

Sex Trafficking in Nepal: A Review of Intervention and Prevention Programs

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Michelle R. Kaufman¹ and Mary Crawford²

Abstract

Trafficking of girls and women for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a problem worldwide, particularly in South Asia. This review focuses on Nepal-to-India sex trafficking with an examination of current anti-trafficking intervention and prevention programs. The activities of both governmental agencies and nongovernment organizations are described and critically analyzed. Suggestions for evaluating and improving interventions, and thereby reducing the trafficking of girls and women, are discussed.

Keywords

Nepal, sex trafficking

Violence against women worldwide has become a growing concern over the past decade. It is only recently that trafficking of girls and women was placed on the international agenda, particularly because of its connections with human rights violations and the fact that the sex industry contributes to the spread of HIV (Bennett, 1999; Huda, 2006). However, the trafficking of girls and women for the purposes of sex work has been in practice for decades. Women are trafficked into Israel, the United States, and Canada to be employed as dancers in strip clubs (Stewart & Gajic-Veljanoski, 2005); children are sold into sexual slavery in Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines (Sacks, 1996); and Nepali girls and women are taken from their villages into the red-light districts of major Indian cities, where they are forced into prostitution to pay off the debt accumulated for their purchase and transportation (Gunnell, 2004; Human Rights Watch, 1995). In some instances, women and

¹Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs

²University of Connecticut, Storrs

Corresponding Author:

Michelle R. Kaufman, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs, 111 Market Place, Suite 310, Baltimore, MD 21202

Email: mkaufman@jhsph.edu