

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

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Abstract

Human trafficking is currently one of the most serious crimes in the twenty-first century. It is the world's third greatest international crime, behind narcotics and the arms trade. It has emerged as one of the significant issues in India as well. Human trafficking mainly means the 'trade of people' which involves transfer, recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people by means of force, exploitation of man for profit, women and men are trafficked in India for various reasons. Human trafficking is an act of crime and human rights violation and abuse that leads to unleading suffering which is not only lower the physical strength but also feeble the mental status of one. According to survey made by several NGO's, approximately 20 to 65 million Indians affect by the worst abuse of human rights. Reasons for human trafficking are determined by various economic, political and cultural factors such as structural inequality, culturally sanctioned practice, poverty or economic insecurity, organ trade, bonded labour, gender violence which are further exacerbate by corruption. To counter the violation through human trafficking in India, various legal frameworks have been designed by Indian Government. Therefore, there is need for a better understanding of an issue like this is an order to provide a status to all the victim of human trafficking in the country and to promote their growth and development. This paper intends to

throw light, the scenario on human trafficking in India, its cause and the various measures taken and laws enforce to prevent the same.

Keywords: Trafficking, Human trafficking, causes and consequences, preventive measure, legal framework.

1. Introduction

Human trafficking is a major and multifaceted worldwide problem that entails the use of pressure, fraud, or violence to exploit individuals for a variety of objectives. It is a serious violation of human rights and a kind of present-day slavery. Transporting, hiring, transferring, harbouring, and receiving people via the use of compulsion, threats, or force are all considered human trafficking. The widespread issue of human trafficking in India, particularly in the state of Jharkhand, has recently been covered by The New York Times. Karnataka is the third most trafficked state in India, according to another story in The Times of India. The study also claims that young girls are being smuggled to India from Nepal, a neighbouring country. The most popular locations for human trafficking are also other South Indian states. Additionally, it has been noted that, in exchange for a small sum of money, women and children from bordering states as well as those from lower-wealth groups have been sold by members of their own households and trafficked through a network of infamous individuals from the traffickers' network through various transit points or bordering areas. Therefore, human trafficking is not just one conceptual problem in India; rather, it is a complex issue with numerous entwined strands at several societal levels. Sexual trafficking, labour trafficking, and organ trafficking are just a few of the various aspects that make up human trafficking.

1.1 Classification of Human Trafficking

1. Sex Trafficking-

Sexual trafficking is the practice of compelling migrants to perform sexual activities in exchange for assisting or organizing their travel. Coercion, power abuse, deceit and bondage obtained by coerced debt, as well as physical or mental exploitation, are typically used in this type of trafficking.

2. Labour Trafficking-

The word "labour trafficking" refers to the usage of slaves in various types of labour, such as debt slavery, serfdom, work camps, and so on. The International labour Organization (ILO) defines forced labour as any compelled activity or service performed by victims under threat of punishment, which encompasses the majority of jobs that fall under this category.

3. Organ Trade trafficking-

Organ trafficking is another sort of human trafficking that can take numerous forms. In some cases, victims are forced to give their organs, while in others; they agree to sell their organs in return for money or goods, only to get little or no compensation from the traffickers. Several

victims' physical parts have been removed without their consent, particularly when the person is being treated for another medical illness. In this circumstance, some people, such as migrant workers, the uneducated, and the homeless, are highly vulnerable to exploitation.

4. Forced Marriage trafficking-

Forced marriage is a violation of human rights since it infringes the victims' autonomy and freedom. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to choose their partner and marry freely. Forcible couplings are regarded grounds for annulment by the Roman Catholic Church, and both parties must freely consent to the union for it to be deemed authentic. Forced marriages are a kind of human trafficking. It would constitute sex trafficking if a woman was forced to marry, travelled overseas, and then was regularly harassed to have sex with her new spouse.

Individuals may be tricked into engaging in human trafficking through a variety of techniques, including the use of physical force or fake promises made by traffickers. False employment chances and marriages abroad are two examples of promises. It has been observed women who are victims of the human trafficking in India experience psychological and physical problems. Disorders including PTSD, sadness, and anxiety are examples of mental difficulties. Women who are trafficked have less control, which raises the possibility that they will experience mental health issues. HIV, TB, and other sexually transmitted diseases are more common among women who are coerced into trafficking. Because condoms are rarely used, victims are more likely to contract an STD. While state-by-state variations exist, India's attempts to protect victims of human trafficking are still insufficient in many areas. The federal government offers rehabilitation benefits of ₹ 10,000 to victims of bonded labour; however, the implementation of this scheme varies around the nation. The Palermo Convention, commonly known as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was ratified by the UN in 2000. This is a comprehensive international agreement against organized crime that incorporates international legislation addressing the illicit trafficking of ammunition and firearms, the trafficking of women and children, and the illegal transit and trafficking of migrants. This convention's primary goal is to encourage collaboration in order to more successfully prevent and combat transnational organized crime. An extensive number of international treaties that aimed to stop and stand against the exploitation of people came into existence during the 19th and 20th centuries. India has made an obligation to stop and prevent trafficking as a signatory to the UN Protocol to Stop, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children, which is an addendum to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

2. Objective

- Investigating the cause of India's human trafficking issues.
- Examines the many ways in which human trafficking functions in Indian society.
- Critical understanding of the pattern associated with human trafficking within the Indian context.

3. Causes and consequences

Human trafficking, a pressing concern with far reaching global ramifications (a complex or unwelcome consequences of an action) casts its dark shadow upon countless individuals across the globe, India being no exception. To fully grasp the underlying catalyst and subsequent aftermath of this heinous crime within the Indian context, it becomes imperative to meticulously scrutinize (examine) the prevailing conditions within each region. Below we delve into crucial elements regarding our attention:

1. Socio Economic Factors:

The vulnerability of individuals to trafficking is heavily influenced by socio economic factors. Poverty, inadequate access to education, and a scarcity of employment opportunities all play a significant role in this unfortunate circumstance. It is often observed that regions characterized by higher poverty rates and lower literacy levels tend to be more susceptible to the scourge of human trafficking.

2. Insufficient implementation of legal measures and widespread corruption:

The feeble enforcement of laws and pervasive corruption prevalent within regional jurisdictions serve as catalysts for the continuous occurrence of human trafficking. Perpetrators frequently carry out their illicit activities without facing consequences in regions where the law enforcement agencies lack effectiveness or succumb easily to bribery.

3. In the realm of gender disparity:

India's deeply entrenched patriarchal society perpetuates the marginalization and discrimination of women, thus fostering an environment that renders them susceptible to the abhorrent act of trafficking. It is observed that regions characterized by heightened levels of gender inequality tend to exhibit elevated trafficking rates.

4. Armed conflict and political turbulence:

The collapse of law and order paves the way for an upsurge in this illicit activity. The dire situation is further exacerbated by the plight of displaced populations, encompassing both refugees and those internally displaced. These individuals, already burdened by their unfortunate circumstances, find themselves particularly susceptible to falling victims to trafficking.

For both individuals and society, human trafficking in India has devastating and far-reaching effects. The following are a few significant effects:

1. Abuse and exploitation:

Individuals who fall prey to human trafficking endure physical, psychological and emotional torment in addition to being coerced into prostitution or forced labour. They frequently put up with abusive treatment, dangerous working conditions, long hours, and exploitation.

2. The economic ramification of human trafficking is manifold:

As victims are frequently unable to break free from their exploitative circumstances. People and communities lost out on economic opportunities and productivity because of this.

3. Organize crime:

Networks of organized criminals engaged in drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, and money laundering are frequently connected to human trafficking. This undermines the rule of law and presents a serious challenge to law enforcement.

4. Social and psychological impacts:

Upon the return to society, victims of trafficking frequently experience stigma and social exclusions. They could have psychological problems like anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorders.

4. Literature review

The purpose of literature review section is to offer an overview of the existing research on human trafficking legislation in India. It compiles academic publication, books, reports and other sources to determine the current state of knowledge, gaps and disputes in the subject. The literature review is organised into two main sections: measure and strategies of prevention trafficking in India and legal intervention.

4.1 Measure and strategies of prevention trafficking in India

A number of measures of the UN treaty are targeted at combatting trafficking. State parties are expected to develop policies, programs, and the other steps to combat trafficking individuals from re-victimization. The presence of vulnerable situation of inequality and injustice, along with the study of the victim's circumstances by traffickers and the others, causes immense suffering to the trafficking victim, who is subjected to a slew of right abuses. There are various measures taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to prevent and combat human trafficking such as Anti Trafficking Cell (ATC), Ministry of Home Affairs' Scheme, Strengthening and the capacity building, Judicial Colloquium.

Anti-Trafficking Cell (ATC):

Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cell was created under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) (CS Division in 2006 to serve as an administrative Centre for the dissemination of various decisions and to track state government's initiatives to stop human trafficking. MHA conducts coordination meetings with the Nodal Officers of Anti Human Trafficking Units nominated in all States/UTs periodically which is In order to increase the efficiency with which the crime of human trafficking is prosecuted and the responsiveness of the legal system.

Ministry of Home Affairs' scheme:

The Ministry of Home Affairs had released funds for the establishment of Anti Human Trafficking Units in 270 districts across the nation as part of a Comprehensive Scheme aimed at strengthening India's Law enforcement response to human trafficking through capacity building and training.

Strengthening the capacity building:

Throughout the nation, a number of Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on combating human trafficking for police officers and prosecutors at the regional, state, and district levels were held in order to improve the capacity building of law enforcement agencies and raise awareness among them.

Judicial Colloquium:

To educate and raise awareness among trial court judge the Supreme Court hosts Judicial colloquia on human trafficking. The objective is to guarantee a prompt court process and to raise awareness among judicial officers of the different issues related to human trafficking. Eleven Judicial Colloquiums have already taken place in various states, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh.

4.2 Legal Intervention

As far as the legal framework and perspective on the issue of Human-trafficking is concerned, several International and National conventions, statutes, and protocols have been enacted by international and state bodies and departments in terms of the legal framework and viewpoint on the subject of human trafficking. The legal framework within the ambit of Indian Territory has a strong foundation as the issue has also been taken under the fundamental rights, in the constitution of India.

4.3 Articles in the constitution are related to address human trafficking:

Article 14-Equality before the Law: No one living in India may be denied equal protection under the law or equality before the law by the state

Article 15- Discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, gender, or place of birth is prohibited: The state is prohibited from treating any citizen unfairly based only on their place of birth, caste, religion, race, or any combination of these. This article does not prohibit the state from enacting special laws for women and children.

Article 23- Human Trafficking and forced Labour are forbidden: Forced labour means that less than the minimum wage is paid. Human and beggar trafficking is illegal and punished by law. The state is not prohibited under this clause from compelling coercive services for public objectives. The state shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, colour, caste, race, or any other factor. This article protects not just the state but also private people.

Article 21-Protection of life and personal liberty: Article 21 of the Indian constitution is a basic right that addresses the right to life and personal rights. It is one of the most important provisions in the Indian constitution. It was referred to be the 'heart of basic rights' by India's Supreme Court. It stipulates that no one shall be deprived of life or liberty unless in accordance with the legal procedure. Everyone is born with the right to live with full dignity.

ARTICLE 51 A [E]: Article 51 A [e] states that it is a basic obligation of the people of India to promote peace, harmony, and a feeling of togetherness across linguistic, religions, and regional lines, and to condemn behaviours that are offensive to women.

4.4 Laws related to Human Trafficking

Indian Penal Code 1860:

The Indian Penal Code, which was established in 1860, covers the issue of human trafficking.

➤ **SECTION 366A**

if any person induces any minor to go with him to any other place with the intention of seducing her or doing illicit activities he or she will be punishable with the imprisonment of 10 years or fine or both.

➤ **SECTION366B**

Whoever imports a girl from any other country under the age twenty one with the intent to force or seduce her for intercourse with another person then, a person can be liable for imprisonment of 10 years and a fine can also be imposed.

➤ **SECTION374**

This section deals with unlawfully forcing someone to labour against their will or desire. Such a person can be penalized with jail for up to a year, a fine, or both.

➤ **SECTION370**

Anybody who imports exports, removes, purchases, sells, or otherwise deals with someone as a slave, or who takes in, accepts, or detains someone as a slave against their will, faces a maximum seven-year sentence in both types of jail as well as a fine

Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1986:

In 1950, The International Convention for the Suppression of Immoral Trafficking in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was ratified by the government enacted the suppression of Immoral Trafficking in Women and Girl Act (SIT) in 1956. The statutes was revised and renamed the Immoral Traffic Prevention statutes, 1986(PITA) in 1986.

Constitution of India, 1949:

The Indian Constitution forbids human trafficking and upholds many international recognized human rights standards, including the right to equality, freedom, and personal liberty as well as the right to life and liberty and constitution remedies. Being free from exploitation is one of every Indian citizen's fundamental rights.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000:

According to this Act there is no difference between a minor and a child. All the persons under the age of eighteen years are considered children. A youngster who has to be cared for and protection (National Legal Research Desk 2016).

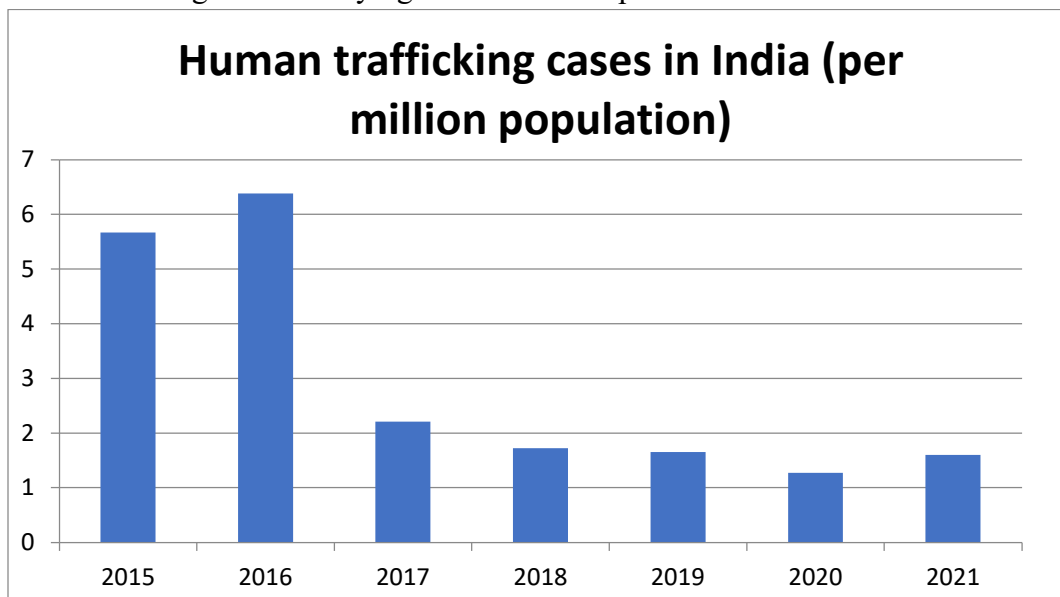
However, despite legal fines and regular monitoring, the issue of human trafficking has not decreased. In reality, it is still spreading and flourishing among vulnerable people, having a significant influence on their basic fundamental rights to a decent life with complete liberty as granted by the constitution.

5. Research methodology

This study is mainly based on secondary data, which has been taken from Ministry of home affairs, Government of India and National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). The systematic approach has been adopted for analysis. Here descriptive statistics like averages, percentages, growth has been used to analysed quantitative data to achieve the objectives of the present study.

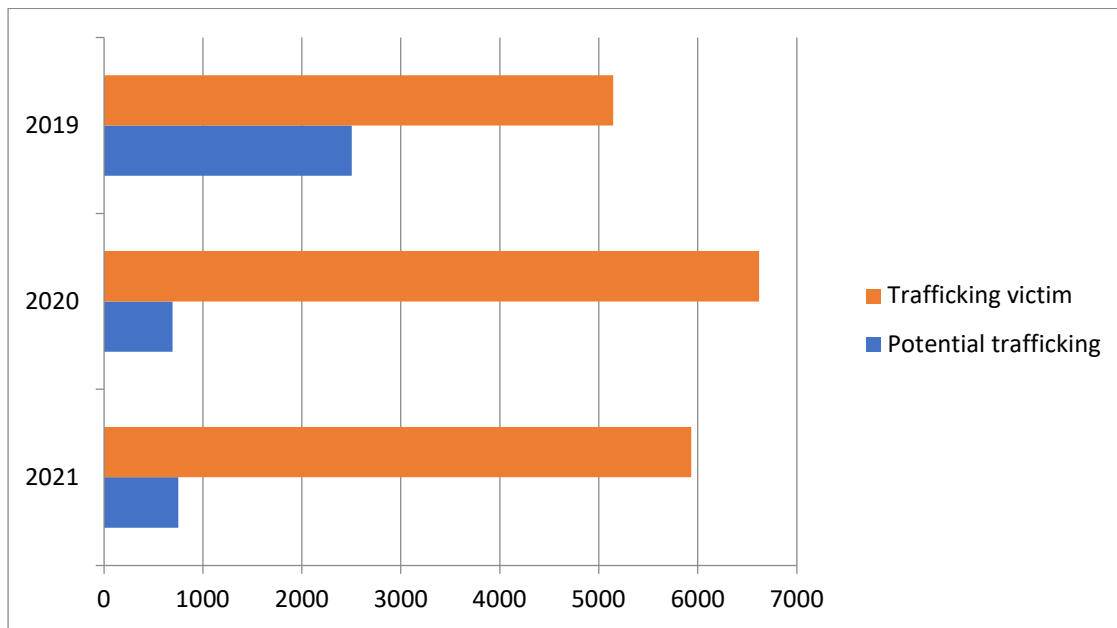
6. DATA ANALYSIS

Human trafficking, in India is an extensive issue that impacts individuals every year. It particularly affects women and children making them more vulnerable to this form of slavery. Collecting data on trafficking is challenging due, to its complex nature. Nevertheless efforts have been made to understand the extent and characteristics of this problem. This comprehensive analysis delves into the issue of trafficking in India relying on sources and precise data.



The National Crime and Records Bureau (NCRB) issued its 2021 Crime in India Report. In 2021, the government reported investigation of 2,189 trafficking cases under the IPC, compared with 1,714 trafficking cases in 2020. The government did not report what sections of the IPC were included in these statistics. In 2021, the government completed prosecution in 201 trafficking cases, convicted 64 traffickers in 32 cases, and acquitted 520 suspects in 169 cases. The acquittal rate for trafficking cases was 84 per cent. This compared with the government completing prosecution in 463 cases, convicting 101 traffickers in 49 cases, and acquitting 715 suspects in 414 cases in 2020, with 89 per cent of cases resulting in acquittal. Four of India’s 36 states and territories reported nearly half of all trafficking cases in 2021, most likely due to more sophisticated reporting in those states and territories rather than larger trafficking problems.

The government maintained overall protection measures, even though victim identifications fell and supports for survivors remained inadequate.



6.1 State-Level Analysis

Andhra Pradesh: In 2021, Andhra Pradesh reported 280 victims of human trafficking, with a fairly equal distribution of male and female victims (29 males and 251 females).

Assam: Assam had the highest number of victims reported in the data, with 460 cases. The majority of these victims were female (298), indicating a serious gender-based issue.

Bihar: Bihar reported 384 trafficking victims, with a significant number of males (235) affected. This state's data also points to a notable issue.

Odisha: Odisha recorded a staggering 1475 victims, reflecting a severe problem, especially affecting females (735).

Maharashtra: With 918 reported cases, Maharashtra also ranks high, mainly due to a substantial number of female victims (858).

Rajasthan: Rajasthan reported 420 cases, with a striking imbalance between male (395) and female (25) victims.

Telangana: Telangana recorded 796 victims, with a higher number of female victims (659).

Delhi UT: The national capital, Delhi UT, reported 509 victims, mainly comprising males (366).

6.2 Union Territories:

Among the union territories Delhi UT stands out with a number of reported cases (509) indicating the issue of human trafficking, within India's capital. Other union territories, such as Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry have also reported cases emphasizing the nature of this problem across the country.

The data from 2021 concerning trafficking in India serves as a reminder of how pervasive this criminal activity is. These statistics not shed light on the scale of the problem. Also highlight the gender based vulnerabilities and imbalances that persist. Addressing trafficking requires an effort from government officials, non-governmental organizations and society as a whole.

To safeguard victims and rescue those currently trapped in trafficking situations it is essential to enhance measures rescue operations, rehabilitation programs and support networks for victims. Additionally raising awareness through campaigns strengthening law enforcement efforts and promoting cooperation are crucial elements, in combating human trafficking.

Assam: A Hotspot for Human Trafficking

In the 2021 data, Assam stands out as one of the states with the highest number of reported there have been 460 victims of human trafficking. This northeastern state has been dealing with this problem for several years, and the data shows how serious it is. The high number of female victims (298) demonstrates the region's vulnerability to women and girls.

Because Assam borders Bangladesh and Myanmar, it is vulnerable to cross-border human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Poverty, illiteracy, and other social factors all contribute to the state's vulnerability.

Human trafficking should be combated in Assam by strengthening border security, improving law enforcement, and focusing on awareness campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of trafficking.

Odisha: A Disturbing Picture of Trafficking

Odisha reported 1475 cases in 2021, making it one of the states most affected. The data from this eastern state emphasizes the critical need for comprehensive solutions to the problem. The gender-based vulnerability is clear, with 735 female victims.

The state's coastline, tribal population, and seasonal migration for work create ideal conditions for human trafficking. In Odisha, exploitation in agriculture, construction, and domestic work is a common form of trafficking.

To combat human trafficking in Odisha, a multi-pronged approach is required, including increased employment opportunities in tribal areas, improved labour migration monitoring, and robust rehabilitation programmed for rescued victims.

Maharashtra: A Magnet for Trafficking

The prosperous western state of Maharashtra reported 918 cases in 2021, making it yet another high-impact region. The data from the state is notable for the unusually high number of female victims (858).

People seeking better economic opportunities flock to Maharashtra's thriving urban centers, including Mumbai, but this migration frequently exposes them to exploitation, leading to a high incidence of trafficking. The state's most common forms of exploitation are sex trafficking, forced labor in industries, and domestic servitude.

A comprehensive approach is required to combat human trafficking in Maharashtra, including stricter enforcement of labor laws, improved monitoring of domestic workers, and improved victim rehabilitation.

Rajasthan: Gender Disparities in Trafficking

Rajasthan reported 420 cases in 2021, and the gender disparity in this data is particularly concerning. The vast majority of the victims (395) are men, which is unusual in the context of trafficking statistics.

Rajasthan's status as a tourist destination, particularly for cultural and historical attractions, exposes individuals, often men, to forced labor in the tourism and hospitality industries. Furthermore, labor migration from neighboring states exacerbates the problem.

Gender-specific interventions are required to address the issue of human trafficking in Rajasthan. Efforts should also be made to monitor labor conditions in the tourism industry and improve oversight of labor recruitment. The data from 2021 on human trafficking in India provides a disturbing glimpse into the scope and complexity of the problem. While because these states have a high number of reported cases, it is critical to recognize that human trafficking is a widespread problem that affects every part of the country.

Combating human trafficking requires more than just rescue operations and law enforcement; it also requires a broader approach that includes awareness campaigns, victim support and rehabilitation, and addressing the root causes that make people vulnerable to exploitation. Human trafficking is a never-ending battle that requires the active participation of governments, civil society, and individuals to protect the most vulnerable and uphold their rights and dignity.

6.3 Alarming Crimes against Women:

The information offers a sobering look at India's worrisome crime rate against women, particularly with regard to human trafficking. It is not only morally and legally required, but also a basic necessity to protect women and girls' safety and wellbeing, to address this issue.

1. **Gender Disparities:** The data highlights the glaring differences in human trafficking between genders. Since women make up the majority of victims in many states, they are especially susceptible to different types of exploitation, such as forced labor and sexual slavery.

2. **Vulnerability:** Women and girls may be exposed to traffickers' tricks in an environment characterized by poverty, illiteracy, and social norms. They are frequently seduced by deceptive claims of a better life, only to end up imprisoned in terrible circumstances.

3. **High-Incidence States:** The number of female victims reported in several states, including Assam, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, is alarmingly high. These states are hotspots for this crime because of the particular difficulties they face, which range from labor exploitation in urban areas to cross-border trafficking.

4. **Cross-Border Trafficking:** India's porous borders and close proximity to neighboring countries can make cross-border trafficking a serious problem, especially when it comes to sexual exploitation. This is a serious issue since traffickers take advantage of women's and girls' weaknesses, frequently in the setting of forced prostitution.

7. Conclusion:

Human trafficking in India is a serious problem that needs immediate attention. To tackle this issue effectively, there must be stronger laws and better-trained law enforcement. People also need to be educated about the signs of trafficking so they can report it. It's crucial to address the root causes, like poverty and inequality, and work together – government, organizations, and communities – to protect those at risk. Helping survivors rebuild their lives is essential. While the challenge is big, a united effort can make a real difference in ending human trafficking and protecting vulnerable individuals. Activities like strengthening laws, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, raising public awareness, addressing root causes, and fostering international cooperation are essential components of a comprehensive strategy to combat this issue. Government, NGOs, communities, and the international community must work together to protect the vulnerable, prosecute traffickers, and provide support for survivors. The information offers an upsetting look at India's worrisome crime rate against women, particularly about human trafficking. It is not only morally and legally required of us to address this issue; it is also a call to action, reminding us of the urgent need to protect those who are most vulnerable, especially women and girls who are disproportionately affected. To end this evil and provide justice for survivors, the fight against human trafficking is a continuous and shared responsibility that calls for a thorough and unwavering commitment from all facets of society. While the battle against

human trafficking in India is formidable, a unified and persistent effort involving legal, social, and international cooperation can bring about meaningful change. It is imperative that India continues to evolve its strategies, engages in proactive collaboration, and prioritizes the well-being and protection of its most vulnerable populations.

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