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**Dr. Vanisree Ramanthan**  
Assistant Professor, Symbiosis  
Law School, Constituent of  
Symbiosis International  
University, Pune,  
Maharashtra, India

**Jaisy George**  
Assistant Professor, Symbiosis  
Law School, Constituent of  
Symbiosis International  
University, Pune,  
Maharashtra, India

## **‘Women’ trafficking in India: Unearthing the key vulnerability factors using interpretative structural modeling**

**Dr. Vanisree Ramanthan and Jaisy George**

### **Abstract**

Human Trafficking is not a person-centric issue; nor is it a region-centric one but a serious threat to the world population and the international community severely condemns this threat. It is a complex phenomenon and the existing laws are seemingly unable to alter its magnitude. Human trafficking as is evident is a gender-neutral issue, the end result of which being exploitation, whether it be for nonconsensual labor, or for commercial sexual exploitation purposes. Here the researchers focus their attention towards human trafficking for commercial sexual activities, wherein women are at the receiving end. The researchers through this paper limiting their scope of study to the Indian women unearth the various vulnerability factors exposing women to trafficking. Through Interpretive Structure modeling the researchers then discover the prime vulnerability factor for women’s trafficking. In the concluding remarks, the researchers propose diverse steps to alleviate this complex phenomenon, which would positively enable the society to deal with this evil effectively.

**Keywords:** Human trafficking, women, key vulnerability factors, ISM, lacunae in laws

### **Introduction**

Human trafficking is a major blow to the human race and one of the worst kinds of abuse and exploitation, of human beings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The UN Protocol, the primary international instrument on the issue, defines trafficking in persons as follows: ... the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the 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 prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (UNODC, 2013)

Labeled as an organized-borderless crime, trafficking is grouped along with cyber crimes, terrorism, Intellectual Property violations, smuggling, piracy and as the modern day slavery which has got considerably accelerated under the shadow of globalization with the laissez-faire policy. It is, as a matter of fact an ongoing offence involving displacement of persons, with a lot of crimes and human rights violations forming part of it, the end result being exploitation, whether it be for nonconsensual labor or for commercial sexual exploitation purposes. Human rights violations like deprivation of right to life; slavery; torture; deprivation of right to security and privacy; denial of right to self-determination and autonomy; statelessness, etc. are also evident in this treacherous evil.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation, happens to be its major cause worldwide, suggests that even when the offence is gender-neutral, it is usually the women and the girls who become the victims of this deception. “The historical understanding of trafficking in international law has been focused primarily on the movement of women and girls across borders for the purpose of prostitution” (UNICEF, 1999) [21]. Women are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation; and in most cases they are driven to typical ‘gender-specific labour’, such as forced prostitution, pornography and sex tourism, or even extending to commercial marriages etc., and hence suffer gender-specific harm, including rape and other forms of violence forming part of it. It is to be noted here that these are in addition to the other

### **Correspondence**

**Dr. Vanisree Ramanthan**  
Assistant Professor, Symbiosis  
Law School, Constituent of  
Symbiosis International  
University, Pune,  
Maharashtra, India

general ill-effects of trafficking, ostensibly gender neutral types, like begging, organ trade, drug-smuggling, bonded labour, agricultural labour, construction work, carpet industry, entertainment and sports purposes, including in it beer bars, camel jockey, circus troops etc. (Vinod. K. Bhaardwaj and Sherap Bhitia, 2014) <sup>[20]</sup>. The United Nations is deeply involved in combating human trafficking. Its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, has served as the model for counter-trafficking legislation for years.

### Statistical Disclosure Pertaining To India

A quick look into to the statistical data unveils India's role in this dreadful malevolence. India failed to guard its people from trafficking menace, and is being recognized as the source, the transit point as well as at times the destination site for traffickers. It is a sad reality that India holds place in the Tier II Watch List countries, having one of the lowest ranking in trafficking in Person Report, annually issued by the State Department of the U.S. The results of the Report estimates that the number of persons trafficked for forced labor in India comes within the range of 20 to 65 million; and that 90% of the trafficking occurs domestically *viz.*, intra-state or interstate whereas 10% occurs across national borders (U.S.A., Department of State, 2015). Records also reveal that such incidents had shown a steady rise of 38.3% from 2009 to 2013 (India, Ministry of Home Affairs Report, 2013). The conviction rate for such cases has declined 45%, from 1,279 in 2009 to 702 in 2013. Reports of trafficking cases are common in the Indian newspapers. Recently in January 30 2015, Indian express newspaper reported that CBI unearthed information about a human trafficking racket in India, and estimated that around 8000 women were transported to Dubai using Delhi as a transit point. Reports also give reference to a man, who trafficked more than 5000 tribal kids from the remotest areas of Jharkhand. India is a fertile destination place for trafficking and they are trafficked from the neighboring states of Nepal and Bangladesh. India is also regarded as being the lush source country, for individuals get trafficked to North America, Middle East and also Europe. (Sadika Hameed *et al*, 2010) <sup>[14]</sup>. It is to be noted that this is so even when, most of the crimes relating human trafficking in the country goes unregistered primarily due to its clandestine nature (Sadika Hameed *et al*, 2010) <sup>[14]</sup>. By identifying the gravity of the situation, the researchers through this paper, focuses on factors pertaining to women-centric trafficking, within Indian boundaries.

### Appraisal of the Situation and Framing of the Research Problem

Human trafficking is that violence which is waged against the vulnerable fraction of individuals, very particularly to women and girls, irrespective of any regional variations. The traffickers, as a matter of fact simply make use of this exploitative propensity of the trafficked. Hence it is an unspoken truth that the most valid approaches to combating human trafficking is to lessening; if not wiping off the vulnerability factors to human trafficking. The researchers strongly believe that this is an area, *viz.*, vulnerability of an individual in his or her social context which emerges as the missing link in devising well-developed policies and practices. Hence it is an imminent necessity to address the issue as to what actually make them vulnerable to this violence, abuse and mistreatment. Unless and until the

actual vulnerability factor is culled out, and identify the key vulnerability factor facilitating trafficking, all the endeavors of the multiple stakeholders will in vain and the offence will continue creating threats to the worldwide population. Hence in order to encourage the institutional mechanisms to deal with the key pulling factor, the researchers attempt to identify the pertinent vulnerability factors compelling the female victims to end up getting trafficked. It is in this context that the researchers focus in this research to find out what are the vulnerability factors for the Indian women to trafficking situation.

### Literature Review

The seven contending variables for the ISM revealed from systematic literature review (SLR) are marked as V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>, V<sub>5</sub>, V<sub>6</sub>, and V<sub>7</sub> respectively, which denotes the various factors as follows.

#### The demand-supply chain (V<sub>1</sub>)

The entire 'business' of human trafficking revolves around these two basic economic forces of demand and supply (Louise Shelley, 2003) <sup>[10]</sup>. The states of origin being able to promote the supply of the potential trafficking victims on the one hand; and the powerful forces of demand for the trafficked, among the 'consumers' ensuing in the destination states on the other together constitute a major factor contributing towards vulnerability (Siddharth Kara, 2011) <sup>[17]</sup>. Such push-pull factors occurring in the global scenario, especially in today's globalized setting has surely added on to the dilemma (Loring Jones, *et al.*, 2007) <sup>[9]</sup> and hence is marked as V<sub>1</sub>, even when there are a few researchers (Grace and Kim, 2007) who disagree to the role of globalization as add-on to the demand-supply chain of human trafficking.

#### Social exclusion and gender discrimination (V<sub>2</sub>)

The next high-rated vulnerability factor pointed out by the literature available in this area is social exclusion and gender discrimination (Annette Lansink, 2006) <sup>[2]</sup>. The weaker sections of the populace like the women, children, lower castes, and tribal communities are seen isolated from the public sphere; which at times even goes to the extent of discriminating them from the major bulk (Alexis A. Aronovitz, 2009) <sup>[11]</sup>. It is pertinent to note here that such discriminations take roots from the family; and then get finally shaped by the community and the society (Vicci Tallis, 2006) <sup>[19]</sup>. Not to mention here about the discrimination attached to the women-folk particularly with regard to the sexual beliefs and the allied myths (Pedro J. Nobre and José Pinto-Gouveia, 2006) <sup>[12]</sup>, which is very well reflected in the cultural and religious practices followed in the country, like the practise of dowry, bride burning, etc., and also in the socially-sanctioned violence against women, and their being viewed as financial and social liabilities, etc. (Vicci Tallis, 2006) <sup>[19]</sup>. All such kinds of exclusion cumulated with gender discrimination are without doubt a fundamental denial of human rights; and, as is evident make them furthermore vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, harassment, fraud and ultimately trafficking, and hence is marked as V<sub>2</sub>.

#### Violence at home (V<sub>3</sub>)

Violence at home is yet another vulnerability factor identified here (Jennifer M. Chacón, 2010). This as a matter of fact forces the indweller to flee from the place, onto the level of migration in seeking a safer place to live in (Sallie

YEA, 2005). But mostly records suggest that such fugitives eventually get susceptible to the operations of the trafficker. It is for this reason that violence is even recognized as the cause-effect relationship to trafficking (Vicci Tallis, 2006)<sup>[19]</sup>, and one of the major vulnerability factors therefore being marked as V<sub>3</sub>.

#### **Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment (V<sub>4</sub>)**

Poverty is considered to be the economic push factor in trafficking driving people to the traffickers (Feingold, 2005); which obviously has an inevitable association with unemployment and illiteracy. (Dan Everts, 2003) Merab Kambamu Kiremire has revealed in her study that 65 percent of the questioned sex workers attributed their entry into trafficking to poverty (Merab Kambamu Kiremire, 2006). She considers trafficking as an economical issue which is deeply rooted in poverty. Lack of education will all the more worsen the situation as they will be easily carried away by the traffickers and eventually get exploited. (Vicci Tallis, 2006)<sup>[19]</sup>. Hence it would not be untrue to state that illiteracy becomes the core reason for the other two factors to thrive in. In point of fact, studies conducted in this area reveal that illiteracy and low levels of education are the common characteristics of the trafficked (Kelsey McGregor Perry and Lindsay McEwing, 2013)<sup>[8]</sup>. This when added on with the high levels of unemployment would deteriorate the situation to the adverse, making it a prominent vulnerability factor as it forces them to accept any terms and conditions put forward by the traffickers and hence ultimately get trapped once for all (Sally Stoecker). For this reason poverty, illiteracy and unemployment is marked as V<sub>4</sub>.

#### **Non-reporting and the culture of silence; (V<sub>5</sub>)**

It has been time and again observed that there is always reluctance in the minds of people to report such incidents of human trafficking. The victims for some reason fear to come forward and report the matter to the authorities and set the criminal law in motion (Jennifer M. Chacón, 2010). The reason could be the fear of trauma that the victim has to undergo after having reported the matter to the authorities; the ordeal of facing high levels of stigma and discrimination for having reported the matter (Vicci Tallis, 2006)<sup>[19]</sup>. For, there is some sort of inherent bias in the mindset of the people towards the victim; or even so, the reason that they be labelled as the 'trafficked', and looked at by the society with contempt. It is pertinent to note here that such tagging eventually forces them to end up in doing no other thing, than being trafficked again. Hence, the phrase *once-victims always victims* aptly applies here. And in order to prevent this they seldom report such incidents of human trafficking. They uphold the culture of silence so that they are no longer trapped in the human-trafficking-web. Possibly it is for this reason that the reporting of such crimes is colossal in urban areas, when compared to that of its rural counterpart (Francisca Isi Omorodion, 2009)<sup>[5]</sup>. However, such non-reports, undoubtedly aids the traffickers not only in the present transaction but also in the transactions yet to come, which consequently open the door for lot more trafficking incidents, making it a very strong vulnerability factor and so marked as V<sub>5</sub>.

#### **Lacunae in the existing laws; (V<sub>6</sub>)**

This is one such factor which has been consistently pointed out by all the researchers dealing with this area of research. It is being reiterated that there is very little enforcement of the existing laws which have the potential to discourage and

punish the traffickers (Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, *et al.*, 2012)<sup>[13]</sup>. And here not to mention of a situation wherein the government lacks a sound policy against this social evil which undoubtedly runs as a facilitating factor for trafficking (Kelsey McGregor Perry and Lindsay McEwing, 2013)<sup>[8]</sup>. As a matter of fact it is to be admitted that without proper and effective local law enforcement, perpetrators are simply able to 'recruit' people almost with impunity (Louise Shelley, 2003)<sup>[10]</sup>. The laws hence if not good enough, either in its enacted version or in its implementation, would not deter the offenders associated with it, ending up in the failure of the justice administration system, and therefore not serving the purpose itself (Jennifer M. Chacón, 2010).

#### **Ambition and desire to be rich soon (V<sub>7</sub>)**

The desire for heightened economic status is found to be yet another prominent vulnerability factor in trafficking. For cherishing such personal desires they take up migrating decisions rashly and eventually be susceptible to the vice. Studies suggest that this desire leads to an urge for mobility even when they are not competent enough to be migrated at par with their fit counterpart (Sallie YEA, 2005). This as a matter of fact prompts them to compromise to whatever conditions put forward by the supposed 'helping hands' and thus getting vulnerable to them. It is pertinent to note here that mostly in such cases even after being trafficked the victims remain silent without reporting as they know that they had initially been engaged in it illegally itself (Sallie YEA, 2005). And here it goes without saying that such desire to be rich soon has a direct nexus to poverty, unemployment, violence at home etc. which makes it clear that all these factors also add on to this factor, V<sub>7</sub> to urge them even more vulnerable to trafficking.

The Tables showed hereinafter depicts the behavior and the relationship between the above mentioned key variables. As discussed above the ISM is an interactive learning process, which indeed puts forward how the concerned items are related with each other which is laid down in the form of a table (Table I). The researchers thereupon derive the final reach ability matrix which is validated for contextual relation transitivity. Subsequently the SSIM is converted into a binary matrix, referred to hereinafter as direct reach ability matrix.

#### **Methodology**

The literature available in this area enumerates a very long list of vulnerable factors. Hence a systematic literature review method (SLR) is adopted here to identify the most commonly acknowledged vulnerability factors. In this paper, the researchers restrict to seven such major factors. Out of these meted down factors, the researchers seek to discover the chief vulnerability factor. For this purpose and in order to identify the dependent and the independent variables of vulnerability, the Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) is used. Thereupon from the results so obtained, the researchers suggest changes to reduce those prominent factors, and thereby alleviating this social menace effectively.

**Table I:** Structural self-interaction matrix (SSIM)

	<b>VII</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>I</b>	X	O	O	X	A	O	
<b>II</b>	V	A	V	V	V		
<b>III</b>	V	A	O	A			
<b>IV</b>	V	O	V				
<b>V</b>	O	A					
<b>VI</b>	O						
<b>VII</b>							

**Table II:** Final Reachability Matrix

	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>I</b>	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>II</b>	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
<b>III</b>	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>IV</b>	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
<b>V</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>VI</b>	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
<b>VII</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

**Level partition: Iteration 1**

	<b>RS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>RS Intersection AS</b>	<b>Level 1</b>
<b>I</b>	1, 4, 7	1,3,4,7	1, 4, 7	1
<b>II</b>	2, 3,4,5,7	2, 6	2	
<b>III</b>	1, 3, 7	2,3,4,6	3	
<b>IV</b>	1, 3,4,5,7	1, 2, 4	1, 4	
<b>V</b>	5	2,4,5,6	5	1
<b>VI</b>	2,3,5,6	6	6	
<b>VII</b>	1,7	1,2,3,4,7	1,7	1

**Level partition: Iteration 2**

	<b>RS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>RS Intersection AS</b>	<b>Level 1</b>
<b>II</b>	2, 3, 4	2, 6	2	1
<b>III</b>	3	2, 6	2	
<b>IV</b>	3, 4	2,3,4,6	3	2
<b>VI</b>	2, 3, 6	6	6	

**Level partition: Iteration 3**

	<b>RS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>RS Intersection AS</b>	<b>Level</b>
<b>II</b>	2, 4	2, 6	2	
<b>IV</b>	4	2, 4	4	3
<b>VI</b>	2, 6	6	6	2

**Level partition: Iteration 4**

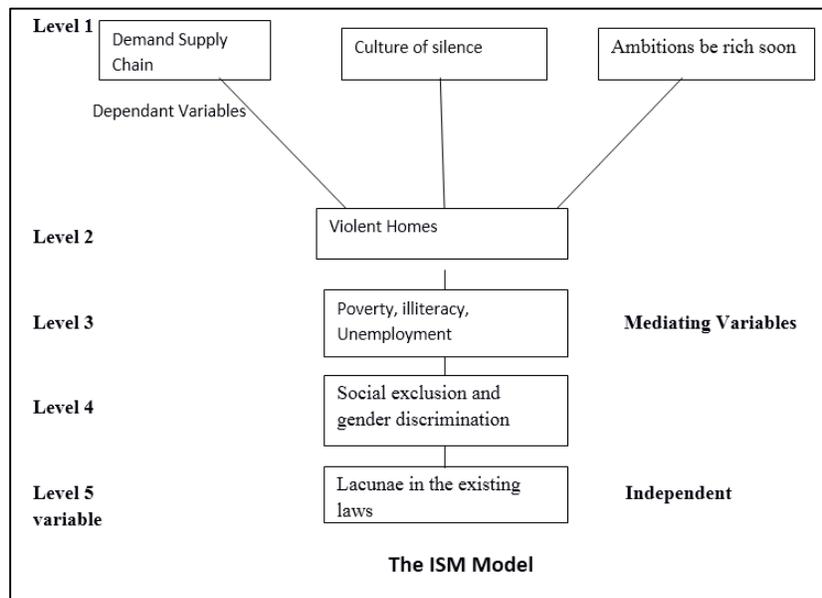
	<b>RS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>RS Intersection AS</b>	<b>Level</b>
<b>II</b>	2,	2, 6	2	4
<b>VI</b>	2, 6	6	6	

**Level partition: Iteration 5**

	<b>RS</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>RS Intersection AS</b>	<b>Level</b>
<b>VI</b>	6	6	6	5

<b>Level</b>	<b>Variables</b>
Level 1	Demand and supply, Culture of silence and ambitions to be rich soon
Level 2	Violent homes
Level 3	Poverty, Illiteracy and unemployment
Level 4	Social exclusion and gender discrimination
Level 5	Lacunae in the existing laws

**Summary table**



**Upshot of the ISM**

The methodological upshot of the Interpretive Structure Modeling put up a model with the seven screened-in variables finding places in different levels, either as independent variables or as dependant variables. The prime vulnerability factor, and also the other factors in their priority-order, for the victims to get trafficked got unveiled by the structure, formed with the aid of the VAXO matrix, Reach-ability Matrix and the Level Partitioning, forming part of the Interpretive Structure Modeling. From the Level partitioning, V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>5</sub> and V<sub>7</sub> got identified as the Level 1

variables, indicating them to be the dependent variables of vulnerability for human trafficking; whereas, V<sub>6</sub> emerged as an independent variable in the last level; and V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>, and V<sub>2</sub> surfaced as the Mediating Variables.

From the Interpretative Structural modeling it is apparent that the lacunae in the existing laws dealing with human trafficking (V<sub>6</sub>) is main single key primary, leading independent variable, accountable for the human trafficking phenomenon in India. From this, it is clear that dealing with this factor is crucial in preventive and protective and rehabilitation initiative. Therefore the researchers reiterate

the contention that the state and society and all stakeholders has to deal with this factor first and foremost, as leverage so that the issue is resolved from its root-level flawlessly. Hence, a comprehensive central level law dealing with human trafficking, along with implementation mechanisms are crucial in preventing and eradicating this social evil from India. The next major vulnerability factor exposed through the model is a set of dependant variables including gender discrimination and social exclusion ( $V_2$ ), violence at home( $V_3$ ), poverty, illiteracy and unemployment ( $V_4$ ); the factors which run self-explanatory to a country like India.

Another relevant factors identified in leveling is gender discrimination and social exclusion. It is recognized that weaker section of the populace such as women, children and lower caste, race and tribal communities are isolated from the public sphere and are more vulnerable to the exploitation, harassment, and fraud and trafficking. This is because social stratification in terms of caste, class, gender and race is still prevalent in India. Independent India is not successful through five year planning, progressive legislations and social support programs in bringing social and economic equality to the people. Economic empowerment programs, social auditing, community initiative in education, awareness and area development and decentralization and good governance, affirmative action, imparting the culture of human rights, social economic equality and gender justice is the way forward to achieve success against the monster of trafficking. Today the welfare state is withering away from its duties in the context of new economic policies, globalization liberalization and privatization. The most affected communities due to this policy are socially and economically backward people such as women and minority communities. They lost their job due to demands of the new market and their land due to the forced displacement for the new developmental projects for the MNCs. From the ISM, it is clear that violence at home is an important mediating variable which leads to the human right violation of trafficking. From the existing statistics in India it is comprehensible that domestic violence is the major form of violence among the different types of violence against women. Equal power relations within the family members and economic independence of women and socialization to value each other is the only way forward to curtail violence and bring peace at home and also thereby the risks of trafficking. Economic factors of Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment is the common phenomenon in any developing countries, which will lead to er social and political outbursts. To deal with these systemic changes such as administrative efficiency, resource allocation, population control, curtailing corruption, people's participation in development, leadership and good governance is essential. Knowledge is power and right to education for all, most importantly value based education is the first step towards mitigating human trafficking.

And in the last level again a cluster of three dependant variables got lined up as the next-level-factors of vulnerability for human trafficking, *viz.*, demand-supply chain( $V_1$ ), non-reporting and the culture of silence( $V_5$ ), and ambition and desire to be rich soon( $V_7$ ) appearing to be the least significant factors among the short listed factors.

### **Suggestions and Scope for Further Research: A Quick Glance at the Laws Existent**

As the ISM indicated that the lacunae in the laws dealing with human trafficking is the core-fundamental vulnerability

factor for women trafficking, the researchers take up the task of a quick analysis of the laws existent in this area and propose necessary changes to effectively annihilate the social threat.

Stepping on to the analysis of Indian laws dealing with human trafficking, it is pertinent to note that there are no women centric laws in India relating human trafficking; even though the records suggests that it is the women who are mostly the victims in the transaction. On that account, it is crucial to assess the general laws available in the area of trafficking appraised, at par with the prominent vulnerability factors.

'Trafficking in human beings or persons' is prohibited under Article 23(1) of the Constitution of India. Adding on to this core provision, the *lex loci* further provides under Articles 39(e) and 39(f), in the form of directive principles that the state ought to ensure that the health and strength of individuals are not abused; and that no one is forced to work due to their economic necessity. The Indian Penal Code, 1860 is another legislation wherein criminal penalties for offences like kidnapping, abduction, buying or selling of persons for slavery, prostitution are laid down, which are necessarily involved in the transaction of human trafficking. But here an important point to be noted is that the legislation is gender-neutral in nature.

The other legislations which directly or indirectly deal with human trafficking are, Bonded labor system (Abolition) Act, 1976; Karnataka Devdasi Prohibition of Dedication Act, 1982; Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; Andhra Pradesh Devdasi (Prohibition Act, 1989; Transportation of Human Organs Act,1994; SC, ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1986; Juvenile Justice Act, 2000; Information Technology Act, 2000; Goa Children Act, 2002; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; and Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The recent Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 is another welcome legislation in this perspective wherein through section 370-A IPC, comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking are found. However, the only legislation which appears to directly addressing, and primarily dealing with the issue of human trafficking in India, principally the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children is the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956.

Even when all these enactments are there existent in India, we rank among the top trafficking nations of the world. It is the researchers' proposition that although these many laws addresses the issue in one way or the other, it is not able to eradicate the menace; that the law is not somehow meeting the needs of the society. And as has been well-established, if any law does not address any issue sociologically, culturally or economically, then the law will necessarily fail in enforcement and implementation, as law does not have an independent existence of itself. It goes without saying that law is a tool for social change. and if any law is not able to bring about that social change effectively considering the societal patterns and requirements, then that law will not have the potential to transform the society; and hence without doubt be labeled as ineffective. In the human trafficking issue also researchers finding is that there are lacunae in laws which means, there is inadequacy of the current legal system in preventing this evil effectively, even though superficially it appears from the title of the enactment.

### Concluding Remarks

India being accredited as the top trafficking nations in the world is not because she lacks laws to deal with human trafficking. While enacting any legislation, the laws will have to address the causes, reasons, vulnerability factors etc of the said issue, without which the laws will not bring any transformation in the society. Any effective enactment to control sex trafficking will have to take care of the social and economic status of women, protection and rehabilitation of the victims and her rights and empowerment. Therefore it is proposed that as legal change will pave way to social change, a new comprehensive legislation must be enacted to alleviate the existing flaws in the socio-legal system which is capable enough to hold the trafficker accountable. Considering the fact that trafficking is a basket of offences, there must be concrete definitions sketched as to the offences involved in trafficking and sex trafficking in particular. A methodical enactment of such nature is the need of the hour which clearly upholds a strong government policy, and commitment against the social evil which upholds the values of dignity, autonomy, equality, and justice. Prescription of strong punishments for the various offences falling under the transaction is as equally important as the definition of the offences. Punishment plays a major role in preventing crime commissions for it imbibes deterrence in the minds of the offenders, as also the prospective offenders. Here the researchers opine that it should stringent enough to deter the traffickers. The non-reporting of the matter should also be seriously looked into to ensure that no cases go unreported. The researchers find this an area of further research to conduct a fully fledged examination of the existing laws and its function and the drafting of a new enriching enactment to end human trafficking. Along with legal changes, it is unavoidable that change of social structures is essential in India. But as law is deeply implicated in our economic, political, and social worlds, conception of social change invariably involves an engagement with law.

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