

GLOBALIZATION, WOMEN TRAFFICKING AND THE EMERGENCE OF GLOBAL PROSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has brought new technological advancements and challenges to the world community. It has enabled the fragmented world of independent States to pool their identities in the name of globalization. In surge of development, the international community has constituted a global and composite village. Though advancements in different sections were witnessed but they accompanied with various compulsions and complexities. Certain crimes and social practices escalated and emerged in a scale that was not imagined off. Women trafficking are one of those areas.

KEYWORDS: *Globalization, Trafficking, Sex-Tourism, Prostitution, Media Ethics.*

Introduction

Women trafficking particularly for prostitution has thrived as an illicit and heinous crime through new avenues that globalization has introduced. Instrumental and institutional supports though uncontrolled and many times un-manageable were provided by the forces of globalization. It is not the case of professional sex workers engaged in practice of prostitution, rather the entire process of unholy business (Kara, 2010). It was about new methods which were devised in the age of globalization facilitating the growth of prostitution to new heights, escaping all control mechanisms. The growth has instigated new platforms from where women trafficking for the prostitution were sufficed. Primarily, with the aid of technology and secondarily, with emerging new trends like tourism, has resulted in an evolution of global prostitution worldwide.

Social Media

Social media has evolved as an integral and non-detachable attribute of majority of the people in their daily lives. Because of this property, social media is now used for business promotion related activities. Prostitution, being a heinous crime is also a profit making venture for those who were there in the crime. And these people use to employ social media for propagation of their business. From popular websites of Facebook and Twitter to the common mobile media applications were all devised to suffice their obnoxious practice of trade in human flesh.

Though it is limited to the technologically affluent generation but that too has grown to great heights when people in South Asian Countries are concerned more about the electronic gadgets than other things. Websites particularly those dealing with social activities are now discovered as a safe arena of trade in prostitution. From those who want to sell to the ones who want to buy are all having an easy access through internet. Social websites have been nowadays found to be safe haven for the global prostitution.

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Economics of trade are now been applied in the business of prostitution. According to the demand and supply, the business has evolved as a lucrative practice. Consumption has instigated the propagators to expand their business. Social media has helped them to flourish even in the remotest of the island nations of South and East Asian countries. Women trafficking are done through aid of these websites as people in-person is less connected in society then with the websites. More and more people are acquainted with the use of these websites for both personal and professional purposes. These social media websites are instrumentalized for the purpose of women trafficking in different ways.

First and the most prominent one is through allurement via job opportunities and carrier prospects (UNODC, 2008). Organized mafia, in women trafficking, employs the tactics of fascinating youth particularly females with advertisements of high profile jobs and brighter carrier prospects with minimal qualifications to none. Sometimes physical parameters are directly advertised in specific requirements of the jobs profiles, like the ones of air-hostess, receptionist or marketing individuals. Un-educated or less educated girls with higher ambitions are easy prey for them. Misguided through the advertisements in the websites led many to flee from their homes to the metropolitan cities where they were easily trapped and forced in the business of prostitution (Farr, 2005).

Second is, through personal and long-time communication done by many traffickers. In this process traffickers usually prompt to establish long term relationships with the girls while building trust in front of them. Through regular chatting done on these websites traffickers usually engage with number of girls at a time. And as they gain the trust, they instigate them to migrate from their place either to meet or to marry them. When the girl reached to meet the person, they were, at times, forced in prostitution but usually that is inconvincible without force. Hence, they employ the tactics to either emotionally cheat them in the form of love break-ups or establish physical or sexual relationships. By this, they emotionally break down the morale of girls who were easily victimized by them or their associates in prostitution.

Third is, the platform provided by social media websites to the traffickers. Facebook and other social websites are providing a safe and secure venue for traffickers to communicate with their partners and clients while facilitating prostitution. According to the demand and supply requirements, agents hunt for their clients on these websites. Export and import of women for prostitution has globalised with the aid of these social websites. Now trafficking can be done in any part of the world as globalization has eroded the borders.

Fourth is the case of international Events particularly Sports where traffickers seek the recruitment for prostitution. Traffickers reportedly increase their profits by transporting victims to cities for commercial sexual exploitation during major sporting events and conventions. Like in 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the organizers have taken cognizance to understand the impact of these sporting events on trafficking in persons. The result of the study shows that internet is possibly playing a role during such events by recruiting girls for prostitution. Apprehensions flow from the fact that in Winter Olympic Games (2010) the recruitment methods took place in the schoolyards over facebook, twitter and other social networking sites.

Donna Hughes, a researcher on trafficking of women and children, has studied how the internet has facilitated global trafficking industry since 1997. She has noted the intertwining links in trafficking especially sex trafficking with new technologies. According to her, the sexual exploitation of women and children is a global human rights crisis that is being escalated by the use of new technologies (Hughes 2002). Researchers have analyzed the link between new technologies and women trafficking and explored the possible advantages internet provides for traffickers. For example, a group of experts commissioned by the Council of Europe found that, the internet industry and sex industry are closely interlinked and the scope, volume, and content of the material on the Internet promoting or enacting trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation are unprecedented.

However, identifying incidences of women trafficking is not straightforward. In a research report conducted over internet search, for potential trafficking sites it was found that a website can only be termed suspect as there is no evidence that the girls featured in ads for sex services or marriage are in fact trafficking victims. What is clear is that the internet has changed the methods used to recruit and market victims and it has certainly contributed to the rise of trafficking in women. Despite accounts of traffickers and their customers using online channels for recruitment, advertising, and procurement, the extent to which online technologies are used in both sex trafficking is unclear and the current approach to the issue is lacking. It is alarming for the world community and technocrats that internet and social media websites are used for trafficking, which if not kept in constant check might bring serious repercussions.

Sex-Tourism

Globalization has induced another facet of global tourism to every part of the world in the name of sex-tourism. What limited to the western world has now been witnessed in South and East Asian countries in the name of sex-tourism. Travelers are now lured less by the natural beauty and environment than the easily and cheaply available sex. Foreign tourists are frequenting there because of its relaxed laws, abundant child prostitutes and the false idea that there is a lower incidence of AIDS. Multinational tour operators, hotel companies, airlines and travel agencies are setting up tourism agenda for the world over.

Another disadvantage aligned to it, is the economic benefits that has transformed the gains received through trade of commodities than to the trade of human beings. Immense sums of money are floated in the trade of women for prostitution. Easy going money with due advantages of interest has made the crime of prostitution as a global business. It has escalated in such intensity as to reach even the youth. Young generations are now being involved in this criminal and inhuman profession of trafficking. Women trafficking for sex tourism have been incited in the age of globalization in myriad ways. First is the globalization of sex-tourism. As globalization has vanished the information gaps in-between people, it has prompted the information regarding sex-tourism to every here and there. Though it helped in easy accessible of information and knowledge but it too has incited this evil practice to many new places of the world. Isolated tourist places, particularly, the islands were targeted to flourish prostitution, as they are far away from urban surroundings and public surveillance (Kempadoo, 2004). Hence, the places which were considered the best for recreation and meditation are entrapped and hijacked by the trafficking mafia.

Second is the unprecedented rise in women trafficking at the tourist Spots. Since globalization has made people mobile and knowledge sharing has enabled it to hunt for new places every time, there has been a constant rise in tourism. And that has been a global phenomenon not restricted to certain part of the world. Here enters the economics of trade. Huge influx of tourist requires mass hospitality at a certain destination. Places where there have been practices of sex-tourism behind the curtain have come up with new and bold tactics to lure the clients. Large demands of prostitutes have driven traffickers to recruit more and more women. Hence, those who are poor or can be easily targeted fall prey to the traffickers. Places where there is an abundance of tourists usually find the practices of sex-tourism or prostitution in a big number with the practice in a modified manner.

Third is the easy going money facilitating women trafficking. Since globalization has proven the vitality of the money as inflation has now become a matter that has been out of control by all the major and minor economies except few, money is the present requirement of the day. On the other hand where forces of globalization have penetrated in domestic economy of the countries there has been huge unemployment and job loss. Vulnerable people specially the women who lost their job are easily trapped by the traffickers. Nevertheless, women often moved in the business of sexual exploitation when they see no other way to earn their livelihood (Bales, 2004). Tourist destination is the best found place where they can sell themselves unwillingly (Seabrook, 2001).

Fourth is the role of media in disseminating the trade. Internet websites exclusively dealing with tourism and holiday packages chart out plans for holiday trips in such a way that people who are acquainted to travelling got easily convinced. They provoke people to move to such destinations so that they can fetch good and easy money out of them. Composite village (McLuhan, 1996), the term associated with globalization has made people easily mobile to these destinations. Advertisements through newspaper and radio are also viable in mobilizing tourists to those destinations. And overall it is trafficking mafia that sat behind to regulate and control the trade in prostitution.

Hence, globalization though succeeded in constituting a composite world has also propelled the mobility of individual from places. Migration, both by the one who seek a prostitute to the one who is either compelled or willingly to enter in the job is facilitated in the run. Moreover, globalization has lessened the barriers of movements that also enable traffickers to export and import human bodies for prostitution like a commodity. In this way, places where tourism develops in any degree, there have always been the chances that sex-tourism will flourish in the meantime.

Health and Entertainment Services

To penetrate in market for the common public, prostitution has been presented in the diluted name of health and entertainment services like body-massage parlors and the music clubs. Here

prostitution has been organized on the backdrop of legal licenses (Weitzer, 2010) provided to them without any scrutiny whatsoever. In the name of entertainment, prostitution has been legalized in many countries of South and East Asia like the one of Thailand. Even those who are against women trafficking and the crimes associated with it failed to escape, as they themselves have granted licenses to these kinds of entertainment paradises. Hence, indirect hands of various governments were there in legalizing prostitution in a diluted form. So, it cannot be denied that the civilized countries forbade it, especially when they themselves were providing licenses without any scrutiny.

Globalization has two-prolonged role in this aspect. Firstly, it has globalised the business of body massage parlors and music clubs. What is unknown to many parts of the world is now ubiquitous (Ebbe& Das, 2008). People who are unaware of these services are now not only getting acquainted rather they are now getting addicted of it. In the name of body massage parlor and music entertainment clubs, the business of prostitution has flourished. Though all of them are not at the guilt, but many of them profess the sex-trade. And, in this part government provides an indirect logistic support by granting licenses to them. Hence, globalization has brought prostitution to every individual in the façade of service that they provide.

Secondly, globalization has facilitated women trafficking for many purposes. From migration of individuals to the export and import done by traffickers, all has been channelized through the institutional supports that have been generated by the forces of globalization. What evolved in the trade, are the requirements of women, from many parts of the world accordingly to their physical features. Female escorts from foreign country are advertised in media (Flowers, 2011) for providing massage and health fitness services. This is how prostitution has been done in public without any penalties and check over.

Women trafficking arouse from lucrative and easy money that the mafia assure to girls while they enter in the business. Daily newspapers are full of advertisements for young girls with high ambitions to earn hefty money in short span of time and that too without any qualifications, except the physical parameters. These advertisements are enough to propel young girls not only from poor backgrounds but also from the middle and high income groups. Misguided by those advertisements young girls got easily victimized by the traffickers when they brain wash them. And, the dichotomy attached is that people who are talking and fighting against the unholy practice of trafficking are either misinformed or not bothered about viability of those advertisements.

In the name of health, fitness and entertainment many industries are fetching huge amount of money from the clients while professing prostitution in one or other kind. Like, there are many services providers in the field of beauty and health fitness where common man cannot afford to go. Exclusive clubs are formulated and membership drives are limited to the big houses. Meditation, gymnasium, therapy, slimming centres are few of them which are exclusively for the affluent class people but which recruits the employees from poor backgrounds. Not all of them are indulge in those heinous activities, but many of them are tainted in doubt. They instigate the trafficking of women for engaging in services but later on, they were victimized and were left with no choice, other than to indulge in prostitution. Globalization has brought a disguise of new avenues in services to the common individual behind which traffickers are organizing a planned business of prostitution. Hence, what limited to certain pockets of the world has now evolved global with its own mechanisms.

Social Gathering and Friendship Clubs

Globalization is alleged to have fragmented the society while evolving an entire new breed of human civilization that has materialistic orientations and desires. Today, every other human being is in fight to achieve materialistic goals for himself or herself at the best available mechanisms. The society has fragmented and what remain is an egoistic and self-motivated individual. At this juncture when social values are degrading, human beings have developed an alternative companion for themselves. It is the technocratic generation obsessed towards materialist and consumable goods, who found satisfaction with technological inputs. That is partially wrong. Human nature inherited the tenets of socialization in which it nurtures itself. An individual cannot sustain artificially if detached from society and left in isolation. An individual is a social being from its nature (Aristotle, 2001). It cannot be denied that technology has revolutionaries the social web of human relationships (Marcuse, 2010). Nowadays, people find themselves comfortable in social gathering at facebook and twitter. Social media websites and internet has replaced the social organizations while establishing virtual and un-trust worthy relationships.

Alienation led to mental humiliation (Fromm, 2001). After realizing the real state, individual seeks to foster inter-personal relationships and harmony among their associates. Women traffickers seize this opportunity. Individuals who underwent mental alienation inflicted due to absence of social relations or lack of personal friends were easily victimized by them. In the name of social gathering and friendship clubs these individuals were clubbed in certain groups where they were provided with prostitutes. As in other cases all such groups cannot be out-rightly alleged of these activities, but many of them are.

Women traffickers also identify those people who could be easily used for trafficking. Women and especially girls at tender age undergoing alienation were trapped in their net. In the name of those clubs and associations, they were pushed in the trade of sex. Here money considerations were not important. Primarily girls were suggested to establish friendship with the guys who were also facing the same situation. At this stage of confusion, girls usually went into physical and sexual relationships. Misguided at this stage led almost everybody of them into multiple relationships. By the time they professionally develop themselves into the racket of prostitution. This is how traffickers trap them while psychologically molding their nature and behavior. In this way traffickers fetch large sum of money from clients whom they supply innocent girls in the name of friendship clubs. Globalization has brought the concept of governance to every individual. People who were running these institutions both the health and entertainment services to the social and friendship clubs, has an equal right to profess their business if that does not harm public in general. But the problem arises when they claim to be transparent and ethical in their services but engaged in prostitution. Since most of them have moved on towards an easy money generating trade of trafficking, it is urgently required on the part of the governments to have a serious check over it.

Migration

Globalization has transformed the international scenario in various ways. Of the distinct changes that it has brought, maximum is in the field of migration. It has extremely increased the mobility in people at different places. Migration has established as a common phenomenon in every geographical part of the world. From social media websites to sex-tourism and from health and entertainment services to the friendship clubs, all facilitate human trafficking. A common thread that binds them all is the tenet of provocation towards mass migration of individual. Women usually fall into prostitution by the instrument of force but the process that expedite only when they were trapped in their networks. It is migration usually misguided of women that they fall to victimized by the mafia. What globalization has impelled is the huge migration of people specially women from their place in search of progressive avenues. Organized trafficking syndicate has materialized their benefits from this migration. This is done while harboring prostitution to new heights making it a global business. That didn't mean that migration is an adverse phenomenon, rather it has been adversely hijacked by the criminal syndicate to foster prostitution.

Media Ethics

Misinformed and misguided people on migration fall easy prey to prostitution. But that happens only when they were provoked for some benefits to fetch on. Provocation of prostitution is done on both the sides. From one side traffickers provoke women to indulge in the business either through choice or by the force of compulsion. On another side they provoke clients to have readily available and cheap sex according to their choice and expectations. Initially they were provided services on an experimental base which later converts into their addiction that help them to exploit long term money. Another grave concern is that, it is the young generation which has been targeted by the mafia. Young generation particularly the youth who migrate for jobs and study in metro cities has been targeted in prostitution through these techniques. Social detachment and the psychology of frustration in the global competition has distracted the young generation. Frustrated youth are perfect target consumer in this trade. Also, intelligent and smart generation fail to escape from it. New technocratic generation acquainted with information technology can be trapped by their own medium of internet and social websites. But may it be the young generation or the affluent class, prostitution flourish only when it has been presented to the clients. Here comes the role of media and its ethics. Trafficking syndicate employs media as a viable tool to disseminate information regarding prostitutes in search of rich clients. Here they use every possible media instrument to reach their clients. From facebook, twitter to the travel agencies advertisements and newspaper classifieds they use every available medium of communication. Hence, what finally concluded is that in the age of globalization it is information technology and media that has globalised human trafficking while introducing several new and inescapable services to the organized criminal syndicate.

The Future

Globalization has brought new technological and social challenges to the world community. It has also devised new techniques to combat them. But its success depends upon skillful usage of technology accompanied with law and governance. Apart of that, urgent measures are required to be initiated, if women trafficking are to be curtailed.

Firstly, required is the check over internet websites that has been providing an impetus for trade. In this field what required is to have a regularly eye watch on every social media website that is hosting interaction on a broader sense. Secondly, the sex-tourism can be curtailed by fixing laws at an international level with rigorous punishments and penalties. Places that are doubted of hosting sex tourism must be kept under control with patrolling done by civil societies and law enforcing agencies. Thirdly, the youth should be provided with a civic sense and social gathering where frustration could be managed. In the present world of competition, it is necessary that the youth should not distract. And for that alternate entertainment mediums should be encouraged by various institutions, such as sports and gymnasium. Fourthly, the media could be employed in the way to publicize the drawbacks of the prostitution. From print media to the social websites, all must be employed to spread awareness regarding the crime of prostitution and penalties that could bear on. Fifthly, the role of civil societies is of utmost important in dealing with the issue and making a public outcry regarding the crime. Only when various groups will come in front to deal with the issue, the problem could be handled. And finally, there shall be a Media Social Responsibility (MSR) tax on these websites that are fetching immaculate money with this industry. These funds can be further utilized for dealing with the victims of the prostitution particularly in the process of rehabilitation and resettlements. In this way thing could not only be improved rather will come in control to curtail the prostitution at global level. With globalization came are global problems, and to deal with global problems require global efforts. Hence, international community shall have to stand on the common front to root-out the practice from the international community with immediate and holistic efforts.

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