
UNIT 3 MIGRATION AND VULNERABILITIES TO TRAFFICKING

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3.1 INTRODUCTION

Globalisation has ushered in a rapid economic development and opening up of greater opportunities especially for the South Asian region. At the same time, it has also led to an uneven access to infra structural facilities such as health, education and participation in the decision making process. This uneven distribution of income and wealth is found not only between regions but also between groups of population. A rising prosperity among the middle class has exacerbated inequalities, exclusion and discrimination, compounded with the lack of any meaningful social protection which has left behind the poor and disadvantaged. Combined with gender based discrimination, violence and low status of women and girls this has created situations of severe vulnerabilities for sexual exploitation and trafficking which has emerged as the single biggest symptom of such a situation.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

After going through this Unit, you will be able to:

- Define what is trafficking;
- Establish the inter-linkages between gender, migration and human trafficking; and
- Explain the nature and forms of vulnerabilities for women migrants in the context of human trafficking.

3.3 GENDER, MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING: A BACKGROUND

The South Asian region suffers from several forms of human rights abuse. This is even more conspicuous in the context of women's security and human rights disrupting the entire social fabric of the region. The region continues to face civic unrests, political instabilities and abject poverty. Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation is one of the heinous crimes. Such instances of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) are considered as the most widespread violations of human rights. It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, and it cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography. It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm /fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crises.

Lets us understand the inter-linkages between gender, migration and human trafficking. Historical records and social mapping of human trafficking shows how migration is one of the primary determinants of female trafficking. The experiences of Western Europe in the past reflected that women and young girls were trafficked for exploitative work. **Thanh-dam Truong** has discussed three trends in the sex-trafficking which were prevalent in western Europe in different time periods.

- The first wave of sex trafficking involved adult women from South Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa.
- The second wave involved young women sometimes under-age from China, the Baltic, and the Central and Eastern Europe
- The third wave involved women from the Balkans and the Scandinavian countries who became the victims and agents of sex-trafficking.

These trends show how sex-trafficking has led to international migration of women that equally placed them in exploitative category. "It is, therefore, important to identify and locate the causes, consequences, and structural variations of sex trafficking, which seems to be integral to the history of global capitalism but still remained under researched until recently" (Truong, 2003, p. 33). Analyzing these inter-linkages will probably help to understand the nature of vulnerability for women. Let us now understand the nature of vulnerability for women migrants.

Box No.1

Trafficking has many manifestations from the most universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence, to harmful practices, abuse during pregnancy, so-called honour killings and other types of femicide. The gender based discrimination combined with violence has led to situations where women and girls are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Trafficking has thus emerged as the single largest illegal trade after drugs and arms trade.

Human trafficking is a worldwide crime involving the exploitation of men, women, and children for others' financial gain. It is a major systematic violation of fundamental human rights especially for children and women. It obeys no boundaries. Trafficking is not limited to sexual exploitation alone, but covers a wide social canvas such as 'forced', marriages, bonded labour markets such, as sweat shops, agricultural plantations, organ trade, entertainment industry and, domestic service. Ever increasing population, larger socio-economic changes at the global level and moral corruption in the society contribute towards human trafficking.

Human trafficking can take various forms over a period of time and it rests with the core principle, i.e., "using coercive force to sell a person for exploitative use" (Ryle, 2012, p. 489). In India, the most obvious forms of human trafficking is bonded labour or debt bondage. According to Robyn Ryle (2012), human trafficking can be referred to as a modern slavery and has differential impact on both women and men. For instance, in the global south women and children face the increasing burden of inequality due to their social location and cultural constructions. Therefore, they become vulnerable to human trafficking. Factors like feminisation of poverty and economic vulnerabilities of female-headed households are critically pushing women in the network of human trafficking.

As per United Nations data, roughly between 700,000 and 2 million women are trafficked every year across international borders (refer Ryle, 2012, p. 489). Due to women's embodied labour (read Unit 3: 'Labouring Body' of MWG 004), women work either as domestic servants or engage in prostitution. In both these forms of labour, women suffer from various forms of violence and the obvious form is sexual violence. The experiences of the trafficked women reveal the specific nature about the gender-based violence that is encountered by the trafficked women in this global economy. Let us now look at some cases for further reflections on this issue.

Box No. 2

Experiences of Women who Escaped from the System of Enslavement

Robyn Ryle in her book Questioning Gender reported the experiences of women and girls who were caught in the web of human trafficking and later escaped. In 2003, a multistate prostitution ring found a 17 year old girl. The girl was abducted from the bus stop in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The girl was kept in a room with other women and forced into prostitution by her captors. The girls used to work as prostitutes and where sometimes sent to the mall to sell jewellery and trinkets. The younger girls were escorted and threatened by the older women. All the girls were controlled by the system of reward and punishment. If they obeyed the orders they were rewarded and if they disobeyed they were threatened.

The story of Hilda Dos Santos is worth reading in the context of vulnerability, violence and human trafficking. She was working as a domestic servant in United Nations. Once the employer stopped paying her and used her as bonded labour. She did all the house work including cleaning, cooking and taking care of the pets. She was given leftover food to eat and beaten if she made any mistake. Once she injured her leg while working in the house and it got infected. The employer denied any medical care or financial assistance to her. She escaped with the help of a neighbour when she developed a tumor in her stomach. Later, legal intervention was made to save Hilda.

Another case is that of Shanti Devi. She was 39 years old when she left her village in Bangladesh. She was supporting her family independently as the head of the household. A man from the neighbouring village lured her in the name of giving a job in India. In India, she was sold to a pimp for Rs.2000. The moment she realised the situation she was in, she managed to escape and took shelter in the Bangladeshi slum. With the assistance from a Non-governmental Organisation, she was sent back to her country.

Source: Questioning Gender, p.490

The above cases depict the conditions under which women and girls are trafficked and exposed to a specific form of violence. These two cases are contextually different from each other, however, have been able to provide insight into the causes of trafficking and the inherent vulnerabilities of women. Victims are often lured or abducted from their homes, subsequently forced, through various means, to work in prostitution, agriculture and manufacturing settings and other trans-national crimes. Thus, Human trafficking is a result of structural gender inequalities that make women part of the excluded and discriminated groups in the region. In addition to inflicting grave personal damage upon its victims, trafficking undermines government authority, fuels organised criminal groups and gangs, and imposes social and public health costs. Although the crime of human trafficking can take different forms in different regions and countries around the world, most human trafficking cases follow a similar pattern; that is, traffickers use acquaintances or false advertisements to recruit men, women, and children in or near their homes, fraudulent marriages and other tempting offers of jobs and then transfer them to and exploit them in another city, region, or country.

Human trafficking has been prevalent in areas that are experiencing abject poverty, food insecurity, insensitive social and cultural milieu and displacements due to natural and man-made disasters. The world today is a witness to mass exodus of people migrating from one place to another due to conflict, war, natural calamities, ethnic cleansing, terrorism and

In the following section you will read about affirmative actions by United Nations to arrest the problem of human trafficking.

3.4 THE PALERMO PROTOCOL

In 2000, UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crimes was formulated in Palermo, Italy. It is referred to as **UN Palermo Protocol** which was ratified by 116 countries by December 2007 to accept the protocol as an instrument of international law. It reached an agreement on a definition that identifies three critical components of human trafficking.

- **The act-what is done:** “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons”;
- **The means- how it is done:** “threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim”;
- **The purpose—why it is done:** “exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, or similar practices and the removal of organs” (UNODC, 2000b, Article 3) (refer Alvarez and Alessi, 2012).

The purpose is predominantly one of exploitation including “prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, removal of organs or other types of exploitation”. Josephine Butler, a British feminist associated human trafficking with sexual exploitation through the campaign known as *White slave trade*. Butler founded the **International Abolitionist Federation** in 1875 and initiated international conventions and campaigns to fight against human trafficking which was only understood in relation to prostitution. Feminist writers like N. Ray criticised the approach of linking human trafficking only to prostitution by which the international conventions, agreements and initiatives ignore other aspects of labour and sexual exploitation (cf. Alvarez and Alessi, 2012, p. 144). By the 1970s, the feminist movements incorporated human trafficking in the agenda of violence against women. In the Third World, the violence against women movement not only focused on sexual violence but also against militarised prostitution, sex tourism and mail-order bride business. Thereafter, human trafficking became the full fledged agenda of the international women’s movement and strangely placed in the forums like 1975 World Conference on Women, 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing (Ray 2006 in Alvarez and Alessi, 2012).

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime was signed in Palermo, Italy. The convention was supplemented by two protocols:

- the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children and
- *The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.*

The first of these protocols is sometimes referred to as the **Trafficking Protocol** and more usually as the **Palermo Protocol**.

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of 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 the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.....” (www.palermoprotocol.com). The UN Protocol on Human Trafficking, 2000 has become the framework for formulating anti-trafficking policies and counter-trafficking measures across the world.

Many theorists and researchers questioned the UN Protocol on the account of its paradoxical nature. The Protocol emphasised the protection of sex worker’s rights on the basis of recognising their work as a form of labour. However, it leaves the aspects of victimisation, violence and oppression of sex workers in the periphery. **Jordan** questioned the very essence of UN Protocol on Human Trafficking. She argues, “since the essence of trafficking according to the Protocol, is transporting someone for the purpose of exploitation, and exploitation is in turn defined as some form of ‘unfree’ labour, it does not add anything to the already existing international instruments regulating slavery, forced labour, child labour, and debt bondage” (c.f. Baye and Heumann, 2014, p. 82). However, the Violence Against Women (VAW) perspective was questioned by the **feminists** on the account that the perspective **didn’t include violation of women’s right in the context of forced labour and had underscored trafficked women as powerless subjects.**

Several non-consensual approaches emerged in the debates, frameworks and conventions of human trafficking. Alvarez and Alessi analyse the documentary film on human trafficking *Dying to Leave* by Aaroo Wolf. The documentary reflected the multifaceted experiences of trafficked women and men as migrant workers. The aim of the film was to raise social awareness about the vulnerabilities of migrant workers who often become the potential victims of human trafficking. Alvarez and Alessi (2012, p.147) stated that it is important to supply information or raising public awareness about trafficking but linking human trafficking with sexual exploitation and

HIV infection is neglecting issues concerning labour rights, conditions of vulnerability, situation of repatriated trafficked victims and so on.

The authors stated the example of Nepal where a study was conducted on mapping the community perception about trafficking. The study revealed how the country's information, education and communication sectors are reflecting the interlinkage between human trafficking, prostitution and HIV infection to discourage women from migrating to other countries in search of employment. The study shows that this interlinkage is further escalating the problem of repatriated trafficked women including stigmatisation and ostracising the women with the fear of HIV infection. The affirmative framework on human trafficking needs to look at structural problems such as illiteracy, poverty, underemployment and the intensity of vulnerability for socially marginalised communities.

According to **Marion Mansberger** (2011), besides prostitution, women and girl children are victimised in multiple ways. Some of the **common forms of victimisation are domestic servitude, slavery, forced labour, illegal adoption, forced marriage, human egg harvesting, surrogate motherhood and ritual killings**. The author quoted the research paper 'Give girls a chance: Tackling child labour, a key to the future' in which it was discussed that in domestic servitude girl children are often abused. Forced-marriage is also an important area which can be linked to trafficking, gender and migration.

The **United Nations Report on the Violation of Basic Human Rights of Child Brides** estimated that 49 countries face the problem of child marriage and it is prevalent in some of rural Asia, (Mansberger, 2011). Although, human egg harvesting is not recognised as an aspect of human trafficking but research can be initiated to explore the links between human trafficking and human egg harvesting. The practice of surrogacy is prevalent in India and other developing nations. **Jennifer Lahl**, national director for the **Center of Bioethics and Culture Network** states "young and vulnerable women are lured into the scheme to make easy money, sometimes in a country other than their own due to legal issues" (Mansberger, 2011, p. 615). In recent years countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Romania are looking at experiences of trafficked surrogate mothers as a form of crime. In 2011, the officials in Thailand revealed the network of business that was illegally providing Vietnamese surrogate mothers. In our discussion on gender, migration and trafficking, much broader understanding of human trafficking is required to include evolving forms of violence and vulnerabilities for women and girl children.

International and regional legal instruments have clarified obligations of States to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women and girls. **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against**

Women (CEDAW) requires that countries party to the Convention take all appropriate steps to end violence. However, the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls demonstrates that it is yet to be tackled with all the necessary political commitment and resources. One needs to take particular notice of the violence faced by the nation's women and girls each and every day for no other reason than who they are. They are attacked because they are female.

Political instability and economic compulsions are reasons for young girls from Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and even as far as Uzbekistan, to be sold to traffickers. Within the context of South Asia, India happens to be the country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking of women and children. The vulnerable population mostly includes the women, children and those below poverty line with high levels of debt bondage, illiteracy and facing closure of economic options. Others include the potential second generation of trafficked children who are extremely susceptible to exploitation. There is a considerable degree of internal trafficking of women and children within India. India has emerged as a major alternative market for child sex tourism after Thailand. There are studies which show that Goa, Kerala, Kovalam, Varkala, Cochin and Karnataka have been the destinations for child sex tourism. For instance, "In Kovalam, about 80 per cent of hotels are mentioned to live on sex tourism" (Winkler, 2011, cf. Mansberger, 2011).

The non-governmental organisations and other civil society organisations have been instrumental in implementing the anti-trafficking measures on the ground. They have been influential in creating the awareness among the community members, developing the capacity to build linkages among the members of the border **vigilance committees** and providing shelter and protection to the rescued trafficked victims. The NGOs are strategically located on either side of the international borders imparting knowledge and awareness constantly.

The vigilance committees consist of local civilians mainly created along the borders who take the responsibility of keeping a vigil on any potential suspicious characters that may be moving about in the village. The strategy adopted for border vigilance committee includes making girls, boys, women, men, teachers, rickshaw pullers, a barber, shopkeepers as members and giving them orientation to report suspicious movements or fraudulent marriage cases to the core committee of the vigilance. The core committee also makes people understand the significance of safe migration. They are imparted training from time to time and have been successful in nabbing innumerable culprits on several occasions. The vigilance committee members contact the NGOs in case they suspect any unsocial elements wandering about.

Let us now read about indicators that make a group or an individual susceptible to human trafficking.

3.5 VULNERABILITY INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

All identified indicators of vulnerability to trafficking can be categorised under four major categories - **Social-Demographic, Cultural, Economic and Environmental**. These are further subdivided into micro level indicators.

3.5.1 Social and Demographic Indicators of Vulnerability to Trafficking

The following factors have been seen to be instrumental in trafficking

a) Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population

The overall situational location of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) population in India indicates their concentration is in physically inaccessible areas which have culturally and socially hostile environments and restrains them from an inclusive participation in the socio-economic development processes. Majority of North-East India, Central plateau region of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh and Maharashtra and Western region consisting of central and western districts of Madhya Pradesh, Northeastern region of Gujarat and Thar region of Rajasthan have a high concentration of tribal communities which are vulnerable to allurements and thus prone to human trafficking. Similarly large areas of rural Telangana (especially Khammam and Adilabad districts) and Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh, North Eastern Karnataka also are most vulnerable.

b) Female Illiteracy

The regions with high female illiteracy along with high ST and SC population and food insecurity are more vulnerable for human trafficking. Majority of areas in North-Eastern India especially Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, northern districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar adjacent to Nepal, Maoist infested regions of Jharkhand, Orissa and Chattisgarh, North Western Gujarat, Western and Southern Rajasthan, Central regions of Rajasthan and Central parts of Telengana and Rayalseema region in Andhra Pradesh are vulnerable in terms of female illiteracy. At the same time higher female illiteracy coupled with social and cultural tradition of seeking their economic support, enhances the vulnerability to being trafficked like in the case of North-Eastern states of India.

c) Age Specific Sex Ratio

The age-specific (10-24 years) sex ratio of girls and women is low in the northern districts of Bihar, central Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, southwest Bengal, western Rajasthan, central belt of Madhya Pradesh and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra. A study (Dutta M, 2011) revealed that several districts like Murshidabad, north 24-Parganas and south 24-Parganas have an extremely low age specific sex ratio. The study showed that there was a high concentration of girls and women from the same age group belonging to these districts in the Sonagachi red light area of Kolkata.

d) Crimes Against Women

The National Crime Record Bureau presents a higher proportion of crime against women in parts of North-eastern states of India, Maoist infested regions of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh (Telengana and Rayalseema region) and Orissa. Other areas with higher proportion of crime against women are seen in western Rajasthan, northwestern Gujarat and central Madhya Pradesh. Areas around National Capital Region of Delhi especially bordering Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan also registered higher rates of crime against women due to dowry deaths and urban crimes especially molestation, rape and sexual assault. Several pockets in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also reported crime against women.

e) Prevalence of HIV/AIDS

The trafficked women are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and ultimately these trafficked victims already infected with HIV/AIDS pose serious threat in the native areas after they return home. Significant prevalence rates are found in Nagaland, Mizoram, parts of Telangana, Rayalseema and Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Southern Maharashtra and in the urban areas and their adjacent districts like in the case of Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai.

In Bihar the mobile sex workers were found to be engaged in flesh trade with the truck drivers along the Asansol and Nalanda highway.

Jharkhand is a predominantly tribal state where women have relative freedom and are also given respect. Over the recent years there is complete collapse of the tribal economy in Jharkhand especially because of deforestation and unemployment. Men are seldom at work, often drink and remain idle. In a tribal society girls often disappear for few days without parents having to worry for them. The girls are neither discriminated against nor are they kept under a strict vigil. Parents are also often responsible for sending their daughters outside for domestic work in return for quick money. There is no provision of any registration. Agencies have good network and after initial payment they have often sold them to pimps in brothels.

Orissa is one of the poorest states in India, hence, more prone to trafficking of girls. There is evidence of trafficking not only for sexual exploitation, but also for organ trade. There are even cases of women who are mentally challenged in the age group of 10-30 vanishing forever. Studies have shown that the Kalahandi - Bolangir - Koraput (KBK) districts - the poorest districts in the state of Orissa have rickshaw-pullers who have been trafficked from Nuapada to Jhansi (UP), for organ trade. Such instances have been found in Phulbani as well. Trafficking takes place all along the route from Sambalpur to Jharsugudah.

Karauli district in Rajasthan is notorious for prostitution of young girls with the sanction of the society. In Karauli women are brought from Bengal, UP, Bihar, Hyderabad and Delhi. In Churu, wives of migrant workers get sexually exploited. In Dhaulpur located close to MP-UP, prostitution has become a commercial business. The district of Tonk is located on the National Highway 11 and is famous as a sex hub. It is an area with high concentration of Rajnat community. The trafficking route is from Udaipur to Gujarat. Once in Gujarat they go back and forth from Dungarpur to MP. The districts of Bhilwara, Chittaurgarh, Pratapgarh and Rajas and are areas with high presence of HIV/AIDS.

In West Bengal some pioneering studies by NGOs show how women in the tea gardens migrate to Bihar, Haryana and UP exposing themselves to the hazards of trafficking. A conducive environment combined with consumerism promotes such large scale trafficking of women who get sexually exploited for trying to achieve a better standard of living for themselves and for their children. The Aila hit areas from Hindolganj to Canning right up to Howrah emerged as most vulnerable. Girls from Murshidabad district and North 24 Parganas seemed to be a majority among the women interviewed from the red light area of Sonagachi. A lot of the women were from Bangladesh as well. Sonagachi hosts some of the women referred to as the 'Agrawali' (Bedia community girls) who come here for earning a livelihood.

It is important here to assess your understanding of the sections that you have read till now.

Check Your Progress:

- 1) *Identify social and demographic indicators that are responsible for enhancing the vulnerability factor among women and children.*

2) Write a paragraph on 'The Palermo Protocol'.

In the following section you will read about the cultural factors that are indicators of human trafficking.

I) Cultural Component

There exists a wide range of cultural groups who practice illegal sex trade. The men from these groups usually live off their daughters/sisters income and even arrange customers for their own daughters and sisters. The Lambada community of Andhra Pradesh is one such group referred to as Sugalis in Rayalseema region. The Matama community in Rayalseema, the Joginis in Telangana and Basavi in Andhra Pradesh practice prostitution as a way of life. Studies reveal that it was quite a common sight to note that a Bedia girl who was practicing prostitution was actually rearing her two siblings back home and was quite confident that they will look after her in her old age, or a young mother who insisted that her little one will not be in the same livelihood option as she has. The Devadasis are mainly concentrated in Karnataka and are also found in Andhra Pradesh in the name of Kalavanthulu. The Joginis are mostly concentrated in the Rayalseema and parts of Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh. Marriages among different cultural groups are a common practice. The Dommaras do not get married to a Dommara or the Rajnuts of Rajasthan do not marry within their same community. The Bedia man may marry a Kanjar. There is a high concentration of Rajnuts in Rajasthan and some districts in western Bihar. The Bedia community is concentrated in Uttar Pradesh with pockets of Bedia-Kanjar and Nat-Kanjar located in western UP and Rajasthan.

Vulnerability Indicators*Social and Demographic**I) Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population*

- *Female Literacy Rate*
- *Age Specific Sex Ratio*
- *Crimes Against Women*
- *Prevalence of HIV/AIDS*

II) Cultural

- *Sanctions Communities*
- *Traditionally practicing*

III) Economic

- *Population Below Poverty Line*
- *Seasonal work opportunities*
- *Food Insecurity*

IV) Environmental

- *Natural Disaster Prone Areas*

II) Economic Factors

Here, we will discuss some of the economic factors that make a person or a section of population prone to trafficking.

a) Population Below Poverty Line

Most of the poverty stricken areas are located in the Central, Eastern and North-Eastern belt of India comprising of North-Eastern states of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Telangana and Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Majority of these areas are the tribal belts where people own fewer land resources and are dependent on agricultural and other labour activities making them vulnerable to trafficking. Other poverty stricken areas are concentrated in some pockets of Central and North-Eastern Karnataka, Southern Maharashtra, Central Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. These areas are also found to be prone to human trafficking.

b) Main and Marginal Agricultural Labourers (Male & Female)

Majority in the poverty stricken areas are without agricultural land and are mostly dependent on daily wages in agricultural activities. As these agricultural activities are seasonal, their earning opportunities are fewer, thereby making these people vulnerable to human trafficking. A

significant proportion of these workers are marginal agricultural labourers, having even more limited income opportunities and restricted to fewer agricultural seasonal months. Wages received are too meagre to manage their basic needs in the family; therefore such groups are susceptible to traffickers' allurements as they lack awareness of the existing trafficking networks. Both male and female main agricultural labourers depict a concentration in majority of the districts of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, eastern Uttar Pradesh, central Maharashtra, western Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan and north-east Tamil Nadu. Most of these areas have a high concentration of SC and ST population also.

c) Food Insecurity

Studies conducted in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Chattisgarh indicate that nearly 80% of these states have food insecurity due to poor agricultural institutional and infrastructure services. A significant proportion of this population is without food security throughout the year.

III) Environmental Factor

The Kosi belt of Bihar and Brahmaputra and Ganga flood plain areas in Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal are all hazard prone areas. These areas are inundated year after year due to floods leaving a large number of people displaced. Similarly drought situations in Central parts of India, Rajasthan, and Gujarat also force people to look for external support. The coastal belts similarly are also prone to inundation of saline water due to cleaning. Thus, making the native population more prone to trafficking.

3.6 LET US SUM UP

The unit provides an overall picture of vulnerability and migration. It tries to identify various forms of human trafficking which are affecting women more and are reflected as vulnerability indicators. The unit tries to build the feminist perspective in the analysis of human trafficking and migration. As we have read in other courses of MAWGS programme, women are structurally placed in a disadvantaged position thereby making them more vulnerable to migration and also trafficking. Inter-sectionality is an important approach to explore the interconnections between gender, migration and human trafficking. Finally, the unit explores various forms, conditions and vulnerabilities of human trafficking.

3.7 UNIT END QUESTIONS

- 1) Define Trafficking and discuss it in relation to gender and migration.
- 2) Identify and discuss the economic and social indicators that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking. Use case studies to substantiate your answer.
- 3) Are gender, migration and trafficking interrelated? Discuss from a feminist lens.

3.8 REFERENCES

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3.9 SUGGESTED READINGS

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