

Sociology of Crime: Measuring the Relationship between Family Aspect and Women Trafficking in District Peshawar, Pakistan

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Abstract

Women Trafficking is considered as one of the heinous crimes occurring across the globe. Academicians from different discipline particularly sociologists and criminologists tend to explore the probable causes and mechanisms for tackling this issue. The main purpose of this study was to measure the knowledge of the sampled respondents (84 in number) who are being convicted / involved in women trafficking. The data was collected at central jail, Peshawar, Pakistan through snow ball sampling technique and interview schedule with the aim to know the knowledge of the respondents with family aspect leading to women trafficking. The relationship between existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking with the level of knowledge of the respondents was found non-significant but negative ($\gamma = -0.77$). A non-significant and positive ($\gamma = .023$) was found about the family members have jobs and knowledge of women trafficking. The study further showed a non-significant and positive ($\gamma = 0.349$) relationship between women trafficking faces negative response from society with the level of knowledge on women trafficking. In response to the relationship between family pressure commits traffickers to traffic was found as non-significant and positive ($\gamma = .348$). Where selling of a woman falls in the category of women trafficking? A relationship was tried to discover, where a non-significant but positive ($\gamma = 0.36$) relationship was found between sold by parents or relatives is the cause of women trafficking and level of knowledge of respondents on women trafficking. With respect to women jobs outside the family and knowledge on women trafficking, the relationship was found as non-significant and ($\gamma = - .172$) mild negative. The study recommends that there is a dire need of awareness among common masses regarding curbing the menace of human trafficking. Also, societal perception needs to be mending in a positive manner with regard to the rehabilitation of traffickers. Further, strong check and balance is needed for avoiding the trafficking cases.

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Introduction

Trafficking is a worldwide issue that affects thousands of people in countless ways. Galiana (2000) and Hughes (2004) disclosed that trafficking involves selling women into such areas as prostitution, pornography, forced marriage and slavery. According to the European Commission (1996) Trafficking in women has been defined as the movement of women from third world countries to European Union based on sexual exploitation. It is the recruitment, with transportation to receive the trafficked or use of threat based on conviction, abduction allied with fraud and deception along with the abuse of power and payment for the purpose to get the benefits out of this profession.

The trafficking of women for sexual utilization is of high income, low danger business for those who systematize it; however it is injurious to the millions of women oppressed in slavery like circumstances in the international sex trade (Richard, 1999; Keefer, 2006; Project Parivartan, 2006; UNODC, 2006; and Stephenie & Dyer, 2010). About 10 to 30 % of the sufferers are below 18 years of age; by and large 15-18-year old girls are involved (Hajdinjak, 2002; and Omelaniuk, 2002). The annual number of all shapes of trafficking in women and children all over the globe is 500,000 victims, of whom 200,000 go through the Balkans. The matching figure is 700,000. All the over cited estimates should be considered as pinpointing only, for there are no precise data on the real magnitude of trafficking in women either in Europe or on other continents (Hajdinjak, 2002; and Laczko et. al, 2002). In most parts of the world including Russia, Eastern Europe, Hong Kong, Japan and Colombia, this business is managed and controlled by large criminal organizations (LHRLA, 1996; and IOM, 1999).

Human trafficking as a crime is usually coupled with drugs trafficking, fire arms smuggling based on violence as a source to farther the illegal activities. This phenomenon is also backed by national and international connections from source to destination countries. Traffickers often use the kids, trafficked with their mothers to black mail them for the desired objective of the traffickers (Monica and Healy, 2006; UNODC, 2006; and Caritas, 1997).

Literature Review

It has been reported that human trafficking in general and women trafficking in particular is on the rise after the invasion of Russia on Afghanistan and in the aftermath of the development including civil war followed by US occupation of Afghanistan in 2001. Khattak (2001) has also indicated about this vital fact in his study that most of the Afghans and Pakistani girls are being trafficked to UAE and Saudi Arabia followed by women and children trafficked from Bangladesh and Nepal to Pakistan (LHRLA, 1996). The process of recruitment includes the auction of young girls like slave trades pretext to be married with the pimps, later on landed into the sex industry across the borders. Pimps usually pick up the girls working in the brothels, streets and destitute either persuaded or forced them while kidnapped to the other stations from their homes (HRCP, 1996).

This type of activity (women trafficking) usually ranges within the age group of 20 to 25 based on marrying with pimps. This phenomenon is mostly in practice in the northern parts of the country with main focus on Swat and Para Chinar. The services being acquired from these girls included carpet weaving. The women sold in Karachi are comprised of Iranian origin within the age ranging 16 to 25 (ILO, 2004). Azam (2009) pointed out that some districts i.e. Mardan, Peshawar, Swat, Takhtbai, Swabi, Naushehra, Chitral, and Charsadda are the main source districts for human trafficking and human smuggling. This processing of selling of women has also been witnessed in Peshawar. Almost 2500 are detained in Pakistan from Bangladesh origin. Almost 20000 of women with age of 20 to 30 years have been reported as trafficked to Pakistan in the last one decade (Naveed, 2001). Those trafficked included from Russian origin, Tajikistan, Nepal, Burma, Thailand and Philippines (Jean, 2001; and The Dawn News, 2001).

Di Tommaso *et al.* (2008) further added that impacts of the remaining indicators of socio-economic background are similarly fragile, but more in line with a priori prospects. The constantly negative mark for the marginal effect of supposed economic position of the original family proposes that coming from a non-poor background lowers the danger of the worst violations, although statistical significance attains only for entrance to medical care. We may guess that a better family conditions favors recruitment into less cruelly exploitative parts of trafficking. The opposite holds for information of having been sold, which can be viewed as a sign of a very poor socioeconomic background, while only families in serious conditions openly sell their members. In particular, trafficked women aware of having been sold account a

statistically significant decrease in freedom of option over services, which is hardly astonishing in the case of someone with very restricted, if any, bargaining influence.

Traffickers are rarely strangers and abductors who forcefully take women and children (though this is more likely to happen to small children than older children and adults). Rather, they are quite often family members, both immediate and distant. Two studies that conducted primary research in India, Sen and Rozario, both found that around one-third of women's traffickers were family. Family members are involved in one of two ways. They are sometimes involved in the original selling, such as parents selling their daughters (sometimes knowing they will go to sex work, but sometimes not), or husbands (knowingly) selling their wives (many of these "husbands" marry women for the express purpose of trafficking them). Otherwise, family members are involved in the actual movement of the trafficked; taking a cousin or niece on an outing or to a distant city for (non-sex) work, and ultimately selling her to another trafficker or a brothel.

Rozario's survey showed that women identified 33% of traffickers as family members, 19% as professional traffickers; 6% as friends or acquaintances; and 10% as strangers or benefactors (the rest did not know or did not answer). Interestingly, traffickers are just as likely to be female as male, and they are reportedly between 18 and 40; men being younger, and women older. Sen found that a vast majority (90%) of female traffickers in India were former sex worker themselves. Non-family traffickers sometimes establish loose ties with the source villages and cities, such as engaging in casual labor or petty trading, and approaching vulnerable-seeming women and girls directly, or approaching family members about their girls. Some come to villages, show off their apparent success of working in the big city, and take girls away with promises of jobs and steady incomes. Traffickers generally operate in networks; for example, a brother may move a sister to a town, where she is sold to a former sex worker posing as a friend or employer, who sells her to a brothel in Mumbai. According to Sen's interviews, 70% of trafficked girls and women are in the sex work industry within two weeks of being trafficked. Women and children are subject to rape and other violence both en route and upon arrival to the brothel. Traffickers are rarely caught, and prosecution is even rarer. Women and girls who are bonded to brothels are incapable of contacting police, looking for their traffickers, or testifying. When they are free to leave the brothel, sometimes years have passed, and evidence is too old. Women may also be subject to threats that prevent her from testifying. In some places in Nepal, such a large percentage of the village is somehow

involved in trafficking (they are sellers and traffickers of relatives, the receive remittances from daughters in India, etc.) that no one is willing to talk about it or to help someone find and accuse her traffickers (Sen, 2003; and Rozario, 1982).

Materials and Methods

The present study titled “Sociological Analysis of the Relationship between Family Aspect and Women Trafficking in District Peshawar, Pakistan” is primarily concerned with discovering the hidden factors responsible for women trafficking. The main focus was devising and adopting methodology for exploring all possible aspects with a maximum success.

The methodology section proceeded with the following steps.

Universe of the study

Due to limited field of reference for women trafficking, Central Jail Peshawar was chosen as the universe on purposive basis.

Sample size

A sample size of 84 respondents, duly involved in women trafficking both convicted as well as under trail were selected through Snow Ball Sampling procedure. The basic aim of extracting information’s from these respondents was to ensure maximum reliability and predictability in the findings of the study. Thus leading it to a generalized report based on logical inferences.

The sample size was determined by using the formula;

$$n = \frac{Z^2_{\alpha/2} P^{\wedge} Q^{\wedge}}{e^2} \dots\dots\dots (1) \quad \text{(Chaudhry and Kamal, 1996)}$$

$$e = P^{\wedge} - P = 0.10\% \quad \alpha = 0.05$$

While putting literacy as variable, the sample size determined is as below

$$P^{\wedge} = 0.64 \text{ (Illiterate)} \quad q^{\wedge} = 1 - P^{\wedge} = 1 - 0.64 = 0.34 \text{ (Literate)}$$

$$\alpha = 0.05 \quad e = P^{\wedge} - P = 0.10 \text{ (10\%)}$$

$$n = 83.59 = 84$$

Where

$e^2 = \text{error} = 10\%$

$Z_{\alpha/2}^2 = \text{tabulated value of standard normal variant at } 5\% \text{ level.}$

$P^{\wedge} = \text{Proportional educated people in the area derived from Jan (2003) on Central Jail Peshawar, where the literacy rate was } 34\%.$

$q^{\wedge} = \text{Proportion of illiterate}$

$e = P^{\wedge} - P = 0.10\%.$

Data collection

A well thought out interview schedule, encompassing almost every aspect of family with knowledge on women trafficking was devised to obtain relevant information from the respondents on the issue at hand with the aim to cover maximum of the grounds. The questions were devised by using Likert Scale as the study was qualitative in nature. This procedure was adopted while keeping in view the method devised by (Smith, 1981; and Nachmias, 1992).

Likert scale

It is a commonly used method for measurement of attitude. Nachmias (1992) described this method as most reliable as compared to other method of scaling. The researchers used a three point Likert scale (Yes, No and Don't Know) for the present study.

Analysis of data

The collected data was analyzed through using proper statistical techniques. The collected data was analyzed at univariate and bivariate level respectively. At bivariate level, Chi square χ^2 test was used to determine the relationship between dependent variable (Knowledge on Women Trafficking) and independent variable (Family Aspect). The Chi square χ^2 was using while adopting the procedure outlined by McCall and Robert (1975).

$$X_{\text{obs}}^2 = \sum_{j=1}^r \sum_{k=1}^c \frac{(o_{jk} - \sum_{jk})^2}{\sum_{jk}} \quad (\text{I})$$

Where, " o_{jk} " was the observed frequency in the cell corresponding to the intersection of the J^{th} row and K^{th} column, " r " the number of rows and " c " the number of columns.

The formula simply directs one to take the squared formulation of the frequencies for each cell, divided by the expected frequency. The resulting value is distributed as Chi square with relevant degrees of freedom, calculated as follows.

$$d.f. = (r-1)(c-1) \quad (\text{McCall and Robert, 1975}).$$

Whenever the frequencies in the cells were less than 5 Fisher Exact Test was used instead of simple Chi-square, by adopting the procedures of Baily (1982).

In addition, the sample size must fairly be large such that no expected frequency is less than 5, for r and $c > 2$, or < 10 if $r=c=2$. However, this assumption was violated several times in the data and therefore, Fisher Exact Test (also known as Exit chi-square test) was used instead of simple chi-square. The relationship developed by Fisher is given in equation-II (Baily, 1982);

$$\text{Fisher Exact Test Probability} = \frac{(a+b)!(c+d)!(a+c)!(b+d)!}{N!a!b!c!d!} \quad (\text{II})$$

Where a , b , c and d were the observed numbers in four cells of contingency table and “ n ” the total number of observations. SPSS 2010, computer software was used for all data analysis, including frequencies, percentage proportion, chi-square and Gamma.

Indexation

One of the norms in the social sciences research is indexation, especially for attitude statements. Indexation involves at least two items for measurement of a single variable. Thus index construction is combining two or more items in a variable (Nachmias, 1992). In the present study dependent variable was indexed for cross tabulation with independent variables and finding their associations.

Gamma

Gamma test statistic was used in this study to work out the association for contingency tables by Nachmias and Nachmias (1992). Moreover it also enabled the study by showing the strength and direction of the data.

$$\gamma = \frac{NS-ND}{NS+ND} \quad \text{Where;}$$

NS = Same Order Pair.

ND = Different Order Pair.

γ = Gamma.

Analytical design

The following conceptual frame work was used from analyzing the relationship between independent and dependent variable.

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable
Family Aspect	Knowledge on Women Trafficking

Analysis and Discussion

The collected data was analyzed and then presented in the form of contingency tables as univariate and bivariate analysis whereas relevant discussion has been incorporated to each statement of the study variables accordingly.

Respondents Attitude on Family Aspect of Women Trafficking

The results of table-1 depicted that out of total 84 (100), some 43 (51.2%) of the respondents had the opinion that existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking as indicated by Udoewa (2010) that gender discrimination is one of the causative factor of women trafficking in Egypt, followed by 22 (26.2%) respondents who negated the idea and 19 (22.6%) respondents had no knowledge regarding the existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking. These results provide the information about respondent's perception where in gender inequality in totality is discarded and not considered as the reason for women trafficking. However (Christa, 2000) has highlighted patriliney, patrilocality and dependence of women upon males as main tools utilized by the traffickers for women trafficking in their strategies.

Similarly, 24 (28.6%) of the respondents had the disclosed that their family members had jobs, 50 (59.5%) of the respondents denied and 10(11.9%) respondents had no knowledge regarding their family members had jobs. Poor social and economic conditions with no job opportunities for women usually lead to enslavement and trafficking of women in Azerbaijan (IOM, 2002).

Similarly, out of total 84 (100), 64 (76.2%) of the respondents had the opinion that women traffickers faces negative response from society, 19 (22.6%) of the respondents opposed it while 1 (1.2%) respondents had no knowledge regarding that women traffickers faces negative response from society. It could easily be sensed from these findings that people acknowledged the society disapproval on women trafficking. Similarly, upon return home, a trafficked women does not find the same respect and rights lack at home (Galiana, 2000).

The results further depicted that out of total 84 (100), almost 44 (52.4%) of the respondents had the opinion that family pressure commits traffickers to traffic women, 36 (42.9%) of the respondents had the opposite opinion to the former statement and 4 (4.8%) respondents had no knowledge regarding that family pressure commits traffickers to traffic women. Low educational and income status compelled with limited role at household level enhances the chances of women trafficking (Sen, 2003; Rossi, 2005; and Fowler, 2004).

Majority i.e. 63 (75.0%) of the respondents had the opinion that sold by parents or relatives is the cause of women trafficking, 14 (16.7%) of the respondents refused to support along with 7 (8.3%) respondents had no knowledge regarding that sold by parents or relatives is the cause of women trafficking. Rozario (1988) has pointed out that 33% of traffickers are the family members involved in women trafficking, who are selling their relatives women.

Some 20 (23.8%) of the respondents had the opinion that women should do jobs outside the family, 55 (65.5%) of the respondents had the opposite opinion to the former statement and 9 (10.7%) respondents had no knowledge regarding it. It is due to economic pressure to earn more to feed families by declaring it as joint responsibility. The pressure to shoulder the economic responsibility has been traced as one of the reason of women trafficking (Christa, 2000).

Similarly, 70 (83.3%) of the respondents had wish for a normal life after release, 12 (14.3%) of the respondents declined to go for normal life with only 2 (2.4%) respondents had no knowledge regarding the wish for a normal life after release. These findings are in total negation to the results of (Time International, 1998) that high profit other than the drug trafficking etc. placing these criminals on continuity of committing it on more professional lines with limited considerations to negative social impacts.

Table-1. Frequency Distribution and Proportion of the Respondents Showing Variable Responses to Various Familial Aspects of Women Trafficking

Attributes	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking	43 (51.2)	22 (26.2)	19 (22.6)	84 (100)
Any of your family members have jobs	24 (28.6)	50 (59.5)	10 (11.9)	84 (100)

Women traffickers faces negative response from society	64 (76.2)	19 (22.6)	1 (1.2)	84 (100)
Family pressure commits traffickers to traffic women	44 (52.4)	36 (42.9)	4 (4.8)	84 (100)
Sold by parents or relatives id the cause of women trafficking	63 (75.0)	14 (16.7)	7 (8.3)	84 (100)
Women should do jobs outside the family	20 (23.8)	55 (65.5)	9 (10.7)	84 (100)
Wish for a normal life after release	70 (83.3)	12 (14.3)	2 (2.4)	84 (100)

*Values in the table present frequency while values in the parenthesis represent percentages.

Relationship of Family Aspect with Knowledge on Women Trafficking

This table-2 provides information about family aspects related to women trafficking in the study area. The relationship between existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking with the level of knowledge of the respondents was found non-significant but negative ($\gamma = -0.77$). These results provide the information about respondent's perception where in gender inequality is totality discarded and not considered as the reason for women trafficking. However (Christa, 2000) has highlighted patriliney, patrilocality and dependence of women upon males as main tools utilized by the traffickers for women trafficking in their strategies.

About the family members have jobs and knowledge of women trafficking. The relationship was found non-significant and positive ($\gamma = .023$). People do believe family member jobs enhance the level of knowledge on women trafficking positively which could reduce the chances of women trafficking, as minimizing the pressure on women folk to earn to support households. Poor social and economic conditions with no job opportunities for women usually lead to enslavement and trafficking of women in Azerbaijan (IOM, 2002).

The study further showed the relationship between women trafficking faces negative response from society with the level of knowledge on women trafficking as non-significant and positive ($\gamma = 0.349$). It could easily be sensed from these findings that people acknowledged the society disapproval on women trafficking. Similarly, upon return home, a trafficked women does not find the same respect and rights lack at home (Galiana, 2000).

In response to the relationship between family pressure commits traffickers to traffic was found as non-significant and positive ($\gamma = .348$). These results clearly depicted people depth of family disorder could lead to the committing of social stigma

like women trafficking. Another probable explanation could be the large family size to feed. This is pushing the people to fall prey to such like socially stigmatized tasks. Low educational and income status compelled with limited role at household level enhances the chances of women trafficking (Sen, 2003; Rossi, 2005; and Fowler, 2004).

Where selling of a woman falls in the category of women trafficking? A relationship was tried to discover, where a non-significant but positive ($\gamma = 0.36$) relationship was found between sold by parents or relatives is the cause of women trafficking and level of knowledge of respondents on women trafficking. It could easily be attributed to the cultural practices in the Pakhtoon culture, where women/girl selling and purchasing is considered as legal although with no room in religion Islam, although it is unlawful and considered as taboo in most of the societies across the globe. Rozario, (1988) has pointed out that 33% of traffickers are the family members involved in women trafficking, who are selling their relatives women.

With respect to women jobs outside the family and knowledge on women trafficking, the relationship was found as non-significant and ($\gamma = - .172$) mild negative. It could be attributed from these results that women jobs outside the family is still considered as against the cultural practices, however, the mildness of the negative sign indicated the softness of the people from the study area in women jobs. It is due to economic pressure to earn more to feed families by declaring it as joint responsibility. The pressure to shoulder the economic responsibility has been traced as one of the reason of women trafficking (Christa, 2000).

The respondents i.e. (women traffickers) were asked about their future inclinations upon the release from the jail and were asked for their wish for normal life after release. A high positive ($\gamma = .080$) and non-significant relationship was found between wish and knowledge on women trafficking. The positive value of “ γ ” indicates for their strong wish and commitment to abandon this profession after release. It could easily be contributed to social/moral pressure exerted by the society for disowning such like activities, i.e. women trafficking. These findings are in total negation to the results of (Time International, 1998) that high profit other than the drug trafficking etc. placing these criminals on continuity of committing it on more professional lines with limited considerations to negative social impact.

Table-11. Relationship of Family Aspect with Knowledge on Women Trafficking

STATEMENT	RESPONSE	KNOWLEDGE	TOTAL STATISTICS
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		Less knowledge	Moderate knowledge	No knowledge		
Existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking	Yes	12 (14.3)	24 (28.6)	7 (8.3)	43 (51.2)	$\chi^2=.480$ (0.333)
	No	10 (11.9)	11 (13.1)	1 (1.2)	22 (26.2)	$\gamma = -.077$
	Don't know	4 (1.8)	13 (15.5)	2 (2.4)	19 (22.6)	
Any of your family members have jobs	Yes	7 (8.3)	15 (17.9)	2 (2.4)	24 (28.6)	$\chi^2= 4.96$ (0.380)
	No	17 (20.2)	25 (29.8)	8 (9.5)	50 (59.5)	$\gamma = .023$
	Don't know	2 (2.4)	8 (9.5)	0 (0)	10 (11.9)	
Women traffickers faces negative response from society	Yes	23 (27.4)	34 (40.5)	7 (8.3)	64 (76.2)	$\chi^2= 6.687$ (0.153)
	No	2 (2.4)	14 (16.7)	3 (3.9)	19 (22.6)	$\gamma = .349$
	Don't know	1 (1.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)	
Family pressure commits traffickers to traffic women	Yes	19 (22.6)	20 (23.8)	5 (6.0)	44 (52.4)	$\chi^2= 7.380$ (0.117)
	No	6 (7.1)	25 (29.8)	5 (6.0)	36 (42.9)	$\gamma = .348$
	Don't know	1 (1.2)	3 (3.6)	0 (0)	4 (4.8)	
Sold by parents or relatives id the cause of women trafficking	Yes	19 (22.6)	37 (44.0)	7 (8.3)	63 (75.0)	$\chi^2= 3.368$ (.498)
	No	6 (7.1)	7 (8.3)	1 (1.2)	14 (16.7)	$\gamma = .036$
	Don't know	1 (1.2)	4 (4.8)	2 (2.4)	7 (8.3)	
Women should do jobs outside the family	Yes	5 (6.0)	12 (14.3)	3 (3.6)	20 (23.8)	$\chi^2= 1.801$ (0.772)
	No	18 (21.4)	30 (35.7)	7 (8.3)	55 (65.5)	$\gamma = -.172$
	Don't know	3 (3.6)	6 (7.1)	0 (0)	9 (10.7)	
Wish for a normal life after release	Yes	22 (26.2)	40 (47.6)	8 (9.5)	70 (83.3)	$\chi^2= 4.290$ (0.368)
	No	3 (3.6)	8 (9.5)	1 (1.2)	12 (14.3)	$\gamma = .080$
	Don't know	1 (1.2)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)	2 (2.4)	

*Values in the table present frequency while values in the parenthesis represent indicates percentages.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is concluded from the study findings that existence of gender inequality causes women trafficking. Whereas, lack of employment opportunities also push them toward trafficking business as it is considered the most lucrative business in the world. Also, women traffickers face negative response from society which further gives glue to the tendency of trafficking. Further, family pressure commits traffickers to traffic women. Parental or relatives role with regard to selling their family members for trafficking cannot be undermining. The study further revealed that traffickers usually wish for spending a normal life after release from the prison. It is recommended that apart from the domestic chores; women should be encouraged to be in the mainstream economic sphere of society. Employment opportunities should be provided to tackle this issue. Societal perception needs to be mending in a positive way where they may absorb traffickers after the release normal citizens in the society. Parents have the primary responsibility to play their due role in dealing with their family members so that they may not be trapped by the traffickers. As pointed out by Imran et al., (2011) media should play its due role in portraying the ill effects of human trafficking on individual, family and societal level.

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