need to borrow money, they often access unknown lenders who charge 30-50 % interest rate per annum. Since girls and women from rural areas do not have knowledge of business plans and interest rates, after working abroad some women tend to encounter accumulated payments to lenders. Especially, uneducated girls have no idea of interest rates and how the monthly and yearly payment works. Some are trapped in a cycle of debt after coming back from being abroad. The cycle of debt would create another economic 'push' factor for parents to sell their own daughters - or for others of the family to go abroad with the same risks.

In order not to create additional financial push factors, educating those girls and women before departure about a business plan could successfully lead to a financially secure life within family households.

It is always the most challenging task to prevent for girls to forcefully get into human trafficking by parents; especially for those who are facing financial difficulty. NGOs often do not have authorities to force parents not to sell own children; however, by spreading information about help line to children, those victims may report to NGOs before their parents hand the children over to middle man or agents. Greediness is a human nature and due to many push factors, a decision of selling children would be made; therefore, decentralizing NGOs would be effective. Not only implementing activities in local level, but also dwelling in the local areas in order to define push factors and local needs would be necessary. In Sharmathang, one of two NGOs was actively taken part of local dairy activities in order to identify needs in terms of education. Another NGO is going to return back and plans to provide medical needs. Even though it cannot be certain that decentralized activities by NGOs have crucially played a role to be more awareness of power of human rights, the people in Sharmathang in Sindhupalchok, were more likely to openly share about tragedies of human trafficking and their critical opinions toward greediness among parents in compared to other villages in Sindhupalchok where there have been no NGOs and its activities. Mhanegang also proofed how local NGOs positively influenced to local people. Decentralization among NGOs would be needed to solidly root awareness in local level.

APPENDEX

APPENDEX 1 Table of percentage of trafficking survivors categorized by caste and ethnic groups (Data year 1994 and 2001)

APPENDEX 2 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking victims categorized by religious groups from 2006 to 2009

APPENDEX 3 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by age groups from 2006 to 2009

APPENDEX 4 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by educational level

APPENDEX 5 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by professions

APPENDEX 1 Table of percentage of trafficking survivors categorized by caste and ethnic groups (Data year 1994 and 2001)

Ethnicity/ Castes	CWIN Balika (1996)	ILO/IPEC (2001)	Media reports 1994- 2001, IIDS	Total
Brahmin/Chhetri	17 (19.3%)	20 (23.5%)	48 (26.1%)	85 (23.8%)
Hill ethnic groups (Janajatis)	47 (53.4%)	39 (45.9%)	68 (36.9%)	154 (43.1%)
Tharu and Chaudhari	4 (4.5%)	2 (2.4%)	6 (3.3%)	12(3.3%)
Occupational castes	20 (22.8%)	16 (18.8%)	44 (23.9%)	80 (22.4%)
Terai and others	0(0%)	8 (9.4%)	18 (9.8%)	26 (7.2%)
Total	88 (100.0)	85 (100.0)	184 (100.0)	357 (100.0)

Source: UNIFEM 2004

APPENDEX 2 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking victims categorized by religious groups from 2006 to 2008

Regions	Hindu	Buddhist	Muslim
	# (%) female	# (%) female	# (%) female
East	6 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.8%)
Middle	6 (16.7%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Western	4 (11.1%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	4 (11.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	8 (22.2%)	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	30 (83.3%)	5 (13.9%)	1 (2.8%)

Total: 36 cases in 2006

Regions	Hindu	Buddhist	Muslim
	# (%) female	# (%) female	# (%) female
East	6 (10.7%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)
Middle	10 (17.9%)	6 (10.7%)	0 (0%)
Western	6 (10.7%)	2 (3.6%)	1 (1.8%)
Mid-western	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)
Far Western	4 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	12 (21.4%)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	41 (73.2%)	13 (23.2%)	2 (3.6%)

Total: 56 cases in 2007

Regions	Hindu	Buddhist	Muslim
	# (%) female	# (%) female	# (%) female
East	11 (19%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Middle	9 (16%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Western	15 (26%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	12 (21%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	3 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	58 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Total: 58 cases in 2008

Source: Police Women Cell Department in Nepal

APPENDEX 3 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by age groups from 2006 to 2009

Region	0 to 7	8 to 12	13 to 16	17 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45
	# (%)Female					
East	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6%)
Middle	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (13.9%)	3 (8.3%)	0 (0%)
Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (11.1%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.8%)	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	1 (2.8%)	1 (2.8%)
Valley	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6%)	4 (11.1%)
Sub total	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	17 (47.2%)	12 (33.3%)	7 (19.4%)

Total: 36 cases in 2006

Region	0 to 7	8 to 12	13 to 16	17 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45
	# (%)Female					
East	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	4 (7.1%)	3 (5.4%)
Middle	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	8 (14.3%)	8 (14.3%)
Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (12.5%)	2 (3.6%)
Mid-western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)
Valley	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (7.1%)	9 (16.1%)	2 (3.6%)
Sub total	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (14.7%)	33 (58.9%)	15 (26.8%)

Total: 56 cases in 2007

Region	0 to 7	8 to 12	13 to 16	17 to 18	19 to 25	26 to 35	36 to 45	Above 46
	# (%)Female							
East	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (5.2%)	1 (1.7%)	4 (6.9%)	3 (5.2%)	0 (0%)
Middle	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)	3 (5.2%)	3 (5.2%)	1 (1.7%)
Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	6 (10.3%)	5 (8.6%)	4 (6.9%)	1 (1.7%)
Mid-western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)	6 (10.3%)	4 (6.9%)	1 (1.7%)
Far Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)	6 (10.3%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)	4 (6.9%)	16 (27.6%)	21 (36.2%)	14 (24.1%)	

Total: 58 cases in 2008

Source: Police Women Cell Department in Nepal

APPENDEX 4 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by educational level

Region	Illiterate	Literate	Grade 6 to 10	SLC	IA	Above IA
	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female
East	1 (2.8%)	6 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Middle	2 (5.6%)	6 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Western	3 (8.3%)	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	1 (2.8%)	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	2 (5.6%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	4 (11.1%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	13 (36.1%)	19 (52.8%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Total: 36 cases in 2006

Region	Illiterate	Literate	Grade 6 to 10	SLC	IA	Above IA
	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female
East	0 (0%)	4 (7.1)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0%)
Middle	4 (7.1)	11 (19.6%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Western	0 (0%)	7 (12.5%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	0 (0%)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	0 (0%)	11 (19.6%)	2 (3.6%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	4 (7.1)	36 (64.3%)	13 (23.2%)	1 (1.8%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0%)

Total: 56 cases in 2007

Region	Illiterate	Literate	Grade 6 to 10	SLC	IA	Above IA
	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female	# (%)Female
East	0 (0%)	10 (17.2)	3 (5.4%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Middle	0 (0%)	9 (15.5%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Western	2 (3.4%)	13 (22.4%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	0 (0%)	12 (20.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	0 (0%)	3 (5.2%)	4 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	0 (0%)	8 (13.8%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	2 (3.4%)	55 (94.8%)	13 (23.2%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Total: 58 cases in 2008

Source: Police Women Cell Department in Nepal

APPENDEX 5 Number of cases and percentage of human trafficking survivors categorized by professions

Region	Farmer	Service	Business	Labor	Student
	# (%)Female				
East	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	2 (5.6%)	1 (2.8%)
Middle	4 (11.1%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Western	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	6 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.6%)	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	18 (50%)	0 (0%)	10 (27.8%)	7 (19.4%)	1 (2.8%)

Total: 36 cases in 2006

Region	Farmer	Service	Business	Labor	Student
	# (%)Female				
East	2 (3.6%)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	3 (5.4%)	0 (0%)
Middle	8 (14.3%)	1 (1.8%)	3 (5.4%)	5 (8.9%)	0 (0%)
Western	2 (3.6%)	2 (3.6%)	3 (5.4%)	1 (1.8%)	1 (1.8%)
Mid-western	1 (1.8%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	4 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	8 (14.3%)	2 (3.6%)	4 (7.1%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	25 (44.6%)	8 (14.3%)	12 (21.4%)	10 (17.9%)	1 (1.8%)

Total: 56 cases in 2007

Region	Farmer	Service	Business	Labor	Student
	# (%)Female				
East	7 (12.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (5.2%)	1 (1.7%)
Middle	7 (12.1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)
Western	12 (20.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0%)
Mid-western	12 (20.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Far Western	3 (5.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Valley	2 (3.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (10.3%)	0 (0%)
Sub total	43 (74.1%)	0 (0%)	3 (5.2%)	11 (19.0%)	1 (1.7%)

Total: 58 cases in 2008

Source: Police Women Cell Department in Nepal

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