

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAPS AND RELEVANT LAWS IN
BANGLADESH: A LEGAL ANALYSIS**



LL.M. RESEARCH

A RESEARCH MONOGRAPH

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Letter of Transmittal

To

Dr. S.M. Saiful Hoque

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Subject: Prayer for Submission of Dissertation

Dear Sir,

It is an excellent pressure on behalf of me that I even have been ready to research “**Human Trafficking Traps and Relevant Laws in Bangladesh: A Legal Analysis**”. In order to complete this research, I even made every effort to do worthwhile research and to gather all the necessary data from various sources in order to meet your expectations. I would thus be eternally grateful if you could review my research paper and let me know if you have any insightful advice to provide on the subject.



Sincerely yours,

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Letter of Approval

This serves as confirmation that the task has been finished. Under my supervision, **Farzana Aahmed Shabnam, ID: 213-38-015**, Department of Law, Daffodil International University, finished a project titled “**Human Trafficking Traps and Relevant Laws in Bangladesh: A Legal Analysis**” as a partial fulfilment of the research work for the research.

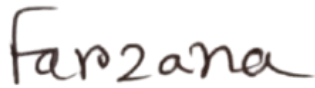


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Declaration

The content in the term paper " **Human Trafficking Traps and Relevant Laws in Bangladesh: A Legal Analysis**" was written by me, and I thus formally certify that it has not been lately submitted to any other institution, school, or organization in hopes of earning a professional degree or certificate. I have thus taken care to ensure that no copyright is now in effect with the material posted here.

My profound thanks go out to Dr. S.M. Saiful Hoque, the director of my department and my research supervisor, for his enthusiastic guidance and patience.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Farzana". The script is cursive and fluid, with the 'F' being particularly large and stylized.

Sincerely yours,

Farzana Aahmed Shabnam

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Abstract

Human trafficking is a major global concern, and Bangladesh plays a key role as a source, transit, and destination country. Common forms of trafficking in the country include sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, domestic servitude, and bonded labor, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, especially women and children. This research examines the various human trafficking traps and evaluates the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks in Bangladesh. By analyzing anti-trafficking laws, enforcement mechanisms, and the role of NGOs, this study highlights critical gaps in policy and implementation. It also emphasizes the importance of multilateral cooperation, public awareness, and education in combating this crime. The findings propose actionable recommendations to enhance legal provisions and collaborative efforts between governmental and non-governmental organizations, aiming to mitigate the growing threat of human trafficking and ensure justice for victims.

Keywords: Anti-Human Trafficking, Trafficking Laws, Sexual Exploitation, Victim Rescue, Border Trafficking

Chapter One

Preliminary

1.1 Introduction

The trafficking of women and children is a significant global issue, leading to severe mental and physical abuse as well as numerous human rights violations. Now this human trafficking is leading to an increase in killings, kidnappings and torture which resulting in violation of national and international law. In Bangladesh, the primary factors contributing to the trafficking of women and children are the lack of education and awareness among women, along with poverty, unemployment, and weak law enforcement. Many victims are lured with false promises of employment, marriage, or a better life, only to fall into the hands of traffickers. Strengthening education and awareness programs, particularly in rural areas, can empower women and children to recognize and avoid potential dangers. Additionally, establishing a comprehensive government database on trafficking could significantly enhance prevention and intervention efforts by tracking cases, identifying trafficking patterns, and supporting law enforcement in dismantling trafficking networks. Collaboration between the government, law enforcement agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is essential to effectively combat this growing crisis.

Nature and scope of the Research

The extent and complexity of women and child trafficking in Bangladesh create significant gaps in both knowledge and policy. One major challenge is that policymakers often overlook the urgency of addressing this issue or fail to prioritize the protection of women and children. A lack of comprehensive research and data further hinders the development of effective strategies to combat trafficking. Strengthening policies, enforcing stricter laws, and ensuring proper rehabilitation programs for survivors are crucial steps toward addressing this crisis. Additionally, raising public awareness and integrating trafficking prevention measures into national development plans can play a vital role in reducing exploitation and safeguarding vulnerable populations.

1.2 Objectives of the Research

The primary aim of this research is to gain a comprehensive understanding of human trafficking in Bangladesh and to assess the effectiveness of existing measures to combat it. The specific objectives include:

- Analyzing the root causes, nature, scope, and operational mechanisms of human trafficking in Bangladesh.
- Assessing the implementation and impact of anti-trafficking laws, particularly the **Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act, 2012**, in preventing and prosecuting trafficking crimes.
- Examining the role of **government agencies and NGOs** in countering trafficking, including their strategies, challenges, and areas for improvement.
- Proposing concrete policy recommendations to strengthen legal frameworks and enhance coordination between stakeholders.
- Evaluating the importance of **cross-border cooperation** among **SAARC nations** in tackling transnational trafficking networks.
- Identifying gaps and limitations within the existing **anti-trafficking laws** and suggesting amendments for more effective enforcement.
- Investigating the government's victim **rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration** mechanisms to determine their efficiency and accessibility.
- Exploring the role of **public awareness campaigns, community engagement, and technology** in preventing human trafficking.
- Highlighting the need for **data-driven approaches** to improve policy decisions and enhance tracking of trafficking incidents.

1.2 Trafficking

Trafficking refers to the act of kidnapping, abducting, recruiting, or transporting women, girls, and children—both within and across national borders—with the intent to exploit them for illegal purposes. These include forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and even

coerced marriages that disguise forms of modern slavery. Victims are often deceived with false promises of employment, education, or a better future, only to find themselves trapped in cycles of abuse and exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of socio-economic vulnerabilities, weak law enforcement, and gaps in legal frameworks to carry out these crimes with minimal risk. Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach, including stricter law enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and stronger international cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks and ensure justice for victims.

1.4.1 Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the use of force, deception, or coercion to exploit individuals for labor or commercial sexual activities. Each year, millions of men, women, and children become victims of trafficking across the globe, including in developed nations like the United States. This crime often operates in secrecy, making detection and prosecution challenging. Victims are frequently lured with false promises of employment, education, or a better life, only to be trapped in inhumane conditions. Traffickers take advantage of economic hardship, political instability, and weak law enforcement to carry out these crimes with minimal risk. Combating human trafficking requires a collaborative approach, including stricter laws, enhanced victim support systems, public awareness initiatives, and international cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks and bring perpetrators to justice. Victims cannot seek legal redress because traffickers force or intimidate their victims in such a way. And these traffickers find women and children whose economic and social conditions are poor. Traffickers bring those possession through their conspiracies and use them for various bad works.¹

1.4.2 Women Trafficking

Women trafficking involves the exploitation of women for sexual, economic, and forced labor purposes, including prostitution, pornography, and other commercial activities. While the trafficking of women is not a new issue, it has become more severe in recent years due to globalization, which has facilitated the movement of traffickers and their victims across borders. Economic disparities, lack of education, poverty, and weak enforcement of anti-trafficking laws have further contributed to the rise in this crime. Many women are deceived with false promises of better job opportunities, only to find themselves trapped in exploitative conditions with no means

of escape. Addressing this growing crisis requires stronger legal frameworks, international cooperation, and comprehensive rehabilitation programs to support survivors and prevent future trafficking cases.

1.4.3 Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is a globally recognized crime that affects every country, though it can be more difficult to detect and describe due to the vulnerability of the victims and the secrecy surrounding the operation of traffickers. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked every year, often for purposes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, and involvement in illegal activities.² To combat child trafficking, four main strategies have been put in place:

- **Protection:** Ensuring that children are safeguarded from trafficking through laws, social programs, and community awareness.
- **Prevention:** Addressing the root causes of child trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, and limited opportunities, to reduce the likelihood of children becoming vulnerable to traffickers.
- **Law Enforcement:** Strengthening legal frameworks and increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute trafficking cases.
- **Victim Assistance:** Providing comprehensive support to rescued children, including rehabilitation, education, psychological care, and reintegration into society.

¹ Dr. Borhan Uddin Khan, *“Fifty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”*, First Edition, IDHRB, 1998, Pg-198.

² Md. Zakir Hossain. *“Trafficking in child June”*, 2009 (Last accessed on 03 January 2025).

1.3 Significance of this Research

Human trafficking is a pervasive crime that occurs in nearly every country across the globe, including the United States. Traffickers come from diverse social, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, and trafficking operations can range from large, organized criminal networks to smaller, local gangs, including street and motorcycle gangs. The tactics used by traffickers often involve physically restricting victims or limiting their freedom of movement. Forms of trafficking include sex trafficking, sex tourism, labor trafficking, servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, all of which are part of the broader human trafficking problem.

While the scale of trafficking is overwhelming, it can be controlled and reduced through collaborative efforts between governments, law enforcement, and NGOs. Anti-trafficking activities, such as public awareness campaigns, legal reforms, victim support services, and international cooperation, are crucial in dismantling trafficking networks and providing aid to survivors. By strengthening these partnerships, society can take significant steps toward preventing trafficking and ensuring justice for those affected.

1.4 Research Questions

The proposed research will focus on three key research questions:

- **What is the nature of human trafficking in Bangladesh?**
This question aims to explore the various forms and patterns of human trafficking within the country, including the socio-economic factors contributing to the issue and the populations most vulnerable to exploitation.
- **What are the mechanisms to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh?**
This question will examine the laws, policies, and enforcement strategies currently in place to combat human trafficking, including the roles of government agencies, law enforcement, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in preventing and addressing trafficking cases.
- **What are the challenges in preventing human trafficking in Bangladesh?**
This question seeks to identify the obstacles that hinder the effective prevention and

prosecution of human trafficking, such as gaps in legal frameworks, lack of resources, limited public awareness, and the involvement of transnational trafficking networks.

By addressing these questions, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue and recommend solutions for strengthening anti-trafficking efforts in Bangladesh.

1.5 Literature Review

It has been observed that some NGOs work to make everyone aware about trafficking in women and children. Organizations such as Adarsha Samaj Seba Samity, Association for Integrated Development, Association for Community Development, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, Gono Gagan Kendra, Kapotakkha, and Nari Kalayan Samity play a crucial role in the fight against human trafficking in Bangladesh. These organizations are dedicated to raising awareness, providing support to victims, and working closely with local communities to prevent trafficking. They focus on various aspects, including the protection of children's rights, gender equality, empowerment of women, and rehabilitation of survivors.

In addition to their efforts in education and advocacy, these NGOs often collaborate with government agencies, law enforcement, and international organizations to ensure a multi-pronged approach to combating trafficking. Their initiatives may include providing legal assistance, running victim rehabilitation programs, organizing community outreach activities, and influencing policy reforms. Despite their valuable contributions, these organizations often face challenges such as limited funding, political obstacles, and a lack of coordination between stakeholders, which hinder the full realization of their goals. These organizations are making people aware of the society through weekly, monthly, various group meetings and trainings. NGOs use a variety of leaflets, hand written posters, books etc. to increase their campaign. Several NGOs conduct research on various trafficking issues or document trafficking cases.

In their 2024 study, Reza and Sadat examine the persistence of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in Bangladesh, despite the efforts of both state and non-state actors [1]. The study identifies the primary forms of trafficking in the country, including forced labor and sexual exploitation, and underscores how factors like poverty, socio-political instability, and weak law enforcement contribute to the ongoing prevalence of these crimes. The authors emphasize the need

for targeted measures, such as providing specialized training for law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, to strengthen the application of existing anti-trafficking laws.

Additionally, the study highlights the importance of improving victim support systems, including rehabilitation and reintegration programs, to help survivors recover and reintegrate into society. Reza and Sadat also advocate for a more comprehensive approach, including strengthening international collaboration, addressing root causes such as gender inequality and economic disparity, and implementing more effective prevention strategies to curb trafficking. These findings underscore the need for a holistic, multi-stakeholder response to effectively tackle the complex issue of human trafficking in Bangladesh.

In their 2024 study, Fariha and Hossain offer a comparative analysis of Bangladesh's anti-women trafficking laws in relation to those of other SAARC countries [2]. The study uncovers notable differences in the legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms across the region, highlighting those inconsistencies in anti-trafficking policies can undermine efforts to protect women from trafficking and exploitation. The authors argue that these disparities contribute to gender-based injustices, which in turn hinder overall national development by perpetuating cycles of inequality and vulnerability.

The study calls for the harmonization of legal frameworks and greater regional cooperation among SAARC countries to create a unified, more effective approach to combating women trafficking. The authors emphasize the importance of shared resources, joint law enforcement efforts, and standardized victim protection mechanisms. By strengthening these collaborative efforts, they suggest that the region can address trafficking more comprehensively, ensuring that women and girls are better protected from exploitation and abuse. The study also advocates for broader reforms to address the root causes of trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, and cultural attitudes toward gender, to foster a safer, more equitable environment for women.

A 2024 study published in the "Journal of Migration and Health" examines the factors contributing to human trafficking during emergency responses, with a specific focus on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh [3]. The research highlights the vulnerability of refugees, particularly in crisis situations, where lack of resources, uncertainty, and exploitation can increase the risk of trafficking. It emphasizes the critical need for improving the awareness and capabilities

of refugees, local authorities, and law enforcement agencies to better combat trafficking and ensure safe migration.

The study advocates for targeted initiatives to strengthen the knowledge and skills of these key stakeholders in identifying trafficking risks and promoting safe migration pathways. The authors also stress the importance of enhancing coordination between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international agencies, and government bodies to develop comprehensive counter-trafficking strategies. By creating stronger support systems and providing adequate resources for refugees, the study suggests that trafficking risks can be significantly reduced, ensuring that displaced populations are protected from exploitation during their migration and resettlement processes. Additionally, the research calls for better data collection and monitoring systems to track trafficking trends and improve responses in future humanitarian crises.

In their 2023 study, Rahman et al. explore the socioeconomic factors that contribute to the trafficking and prostitution of female children in Bangladesh [4]. The research identifies key drivers such as poverty, lack of education, and social inequality, which create vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit. These factors are often compounded by the lack of social safety nets, limited access to resources, and traditional gender roles, making young girls particularly susceptible to exploitation.

The authors argue that tackling these root causes is essential for developing effective intervention strategies. They suggest that improving access to education, providing economic opportunities for families, and addressing gender discrimination are critical steps toward reducing the risk of child trafficking and prostitution. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of strengthening legal frameworks, raising awareness, and creating support systems for at-risk children. By addressing the underlying socioeconomic factors and improving the conditions that lead to trafficking, the research proposes a more sustainable and long-term approach to combating these crimes in Bangladesh.

“Recent Human Trafficking Crisis and Policy Implementation in Bangladesh”: Islam and Sultana (2023) analyze the recent increase in human trafficking cases in Bangladesh, noting a 61% rise compared to previous periods. The study critiques current government policies, highlighting insufficient resources and lack of comprehensive strategies as major shortcomings. The authors advocate for more robust policy implementation and resource allocation to combat trafficking

effectively [5].

“Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Over the Victims and Offenders in Bangladesh”: A recent article in the Journal of Human Trafficking (2023) examines the perspectives of anti-trafficking. The study reveals challenges in law enforcement, including inadequate victim support and insufficient prosecution of offenders. The authors recommend enhancing legal frameworks and increasing collaboration among stakeholders to improve outcomes [6].

Modern Slavery in Bangladesh: The Walk Free Foundation's 2023 report provides a comprehensive analysis of modern slavery in Bangladesh, highlighting the prevalence of incumbent child trafficking [7]. The report highlights the importance of collaboration between government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to effectively tackle the issue. It underscores that a unified approach, combining the resources, expertise, and reach of both sectors, is essential for creating comprehensive solutions. By working together, these organizations can share information, align their efforts, and strengthen legal and support systems for victims. The report also stresses the need for regular communication and coordination to ensure that policies and interventions are efficiently implemented and adapted to changing circumstances. Furthermore, it calls for greater investment in capacity-building, joint training programs, and awareness campaigns to improve the overall effectiveness of anti-trafficking initiatives.

“Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh the U.S. Department of State's” 2024 report on trafficking in persons in Bangladesh indicates that, despite some progress, significant challenges remain in combating human trafficking. The report highlights issues such as inadequate victim identification and protection measures, and calls for increased efforts in law enforcement and victim support services [8].

Pair on Human Trafficking Charge A recent news article reports on the arrest of a husband and wife involved in a smuggling syndicate that held captive 12 Bangladeshi men who were promised work in Australia. This case underscores the ongoing challenges in addressing human trafficking networks operating in and through Bangladesh [9].

1.6 Research Methodology

The research proposal is conducted on the basis of collection from primary and secondary sources. The instructions given or provided by the supervisor have been followed with due care and diligently.

- Study, consultation and discussion with the concern supervisor.
- Concentrated on study through various sources like getting date information from many books, Journals, Newspapers, report of any organization, NGO's etc.
- Collection of study materials with help of the concerning teachings, researches and institution.

1.7 Chaptalization

This research proposal will be structured into six sections. The first section will provide an introduction and historical background on human trafficking. The second section will focus on the current situation of women and child trafficking in Bangladesh. The third section will explore the global perspective on human trafficking. The fourth section will examine the role of NGOs in combating trafficking in Bangladesh. The fifth section will analyze the legal frameworks related to women and child trafficking. Finally, the sixth section will present the conclusion, summarizing key findings and recommendations.

1.8 Conclusion

In recent years, the trafficking of women and children has risen significantly on a global scale. This increase can be attributed to various factors, including growing demand for cheap labor, sexual exploitation, and the vulnerability of certain populations due to poverty, conflict, and lack of education. Traffickers often exploit these vulnerabilities, using deception, coercion, and force to control victims, while operating across borders to evade detection. Despite efforts to address the issue, human trafficking continues to thrive due to weak law enforcement, inadequate victim protection systems, and limited international cooperation. Various laws have imposed penalties for abducting women and children. But these laws are becoming harder to enforce in Bangladesh if we can educate more people about trafficking.

Chapter Two

Present Situation on Women and Child Trafficking in Bangladesh

2.1 Introduction

Bangladesh is both a major source and transit country for human trafficking, with thousands of individuals trafficked each year. A study revealed that women and children are particularly vulnerable, often constituting the majority of victims. On average, around four hundred women and children are trafficked from Bangladesh every month, primarily for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Traffickers exploit these victims by using them for prostitution, slavery, and other forms of coerced labor. They often manipulate, abduct, or threaten the victims, using force or deceit to maintain control over them. This highlights the urgent need for stronger legal frameworks, enforcement, and victim support systems to address the growing trafficking crisis in the country.

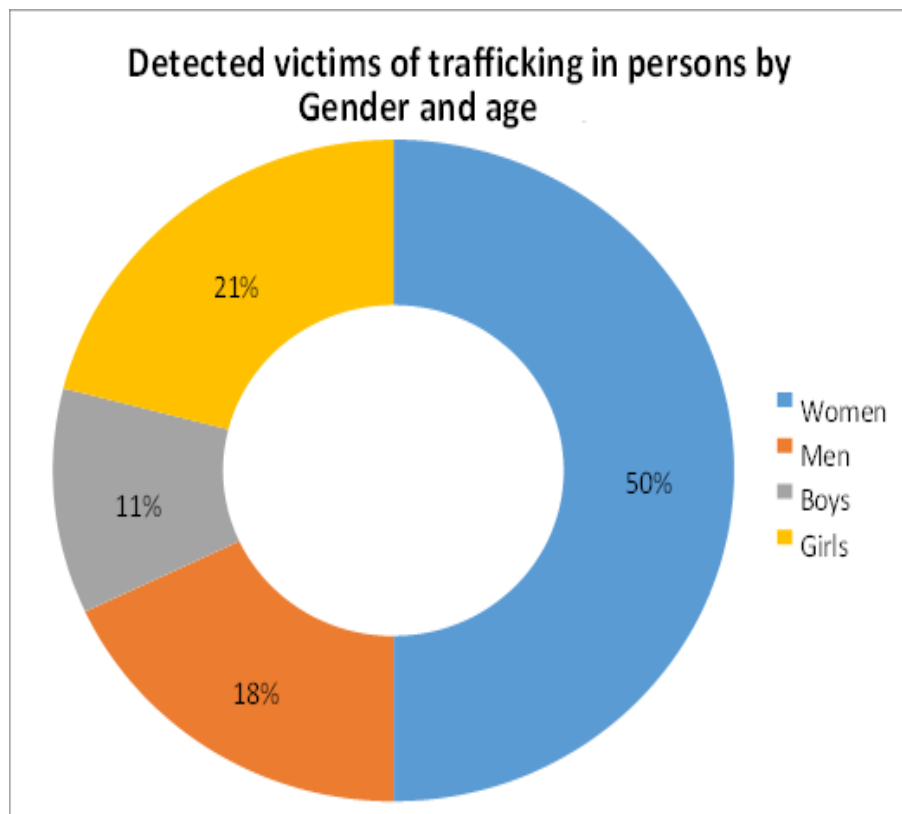


Figure 1: Detected victims of trafficking in persons by gender and age, 2024

2.2 Present Situation on Women Trafficking

According to statistics provided by human rights NGOs in Bangladesh, the scale of human trafficking is alarming:

- Between 200 and 400 young women are smuggled and trafficked each month from Bangladesh to Pakistan and Arab Gulf countries.
- An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 women are trafficked from Bangladesh to India annually.
- On average, at least 70 to 80 women and children are trafficked daily from Bangladesh to other countries.

These statistics highlight the widespread nature of trafficking in Bangladesh, particularly affecting vulnerable women and children. They emphasize the urgent need for stronger preventative measures, better law enforcement, and enhanced support for victims to combat this growing crisis.³

2.3 Present Situation on Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is one of the most severe forms of violence and exploitation. In recent years, the incidence of child trafficking from Bangladesh has surged dramatically, exacerbating the vulnerability of children in the country. Many children are trafficked for purposes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, child marriage, and involvement in illegal activities. These children are often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, deprived of their basic rights, and denied access to education and healthcare.

The increase in child trafficking can be attributed to factors such as poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement. Traffickers prey on children from marginalized families, using deception or coercion to exploit them in domestic or international trafficking networks. The surge in trafficking cases highlights the need for immediate and sustained intervention, including stronger laws, better enforcement mechanisms, and a more coordinated approach between governments, NGOs, and international organizations to protect vulnerable children. Additionally, raising public awareness and providing support systems for at-risk families are essential in combating this growing problem. "Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of any child

by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of having control over another person." And child killed 535 (Jan-Nov 2023).

4

Trafficking from India's Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata have expanded their strong network on Bangladeshi villages along the border. The system targets rural adolescents who are largely economically and socially indigent. According to the police report, the traffickers are collecting Bangladeshi girls from different districts and selling them to buyers for 30 to 40 thousand rupees. Bangladesh has a bad reputation for child trafficking in South Asia. Poverty and uneducated women and children are falling victim to this criminal network. According to United Nations statistics, approximately 300,000 children have been trafficked out of Bangladesh over the past decade. This alarming figure highlights the scale of the child trafficking crisis, with many of these children subjected to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse. The trafficking of children not only violates their basic human rights but also severely impacts their physical and mental well-being. The statistics underscore the urgent need for stronger preventive measures, improved law enforcement, and greater international cooperation to protect vulnerable children from exploitation and trafficking. Addressing the root causes, such as poverty, lack of education, and social instability, is also essential in curbing this grave issue.

The Times of India has published a report where 50,000 Bangladeshi children are being trafficked to India, Pakistan and Middle Eastern countries. Traffickers are trafficking these children first to India and then to different countries using about 18 points.⁵

³ Asraf Hossain, Human Trafficking, 03 April 2022 (last accessed on 09.12.2024), “<http://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/focus/section2/2004/09/human-trafficking-a-new-form-of-slave-trade-inbangladesh.htm>”

⁴ Dr. Muhammad Faiz-ud-din, Human Rights: *National and International Perspective*, Edition, Shams Publication, 2023, pg-100

⁵ Child trafficking, The Daily Ittefaq, S1'1 February, 2023

Chapter Three

Human Trafficking All Over the World

3.1 Introduction

Human trafficking is a grave and widespread issue that affects millions of people globally, often taking the form of modern-day slavery. It involves the illegal trade of humans for exploitation, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude. Human trafficking occurs in every region of the world, impacting vulnerable populations across different cultures and socioeconomic statuses. The purpose of this article is to examine the issue of human trafficking in various countries, including India, Thailand, South Africa, and the United States, and to provide a snapshot of the global statistics surrounding this issue.^{7,8}

3.2 Human Trafficking in India

India is a major source, destination, and transit country for human trafficking. Women and children are often trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and domestic servitude. Trafficking in India is deeply rooted in poverty, gender inequality, and lack of education. In recent years, the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have made significant strides to combat human trafficking. However, challenges remain, such as lack of resources, ineffective law enforcement, and the widespread nature of trafficking in rural areas.⁹

- Types of Trafficking: Sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and organ trafficking.
- Vulnerabilities: Poverty, caste discrimination, and child marriage.
- Government Efforts: Implementation of laws like the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, as well as increased awareness and rehabilitation efforts.

⁷ Abdur Rahman Fuad and Abdul Alim Bhuiyan, “Human Trafficking and Rohingya Migrant Crisis A Security Concern for Bangladesh & Way Forward” (Last Access 2 August 2023), <http://perspectivebd.com>

⁸ Annual report of 2024 of the “United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)”, see more <http://www.unhcr.org/>

⁹ Ramandeep Kaur, *Human Trafficking is Shame to Humanity*, Published on 8 November 2024, p.1

3.3 Human Trafficking in Thailand

Thailand is a destination and transit country for human trafficking, with individuals from neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos being trafficked into the country. Many trafficked persons end up working in the fishing industry, construction, and sex trade. The country has made efforts to strengthen its anti-trafficking laws and improve the protection of victims. However, enforcement remains an issue, with some government officials and businesses complicit in trafficking operations.¹⁰

- **Types of Trafficking:** Labor trafficking in the fishing industry, sex trafficking, and domestic servitude.
- **Vulnerabilities:** Migrant workers, illegal border crossings, and exploitation in the sex trade.
- **Government Efforts:** Anti-trafficking legislation, cooperation with international organizations, and victim support services.

3.4 Human Trafficking in South Africa

South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. The country faces a unique set of challenges, including high rates of gender-based violence, unemployment, and inequality, which contribute to the trafficking of women and children. Many victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while others are exploited for labor in industries such as agriculture and domestic work.¹¹

- **Vulnerabilities:** Gender inequality, high rates of sexual violence, and lack of education.
- **Government Efforts:** The implementation of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act and increased collaboration with regional and international law enforcement agencies.

¹⁰ Human Trafficking in Thailand. See more- <http://www.humantrafficking.org>

¹¹ “Trafficking in Persons Report. U.S. Department of State”. See more- <http://www.state.gov>

3.5 United States of America

The United States is both a source and a destination for human trafficking. Trafficking in the U.S. affects individuals of all ages and backgrounds, with a high number of victims being trafficked for sexual exploitation. The U.S. government has established a robust legal framework to combat human trafficking, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which aims to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders.¹²

- **Types of Trafficking:** Sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and trafficking for forced criminal activity.
- **Vulnerabilities:** Runaway youth, undocumented immigrants, and people with previous histories of abuse or exploitation.
- **Government Efforts:** The establishment of task forces, victim protection programs, and prosecution of traffickers.

3.6 Human Trafficking Statistic

Human trafficking is a global issue that knows no borders. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), approximately 40 million people are trafficked worldwide, with women and girls making up a significant portion of the victims. The U.S. State Department reports that human trafficking affects every country, and it is an issue that requires concerted global action.

- **Global Statistics:** The ILO estimates that 71% of trafficking victims are women and girls, and nearly 25% are children.
- **Regional Statistics:** South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa are regions with the highest rates of trafficking.¹³

¹² "The State Department 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report". United States Department of State.

¹³ "A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna", 2014, United Nations Publications, pp. 7-11. administrations and other government agencies.¹⁵

Chapter Four

Anti-Trafficking in Bangladesh through NGO's

4.1 Introduction

NGO play very important role to protest human trafficking. In this chapter I shall discuss about the working methods of NGOs, resources, policy and legal framework, some NGOs which working against human trafficking.

4.2 Anti-Trafficking in Bangladesh through NGO's

A number of NGOs and women's organizations in Bangladesh have begun interventions to eradicate prostitution as well as provide assistance to sex workers and their children, including education awareness, the fight against child and women trafficking, and participation in the media.

4.2.1 Working Methods

NGOs follow the following procedures to prevent human trafficking:

- Ensure border areas in three districts. Communicates on social media.
- Makes citizens aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- Attempts to raise voice about trafficking in person from the electronic and print media.
- Communicates with those who are victims.
- To arrange organized seminar, training programed, rally etc.¹⁴

4.2.2 Prevention and Prosecution

It has been observed that like non-governmental organizations, Adarsh Samaj Seva Samiti, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, Gono Gagan Kendra, Narira Kalyan Samiti etc. Awareness development program on women and child trafficking. The preventing of human trafficking through NGOs' awareness-raising programs through law enforcement, community leaders, local

4.3 Case Study

In a significant case of human trafficking intervention, the residents of Rishipara village in Keshabpur upazila, located in the Jessore district, played a crucial role in apprehending a suspected trafficker named Shahidul. He was caught red-handed while attempting to smuggle a young boy. Upon his capture, local authorities were immediately informed, and the police took him into custody. During the investigation, officers discovered that the rescued child, identified as 10-year-old Rubel, was the son of Abdus Salam, a shopkeeper from Khadimpur village in Keshabpur. The boy had reportedly been lured away under false pretenses, with traffickers likely intending to transport him across the border for forced labor or exploitation. Thanks to the swift action of the villagers, Rubel was safely returned to his family, and legal proceedings were initiated against Shahidul.

In a separate but related incident, vigilant residents of Bejdanga village, also in Keshabpur, intercepted another trafficker, a woman named Hajera. She was caught attempting to transport a young girl, Rupa, across the border into India. Suspicions arose when villagers noticed the girl appearing distressed and reluctant to accompany Hajera. Upon questioning, it became evident that she was being smuggled against her will. The locals immediately detained Hajera and turned her over to the authorities. The police launched a formal investigation into the case, ensuring that Rupa was placed in safe custody before being reunited with her family.

These cases highlight the critical role of community awareness and prompt action in combating human trafficking. The proactive efforts of the villagers in Rishipara and Bejdanga not only saved two young lives from a potentially harrowing fate but also helped law enforcement in their ongoing fight against trafficking networks. Authorities emphasized the need for continued vigilance and cooperation between local communities and law enforcement agencies to prevent such crimes and bring traffickers to justice.¹⁶

4.4 List of NGOs Working

Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bangladesh are actively engaged in preventing human trafficking, supporting survivors, and advocating for stronger policies. While some of these organizations provide significant assistance to trafficking victims, not all are equally effective in offering comprehensive rehabilitation and long-term support. Below are some key NGOs involved in anti-trafficking efforts:

- Anti-Sex Trafficking Action – This organization focuses on preventing sex trafficking by raising awareness, supporting vulnerable communities, and assisting victims in their reintegration into society.
- Anti-Trafficking Centre – Working at the grassroots level, this NGO provides legal aid, education, and rehabilitation services for trafficking survivors while also collaborating with law enforcement to dismantle trafficking networks.
- Asian Women's Human Rights Council – Committed to protecting women's rights, this organization addresses human trafficking as a major violation of human dignity. It provides legal advocacy, counseling, and shelter for victims while pushing for stronger enforcement of anti-trafficking laws.
- Association for Women and Children – Dedicated to empowering women and children, this NGO offers safe shelters, skill development programs, and financial support to survivors of trafficking, helping them regain independence.
- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) – One of the leading legal aid organizations in Bangladesh, BLAST provides legal assistance to trafficking victims, helping them seek justice and ensuring their rights are protected. It also works on policy reform and advocacy.
- Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) – This organization offers legal representation to victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. BNWLA also runs safe houses and rehabilitation programs for women and children rescued from trafficking situations.
- Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts – Although primarily focused on substance abuse rehabilitation, this NGO also extends its support to trafficking victims who may have been forced into drug-related exploitation, offering counseling and recovery programs.
- Society for Community Health Rehabilitation Education and Awareness (CREA) – Working at the intersection of health and human rights, CREA runs awareness campaigns to prevent

human trafficking and provides healthcare services to survivors, ensuring their physical and psychological well-being.

Despite their efforts, challenges remain in providing comprehensive support to trafficking victims, including limited funding, bureaucratic obstacles, and gaps in coordination between organizations and law enforcement. Strengthening cooperation among these NGOs, the government, and international agencies is crucial for effectively combating human trafficking in Bangladesh.

¹⁵ “Ruhi, Ruh Afza, Asian Affairs, Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: An Overview”, CDRB publication, Vol. 25, October, 2003, pp.52-53

¹⁶ Rukhsana Gazi, cases on trafficking (last accessed on 15.03.2024), “http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/trafficking_of_women_oct07.pdf”

Chapter Five

Legal Instruments on Women and Child Trafficking

5.1 Introduction

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, commonly known as the Palermo Protocol, is an international legal instrument designed to combat human trafficking. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 15, 2000, as a supplementary protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). The protocol officially came into force on December 25, 2003, marking a significant step toward global cooperation in addressing the complexities of human trafficking.

Objectives and Key Provisions:

The Palermo Protocol provides a comprehensive legal framework to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. Its main objectives are:

1. **Definition and Criminalization of Trafficking** – The protocol defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through force, coercion, fraud, or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes forced labor, sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude, and organ removal.
2. **Protection and Assistance for Victims** – It mandates that countries provide support to trafficking victims, including legal aid, shelter, medical care, and opportunities for rehabilitation. Special attention is given to the needs of women and children.
3. **Prevention and Awareness** – The protocol emphasizes the importance of preventive measures, such as awareness campaigns, educational programs, and research to address the root causes of trafficking, including poverty, gender inequality, and migration vulnerabilities.
4. **International Cooperation and Law Enforcement** – As human trafficking often involves cross-border networks, the protocol encourages cooperation among nations in sharing intelligence, extraditing offenders, and strengthening border controls to dismantle trafficking operations.

Since its enforcement, the Palermo Protocol has been ratified by over 170 countries, signifying a global commitment to fighting human trafficking. It has influenced national anti-trafficking laws, led to the establishment of victim support programs, and promoted transnational collaboration among governments, law enforcement agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, challenges remain, including inadequate victim identification, corruption, and gaps in law enforcement.

The Palermo Protocol remains a cornerstone of international efforts to combat human trafficking. While progress has been made in the past two decades, continued efforts are needed to strengthen victim protection, enhance law enforcement responses, and address the socio-economic factors that drive trafficking. By adhering to the principles outlined in the protocol, the global community can work toward eradicating modern-day slavery and ensuring justice for victims.¹⁷

5.2 The Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012

This act was enacted to combat human trafficking, safeguard the rights of victims, and promote secure migration practices. This legislation aims to establish measures for the prevention, suppression, and prosecution of trafficking offenses while ensuring that victims receive adequate protection and support.

Recognizing the need for a legal framework aligned with international standards, the act seeks to address transnational organized crimes related to human trafficking. By implementing strict legal provisions, the legislation reinforces efforts to deter traffickers, assist victims in their recovery, and uphold their fundamental rights. It also emphasizes cooperation between national and international entities to combat trafficking more effectively.¹⁸

Penalty for the organized offence of human trafficking:

Under Section 7 of the Human Trafficking Act, 2012, any offense committed as part of an organized group with the intent of financial or material gain is subject to severe legal consequences. Each member of such a group is held individually accountable for the crime, regardless of their specific role.

The prescribed penalties for those found guilty include:

- Death penalty, or
- Life imprisonment, or
- Rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of seven years, along with
- A fine of no less than five lakh Bangladeshi Taka.

This strict punishment reflects the gravity of human trafficking offenses and serves as a deterrent against the formation of organized trafficking networks. The law aims to ensure justice for victims while reinforcing Bangladesh's commitment to combating human trafficking in line with international standards.¹⁹

Punishment for Provoking, Instigating, Conspiring, or Attempting to Commit Human Trafficking:

Under Section 8(1) of the Human Trafficking Act, 2012, any individual who provokes, instigates, conspires, or attempts to commit a human trafficking offense, or knowingly allows their property to be used in such crimes—including harboring, receiving, concealing, removing, or destroying evidence—will be subject to legal consequences.

This provision ensures that not only direct perpetrators but also those who facilitate, assist, or attempt to commit human trafficking are held accountable under the law. It serves as a preventive measure to curb trafficking networks and strengthen legal enforcement against all forms of involvement in trafficking-related crimes.²⁰

¹⁷ Staff correspondent (last accessed online 9.03.2024, at 09:43pm), <http://www.endhumantraffickingnow.com/international-legal-instruments>

¹⁸ Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 3

¹⁹ Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 7

²⁰ Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 8(1)

Penalty for kidnapping, stealing, and confining with intent to commit the offence of human trafficking:

Under Section 10(1) of the Human Trafficking Act, 2012, any individual who kidnaps, abducts, conceals, or unlawfully confines another person with the intent to engage in human trafficking or subject them to sexual or other forms of exploitation—as defined in Section 2(15) of the Act—shall be considered guilty of a serious offense.

This provision ensures that individuals involved in the forcible removal, confinement, or concealment of trafficking victims are strictly punished. By imposing severe legal consequences, the law aims to deter such crimes and reinforce protections for vulnerable individuals at risk of trafficking.²²

Penalty for importing or transferring for prostitution or other form of sexual exploitation:

Under Section 11 of the Human Trafficking Act, 2012, any individual who is found guilty of importing, transporting, or transferring a person for the purpose of prostitution or any other form of sexual exploitation will face strict legal consequences.

This provision aims to combat forced prostitution and sexual exploitation, ensuring that traffickers who facilitate or profit from such crimes are held accountable. By enforcing severe legal measures, the Act seeks to protect victims from exploitation and uphold their fundamental rights.²³

The Anti-Human-Trafficking Offence Tribunals:

According to section 21 of this act defines, establish an offence tribunal to be considered of a judge. Until such tribunals are established in accordance with subsection (1), the government may assign and empower the women. ²⁴

²² Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 10(1)

²³ Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 11

²⁴ Human Trafficking Act, 2012, section 21

Conclusion and Recommendation

6.1 Findings

Need multilateral contract for Anti trafficking:

Human trafficking crime is an organized crime. It happened not only the territory of the country but also cross the border line of the country. So, stop and prevent this crime, need multilateral contract within countries.

Lack of education:

The absence of education among women and children who get trafficked as well as also the main cause for trafficking. Lack of education people could not know to the bad effect of trafficking and fall in fraud and false promise.

NGO's working separately:

At present NGO's function not is in unison but disparately. There is a problem. If they work with government then this crime prevents strongly because it is a cross border crime.

6.2 Recommendations

- Multilateral Tran's border cooperation's: If the state parties have done a multilateral contract to prevent and rescue victim of the human trafficking. Then trans-border cooperation is easy to rescue any victims who are gone to another country.
- Awareness by education; Proper education easily stopping human trafficking. Without education awareness is not develop.
- Working Unique with government: Collaboration of NGO's and government agencies is an essential requirement in the anti-trafficking activities.
- Establish separate Anti Trafficking Tribunal: It is high time to establish separately ant trafficking tribunal for ensure justice for all victims to the Human trafficking traps.

6.3 Conclusion

Human trafficking, particularly of women and children, continues to rise globally, with South Asian countries experiencing a particularly severe impact due to socio-economic vulnerabilities, porous borders, and inadequate enforcement of laws. To effectively combat this heinous crime, the focus must shift towards a holistic approach. Law enforcement agencies need to be more proactive and efficient in applying the existing laws. Collaborations between governmental bodies and NGOs should be streamlined to create unified efforts, as isolated interventions often fall short of achieving desired outcomes. Multilateral agreements with neighboring countries are also critical to ensure swift rescue and rehabilitation of victims trafficked across borders.

Education and awareness are critical in the fight against human trafficking. By informing vulnerable populations about the risks, deceptive tactics, and long-term consequences associated with trafficking, communities can be empowered to identify, resist, and report suspicious activities. Establishing dedicated anti-trafficking tribunals and strengthening penalties for traffickers will send a strong message and act as a deterrent. Raising awareness through educational programs, media campaigns, and community outreach helps individuals recognize the warning signs of trafficking and understand their legal rights. Schools, NGOs, and government initiatives play a crucial role in equipping at-risk populations—such as low-income families, migrants, and young job seekers—with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions and avoid exploitation.

Furthermore, strengthening public awareness campaigns ensures that law enforcement, employers, and the general public remain vigilant in identifying and reporting trafficking networks. By fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility, societies can work together to prevent trafficking before it occurs and protect vulnerable individuals from falling prey to traffickers.

By addressing these challenges through an integrated and committed approach, the incidence of human trafficking can be reduced, paving the way for a safer and more equitable society. It is only through vigilance, cooperation, and sustained efforts that this pervasive issue can be eradicated from both national and global contexts.

Appendix

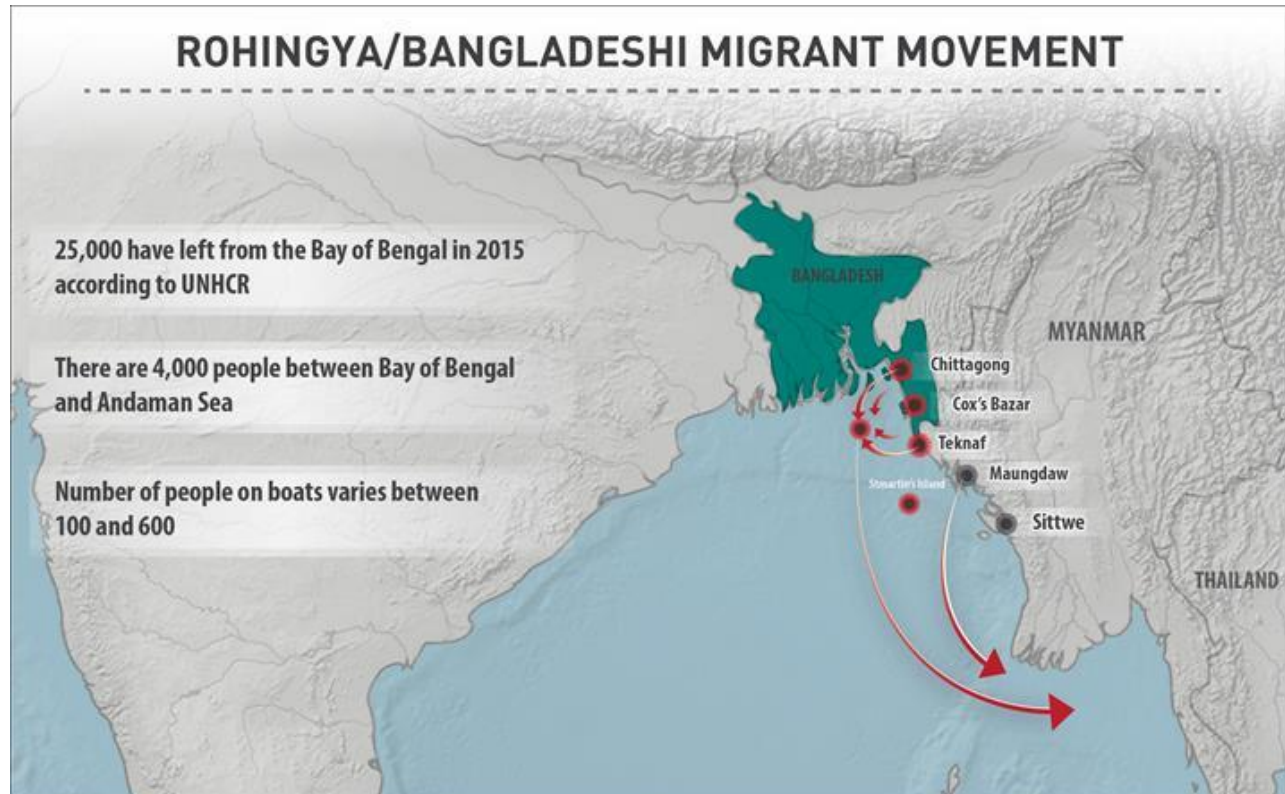


Figure: The brokers and boats of Bangladesh trafficking ring (Source: Anadolu Agency)

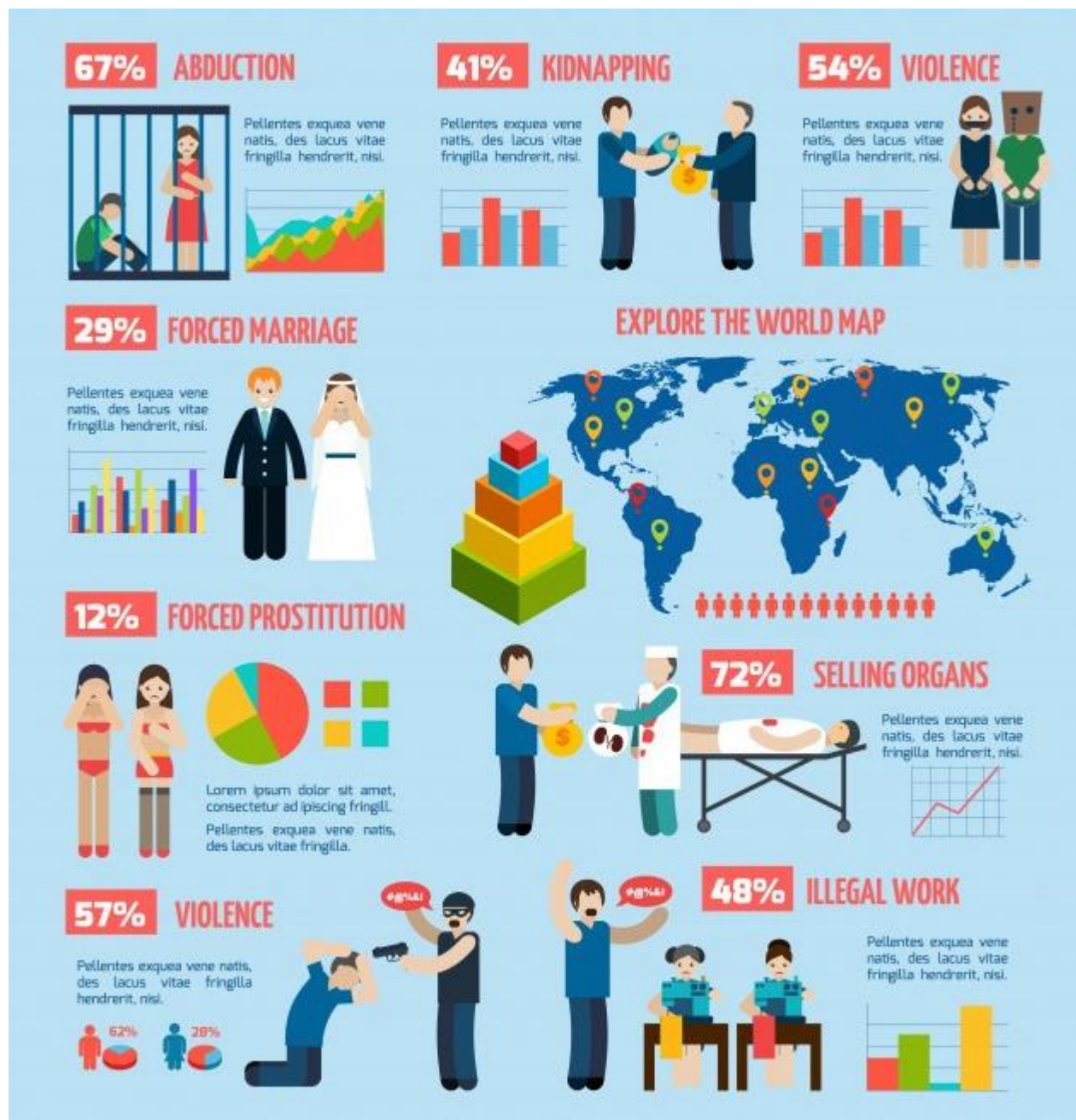


Figure: Human Trafficking Infographics (Source: science leadership)



Figure: Human trafficking in Indian route (The Daily Star)

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