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# Impacts of Gender Inequality and Poverty on Trafficking in Women

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# Impacts of Gender Inequality and Poverty on Trafficking in Women

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## OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (HT)

- **Definition** of HT by *United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*:
  - Recruitment of people by force or deception in order to exploit them
- HT as **gendered crime**:
  - “The crime of particularly targeting women for sexual exploitation.”
  - **Female victims (75%)**
  - Purpose of trafficking: **Sexual exploitation (79%)**, forced labor (18%), and organ removals (.3%)
- **Current Trends**:
  - “Globalization & Cross border Trafficking”: 800,000 women are trafficked across national borders
  - Europe and Central Asia (62%), Americas (51%), South/East Asia and Pacific (44%), and Africa/Middle East (36%)
  - Low conviction rates for traffickers
- **Human Rights Concerns**
  - Violations of human rights : Victims are physically tortured, raped, abused and murdered
  - Reinvestment of profits by HT to other criminal ventures

## What we know about HT

- **Lack of empirical approaches**:
  - Describing characteristics of HT (Salt & Stein, 1997) or government’s combating efforts (Tamura, 2010).
- **Themes**:
  - Most women are from poor families or countries that have low levels of education (Di Tommaso et al., 2009)

## What we know Cont’d

- Traffickers offer false-promises such as arrangement of jobs and marriages for wealthier places/countries (Kim et al., 2009; Reddy, 2013)
- Income inequality leads to HT (Rao & Presenti, 2012)
- U shaped relationship between economic development and HT (Rao & Presenti, 2012)

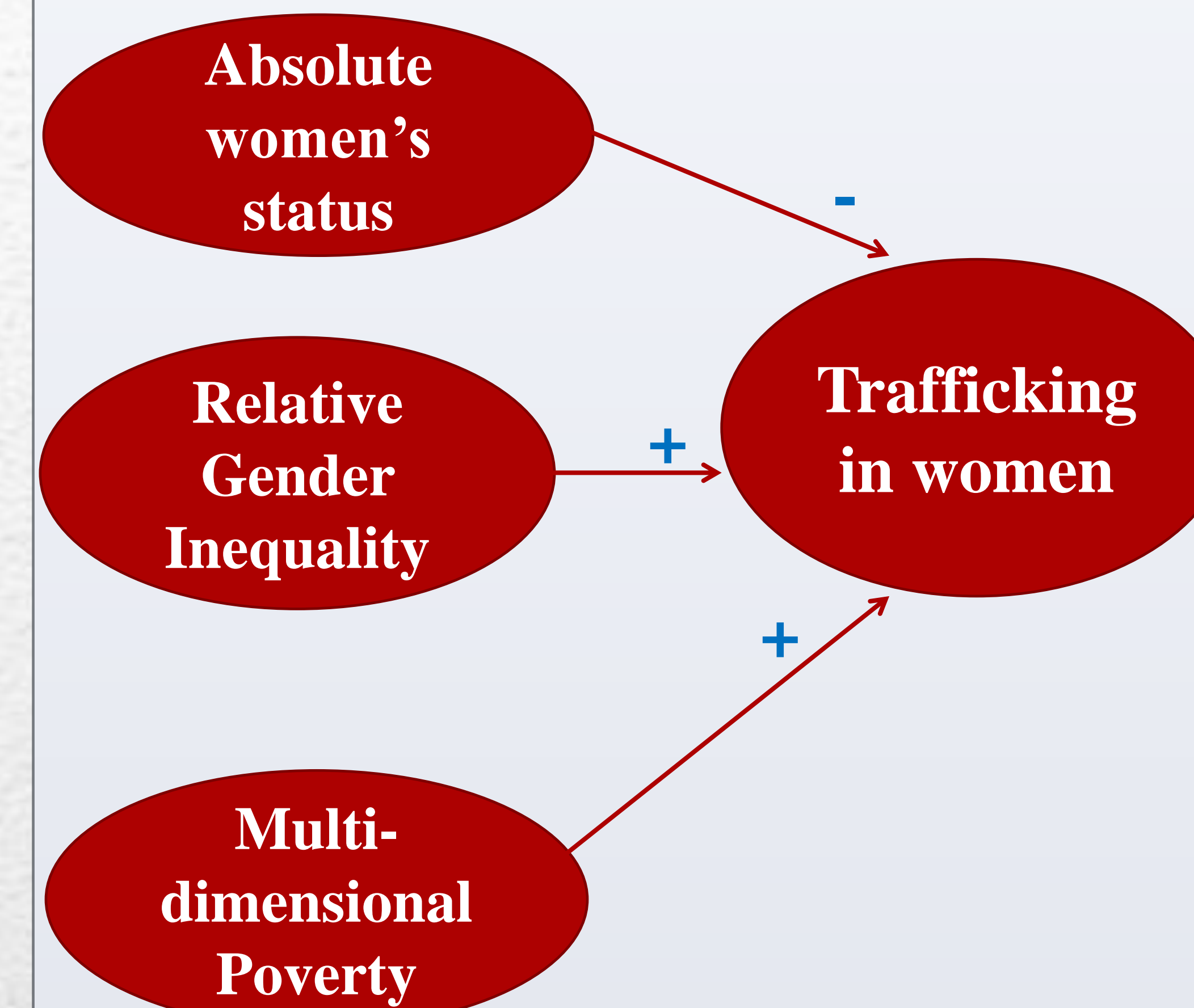
## Gaps and What we don’t know

- Lack of empirical studies
- Focused HT issue in certain geographic areas
- Measurement Issues with Rao & Presenti’s study:
  - Gender Inequality: Only include relative indicators → failed to use absolute indicators
  - Economic Development: Only considered income poverty

## Current Study

- Cross national empirical study
- Examines forms of gender inequality: absolute & relative indicators
- Examines effects of multi-dimensional poverty on HT

## Research Hypotheses



## Methods

- Data– Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns (UNODC 2006)
  - The number of times a country was cited as: ‘origin’, ‘transit’, and ‘destination’ country
  - A 5-scale of severity: (Very low – Very high )
  - Reporting 127 countries in the world

## Measurements

- Dependent variable: Countries ranked by incidence of trafficking ‘origin.’
  - **The current study**: 113 countries out of 127 countries (Excluding countries where HT mostly involves men in forced labor).

## Measurements Cont’d

- Independent variables:
  - Absolute women’s status (% of females) : Education, income, and economic activity (World Bank, 2009-2013)
  - Relative Gender Inequality (Ratio of females to males): Education, income, and economic activity (WB 2009-2013)
  - Poverty: Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index by UNDP (2010)
- Analytic Strategy: The OLS (Ordinal Least Squares) Regression

## Preliminary Results

Table 1. Descriptive Variables

	N	Mean	SD
Countries	113	3.01	1.13
Labor Participation of female (%) ( <i>Absolute</i> )	109	53.97	17.71
Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%) ( <i>Relative</i> )	97	97.29	5.74
Multi-dimensional poverty (%)	82	0.17	0.19

Table 2. Regression analysis predicting trafficking

	1		2		3	
	B	$\beta$	B	$\beta$	B	$\beta$
Labor Participation of female (%)	.00	.06				
Ratio of female to male primary Enrollment (%)			.07	.34*		
Multi-dimensional poverty (%)					-1.41	-.26*

1: Absolute Women’s Status 2: Relative Gender (in) equality 3: Poverty  
p < .05\*

## Contact to Authors

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