



Dissertation On
Sex Trafficking in the context of Bangladesh; a critical study

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The dissertation titled “**Sex Trafficking in the context of Bangladesh; a critical study**” prepared by Mohua Shree Mow, ID-2018-2-66-025 Submitted to MOHAMMED SHAHJALAL, Senior Lecturer, Department of East West University for the fulfilment of the requirement of Course 406 (Supervised Dissertation) for LLB (Hons.) degree offered by the Department of Law, East West University is approved for submission.

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Signature of the Supervisor

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Declaration

I hereby declare that I am the only author of this Dissertation work titled “**Sex Trafficking in the context of Bangladesh; a critical study**”. This dissertation has been conducted by me with the supervision of, MOHAMMED SHAHJALAL, Senior Lecturer of Department of Law. I hereby state that this research has been presented in part fulfilment of the requirements for the undergraduate course Law 406 (Supervised Dissertation) at East West University. All data and information provided here have been accurately referenced and credited.

Abstract

The aim of my paper is to examine the issue of **Sex Trafficking** through the lens of Human Trafficking. This thesis assesses the effectiveness of legal interventions in addressing the root causes of Sex Trafficking. Bangladesh, a nation with an excessive population, deals with numerous forms of violence against people, including the trafficking of individuals. For the purpose of deterring this crime, many statutes have been enacted.

However, this crime is becoming more prevalent every day as a result of improper legal execution. The study reviews legal frameworks and interventions, evaluates victim protection frameworks, and examines the factors that contribute to Sex Trafficking. By providing a comprehensive analysis, the study aims to inform policymakers and practitioners on how to allocate resources and design more effective policies to protect the rights and well-being of victims and end the cycle of exploitation.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full Forms
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association
P. C.	Penal Code
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
CTDC	Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ILO	International Labor Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
TVPA	Trafficking Victims Protection Act

Chapter 1

Introduction

Sex Trafficking is a global and national problem characterized by economic exploitation by fraudulent ways. Sex trafficking is a Major issue in today's world women, men and children are forcefully engaged in this sex trade. According to law they are considered as victim of sex trafficking. Sex trafficking, which includes using other people's prostitution as well as other types of sexual exploitation such pornography, performances with explicit content, and sex tourism. Non-commercial sex trafficking can take place in a variety of ways. Commercial Sex trade has huge demands worldwide, buyers are controlling this market with their money. And for the money trafficker targeted men, women and child for sex trafficking. For instance, women from countries that are developing who are searching for job opportunities overseas may be more likely to be targeted for sex trafficking since they are seen to be convenient targets.

Traffickers find their prey in many ways, through social networking site, neighborhood etc. Anyone could be the traffickers someone victim knows, family members, lover and others, in this situation victim even couldn't realize that they could trafficked anytime. Teenage girls, widows, and women left behind by their spouses are the primary targets of smugglers, as are slum dwellers, female textile workers, and youngsters from low-income families.¹ Sex trafficking is commonly observed in Europe and Asia. Throughout the world, sexual violence has emerged as a threat to human development².

¹ <http://dSPACE.icddrb.org/jspui/bitstream/123456789/6751/1/sp111.pdf>

² <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking>

Traffickers mainly tried to achieve victim reliabilities and grooming their minds in many ways. Traffickers mainly lie to gain trust and tried to manipulate them, and threatened them as they might be harmed and their families could be harmed by the traffickers.³As a densely populated country Bangladesh also facing problem of poverty, lack of proper education, and vulnerable living conditions. Mainly for poverty issues people easily get manipulated for earning money and they even didn't understand they might be trafficked by the Human traffickers. The number of people who are victims of human trafficking is rising. The majority of them are female. The first form of violence experienced is abuse of sexuality, which makes up almost 70% of the reasons for trafficking in individuals.

Every year, thousands of women from Bangladesh who have been trafficked are coerced into prostitution. In many parts of Bangladesh there are brothel, and there are lot of women and minors working as enslaved sex workers. And they (victims) also being trafficked from Bangladesh to many others countries, where they have to work as a sex slave. If they try to escape from the brothel or the lady's house (from where they were convicted), they could be punished and also assassinated. Concerning how people should be treated, a number of international treaties are applicable.⁴

³ [https://www.un-
library.org/content/books/9789213630037;jsessionid=vxJs5XN5j3VwopJENUS2k2bt_LGuJCzIXbSIREQM.unlive-10-
240-11-18](https://www.un-
library.org/content/books/9789213630037;jsessionid=vxJs5XN5j3VwopJENUS2k2bt_LGuJCzIXbSIREQM.unlive-10-
240-11-18)

⁴ [https://peaceforasia.org/human-trafficking-around-the-world-a-crushing-violation-of-fundamental-human-
rights/](https://peaceforasia.org/human-trafficking-around-the-world-a-crushing-violation-of-fundamental-human-
rights/)

1.1 Research Question

How effective are the laws of Bangladesh related to sex trafficking for prosecuting this heinous crime?

1.2 Research Justification

Through this research, I will discuss about strategies to combat sex trafficking and its associated issues. Evaluate the current legislative framework objectively and determine how well it works to combat sex trafficking. Also analyze the challenges and obstacles in the implementation and enforcement of laws related to human sex trafficking. And provide policy recommendations for improving the current legal regime and addressing the gaps and shortcomings in the existing laws.

1.3 Research Methodology

For studies on sex trafficking, this would entail examining the historical and cultural aspects that contribute to the occurrence of sex trafficking. Conduct a comprehensive literature review of relevant legal provisions, cases, and policies related to human sex trafficking at the worldwide scale. Analyze the legal framework, including laws, policies, and court decisions, to determine its effectiveness in avoiding and battling sex trafficking. Provide recommendations for future study and Policy establishment in the issue of sex trafficking. Develop a well-structured and well-written thesis that clearly presents the research findings, analysis, and policy recommendations. Ensure that the thesis is properly cited and adheres to the academic conventions of legal research and writing. The author of the thesis completed comprehensive research using international law, articles, newspapers, and websites etc. The footnotes and references were quoted using the OSCOLA method.

1.4 Research Limitations

I have tried my level best to acquire as much as authentic information as I possibly could and reflect it onto the thesis. That too resulted in some limitations on factual data for purposes. Due unavailability of sex trafficking cases and lack of access, some aspects of the whole research isn't complete. So further through studies need to be conducted in the future with broader scope.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

“Sex trafficking” this issue affects millions of people worldwide. According to a reports by the International Labor Organization (ILO), Bangladesh is a source, transit and destination country for various kind of trafficking and smuggling. Within Bangladesh, females are mostly trafficked for the purpose of sexual trade. Children are also trafficked for sexual exploitation⁵. Legal interventions have been established globally to combat sex trafficking. In Bangladesh, In order to stop and combat the trafficking of individuals, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act of 2012 was passed. This law includes sexual exploitation and imposes strict penalties on perpetrators. However, the effectiveness of legal measures in addressing the root cause of sex trafficking is still debated. One possible contributing factor to sex trafficking is poverty. Poverty and a lack of economic opportunities increase the likelihood of exploitation.

According to ILO study, economic hardship is one of the key factors that render people vulnerable to human trafficking. Poverty increases the possibility of accepting work with high degrees of risk and being exploited sexually. Thus, addressing poverty is a crucial step in preventing and combating sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is driven by multiple factors including gender inequality, according to a reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime⁶. Women and girls often experience marginalization and discrimination, which increases their vulnerability to exploitation. Hence, reducing gender inequality is crucial in preventing and combating sex trafficking. In addition to gender inequality, the demand for commercial sex acts is another major factor contributing to sex trafficking. The government of Bangladesh has launched various initiatives to reduce demands, including awareness campaigns and law enforcement efforts targeting buyers. However, further interventions and actions necessary to effectively combat sex

⁵ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_321410.pdf

⁶ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

trafficking. Reducing poverty and inequality is also critical in preventing sex trafficking as economic circumstances force many women and children into the industry. Although legal interventions are crucial in the fight against sex trafficking, there are various challenges in their implementations and enforcement, as reported by UNODC, 2018⁷.

While these laws criminalize sex trafficking, significant gap exist in their enforcements and prosecution. Furthermore, corruption and weak governance systems pose challenges to enforcing laws related to sex trafficking in Bangladesh⁸ . To preventing and combating sex trafficking necessitates a coordinated and comprehensive response from multiple sectors. Victim protection and assistance are crucial in addressing the issue of sex trafficking, as victims often suffer from physical and emotional trauma. To support their recovery and rehabilitation, access to health care, shelter, and legal assistance must be prioritized. However, in Bangladesh, challenges in the implementation of adequate victim protection frameworks arise from the lack of resources and limited capacity of service providers⁹.

Legal interventions are necessary to prevent and combat sex trafficking, but their effectiveness can be limited due to various challenges and obstacles in their implementations and enforcements. A comprehensive approach to addressing sex trafficking requires the demand for sex trade and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to the issue, including poverty and gender inequality. Effective policies and strategies can be developed by focusing on these root causes¹⁰. Policymakers and practitioners must develop more effective policies and strategies by focusing on the vital factors that contribute to sex trafficking, and strengthening legal and victim protection frameworks in the country to ensure that victims of sex trafficking receive necessary support to recover and reintegrate into society.

⁷ UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018)

⁸ Islam, MR and Afroze, R, 'Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: An Overview of Magnitude, Vulnerabilities, and Government Response' (2018) 4(3) Journal of Human Trafficking 263.

⁹ Islam, MR and Afroze, R, 'Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: An Overview of Magnitude, Vulnerabilities, and Government Response' (2018) 4(3) Journal of Human Trafficking 263.

¹⁰ Bouhours, T and Reyntjens, F, 'Microfinance and Human Trafficking: Exploring the Potential for Financial Institutions to Prevent Human Trafficking' (2018) 21(4) Journal of Money Laundering Control 468

Chapter 3

International Law & Sex Trafficking

Palermo Protocol

This international treaty which was adopted in 2000, offers a thorough framework for battling sex trafficking as well as other types of human trafficking. The Protocol marks the first global agreement on the concept of trafficking, which is the first step toward a coordinated worldwide effort to combat trafficking. The law enforcement clauses in the document hold much power. Articles of the documents has been given much clear view of this issue, obligates State Parties to criminalize trafficking, attempted trafficking, participating as an accomplice, and organizing and directing trafficking. Additionally, law enforcement training is necessary to aid in identifying potential victims of human trafficking and organized crime techniques that are used to enslave people.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

U.S. legislation known as the TVPA which was passed in 2000, established methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting victims and survivors of trafficking is the main federal law combating human trafficking in the United States. TVPA published Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report each year. The report describes the efforts of countries to stop human trafficking. It declared human trafficking to be a crime, offered protection and help to victims, and required measures to stop and punish incidents of human trafficking. The statute has been strengthened by numerous reauthorizations and amendments to address new issues. The most recent reauthorization and amendment of the statute occurred in 2019¹¹.

¹¹ https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/human-trafficking/trafficking-legislation/

European Union

This was passed in 2011 and aims to harmonize the rules governing human trafficking throughout the Union. It calls for the criminalization of trafficking, aiding victims, and the adoption of preventative and combative measures against trafficking by EU member states¹². The EU and its member nations have implemented many initiatives, and they are intensifying their efforts to put an end to this inhumane crime. As trafficking of individuals increasing day by day so, member nations should work closely with well-known and active nongovernmental organizations that could be helpful for trafficked people¹³.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CEDAW which was enacted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, also covers human trafficking. CEDAW has been an important tool for advancing rights of the women and gender equality globally¹⁴, serving as the foundation for court decisions and national constitutional, legal, and policy reforms¹⁵. There are 30 articles in CEDAW that ratifying nations must implement¹⁶. According to few articles of the CEDAW, states parties must take every measure required, including enacting laws, to stifle all forms of trafficking in women and the exploitation of prostitution of women and equivalent access to the legal system¹⁷.

¹² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/eu-against-human-trafficking/>

¹³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/trafficking-victims-europe-rise-10-and-share-eu-nationals-among-victims-increased-59-2023-02-09_en

¹⁴ Article 6 CEDAW

¹⁵ Article 15 CEDAW

¹⁶

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2016/CEAW-for-Youth.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

International Labor Organization (ILO)

ILO refers to all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily¹⁸. It's mainly stated about the issue modern slavery in various sectors. There are 27.6 million people in situations of forced labor on any given day. 11.8 million Of the total number of people forced into labor are women and girls. More than 3.3 million of all those in forced labor are children, forcible sexual exploitation of children accounts for more than half of all child labor. At any given moment, an estimated 6.3 million people are subjected to forced commercial sexual exploitation. A significant determining factor is gender roughly four out of every five individuals caught in these circumstances are women¹⁹.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC is a key player in the fight against sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking on a global scale. The UNODC is a United Nations agency that was founded in 1997 with the purpose of assisting member nations in their war against many kind of heinous crime. Several duties of the UNODC are related to preventing sex trafficking: to effectively combat this crime the UNODC works to increase public awareness of human trafficking, including sex trafficking, and encourages collaborations between governments, civil society, and the commercial sector²⁰. The UNODC supports comprehensive and victim-centered strategies and works with member states to create and put protections in place for those who are the victims of human trafficking. The UNODC is a crucial participant in the global effort to stop this horrible crime because to its diversified approach to combating sex trafficking.

¹⁸ ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

¹⁹ <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

²⁰

https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/human_trafficking_indicators/Handbook_for_Parliamentarians_tafficking_in_persons_English_.pdf

Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC)

With some geographical variation, the CTDC also reports high proportions of cases that were recognized as being trafficked for sexual exploitation. The CTDC reports that psychological torture is the most frequent method used to control victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, followed by limits on their freedom of movement and threats made against them or their loved ones. The 2002 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution: defined Sex Trafficking, the moving, selling, or buying of women and children for prostitution within and outside of a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person trafficked²¹.

SAARC Convention

On Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. It was signed by member states, the goal of the convention is to encourage member countries cooperation in order to tackle all aspects of trafficking in women and children in an effective way²². Article of that convention refers to sex trafficking, the moving, selling, or buying of women and children for prostitution within and outside of a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person trafficked²³. The prevention of the trafficking of women and children into international prostitution networks, especially where the nations of the SAARC region serve as the countries of origin, transit, and destination, the repatriation and rehabilitation of trafficking victims²⁴. Article of that Convention²⁵ states that, State Parties to the Convention shall take effective measures to ensure that trafficking in persons in any form is an offense under their respective criminal laws and shall make such an offense punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account its serious nature²⁶. This convention is holding focus on the problem of

²¹ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf

²² <https://www.newagebd.net/article/168415/strengthen-cooperation-among-saarc-countries-to-address-trafficking-workshop>

²³ Article 1 SAARC Convention

²⁴ Article 3 SAARC convention

²⁵ Article 5 SAARC convention

trafficking in women and children for the purpose of prostitution as a violation of basic human rights and incompatible with the honor of human beings²⁷.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The international law governing human rights in the 20th century based on the UDHR. Human rights must be the fundamental foundation of any trafficking prevention campaign according to the human rights-based perspective²⁸. In violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human trafficking is a crime against humanity that almost no state is immune from.²⁹ These human rights violations are the consequence of the massive, multimillion dollar sex trade.³⁰ It involves transporting individuals inside a state or transporting them elsewhere. Articles of UDHR refers to prohibition of slavery and forced labor³¹, nobody shall be kept in a condition of slavery or nobody forced to do involuntary work.³² And No one shall be forced into a life of slavery or be subjected to cruel, brutal, or inhumane treatment³³.

²⁷ <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/asia/south%20asian%20association%20for%20regional%20cooperation/saarc%20convention%20on%20preventing%20and%20combating%20trafficking%20in%20women%20and%20children%20for%20prostitution.pdf?vs=3229>

²⁸ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

²⁹ <https://catwinternational.org/the-challenge/human-rights-violations/>

³⁰ https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf

³¹ Article 4, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

³² <https://combathumantrafficking.org/blog/2018/12/10/human-trafficking-human-rights-violation/>

³³ Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Chapter 4

Legal Framework of Sex Trafficking in Bangladesh

4.1 Laws in Bangladesh for Sex Trafficking

Sex trade is a grave violation of human rights. It is a serious breach of the rights of individuals worldwide, and is considered a punishable offense by the law. Bangladesh has passed several acts, policies, regulations to address this issue, just like many other countries have done. Trafficking is also strictly against the law in Bangladesh. With respect to the domestic framework of persecution, Bangladesh has a number of laws that contain strong laws:

Human Trafficking Act, 2012

This is one of the utmost outcomes of the conduct of the Government of Bangladesh, a commendable step on the part of the government in preventing and punishing human trafficking. According to the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012³⁴, human trafficking primarily represents any sort of trade of humans either inside or outside of the territory of Bangladesh in consequence of threat or force, or deception or abuse of his socio-economic or environmental or others vulnerability or transacting money obtain the consent of the person who has control over her (victim) for the purpose of sexual or labor exploitation or any other exploitation or oppression³⁵. Additionally, this law sets a range of penalties for actions that constitute sex trafficking.

If someone forces another person to perform any act, provide labor or services, or hold them in debt-bondage by using illegal force, threats, or other forms of pressure, they will be punished with harsh imprisonment for a term of not more than Twelve years but not less than Five years, as well as a fine of not less than taka Fifty Thousand.

³⁴ section 3 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012

³⁵ *ibid*

Any person who kidnaps, hides, or confines someone for human trafficking, or places them in a situation of sexual exploitation or oppression, will be punished with harsh imprisonment for a term of not more than Ten years but not less than Five years. A fine of at least Five thousand taka is required. If someone brings another person into Bangladesh or transfers them in another country for the purpose of prostitution or other sexual exploitation or oppression, they will be punished with harsh imprisonment for a term of not more than Seven years but not less than Five years, as well as a fine of not less than taka Fifty thousand.

If someone establishes, runs, or helps run a brothel, they will be punished with either a harsh sentence of not less than Three years in prison or not less than a taka Twenty thousand fine or both.³⁶ The 2012 prevention Act successfully combining the laws that have been circulated between the various legislations and bringing them together under a single legislation to improve enforcement.³⁷

The Penal Code, 1860

Slavery-related provisions can be found in the Penal Code of 1860³⁸. The law addresses the importation, exportation, removal, purchase, sale, disposition, acceptance, receipt, or unlawful detention of any individual as a slave and punishes habitual slave trade. Section 364A³⁹, Section 366-367⁴⁰, Section 370⁴¹-373⁴² stated about trafficking in person related sections. Whoever sells, lets to hire, or otherwise disposes of any person under the age of eighteen years with intent that such person shall at any age be employed or used for the purpose of prostitution, shall be punished with imprisonment and shall also be liable to fine. The Bangladeshi Penal Code forbids sex trafficking. According to reports, the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Cell of Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs gathered information on trafficking arrests, prosecutions, and rescues as well as

³⁶ Supra, n 14

³⁷ <https://lawhelpbd.com/special-law/human-trafficking/>

³⁸ The Penal code, 1860 = Section 364A

³⁹ Sec366 (a) Supra n 18

⁴⁰ Section 366 Supra n 18

⁴¹ Section 370

⁴² Section 373

coordinated and evaluated local-level data from regional anti-trafficking units⁴³. In addition to this worthy undertaking, Bangladesh launched a National Action Plan for five years in 2018 ranging to 2022 in order to fight and prevent the crime of human trafficking⁴⁴. It shows that Bangladesh does have a laudable number of laws and policies against forced prostitution and other forms of human trafficking⁴⁵, its remains to be seen why the problem continues at this alarming rate⁴⁶

4.2 Sex trafficking occurrences in Bangladesh

Globalization encourages people to dream big, but not all dreams come true. In particular, Asian women are frequently stuck in their fantasies and forced into sex slavery. Nearly 180,000 people in South Asia fall prey to trafficking each year. India and Pakistan are the two main transit or destination countries in South Asia for trafficked people from Bangladesh and Nepal, with Kolkata serving as a key hub for other destinations. Other typical transit destinations include the Gulf States or South East Asia. Due to the establishment of strong bases by Bangladeshi traffickers in border areas, these areas have become popular transit hubs for people trafficking. They put their trust in offers of foreign employment or marriage, which guarantee stability but instead transport them into slavery.

Sex trafficking is an important concern in Bangladesh. Experts claim that a growing number of people are being forced into slavery globally because illegal companies have attracted both tiny criminal rings and large-scale organized criminals. People who have no other options for surviving are easy targets for traffickers. There are reportedly one million 'Illegal' Bangladeshi women living in Pakistan, who are thought to have been trafficked. It is believed that about 3,800 women and children from Bangladesh are trafficked to Pakistan annually. Men and women from Bangladesh voluntarily move abroad for employment, often under legal and contractual conditions. According to NGOs, a large number of Bangladeshi migrant workers are the victims of fraud, which includes outrageous recruitment fees that are frequently coupled with false representations of the terms of

⁴³ <https://antislaverylaw.ac.uk/country/bangladesh/>

⁴⁴ Section 371

⁴⁵ Section 372

⁴⁶ <https://www.iilsindia.com/blogs/704/>

employment⁴⁷. There have already been a large number of women and children who have been trafficked from Bangladesh to India and other nations, and the practice appears to be increasing as the traffickers look for new ways to take advantage of weaker people. There have been some incidents provided that are connected to this crime.

For instance, a 16-year-old victim has filed a suit under the existing Bangladesh's Human Trafficking Act against 12 alleged sex traffickers. She was able to do so only after fleeing with two other women from Bangalore, India, where they had been forced into sex work for 77 days. One of the offenders allegedly smuggled 1,000 women into India over the course of eight years, and another allegedly assisted in the crossing of at least 500 women into India⁴⁸.

In another case, three men have been arrested in May 2022, they were forcing a minor girl into prostitution and trafficking her to Dubai. The victim stated, a friend of her offering good job opportunity in Dubai, and made the connection between victim and offenders. To confirm information regarding this victim and make arrests of the offenders, a team of investigators from the force's anti-human trafficking division was formed. Three criminals were sentenced to three years in prison after being forced into prostitution and trafficked into Dubai. Their sentences were upheld on appeal⁴⁹.

This incident resulted in the harm of a teenager. Laboni, (a sex trafficking victim) was sold to a madam when she was just 13 years old. In order to escape her abusive husband. She believed she would find employment. When a woman spotted her in the Dhaka train station, she was pretended to help. She sold the victim to the brothel two days later in Maymensingh brothel village. In Mymensingh between 700 and 1,000 women working as a sex slave here, most of them were forced to make that choice. This is the harsh reality for thousands of young girls in Bangladesh who are sold by traffickers, held enslaved for years, and repeatedly raped⁵⁰.

In a different instance, the victims were sisters. Two sisters one of whom was a minor, were rescued from the grasp of human traffickers. The victims were deceived by Bristhi Khaton

⁴⁷ <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234645455.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://www.thedailystar.net/editorial/news/trafficking-girls-and-women-the-rise-2104957>

⁴⁹ <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2023/01/27/men-who-trafficked-girl-17-in-dubai-have-jail-sentences-upheld/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jul/06/living-hell-of-bangladesh-brothels-sex-trafficking>

(trafficker) from Bangladesh, who promised victims jobs at Hyderabad (India) beauty parlor, they were brought into West Bengal illegally over the border. The defendants were all working separately in the Sex trade in several states. They also send young girls to their regular clients and supply them to online dating services⁵¹.

Another teenager who also fell prey to sex trafficking. The girl 15 years old almost passed out inside the Nagpada police station in Mumbai during the start of February 2023. She resided in a village close to Jessore town. On her way to school in Jessore, the minor girl was drugged and boarded a train from Kolkata to Mumbai⁵².

People's attention has been drawn to another viral sex trafficking case. After an assault video went viral, a case was brought in May of last year in India. The victim was Bangladeshi who has been faced horrifying sexual assaults in India.11 Bangladeshi nationals who had entered India unlawfully were charged with this heinous crime and running a trafficking ring. According to the charge sheet, the culprits gang-raped the victim because she refused to work as a prostitute. The father of the victim from the same area filled a case against key suspect Babu and unidentified others on charges related to trafficking and pornography. The victim's father described to the police how Ridoy Babu lured her (victim). The woman had refused to listen to her father's frequent warnings and eventually fled the house, ending up in India⁵³.

4.3 Trafficking of Rohingya Women for Sex Trade

People from the Rohingya ethnic group came here in search of safety, yet they are also suffering greatly. Refugees from Cox's Bazaar, known as the Rohingya have been facing terrible living conditions in overcrowded camps for the past five years. Due to the military campaign of ethnic cleansing, thousands of Rohingya left their home country Myanmar. Half a million people (Rohingya) crossed the border and took shelter in Bangladesh as refugees. The Rohingya criminal

⁵¹ <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2022/jul/23/six-human-traffickers-nabbed-two-victims-from-bangladesh-rescued-2479749.html>

⁵² <https://www.thequint.com/news/crime/in-mumbais-kamathipura-a-sordid-tale-of-exploitation-of-women-from-bangladesh#read-more>

⁵³ <https://bdnews24.com/world/south-asia/2022/05/22/victim-of-human-trafficking-suspect-ridoy-babo-returns-to-bangladesh>

gangs have taken place to the overcrowded Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazaar for criminal activities. Nowadays Rohingya women also became victims of Sex Trafficking, they are also being transported to other countries for forced prostitution. These camps are currently being used by international human traffickers. In order to get quick money, Rohingya women are convinced into the lucrative trafficking industry for sexual services. Traffickers transport helpless refugees to various destinations via the Bay of Bengal in order to exploit them for sex trade. Since the seas are so close, traffickers are eager to quickly and inexpensively travel to Malaysia by sea⁵⁴.

In a few cases, it has been shown that Rohingya women were trafficked to India, Thailand and Malaysia for forced prostitution. The first case was revealed when a few Rohingya women were rescued from Dhaka, they were supposed to be trafficked in Malaysia by a trafficker gang. Some victims claimed they were subjected to various forms of coercion. Traffickers also assisted them in escaping from the camps and made promises to provide them with better employment in Malaysia, for additional procedures, traffickers provide them forged documents. Women and children sell for a minimum of 20,000 to 30,000 Malaysian Ringgit, according to a few of the criminals⁵⁵. In their camps, Rohingya women struggle with a variety of issues like insecurity and gender-based assaults. So many women in the camp living without male members, their life became miserable as they haven't any male breadwinner in their family. Women from those camps are vulnerable because they are being used for the Bangladesh's and other countries for sex trade.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

According to the International Rescue Committee, one in four women and girls who were examined in Cox's Bazaar were victims of gender based violence. A few instances of refugees trafficking have made it very evident that those living in these camps are in an unsafe and life-threatening environment. As law enforcement increased their patrols in Cox's Bazaar and the Bay of Bengal, traffickers began using a new route to move refugees out of the camps. These risky journeys are run by a global chain of human traffickers who profit from them (victims), putting their victims in danger of torture, sexual assault, and ultimately death⁵⁶.

⁵⁴ <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2023/2/28/the-situation-of-rohingya-and-their-deadly-sea-crossings>

⁵⁵ <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/how-rohingya-girls-are-trafficked-prostitutes-44067>

⁵⁶ <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/02/06/coxs-bazaar-insecurity-criminality-and-rohingya-women/>

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

According to the UN Refugee Agency, more than 3,700 Rohingya refugees took to sea in last year 2022, and many victims lost their lives through this journey and process⁵⁷. Due to the unstable economic situation in this country during the COVID-19 pandemic, people have become more vulnerable to trafficking. Rohingya sex workers who were interviewed briefly spoke about their terrible lives. Some of the women in those camps became involved in sex trades and kept doing so in order to support their families after their husbands abandoned them for other women. The rohingya women are also used by sex traffickers to provide sex services to visitors in hotels and resorts because the most popular tourist destination in Bangladesh is close by, those refugee camps. Within the camp, local non-governmental organizations offer psycho-social counseling, but most women are afraid of utilizing them because their families forbid it⁵⁸. The checkpoints of the camps were more alert after a few instances of this form of trafficking. Who oversees the camp's security reported that over 20 females tried to cross the checkpoints each night to flee from the camp, as they resemble native Bangladeshi people, it is difficult to distinguish them. Soldiers who are mostly stationed at the checkpoint inspect the vehicles and the people inside, and asked passengers to display their national ID cards. It has been proven in a couple of cases that native women are assisting those rohingya girls in fleeing the camps and recruiting them to work as prostitutes in Bangladeshi cities and towns. It is true that the struggling refugee women are fueling to the sex trade in Bangladesh in a variety of ways. The new wave of tragic sea crossings by refugees highlights the urgent urgency to end this disaster.

To stop the trafficking of Rohingya refugees, several vital actions must be implemented. Some of them are given: Firstly, to stop the trafficking of refugees, the government of Bangladesh should collaborate with NGO and other international organizations. Bangladeshi government should increase public awareness of sexual abuse, violence based on gender, and the trafficking of Rohingya children and women. Improvement is needed for coordination of efforts to address the security situation in the camps and the Rohingya's protection too. Deep investigation is required

⁵⁷ <https://www.unhcr.org/news/unhcr-seeks-comprehensive-regional-response-address-rise-deadly-south-east-asia-sea-journeys>

⁵⁸ <https://www.rescue.org/uk/report/shadow-pandemic-gender-based-violence-among-rohingya-refugees-coxs-bazar>

to find networks that traffic people, and efforts should be made to shut them down. Additionally, expanding regional systems and overall search and rescue efforts would be beneficial. In order to protect Rohingya trafficking victims, it has also been observed that victim care remained inadequate. Most importantly the support of sexual assault victims and survivors should be ensured by the government and nongovernmental organizations. Assurance is needed for the Rohingya refugees to have dependable access to the justice systems of Bangladesh and other neighboring nations for crimes including human and sex trafficking. Finally, International organizations should support Bangladesh government in its attempts to ensure significant resettlement of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as well as revised camp policies.

Chapter 5

Recommendations and Conclusion

The entire world is working together to combat this crime, which has been occurring almost everywhere. When the issue raised about addressing Bangladesh's sex trafficking, there are certainly some challenges, and there are some particular locations that require attention. This chapter presents recommendations for policy for reducing the sex trafficking. Firstly, In order to develop long-term, sustainable solutions, it is crucial to address the fundamental causes, or the underlying elements that lead to sex trafficking, such as poverty, a lack of education, and gender disparities. Education, research, and public awareness are crucial for stopping human trafficking. Besides, public awareness efforts, media coverage, and educational initiatives can all aid in reducing sex trafficking. In addition, it has been observed that victim care in Bangladesh is still inadequate. Adequate protection measures were not available to trafficking survivors. Victim care is required for both males and females in order to support the survivors. The most crucial thing is that both Bangladesh and India need to improve cross-border measures to stop trafficking of persons, to strengthening border controls, cross-border trafficking can be reduced by enhancing border controls through the use of trained personnel and cutting-edge technologies. For the purpose of preventing this sex trafficking, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) must constantly be on surveillance.⁵⁹

The media may play a vital part in eliminating and combating sex trafficking as well as raising the general public's consciousness of the issue. News outlets, online platforms, television, and other media have all helped to promote awareness of sex trafficking. Monitoring and assessment on a regular basis, it is possible to discover gaps and areas for improvement by routinely assessing the performance of current laws, regulations, and programs, ensuring that efforts to prevent sex trafficking remain efficient⁶⁰. Also ensure that every member of law enforcement who deal with

⁵⁹ https://lausanne.org/content/lga/2018-07/life-after-modern-slavery?gclid=CjwKCAjwpayjBhAnEiwA-7ena2ofXvaOeSG6k5QKwC7ey7imVj0OxRYCP6rR237CD1MccC4MIbuAxoCM7wQAvD_BwE

⁶⁰ <https://lcls-south.com/forced-prostitution-and-human-trafficking-in-bangladesh-a-critical-analysis-of-legal-and-infrastructural-framework/>

incidents of human trafficking receive thorough training on human rights issues. Finally, women should be provided with the necessary physical and psychological safety, and the nongovernmental and international community should set transparent financing priorities for the problem⁶¹.

Many countries have either passed separate legislation to prevent sex trafficking or have incorporated provisions dealing with the crime into their general criminal codes. Each jurisdiction may have a different set of specific definitions, sanctions, and enforcement procedures. Along with these legislative tools, governments, NGO in a wide range of initiatives to fight sex trafficking.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA)

BNWLA promotes the position of women lawyers and works to ensure that the most vulnerable women and children in Bangladesh have access to the legal process. These could include programs to raise public awareness, instruction for law enforcement. The Government and its associated institutions continue to struggle with the execution of the current policies. To address this global crime, it is crucial for nations and organizations to cooperate.⁶²

In Bangladesh, trafficking for sex is a creating safety and well-being concern that has a number of adverse long and short-term impacts. An increasing number of people are being trafficked for sexual purposes. Sex trafficking is one of the most profitable sorts of trafficking all over the world. All around Bangladesh, forced sex employment is a problem that affects women mostly. Only government initiatives could not prove to be an efficient method of resolving the problem. It calls for a lot of attention and action since human trafficking threatens both national and human security. Limited protection services are provided in Bangladesh, and it has been shown that these services do not adequately meet the needs of victims of trafficking. Significant reform is essential for the government to put an end to Sex Trafficking. There are plenty of papers outlining the trafficking problems in Bangladesh, despite the fact that more research must be done to bring more light on the preliminary stages of trafficking. Ultimately, scholars should keep developing best practices for working with this population, they should do this in collaboration with practitioners and survivors.

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⁶²<https://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/>

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