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### The Snapshot of Human Trafficking: Humans as Commodities

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#### Abstract

*The aim of the paper is to identify the main dynamics and the parameters of human trafficking which is one of the most urgent political challenges of our time. As defined by many authorities, human trafficking is a kind of non-institutional slavery including trafficking of sex, forced labour, domestic and involuntary servitude and so forth. Furthermore, human trafficking is resistant to abolition and actually difficult to combat. Nevertheless, it will be quite useful to have a general overview about the main parameters of human trafficking including the definitions, reasons, solutions and so forth for the ultimate solution.*

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## 1 Introduction

Frederick Douglass says that “The great thought of captains, owners, consignees, and others, was to make the most money they could in the shortest possible time. Human nature is the same now as then” which means that the human nature has an ego that wishes more and more particularly on the very basis of money in a short of time as soon as possible. In old times, this was through slavery, but now it is through human trafficking which is the illness of the century.

Millions of men, women, and the children are the possible victims of human trafficking for sexual, forced labour and the other forms of exploitation methods. Both as an individual and economic basis, it costs so much. More than anything else, its costs to human capital is impossible to quantify. This case is a kind of disadvantage for the development issues ranging from social inclusion to justice and the rule of the law issues.

All these data pave the way that it will be quite useful to assess all the dynamics of the human trafficking to have a general point of view about that including the definition, the reasons, the types of human trafficking and the specific measures to be taken for it.

## 2 The Definition of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the terms used for modern like version of slavery and it is mainly used for governments and organizations in the migration field (Laczko and Gramegna, 2003: 179). As in African slaves in the past centuries, people today are kept captive and they are forced to work in various jobs. Some of the people are physically beaten to work while the others are sold into slavery. Actually most of the people are tricked into becoming slaves by being given false promises of money, work, better lives, and educations. The victims of human trafficking are trapped and some of them are even locked behind doors and they are chained. Some of the victims, additionally, are too small to understand that they have a freedom (Hart, 2009: 4, 5) There is also a universal definition of human trafficking according to the United Nations Trafficking Protocol (Aranowitz, 2009: 1 and American Society of International Law, 2001: 408):

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitutions of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of the organs.”

Human trafficking and smuggling can also be defined as “the term usually reserved for individuals and organizations that, for a fee, move individuals unlawfully over borders”. Trafficking, on the other hand, is a little bit different from smuggling. Trafficking contains smuggling plus coercion or exploitation in regards to the fact that women taken unlawfully across borders are used as prostitutes, or the migrant workers used as slaves. In order to comprehend human trafficking, it is quite good to analyze its process, mean and the purpose (Social Development Notes, 2009: 2).

**Table 1: The Identification of Human Trafficking (Process, Means, Purpose)**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Transfer</li> <li>• Harbouring</li> <li>• Receipt of persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat</li> <li>• Force</li> <li>• Coercion</li> <li>• Abduction</li> <li>• Fraud</li> <li>• Deception</li> <li>• Abuse of power</li> <li>• Abuse of vulnerability</li> <li>• Giving and receiving of payments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploitation which includes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation</li> <li>b) Forced labor and services</li> <li>c) Slavery and similar practices</li> <li>d) Involuntary servitude</li> <li>e) Removal of organs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

So, smuggling is the illegal entry of a person into another state, but trafficking means transportation, recruitment, transfer or the reception of the persons by means of threat, force, fraud, deception or coercion (Martin and Miller, 2000: 969). These factors such as money hands, the trafficker, an international border, illegal entry, and voluntary movement are necessary for migration to be considered as trafficking (International Organization for Migration, 2005: 10). There are some sparkling differences between trafficking and smuggling (Aranowitz, 2009: 8).

**Table 2. Differences between Human Trafficking and Smuggling**

<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Smuggling</b>
Force is used or consent is obtained through fraud, deception, or coercion (actual, perceived or implied), unless under eighteen years of age; the person being trafficked may or may not cooperate	The person being smuggled generally cooperates and consents to the smuggling.
Forced labour and/or exploitation	There is generally no actual or implied coercion
Persons trafficked are victims	Persons smuggling are violating the law; by law they are not victims
Enslaved, subjected to limited movement or isolation, documents may have been confiscated	Persons are free to leave, change jobs, etc.
Need not involve the actual or physical movement of the victim	Facilitates the illegal entry of the person(s) from one country into another
No requirement to cross an international border; trafficking can occur within a country	Smuggling always crosses an international border
Persons are exploited in labor/ services or commercial sex acts, i.e., must be working	Person must be attempting illegal entry or only be in country illegally

### **3 The Reasons for Human Trafficking**

There are various reasons of human trafficking all over the world. The most important of all them is the instabilities in the economy and the disrupted socio economic conditions in the community. Corruption and the female youth employment are also the result of the unstable economic and political factors that increase the likelihood of the trafficking and make victims susceptible to trafficking (ILO, 2006: 1).

All around the world, it can be stated that women and the girls are on the target for being trafficked because they are more apt to the seemingly economic opportunities and more vulnerable for falling prey to traffickers. The gradual increase for the feminization of migration is actually putting women more on that position. Another factor in human trafficking is not only the supply but also the demand for it. In more explicit terms, there is a great deal of demand for cheap and exploitable labour, and also the recent studies show that the countries who are open to globalization are more open to human trafficking incidents (ILO, 2006).

Human trafficking starts with the abduction or recruitment of a person and it continues with the transportation of the persons from the origin countries to the destination areas. The final stage of

human trafficking is the profit. The reason for human trafficking on the other hand depends upon the financial gains trafficking drugs or firearms money. And the other causes of trafficking are the ignorance of the possible consequences of trafficking, the demand for sex, and the minimal penalties for traffickers (Mckabe, 2008: 12, 13, 14).

### **4 Types of Human Trafficking**

Since the 1990s, human trafficking has occurred in the context of broader processes globalization and regionalization as well. Globalization process in parallel with the economic liberalization and technological innovation and communication, have given a rise to the incentives for the labour movement as a type of distribution of wealth. Also, these globalization processes brought the formal and informal transnational nets which in turn resulted in migrations as a result of which human trafficking (Friman and Reich, 2007: 3).

The victims of human trafficking are forced to labour in various fields and departments. Some of them are forced to act as a kind of servants in private homes while the others work in restaurants, doing the cleanup jobs. People may also be forced to work in factories. Slave labour is also possible the members of which are made to work in fields to plant. Women and the girls are often forced to be prostitutes. Some of the victims are used to become soldiers to combat in the battle fields. Young boys are trained so that they can use guns and after that they are forced to kill someone who is told that he or she is enemy. As seen, there are indeed many typed of human trafficking (Hart, 2009: 6).

#### **4.1 Bonded Labour**

In this type of labour, the victims take money from someone. However, the victim does not know that the person he has taken the money is dishonest. The deal is that the victim will work until the debt is paid. In spite of the fact that the victim works for long periods the boss says that he owes more money. However hard the victim works, he cannot repay the money which is bonded labour (Hart, 2009: 6).

#### **4.2 Involuntary Servitude**

Involuntary servitude can be defined as a term used to refer to people forced to work against their wills. In this case, the victims are mandatory to work as they are afraid of escaping. They believe in the fact that if they do not work, they will be physically or emotionally hurt by their bosses (Hart, 2009: 7).

#### **4.3 Domestic Servitudes**

This term is used to refer to people who work for others' homes as maids and caregivers. These people do all the housework including cleaning the house, taking care of young children, and cooking the meals. Generally, domestic servants live in the houses where they work. So, these types of victims are luckier than the others (Hart, 2009: 9).

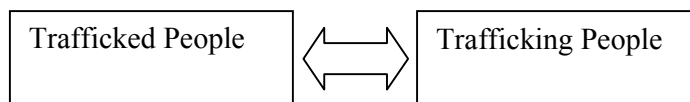
#### **4.4 Prostitution**

Prostitution is another category of human trafficking activities. In this category of trafficking, the traffickers make always money from their victims who are mostly women and the children, and they are forced to have sex. The "customers" buy these victims for an hour or more than an hour, and so the victims are made to have sex by others and the traffickers earn money (Hart, 2009: 10).

### 5 Trafficked and Trafficking People

It can be stated that there are two parts of the human trafficking. The part is the trafficked people, in other words, the victims, and the second part of it is the trafficking people, the bosses that make people become victims as shown in the following figure:

**Figure 1:** The Parts of the Human Trafficking



Here as seen, the first part is the trafficked people or the victims in other words. Anyone can be trapped by the traffickers, but the marginal groups such as children, women, people of low status or the migrant workers are the most affected parts. Also, the younger children have been increasing mostly. Women and the girls represent the 56 percent of the victims because of their degraded status (Corrin, 2005: 543), whereas men and the boys constitute the 44 percent of the portion. Considering the forced commercial sexual exploitation, the great majority of 98 percent are the women and the girls (ILO, 2005: 15).

As for the trafficking people, people in the same neighborhood of victims such as neighbours, relatives, and sometimes even the teachers can be the potential traffickers. The people who would like to make much money are also involved in human trafficking affairs and more than 78 percent of those arrested for human trafficking are men. The largest majority, that is to say, the 48 percent of them were from German. Also, the Europeans accounted for the 87 percent of those arrested for trafficking come from Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Poland (Aranowitz, 2009: 52).

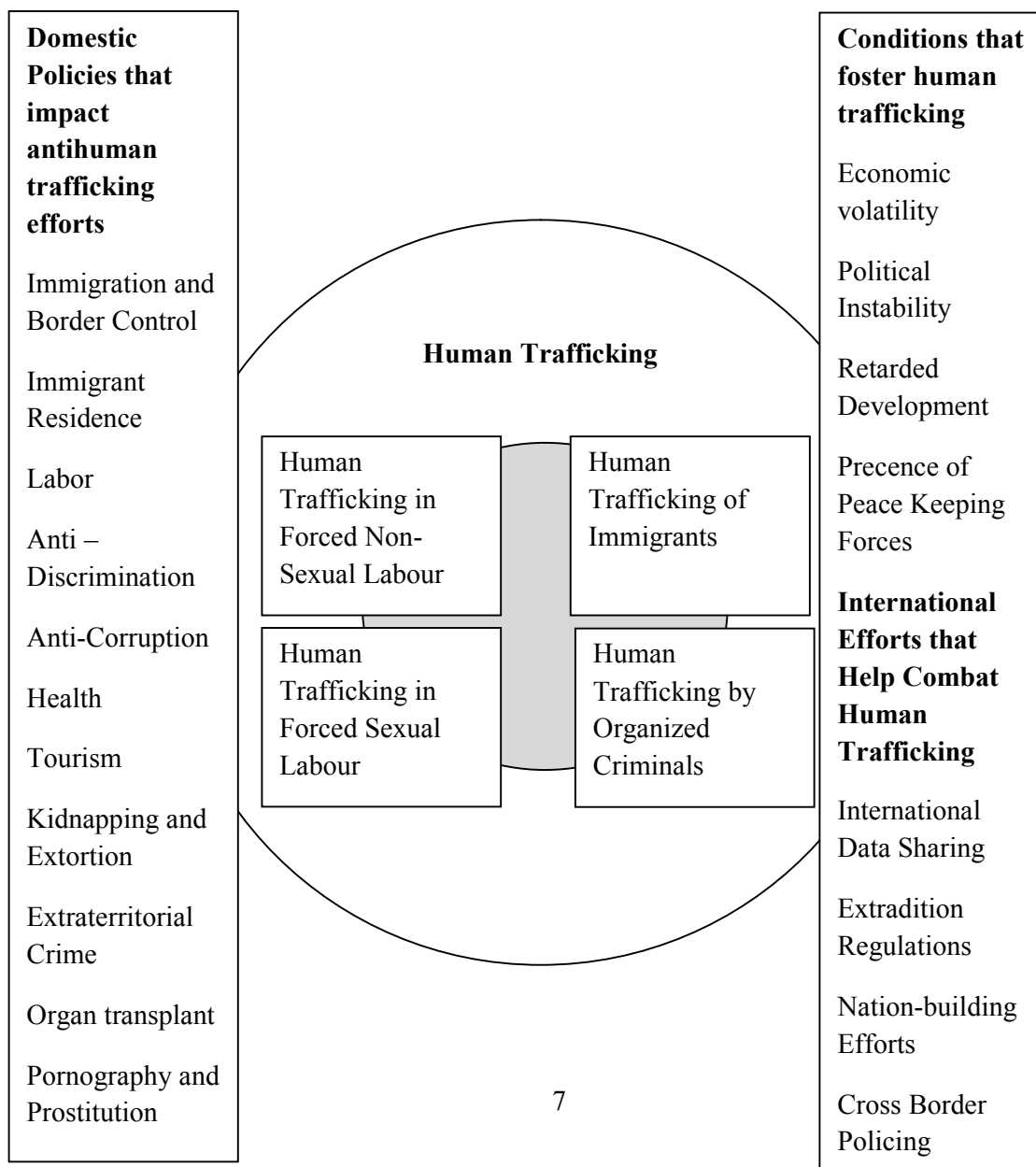
### 6 Specific Measures to Be Taken

Certain thing exists to be known. It is known that slavery is a bad thing occurred by bad people, and it is also known that slavery does not exist but it flourishes all around the world today. Almost twenty seven million people are in bondage. As a matter of fact many people are in bondage in the world today than were taken from Africa for nearly 350 years (Bales and Soodalter, 2009: 3). Therefore, the reality is that slaver does not come to an end, but it changes its shape and turns into human trafficking. For the solution of this problem, these parameters are to be taken into account internationally (Morehouse, 2009: 27, 28).

1. Demographic Parameters
  - a) Ethnic Specificity
  - b) Age Specificity
  - c) Gender Specificity
2. Geographic Parameters
  - a) European Focus of Anti Human Trafficking Measures
  - b) German (as a predecessor nation thereof) was a Signatory
  - c) The United States of America was a Signatory
  - d) Exclusion of Internal Human Trafficking
3. Exploitation Parameters
  - a) Inclusion of Forced Prostitution
  - b) Inclusion of Forced Non-Sexual Labor
  - c) Inclusion of Traffic in Human Organs

4. Victims Protection Parameters
  - a) Victim Identification
  - b) Victim Rehabilitation
  - c) Public Awareness
  - d) Victim Access to Legal Residence
  - e) Government Monitoring
5. International Cooperation Parameters
  - a) Institutional Coordination
  - b) Inclusion of Extradition
6. Prosecution and Punishment Parameters
  - a) Prosecution of Links in Trafficking Chain Including the Consumer
  - b) Irrelevance of Victim Consent
  - c) Prosecution of Attempted Trafficking
  - d) Confiscation of Assets
  - e) Commercial Nature of Crime

**Figure 2:** The Open Circle of Human Trafficking



Shorty, in other words, the path to solution goes through prevention, protection of trafficked people, prosecution of the traffickers, legislation and law enforcement and the research by collecting data on the basis of age, sex, and ethnicity besides advocacy. The policies that impact antihuman trafficking efforts and the conditions that foster human trafficking can be clearly seen in the following figure (Morehouse, 2009: 94).

### 7 Conclusion

Human trafficking which is against the nature of humans is the modern version of slavery. Based upon that, it can be stated that slavery does not end, in the stark contrast, it has changes its shape and confined itself under the curtain of human trafficking. Two hundred years passed after the UN proclaimed that slavery, slave trade, and all its forms shall be prohibited, millions of people live under slavery. Therefore, it is quite true that human trafficking is the modern type of slavery. These victims of human trafficking, as the members of the modern slavery lose their freedom by means of transported across or within the countries forcibly. Some of them are used for forced labour, that is to say, involuntary servitude while the others are used for prostitutions and the servants of the private homes. As for the reasons of this catastrophe, it can be referenced that the main one is the economic instabilities in the origin countries and the victims are exposed to behave so. The ultimate solution to this problem is to implement both national and international legal procedures by taking into account its fundamental dynamics and parameters.

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