

REPORT :

# Human Trafficking in India, Nepal y Bangladesh

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## INTRODUCTION

One of the priority programs of Sonrisas de Bombay / Mumbai Smiles is the fight against human trafficking. In the Trafficking Protocol elaborated by the United Nations in 2000, it was described as *"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour services, slavery or similar practices, servitude or the removal of organs"*.

Human trafficking is, along with arms and drugs, one of the three illegal industries that generate the most profits: during the past decade, all three moved 650,000 million dollars annually (about 595,000 million Euros), which is equivalent to 1.5% of world GDP (UNODC, 2011).

Human trafficking can have different purposes: work, slavery, forced marriages, organ harvesting... However, the most frequent destination, especially for trafficked women and girls, is sexual exploitation. Every year, more than half a million people are trafficked for this purpose, that is, one every sixty seconds (Kara, 2009).

Trafficking can be understood as a modern form of Slavery. The Asian and the Pacific region had the highest number of victims across all forms of modern slavery, accounting for 73 percent of victims of forced sexual exploitation, 68 percent of those forced to work by state authorities, 64 percent of those in forced labour exploitation, and 42 percent of all those in forced marriages.

Within the region, North Korea, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were the countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery. India, China, and Pakistan had the highest absolute number of people living in modern slavery and accounted for 60 percent of the victims in the region (Walk Free Foundation, 2018).

In our daily work we have identified that many of the victims who are exploited at Mumbai have been actually trafficked from Nepal and Bangladesh.

This document records the situation on human trafficking in Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as some Indian regions, during the last decade. The general context of the regions analysed will be laid out and commented thoroughly, putting especial attention into the routes used for traffickers, the profile of the victims as well as their origins and the causes of their falling into human trafficking networks.

## INDIA

According to data collected in 2019, most of India's trafficking problem is internal, with traffickers targeting those from the most disadvantaged strata (US Department of State, 2019). Moreover, as noted by the same source, unregulated work placement agencies reportedly use false promises of employment to lure adults and children into sex trafficking or forced labour.

Traffickers target young, poorly educated people from traditionally marginalized castes and ethnic minority communities and increasingly utilize social media and mobile technologies to lure their victims (UNODC, 2020).

India is a source for sex tourists and a destination for child sex tourism (Srivastava, 2017). Illicit actions take place in traditional red-light districts, dance bars, spas, and massage parlours. Traffickers progressively exploit women and children in sex trafficking in small hotels, vehicles, huts, and private residences.

The Indian state of West Bengal, which shares its borders with poor neighbouring countries, Bangladesh, and Nepal, recorded having more than a third of the world's total number of sexual exploitation victims in 2016. The desert state of Rajasthan recorded the second highest number of trafficked children in 2016, while the western state of Maharashtra, which is home to India's economic capital, Mumbai, recorded the second highest number of female victims of trafficking (Foreign Policy Blogs, July 18, 2018). Goa has become a hotspot of human trafficking due to the touristic industry built around it, provoking a worrying increase of sex trafficking.

### Kolkata

Kolkata is India's seventh largest city and second largest urban area with around 14.85 million inhabitants (Census of India, 2018).

West Bengal is as much a destination as a source for girls who are trafficked into prostitution. The long border with Bangladesh and the 60 miles adjacent to Nepal include many unguarded stretches, allowing traffickers to smuggle girls into the state. Some end up in the red-light districts of Kolkata, others are sold to brothels elsewhere in India (Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, or Goa) (Bhattacharjee, 2020).

A report by United Nations Office on Drug and Crime discloses that in West Bengal more than 19,000 women and children were reported missing out of which only 6,000 could be traced (2018).

West Bengal is considered one of the most vulnerable places for trafficking as it serves as a central location not only for intra and inter-state trafficking but also for international trafficking (Criminal Investigation Department of West Bengal Police and the Union Home Ministry, 2017).

West Bengal accounted for 25% of India's trafficking cases between 2010 and 2016. In 2016, the state recorded a whopping 44% share of the total cases related to human trafficking in India (Paul, 2020).

Corruption and negligence to report human trafficking cases protract the cumbersome context. The US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report

published in June 2019 that "some authorities in West Bengal and Jharkhand allegedly ordered police to register trafficking cases as "missing persons" to reduce the number of trafficking cases in official statistics".

Most trafficking victims are recruited by acquaintances, family members or spouses; while, typically, women are recruited before the age of 18 (Falb et al., 2011). International Justice Mission discloses that 42% of victims of sex trafficking in Bengal are minors (2019).

## Goa

Human trafficking (mainly of women and children) in Goa for sexual exploitation happens in broad daylight; and although Mumbai and Kolkata may have the highest cases of trafficking in women and children, the cases in Goa, have seen a surge in recent times (NCRB, 2010).

The loss of employment or source of earning has made the survivors of CSE (child sexual exploitation) even more vulnerable to re-trafficking. Pimps take advantage of the situation and lure the girls by paying an advance fee which helps the victims manage their house expenses during this crisis. However, the advance is paid with a condition that binds them in commercial sexual activity (Navhind Times, 2020).

Online forums are fuelling the soaring illicit business in Goa. The trade has switched over from the streets to the Internet, thereby increasing the reach of pimps to customers and creating anonymity for the pimps and clients (Herald Goa, 2019). Not only the websites but social platforms are misused for advertising sexual services, recruiting girls, soliciting customers, and even receiving payments.

The internet enabling commercial sexual activity has made the traffickers faceless and increased the reach of the pimps to the clients. It is providing anonymity to the clients who are soliciting girls and women for commercial sexual activity (Canessa, 2018).

As a result, it is a bit challenging for the law enforcement agencies and anti-trafficking organisations to act against those involved in online commercial sexual exploitation. Unfortunately, the present legislation does not properly address the different offences committed for online enabled commercial sexual exploitation.

As for the origin of the victims in the State of Goa, during the period of 2014 to 2019, 400 women were rescued from commercial sexual exploitation, of which 84% were nationals, the rest were foreign (ARZ, 2019).

An added factor needs to be considered when analysing human trafficking in Goa: tourism. According to the state government, Goa received 7 million visitors between June 2019 and March 2020 (2020). Tourism represents a great opportunity for investment and employment, but it also has contributed to the proliferation of illicit activities, making Goa a commercial hub and ultimately India's sex capital (Press Trust of India, 2019). Many Indian and foreign tourists come in search of child sex in Goa (Ferraro, 2020).

## NEPAL

HDI	total population	% of people under poverty line	% rural population	literacy rates
142nd	28.61M	18.7%	79.85%	67.91%

*Approximately 35,000 Nepalis are trafficked every year, domestically and transnationally (NHRC, 2019).*

*Annually, between 5,000 and 18,000 women and girls trafficked to India for sex exploitation (Mudturtles LLC, 2013).*

*Around one thousand Nepali women and girls are rescued from India every year (NHRC, 2019).*

*The trends see how the exposure to hardships has risen, Covid19 and climate change put a specific strain on vulnerable populations, leaving a grand total of 1.5 million Nepalis at risk of being trafficked (NHRC, 2019).*

*The lack of consistent data is indicative of the utter need to build capacity networks that ensure the recollection of meaningful evidence and knowledge to combat human trafficking and tackle its sources.*

### General context

The Government of Nepal does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so (US Department of State, 2020). These efforts included investigating multiple government officials for complicity in human trafficking, identifying, and removing more children, including trafficking victims, from exploitative care homes, and funding repatriation for more Nepali trafficking victims overseas. The government continued to stand up its law enforcement unit dedicated to human trafficking—the Anti-Trafficking-in-Persons Bureau (Anti-TIP Bureau)—and parliament voted to accede to the 2000 UN TIP Protocol (US Department of State, 2020).

Nonetheless, although the Nepali government revised the Human Trafficking Control Act (HTTC) in 2016, the legislation is insufficient. The government's laws do not criminalize all forms of labour trafficking and sex trafficking and the HTTC does not explicitly address pornography, internal trafficking, or trafficking in the process of migration. These forms of trafficking are covered under the Foreign Employment Act which does not provide the victim remedies available under the HTTC, leaving many victims of trafficking without adequate remedy (US Department of State, 2020).

Nepal is an important source country for the Indian human trafficking business. Estimates suggest that around 50 women are trafficked from Nepal to India every day (Sharma, 2020). Additionally, the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRC) found that in 2018-19 alone, 35,000 Nepali citizens were trafficked (2019).

The NHRC report also predicted that around 1.5 million Nepalis are currently at risk of being trafficked to India (2019). These individuals are generally forced into exploitative work, including child labour, bonded labour, and sexual slavery.

The trafficking of girls from Nepal into India for forced prostitution is perhaps one of the busiest slave trafficking routes anywhere in the world, with estimated 5,000-18,000 Nepali women and girls trafficked to India each year (Deane, 2010).

Nearly 1,000 Nepali women and girls are rescued annually from India, where they are taken for sex trade, forced labour, housemaid and taking them further to third countries (NHRC, 2019).

### *Routes*

The scale and persistence of human trafficking stems partially from poor screening at the open Indian-Nepalese border and the lack of formal mechanisms in both countries to address the issue continues to make cross border trafficking major challenge for Nepal (Deane, 2010).

Most smuggled migrants from Nepal enter India overland to avoid more stringent border controls at Kathmandu airport. Despite an open-border policy at the Nepal-India border, migrant smugglers use many of the smaller border checkpoints to avoid detection (UNODC, 2019).

Since there are no fences along the border there are several smaller official and unofficial border crossings known as Chhoti Bhansar (Minor Customs) (UNECE, 2020). These are, from west to east (by Indian state):

- **Uttarakhand** → Jhulaghat in Pithoragarh district - Mahakali in Baitadi District, Nepal;
- **Uttar Pradesh** → Gauriphanta in Lakhimpur Kheri district - Dhangadi, Nepal, Murtiha in Lakhimpur Kheri district - Gulariya, Bardiya, Nepal, Tal Baghaura in Shravasti district - Laxmanpur, Nepal, Tulsipur in Balrampur district - Koilabas, Nepal, Barhani Bazar in Siddharthnagar district - Krishnanagar, Nepal;
- **Bihar** → Bhikhna Thori in West Champaran district - Thori in Parsa District, Nepal, Pipraun in Madhubani district - Jatahi-Nagarain in Dhanusa District Nepal, Bhimnagar in Supaul district - Bhandabari-Haripur in Sunsari District, Nepal (via Kosi barrage), Amgachhi in Araria district - Rangeli in Morang District, Nepal, Baria (Bairia bazar) in Kishanganj district - Gauriganj in Jhapa District, Nepal, Bairgania in Sitamarhi district - Gaur in Rautahat District, Nepal, Sonbarsa in Sitamarhi district - Malangwa in Sarlahi District, Nepal, Bhitthamore in Sitamarhi district - Jaleswor in Mahottari District Nepal; Jainagar in Madhubani district - Inarwa Phulbariya in Saptari District, Nepal;
- **West Bengal** → Mirik in Darjeeling district - Pashupatinagar, Ilam, Nepal (UNECE,2020).

Movement of persons from Nepal to India, as we have seen, is quite easy considering the long border it has with India. Since India has an open border policy with Nepal, Nepalis have free access to enter India, and therefore trafficking becomes difficult to identify. As specified by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs,

citizens of Nepal entering India by land or air do not require a passport or Visa for entry in India (2018).

Traffickers exploit Nepal's open border with India to transport Nepali women and children to India for sex trafficking, including under the guise of "orchestra dancers", where girls dance at public functions and men exploit them in sex trafficking (US Department of State, 2020).

### *Profile*

The profile of the victims usually follows a pattern of vulnerable social strata population. Unregistered migrants, including a large number of young Nepali women who transit India or men and women who rely on unregistered recruitment agents are particularly vulnerable to forced labour and sex trafficking (US Department of State, 2020).

Women and girls are especially vulnerable due to limited economic opportunities, illiteracy or low education, and low socioeconomic and cultural status. Furthermore, they are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking when involved in marginalized livelihoods, deserted by their husbands or families, victims of abuse and violence, and those from disadvantaged communities and extremely poor families (Tsutsumi et al., 2008). The most targeted are those in traditionally disadvantaged, marginalized groups such as the Dalit caste (untouchables) and ethnic minorities. Additional vulnerable groups those from mid and far-western development regions, and those residing in areas vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters (Subedi, 2009).

Many Nepalis whose homes or livelihood were destroyed by the 2015 earthquakes, especially women and children, remain vulnerable to trafficking (Withers and Dahal, 2015). Trafficking of children to India has reportedly increased since the earthquakes in 2015 (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020). Media outlets reported that immediately after the first earthquake in April 2015, traffickers arrived in the earthquake ravaged areas of Nepal to attempt to recruit children with offers of education and opportunity for their families (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020).

There is an added vulnerability for Nepali girls, thought-out especially desirable, as prostitutes in India because they are considered more attractive due to their lighter skin colour, and because Nepali virgins are believed to be able to cure AIDS (The New Humanitarian, 2008).

Most victims were lured with promises of better jobs in areas such as India, Dubai, or Saudi Arabia; other tactics include false marriages and proposals, force, and approaching indebted families to sell their daughters to pay their debts, sometimes under the guise of a dowry for a marriage (girls may be frequently viewed as family commodities who can be bought and sold like property) (Simkhada, 2008).

### *Victim's Origin*

The 77 districts of Nepal are subject to human trafficking, without exception. Poverty, instability, social exclusion, the lack of resources and climate change, among others, affect the day to day lives of most Nepalis. Rural areas are especially exposed to traffickers. If we take into account official data, missing cases were reported in 41 districts including Dhading, Rasuwa, Kavrepalanchowk, Achham, Nuwakot, and Pyuthan which are highly vulnerable to human trafficking (Mandal, 2019).

In Kathmandu Valley alone, an estimated 11,000 to 13,000 girls are working in the "night entertainment industry", often forced to engage in sexual activity. Nearly half enter this industry before the age of 18 (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020).

### *Added Risk Factors*

Police officers lack awareness regarding the anti-trafficking law, leading to poor investigation techniques and impeded prosecutions (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020). In Fiscal Year 2016-17, for instance, the Department of Foreign Employment received 2,383 cases of trafficking, yet police registered between 200 and 300 cases (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2020).

Furthermore, officials' corruption remains a serious problem, both direct complicity and negligence. The Government did not report investigations into several documented allegations. Reports indicate that political parties pressure authorities to drop cases and that traffickers are tied to government officials. Businesses discovered to facilitate trafficking are rarely prosecuted (US Department of State, 2020).

The aftermath of the Covid19 pandemic and the economic recession will have to be considered from now on. Nepal is expected to be among the hardest hit countries in economic terms, due to its low-income status and the combination of high dependency on imports of food and other essential commodities, leaving its population in an exceptionally vulnerable position (World Food Programme, 2020).

## BANGLADESH

HDI	total population	% of people under poverty line	% rural population	literacy rates
133rd	163M	31.5%	62.6%	73.91%

*Between 20,000 and 50,000 women and children are trafficked to India every year according to the Border Security Force (2018). Representing approximately 200,000 women trafficked from Bangladesh for the last ten years.*

*There are 27 million in Bangladesh facing extreme poverty and 31 percent living in chronic poverty in less developed areas which translates to a considerable increase of the people at risk of being trafficked (Fries, 2019).*

*The rise in the use of social media has also augmented the risk to which young girls are subject to falling into trafficking networks. Technology and the clandestinity of the operations make it extremely difficult to track perpetrators. Moreover, the recollection of data is extremely limited.*

*The lack of consistent data is indicative of the utter need to build capacity networks that ensure the recollection of meaningful evidence and knowledge to combat human trafficking and tackle its sources.*

### *General picture and data*

The government of Bangladesh does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. These efforts included adopting a national action plan to combat trafficking, convicting traffickers, initiating an investigation into police officers accused of sex trafficking, and continuing to investigate some potential trafficking crimes against Rohingya refugees. However, it did not demonstrate overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period (US Department of State, 2020).

The government identified significantly fewer than the number of victims and did not consistently refer victims to care, and reports of it doing so were far fewer than the number of victims identified (US Department of State, 2020). Concerningly, victim care remained insufficient; Rohingya and foreign trafficking victims could not access protective services (US Department of State, 2020).

Bangladesh is a major country of origin and transit for men, women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, especially forced labour and forced prostitution (Amin and Islam Sheikh, 2011).

Such illegal transactions are on the rise between India and Bangladesh, and a large proportion of trafficking is cross border. Bangladesh is a source and transit country for women and children subject to trafficking for forced prostitution (UNODC, 2011).

A UNICEF report found that a great number of women and children in Bangladesh are victims each month and most of them end up in prostitution houses in other countries, especially in India and Pakistan (2009). Trafficking in children and women takes place by a variety of means. Some children are sold into bondage by their parents, while others are induced into commercial sexual exploitation through promises of jobs or marriages and, in some cases, by physical coercion (UNICEF, 2009).

Between 20,000 and 50,000 Bangladeshi girls are trafficked to or via India over the year (Border Security Force, 2018).

### *Routes*

Many border areas are frequently used as land routes for trafficking. Crossing the border is not a cumbersome process, and money may change hands. The border between Bangladesh and India is porous in many locations, and smuggled Bangladeshi migrants can cross into India with ease (Shashikumar, 2014).

Many villages along the border operate as transit points through which thousands of smuggled Bangladeshi migrants reportedly pass daily (UNODC, 2018). So-called 'linemen' help facilitate the smuggling of migrants across the border, often by bribing Bangladeshi and Indian border guards (Shashikumar, 2014). Alternatively, smuggled migrants may cross into India by boat, though this method appears to have decreased in popularity (UNODC, 2015).

Such transactions are carried out with ease. After India's partition in 1947, there were many enclaves between the borders of India and Bangladesh. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 enclaves of Bangladesh in India (Banerjee and Chaudhury, 2015). Research carried out by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) has shown that these enclaves have been used as recruitment and collection sites by traffickers (Gazi, 2001).

The border areas of Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, and Sylhet are frequently used as land routes for trafficking (Amin and Islam Sheikh, 2011).

Several reports over the years reveal that traffickers use 20 main points in 16 south/south-western districts of Bangladesh near the Indian border to run their trade (UNODC, 2018). The main trafficking route is the Dhaka-Mumbai-Karachi-Dubai route. There are people on both sides of the Bangladesh-India border involved in this trafficking chain (Chowdhury, 2004).

### *Profile*

The profile of the victims usually follows a pattern of vulnerable social strata population. Limited economic opportunities, illiteracy or low education, and low socioeconomic and cultural status are also other characteristics of the victims.

Before departure, many migrant workers assume debt to pay high recruitment fees, imposed legally by recruitment agencies to BAIRA (Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies) and illegally by unlicensed sub-agents; these places migrant workers at risk of debt-based coercion (US Department of State, 2020).

Some recruitment agencies, agents, and employers also commit recruitment fraud, including contract switching, in which they promise one type of job and conditions but then change the job, employer, conditions or salary after the arrival; this includes promising women and children jobs and exploiting them in sex trafficking upon arrival (Andrees, Nasri and Swiniarski, 2015).

### *Victim's Origin*

The northern region, the districts of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Chapai Nawabganj and Rajshahi, and in the south, Jessore and Satkhira are the areas where women and children are most susceptible to trafficking (Amin and Islam Sheikh, 2011).

As mentioned, the Northern region is among the most vulnerable areas for trafficking with a large number of upazilas and districts having common borders with India (Adams, 2011). The next most vulnerable area is the area south of the Ganges-Padma with 11 upazilas having a common border with India and its closeness to Kolkata.

During the period of 1990-2010, most of the cases of trafficking of women occurred in Dhaka, Jessore, Bagerhat, Chapai Nawabganj, Rangpur and Barisal followed by Chittagong, Comilla and Dinajpur (BIPSS, 2011).

### *Added Risk Factors*

It is also worth noting that Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage under age 15, although a 1929 doctrine outlawed marriage under age 18 (Human Rights Watch, 2015). Girls trafficked in Bangladesh are often forced to marry, another tactic used by traffickers to create bonds with their victims (Human Rights Watch, 2015).

It is estimated that 35% of the total number of girls and women trafficked to India have been abducted under the pretext of false marriage or good jobs (UNODC, 2020).

Limited natural resources, underdeveloped industrialization along with natural disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones cursed the population mobility and human trafficking is one of the inadvertent consequences thereof (BIPSS, 2011).

There are 27 million in Bangladesh facing extreme poverty and 31 percent living in chronic poverty in less developed areas (Fries, 2019).

## ROHINGYA SITUATION

Bangladesh hosts more than one million undocumented Rohingya in refugee camps and host communities near the Burmese border and other parts of the country (arrived mostly in 2017). The phenomenon of the exploitation of refugees for sex trafficking has become progressively recurrent (UNHCR, 2019). Traffickers sometimes transport Rohingya girls within Bangladesh to Chittagong and Dhaka and transnationally to Kathmandu and Kolkata for sex trafficking (some traffickers trade these girls on the Internet) (Molla, 2019).

In Bangladesh, the majority of traffickers look for Rohingya migrants from Myanmar, promising them asylum and work in Europe. About half of the refugees are children, and there are more women in the camps than men. More than 700,000 live in the world's largest and most densely populated refugee camp, Kutupalong, an area of just 13 square kilometres. Refugees in camps such as Teknaf camp, Unchirang camp, Shamlapur, or Chakmarkul face the same risk (Reuters, 2020).

Traffickers defraud and coerce women and girls from refugee camps into sex trafficking through fraudulent job or marriage proposals, and abduction. The stateless status and inability of Rohingya to receive formal schooling or work legally increases their vulnerability to human trafficking (US Department of State, 2020).

## Treaties, Conventions and Protocols

It is important to highlight that India (1979), Nepal (1991) and Bangladesh (2000) have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which is directly related to human trafficking.

The most reputable instruments of international law that specify how to define, prevent, and prosecute human trafficking are the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two related protocols: the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (known as the Palermo Protocol), and the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, which entered into force in 2003-2004 (King, n.d.).

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) created these conventions, which have supported international law's ability to combat human trafficking. In support of enforcing these instruments, the UNODC established the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT) in 2007 (King, n.d.).

There have been other regional treaties responding to the issue that concerns this document. India has ratified the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. A Regional Task Force was constituted to implement the SAARC Convention (Ministry of External Affairs, 2019). For cross border matters, India and Bangladesh constituted a Task Force in 2015 and have met on several occasions to address the problem (Ministry of External Affairs, 2019).

## Conclusions

The analysis of the information gathered in this report can be summarized in the following points:

- THE LACK OF RELIABLE DATA MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE A PROPER ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN THE THREE COUNTRIES ASSESSED.
- THE SPREAD OF SOCIAL MEDIA HAS PROVIDED A NEW PLATFORM FOR TRAFFICKERS TO RECRUIT VICTIMS.
- TECHNOLOGY HAS BOOSTED THE CLANDESTINITY OF ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.
- INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICE CORRUPTION CONTINUES BEING A PROBLEM TO FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
- POOR SCREENAGE IN THE BORDERS WITH INDIA EASES THE SMUGGLING OF VICTIMS INTO THE COUNTRY FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH).
- THE AFTERMATH OF COVID-19 IS EXPECTED TO CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE RISKS OF BEING RECRUITED.
- THERE IS A DIRECT RELATION BETWEEN A LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND THE CHANCES OF FALLING INTO TRAFFICKING NETWORKS.
- POVERTY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE RELATED: THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES PUSHES PEOPLE INTO RISK SITUATIONS.
- MOST OF INDIA'S TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ARE SENT TO INTERNAL DESTINATIONS FOR THEIR EXPLOITATION.

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