

UNIT 06: EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRATION

STRUCTURE

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Extent of Human Trafficking: Regional Perspectives

6.3 Extent of Migration and Relation to Trafficking

6.4 Link Between Migration and Human Trafficking: A Global Overview

6.5 Let Us Sum Up

6.6 Key Words

6.7 References and Selected Readings

6.8 Check Your Progress- Possible Answers

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Dear learners,

We have already studied Unit 1 of Block 1 which defines Human Trafficking and other basic concepts related with trafficking. Unit 2 and 3 detail types of trafficking and causes for trafficking. In this unit we will look at the extent of human trafficking and migration. Here a student might pause to wonder and ask as to why are we talking about trafficking and migration in the same sentence. In case it has not been explained, or has been, let's reiterate it again. As per various reports, most detected victims of trafficking in a country of detection are foreigners, most being international migrants. People decide to migrate mostly for a new and better life. People also may be pushed to migrate due to conflicts, natural disasters and other life-threatening events. Criminals exploit this human desire for improving one's life by migrating either within a country or across borders by generating profits through exploitation of victims in myriad ways. Hence the link between migration and trafficking and the usage of both terms together.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this unit we will look at the extent and magnitude of human trafficking and migration from the regional perspective as every region of the world has different nuances of migration and trafficking. After studying this unit a student will be able to

- Understand the magnitude and extent of human trafficking
- Learn about the various regional perspectives on human trafficking
- Know about the correlation between migration and trafficking

Bauloz & McAdams (2021) note that there are no accurate estimates of the number of victims of trafficking worldwide nor of the number among them who are migrants. They go on to add that even though the irregular migration routes and irregular migration status increases vulnerability to trafficking, regular situations may also lead to migrants getting trafficked. Natural calamities, pandemics, conflicts disproportionately affect migrants, exacerbating their vulnerability to human trafficking.

Shelly (2010) in her book on Human Trafficking explains this succinctly. The biggest beneficiary of globalization due to faster and cheaper communication and transportation has been the transnational criminals with human smuggling and trafficking among the fastest growing crime. She writes that the current world conditions have created a demand and supply situation for traffickers due to disparities between the developing and developed world, along with the feminization of poverty and the marginalization of many rural communities. This has resulted in a high migration flow and an illicit trade getting hidden in this flow. She further goes on to add that globalization has also led to an increase in tourist trade allowing paedophiles to travel and many to engage in sex tourism (Sex tourism refers to the practice of traveling to foreign countries, often on a different continent, with the intention of engaging in sexual activity or relationships in exchange for money or lifestyle support.).

The data gathered by UNDOC (UN office on Drugs and Crime) on the gender of offenders in 46 countries suggest that women play a key role as perpetrators of human trafficking. In Europe, for

example, women make up a larger share of those convicted for human trafficking offences than for most other forms of crime.

6.2 EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons based on data gathered from 155 countries was released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, n.d). As per the report the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation with the victims predominantly women and girls. In many cases women make up the largest proportion of the trafficked. The second most common form of human trafficking (18%) is forced labor which is less frequently detected and reported than trafficking for sexual exploitation. The report adds that worldwide 20% of all trafficking victims are children.

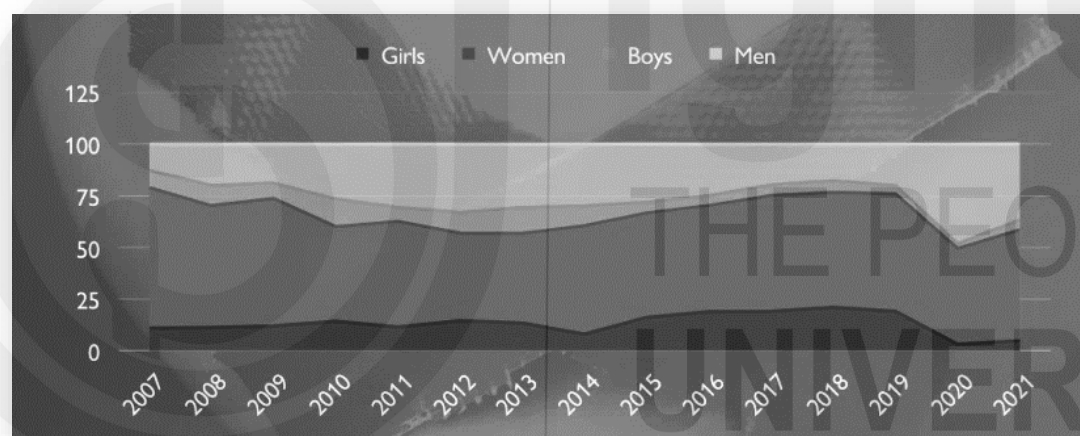
Trafficking in forced labour is less frequently detected and reported than trafficking in sexual exploitation as UNODC feels it has to do with the way most countries define trafficking, the way law enforcement and general public view trafficking and the visibility bias for forced prostitution rather than forced labor.

International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimate that in 2021, globally there were 50 million people in situations of modern slavery on any given day, either forced to work against their will or forced into marriage. This translates to nearly one in every 150 people in the world. Their estimates also indicate this modern slavery is not transient but can last years with no the situation showing no signs of improvement. (IOM, n.d.)

According to the UNODC, the overall figures conceal notable regional and national variations. For instance, in West Africa, trafficking for forced labor constitutes a considerable proportion of reported incidents, with some countries solely identifying this form of trafficking. Similarly, in certain countries across Western and Central Europe, as well as Eastern and Central Asia, about

35% of identified victims are trafficked for forced labor, surpassing cases of sex trafficking. Additionally, newer manifestations of trafficking, such as domestic servitude, child begging, forced marriage, organ trafficking, and ritual killings, have emerged. Although these occurrences are sporadically documented, the UNODC expresses concern as reported cases likely underestimate the actual prevalence. Notably, trafficking for begging is documented in Western and Central European nations, while instances of trafficking for ritual killings and mystic practices are reported in West and Southern Africa. Furthermore, incidents of organ trafficking are detected in Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia, whereas trafficking for forced marriages is widespread in Asian countries.

A good way to understand the diversity and extent of trafficking is through the gender and age profile of detected victims in the chart shown below.



Source:

CTDC Global dataset, 2023.

<https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/human-trafficking#:~:text=The%202022%20report%20estimates%20that,were%20in%20a%20forced%20marriage>

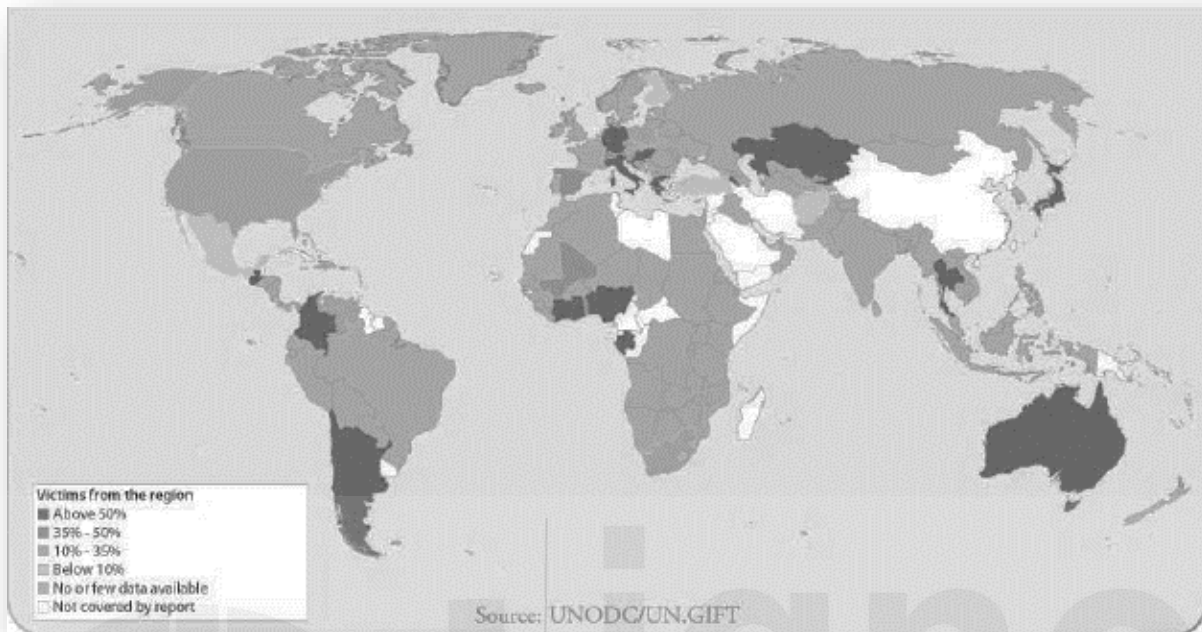
As per UNODC, the human trafficking can be further subdivided into:

- **Domestic trafficking:** Affects victims who are citizens of the country in which they are exploited. Evidence indicates that domestic trafficking not only occurs in large transitional

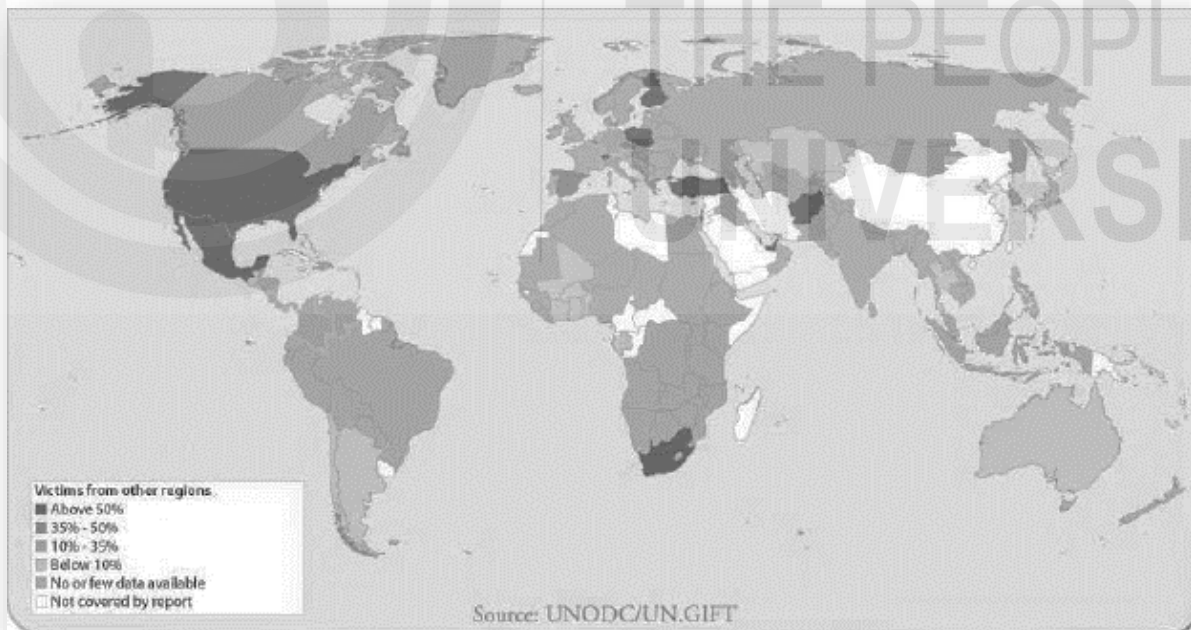
countries with dimensions that can explain the existence of trafficking between poor and rich areas of the country, such as India and Brazil, it also exists in relatively small and wealthy countries, such as those in Europe. UNODC feels that domestic trafficking appears more limited than international trafficking. It is likely that this form of trafficking is reported mostly under other offences and it is also not clear for the criminal justice system or law enforcement personnel who are used to identifying foreign victims of trafficking.

- **Intra-regional trafficking:** Occurs between different countries within the same region. This includes cross-border trafficking and trafficking between countries geographically close to one another. Data has shown that this type of trafficking was predominant in most regions. This category victims are more in numbers as compared to victims of Trans-regional trafficking as per UNODC.
- **Trans-regional trafficking:** Victims are trafficked from one of the regions to another region. This could be trans-continental trafficking, but it also involves trafficking flows to neighbouring regions on the same continent, such as between Eastern, Western and Central Europe, or between Central and North America. As per UNODC in 2005-2006, Western and Central Europe recorded victims of trafficking from the widest range of origins and East Asia was the region of origin of victims trafficked to the widest range of destinations.

A good way to visualize the Intra-regional trafficking vs the Trans-regional trafficking is with the help of these two world maps.



Percentage of victims from same region by country, 2005-2007 (Intra-regional trafficking)
 Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT



Percentage of victims from other regions by country 2005-2007 (Trans-regional trafficking)

Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT

Now, let us look at regional perspectives to see the types, extent and magnitude. To enable easy understanding by the student, the world has been broadly divided into the following regional categories.

Asia

Asia accounts for 59.1 percent of the world's population as per the latest "worldometer" (<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-region/>) population by region. Asia is a host, source, and transit region for human trafficking with some countries of the region active in all three stages. In large and populous countries like India, China and Indonesia, Shelly (2010) found internal trafficking more significant than cross-border trafficking. Her research finds that the majority of world's trafficking victims either living or originating in Asia with Asian trafficking victims exploited in all regions of the world and form three-fourth of the world's victims of forced labor. She finds the trafficking business in Asia is more dominated by organized crime than in other parts of the world.

Human trafficking in Asia has historical roots, albeit distinct from the large-scale slave trade seen in Africa, Americas, and Europe. The region's history is marked by labor exploitation, often driven by entrenched caste or class systems where those at the bottom are vulnerable to exploitation. European colonization facilitated the movement of labor, particularly after the abolition of the slave trade, with examples such as the British transporting nearly a million Indians as indentured laborers to various destinations like Mauritius, British Guyana, and Trinidad. According to Shelly (2010), Asian organized crime has a longstanding involvement in human trafficking. This involvement spans back centuries, with instances like Japanese organized crime supplying women for spas and trafficking them from rural Japan to brothels across Borneo, China, and other Asian regions during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Moreover, historical events such as World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War led to the establishment of brothels catering to American soldiers, with women trafficked from countries like the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union to serve at US bases in Korea and Japan.

Rapid development of India and China and the demand to produce at low cost, plus rapid urbanization and industrialization brought in new opportunity for the traffickers. Shelly cited many examples from both countries: badly injured minors and adults work as slaves in precarious work conditions at pottery kilns in China; technology industry growth in Bengaluru and Mumbai of India as well as Shanghai and parts of China has seen an increased in sex trafficking with girls from poorer regions of India and Nepal brought into Mumbai and women from poorer regions of Southeast Asia trafficked to Shanghai and other cities to satisfy male migrants living alone away from families for extended periods; within China there is domestic trafficking providing forced or bonded labor to factories; the one-child family policy in China has led to some families giving up daughters which are trafficked abroad for adoptions while those families can then go for a son and this gender imbalance fuels women to be trafficked from North Korea, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam to China as brides for these single Chinese men.

Shelly in her research found that every region of Asia has a significant problem of trafficking with religious, economic, social and political differences along with historical precedents explaining the diversity of trafficking. She adds that colonization of past also adds in explaining trafficking routes of present. She finds all form of human trafficking exists in Asia like sexual, forced marriages, trafficking in children for adoptions, child soldiers, labor, trafficking for begging and debt bondage and even organ trafficking. Among these sexual and labor trafficking has been found most significant. Debt bondage is pervasive and intergenerational and prostitution in India sees successive generations of victims in the sex trade.

Children trafficking in Asia is significant with respect to other parts of the world. Children are found in sex industry with the Asian sex tourism involving children and minor of both sexes. Reports indicate that children are maimed in India for begging, babies are trafficked in China for adoptions abroad, young boys are trafficked from Pakistan and Bangladesh to be camel jockeys in UAE and children are sent as child soldiers in conflict regions within Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Philippines etc.

Forces that contribute to human trafficking include globalization, economic disparities, weak border controls, high levels of corruption and the presence of regional conflicts. Ethnic discriminations, discrimination against lower castes and the rural-urban migrations exacerbate trafficking.

Europe

European countries before World War II were a source of emigrants and had limited experience of immigration with European history having many examples of persecution of minorities. Post-world war II influx of migrants from former colonies and guest workers posed a cultural, political and social challenge to the European countries. Shelly (2010) finds human trafficking and smuggling into Europe has grown since the 1980s as transport links have improved and political situations in countries of Africa and Middle East deteriorated.

Due to low birth rates and a generally well-educated labor force in Europe, there is a shortage of unskilled labor within the EU, prompting the influx of migrants. Despite significant attention to the issue of human trafficking in European media and the allocation of resources to Europol (European police agency) and the establishment of Frontex (an agency of the European Union headquartered in Warsaw, Poland, exercising in coordination with the border and coast guards of member states, the border control of the European Schengen Area), human smuggling and trafficking persist. According to Shelly, there are numerous reasons for this phenomenon. For instance, trafficked women are in high demand in Western European sex markets because they offer cheaper services and are willing to endure conditions that would typically not be accepted in Europe. Additionally, smuggled Chinese workers are employed in Italian sweatshops to maintain competitiveness in the textile industry, while trafficked workers are used to harvest agricultural products at prices that ensure affordability.

Shelly goes on to write that human smuggling and trafficking are not evenly distributed within Europe. According to UN, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and Netherlands are principal destination for human smugglers. Next to these countries are Austria, Denmark, France, Spain and Switzerland as receipts of human traffickers. Greece and Spain are bases for transnational criminal

organizations who push human cargo to destinations in the North. Major destination countries have large immigrant populations, ports and extensive coastline to enable entry of trafficked victims and smugglers. Major source countries identified by Europol are Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Russian Federation, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Colombia. Many time, trafficking is facilitated by members of migrant community themselves both for sexual as well as labor trafficking. She articulated that the choice of destination by the traffickers is determined by the attributes of the market of the destination countries than by the deterrent policies of the state

Shelly finds Europe having a long history of human slavery dating back to ancient Greece and Rome. In fact, there was an active slave market in Palermo, Sicily until the middle of the nineteenth century with child slaves as an important component. With slavery outlawed, it was bonded labor or indentured labor from Asia which met labor shortages in agriculture. She goes on to trace what she describes as “white slavery” which started at the end of nineteenth century. The white slave trade brought women through deception from western and eastern Europe into brothels of North and South America. This trade, she writes continued till the 1930s when various factors curtailed it. World War II saw new forms of human slavery with Jews, gypsies and opponents of Nazi regime moved to slave labor and extermination camps with women trafficked to serve the German troops. The current human trafficking in Europe unlike the past is not controlled or sanctioned by the state. Contemporary criminal groups and networks control much of sexual trafficking and facilitators of labor trafficking and human smuggling.

The political stability in Europe removes child soldiers as a trafficked category and regulation of healthcare eliminates organ trafficking. Rest all forms of human trafficking exists. A lot of child trafficking exists as does child sex tourism due to the presence of the poor Eastern European countries. Many more minors are smuggled or trafficked into Europe on their own than to North America and victims of sexual trafficking are more often imported foreign women than in the United States. Hence, human trafficking in Europe is a consequence of its history, politics, economy and current demographic situation as per Shelly.

In 2008, the Convention on Trafficking by Council of Europe (COE) came into force which made member states obligated to offer assistance to trafficked victims.

United States

Shelly (2010) writes that trafficking exists in every state of US and victims are exploited in rural, urban and suburban communities with the victims originating from all regions of the world with all forms of human trafficking except child soldiers. She goes on to add that American trafficking is unique among the affluent advanced democracies as sex trafficking victims are younger, more often native born and more mobile. In fact, US like many developing countries is a major source for sex trafficking victims, has sex tourism on its territory and its disadvantaged population is the source of trafficked victims. She estimates about 100000 to 300000 youth victims are among the million plus children who run away or are thrown out of homes annually.

She writes about the guest farm workers entering US on a H-2 visa from Latin America, Caribbean, Asia and Easter Europe routinely cheated out of wages and held virtual captives by employees and labor brokers with labor trafficking victims engaging in a plethora of work like street peddling, housekeeping, agriculture etc and of Americans servicemen and peacekeepers hiring trafficked women when posted overseas.

Shelly feels there are important historical precedents to current trafficking patterns with current illegal immigration resembling the structure of early migration. For example, early migration consisted of slaves and indentured servants with victims of sex trafficking earlier serving members of immigrant community with victims then and now recruited by deception. Also, corruption in overseas officials, US consulates and border facilitated admission in the past as they do now with trafficked victims moved long distances within US.

Shelly goes on to state that the US trafficking is distinctive among the developed industrialized countries. This is due to the history of slavery, higher birth rates and mobility, severity of drug abuse, presence of large-scale criminal gangs, role of religion and the society's reliance on

technology. The materialism of American society and the sense of personal worth based on income contributes much to the female vulnerability.

US passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 to focus on victims' assistance with stiff sanctions for traffickers.

Latin America and Africa

Nearly all forms of trafficking are present in Latin America and Africa, two regions that are characterized by extreme poverty, leading to their classification together. These areas experience high birth rates, significant youth populations, and economies that fail to grow sufficiently to accommodate the expanding labor force. Socially and economically, both regions exhibit substantial stratification, with a considerable portion of the population facing chronic unemployment or underemployment and limited access to financial resources. Additionally, both regions have endured the consequences of colonization and continue to witness oppression by their own governments. Compounding these challenges are prolonged civil and rebel conflicts across various parts of both regions, which contribute to the exploitation of vulnerable individuals by armed criminal and guerrilla groups involved in trafficking.

Historically, before colonial rule, millions of captured Africans were sold as slaves for transport to Americas, Caribbean and Middle East with the sole objective of humiliation of enemy and profit from their loss. Shelly says today instead of selling captured women and children to the slave dealers they are given to human traffickers. Similarly, the Spanish and Portuguese colonist enslaved indigenous populations in Mexico, Central and South America as well as imported slaves from Africa. This practice of slavery persists even today with reports of UNODC mentioning slaves imported from poorer Latin American countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay to work in Brazil. Latin America also had a white slave trade where slaves were brought in from Eastern Europe.

Shelly writes that both regions are part of the “global south” where a large percentage of population lives in absolute poverty often in overcrowded cities filled with migrants from rural areas. She

writes that with the rise of materialism accompanied by drug trade in Nigeria and Mexico, residents want to migrate to the “global north”. While Latin Americans seek to move to USA, residents of North and Sub-Sahara seek to move to Europe. With various barriers to entry, human smugglers and traffickers exploit this desire. She goes on to state that facilitating these movements are the colonial ties as well as the presence of diaspora communities in affluent destinations as well as the international links of emergent crime groups. For example, women from Dominican Republic, a Spanish colony are trafficked to Spain and women from Nigeria trafficked to Italy.

Shelly finds that the victims are exploited in their own neighbouring countries with trafficking for forced labor, child soldiers, sex and sex tourism, production of child pornography, trafficking for adoptions, organs etc , all having international dimensions. She finds child victimization and forced labor particular pervasive in both regions. She goes on to find that despite diversity of victimization and sheer number of victims, these regions have had less focus and study compared to (say) Asia with little information on the involvement of organized crime and other non-state actors with many politically motivated groups in these regions being dominant actors in business of human trafficking.

Shelly writes that the distinctive features of trafficking in these regions can be easily explained by extreme poverty, massive rural to urban migrations, large number of conflicts, low status of women, endurance of traditional rituals and beliefs with endemic child victimization. The various conflicts have brought in peacekeepers which has led to sex trafficking especially in Africa.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

1. What are the two most common forms of human trafficking globally, and what percentage do they represent?

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2. How has globalization impacted human trafficking?

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3. Question: What role do women play in human trafficking, according to UNODC data?

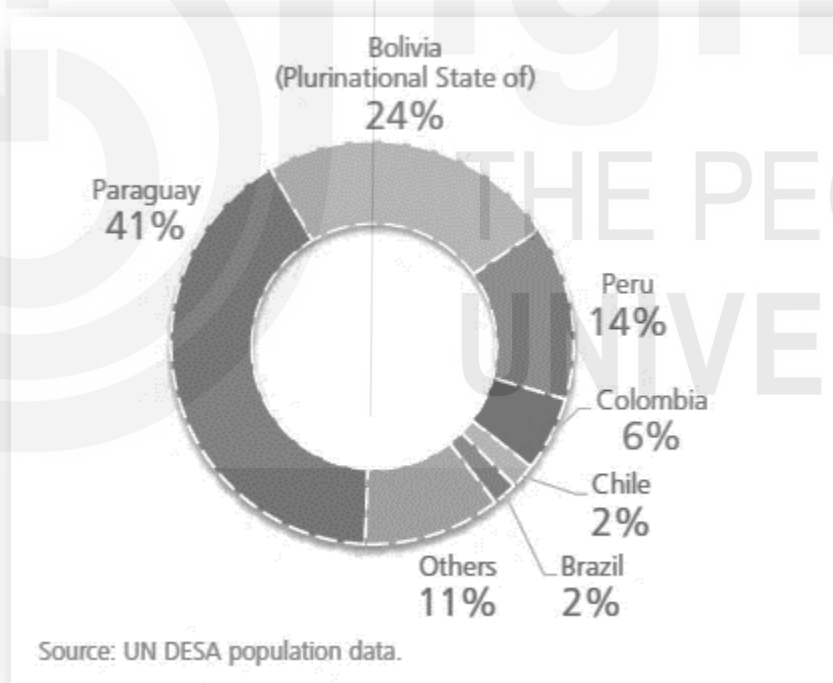
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6.3 EXTENT OF MIGRATION AND RELATION TO TRAFFICKING

As mentioned earlier people migrate all the time for a new and better life. People may also be pushed to migrate due to conflicts, natural disasters and other life-threatening events like political turmoil. Criminals and criminal gangs exploit this human desire for improving one's life by generating profits through exploitation of migrant victims in myriad ways. Hence there is a link between trafficking and migration.

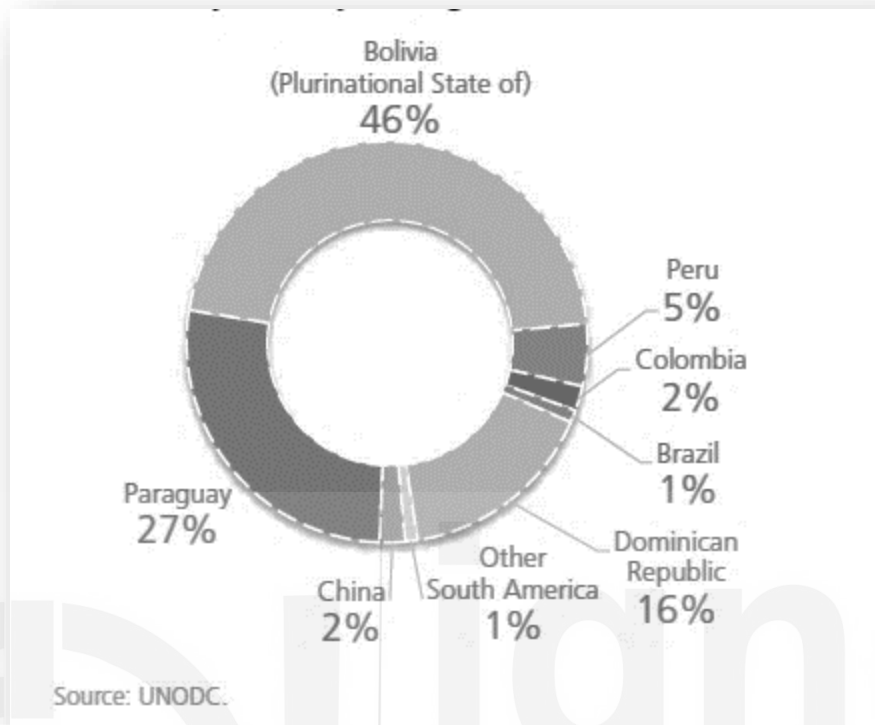
United Nations Human Rights (UNHR) quoting experts feels that restrictive and exclusionary immigration policies by nations, insufficient channels for regular migration and family reunification, as well as lack of regular access to the labour market for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants becomes a way to an increase in the exploitation of migrants. The 2022 Global estimates on modern slavery demonstrates that migrant workers are three times more likely to end up in forced labor exploitation in private sector than local workers. It also shows that migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in their migration journey due to lack of regular channels for migration.

UNODC quoting UNDESA (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division) (2015) gives the example of Germany to explain the correlation between migration and Trafficking. They write that the majority (65 per cent) of the victims of trafficking detected in Germany - as in the rest of Western and Southern Europe - come from the neighbouring sub-region of Central and South-Eastern Europe. At the same time, migrants from the different countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe represent the majority of the recent migrant flows into Germany. Statistical analyses show that the citizenship profiles for recent regular migration flows and detected trafficking flows are similar. Similar results to those found for Germany are also found for other Western European countries, including Italy, the Netherlands and Norway. Similarly, the two pie charts below from the South American geography (Argentina), also from the UNDESA study, will make it clear to the students, the correlation between migration and trafficking.



Share of international migrants arriving in Argentina, by country of origin, 2011-2014

Source: UN DESA (2015)



Share of foreign victims of trafficking detected in Argentina, by country of origin, 2011- 2014
Source: UN DESA (2015)

According to UNODC, traffickers target everyone including domestic migrants or cross border migrants. They may traffic victims who can move freely across borders, those who require visas or people who already live in the country of destination. People who are willing to migrate but are unable to obtain regular access to desired destinations can be lured by traffickers offering safe travel and entry and then deceiving them into exploitative situations. The research further found out that people with citizenship that are less likely to satisfy the requirements to legally reside in a destination country are more frequently detected as victims of trafficking in that country. All this also points to the socio-economic profile of the migrant and his/her possibility of accessing legal ways to work and reside in the destination country. Lower socio-economic profile and less legal access increase chances of trafficking.

Students will understand this connection between migration and trafficking by the following example. Gezie, Yalew & Gete (2019) in their research on *human trafficking among Ethiopian returnees: its magnitude and risk factors* surveyed 1342 Ethiopian returning migrants from abroad from May to October 2016. They determined the status of each returnee as trafficked or non-trafficked based on the UN 2000 definition of human trafficking. They found that half of the returned Ethiopian migrants were trafficked. Poverty was a risk factor for trafficking as well as associated aspects, like inability to get basic services, insecurity in daily life, and disempowerment in the community that increase vulnerability to trafficking. Besides poverty, push from parents and relatives, brokers' deceit including false promise of employment at destination and safe travel, as well as false invitations are the other reasons for trafficking. Besides the above push factors, there are the pull factors related mainly to the characteristics of receiving countries that facilitate human trafficking which include cheap labor such as domestic servitude and high demand for commercial sex.

6.4 LINK BETWEEN MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

People decide to migrate mostly for a new and better life. People also may be pushed to migrate due to conflicts, natural disasters and other life-threatening events. Criminals exploit this human desire for improving one's life by migrating to generate profits through exploitation of victims in myriad ways. Hence the link between trafficking and migration gets visible. There has been a tremendous growth of international migrants which in 2020 stood at 281 million which in percentage terms mean that about 3.6% of the world's population now lives outside their country of birth.

United Nations Human Rights (UNHR) quoting experts feels that restrictive and exclusionary immigration policies by nations, insufficient channels for regular migration and family reunification, as well as lack of regular access to the labour market for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants becomes a way to an increase in the exploitation of migrants. The 2022 Global estimates on modern slavery demonstrates that migrant workers are three times more likely to end

up in forced labor exploitation in private sector than local workers. It also shows that migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in their migration journey due to lack of regular channels for migration. Lower socio-economic profile and less legal access increase chances of trafficking.

There are no accurate estimates of the number of victims of trafficking worldwide nor of the number among them who are migrants. They go on to add that even though the irregular migration routes and irregular migration status increases vulnerability to trafficking, regular situations may also lead to migrants getting trafficked.

The biggest beneficiary of globalization due to faster and cheaper communication and transportation has been the transnational criminals with human smuggling and trafficking among the fastest growing crime. The current world conditions have created demand and supply due to disparities between the developing and developed world, along with the feminization of poverty and the marginalization of many rural communities. This has resulted in a high migration flow and an illicit trade getting hidden in this flow. Globalization has also led to an increase in tourist trade allowing paedophiles to travel and many to engage in sex tourism.

The data gathered by UNDOC on the gender of offenders in 46 countries suggest that women play a key role as perpetrators of human trafficking. In Europe, for example, women make up a larger share of those convicted for human trafficking offences than for most other forms of crime.

The most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation with the victims predominantly women and girls. In many cases women make up the largest proportion of the traffickers. The second most common form of human trafficking (18%) is forced labour which is less frequently detected and reported than trafficking for sexual exploitation. The report adds that worldwide 20% of all trafficking victims are children.

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New forms of trafficking included include trafficking for domestic servitude, child begging, forced marriage, organ removal and ritual killing. UNODC finds that these types of cases were recorded episodically but remain alarming as they only represent reported cases while actual cases might be significantly higher

Human trafficking can be further subdivided into Domestic trafficking which affects victims who are citizens of the country in which they are exploited; Intra-regional trafficking which occurs between different countries within the same region and Trans-regional trafficking where victims are trafficked from one of the regions to another region.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2

1) Why are migrants vulnerable to Trafficking and Smuggling?

2) How does Latin America and Africa differ from the other regions of the world in type, extent and magnitude of human trafficking?

3) What are the 3 subtypes of human trafficking as per UNODC?

6.5 LET US SUM UP

This unit provided a comprehensive overview of the extent and magnitude of human trafficking and its relation to migration globally. We explored the various forms of trafficking, with sexual exploitation and forced labor being the most prevalent, affecting an estimated 50 million people worldwide. The unit delved into regional perspectives, examining unique trafficking patterns and historical contexts in Asia, Europe, the United States, Latin America, and Africa. We discussed the three main categories of trafficking: domestic, intra-regional, and trans-regional, and examined how factors such as globalization, economic disparities, weak border controls, and regional conflicts contribute to this issue. The unit emphasized the vulnerability of migrants to trafficking due to various push and pull factors, including poverty, lack of opportunities, and demand for cheap labor in destination countries. We also highlighted the challenges in accurate data collection and reporting, particularly for less visible forms of trafficking like forced labor. Overall, this unit provided a foundation for understanding the complex dynamics of human trafficking within the broader context of global migration trends and socioeconomic factors.

6.6 KEY WORDS

Human Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.

Forced Labor: A form of human trafficking where individuals are compelled to work against their will under the threat of punishment.

Sex Trafficking: A form of human trafficking where individuals are forced or coerced into commercial sexual exploitation.

Intra-regional Trafficking: Human trafficking that occurs between different countries within the same geographical region.

Trans-regional Trafficking: Human trafficking where victims are moved from one region to another, often across continents.

Debt Bondage: A form of trafficking where individuals are forced to work to pay off a debt, often with unfair terms that make it nearly impossible to escape the cycle of debt.

Child Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation.

Smuggling: The facilitation of illegal entry of a person into a country for financial or material benefit, which is distinct from but can lead to trafficking.

6.7 REFERENCES AND SELECTED READINGS

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6.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

Answer 1: The two most common forms of human trafficking are sexual exploitation, which accounts for 79% of cases, and forced labor, which represents 18% of cases.

Answer 2: Globalization has benefited transnational criminals by providing faster and cheaper communication and transportation. This has made human smuggling and trafficking among the fastest-growing crimes. It has also led to an increase in sex tourism and created demand and supply disparities between developing and developed countries, resulting in high migration flows that can hide illicit trafficking activities.

Answer 3: UNODC data gathered from 46 countries suggests that women play a key role as perpetrators of human trafficking. In Europe, for example, women make up a larger share of those convicted for human trafficking offenses than for most other forms of crime. Additionally, in many cases, women make up the largest proportion of the traffickers.

Check Your Progress 2

Answer 1: As per various reports most detected victims of trafficking in a country of detection are foreigners, most being international migrants. People decide to migrate mostly for a new and better life. People also may be pushed to migrate due to conflicts, natural disasters and other life-threatening events. Criminals exploit this human desire for improving one's life by migrating by generating profits through exploitation of victims in myriad ways. Hence the link between trafficking and migration.

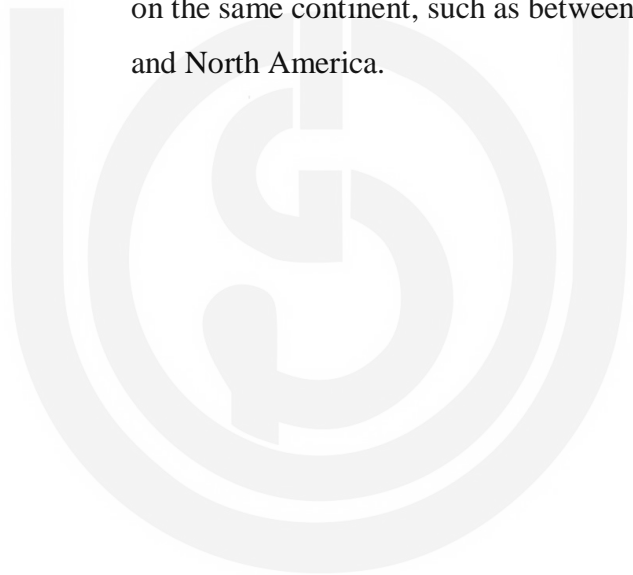
Answer 2: Almost all forms of trafficking exist in Latin America and Africa with both being the poorest regions of the world, the reason they have been clubbed. They have high birth rates, large youthful populations, and economies not growing at a pace needed to absorb the expanding work force. Both regions have societies which are highly stratified socially and economically, with large numbers of citizens remaining permanently unemployed or underemployed with limited access to capital. Both regions have suffered due to colonization and continue to see subjugation of people by independent countries in the region. On top of this are the protracted civil and rebel conflicts in various parts of both regions leading to exploitation of people with armed criminal and guerrilla groups trafficking vulnerable people.

Answer 3: Domestic trafficking: Affects victims who are citizens of the country in which they are exploited. Evidence indicates that domestic trafficking not only occurs in large transitional

countries with dimensions that can explain the existence of trafficking between poor and rich areas such as India and Brazil, it also exists in relatively small and wealthy countries, such as those in Europe.

Intra-regional trafficking: Occurs between different countries within the same region. This includes cross-border trafficking and trafficking between countries geographically close to one another. Data showed it was predominant in most countries. This category victims are more than victims of Trans-regional trafficking as per UNODC.

Trans-regional trafficking: Victims are trafficked from one of the regions to another region. This could be trans-continental trafficking, but it also involves trafficking flows to neighbouring regions on the same continent, such as between Eastern, Western and Central Europe, or between Central and North America.



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