

# Natural Disaster and Vulnerability to Trafficking of Women and Girls in India

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## Abstract

Disasters seldom restrain to administrative and political boundaries and derecognizes international borders. These borders become the most vulnerable areas where laws are practically inapplicable uniformly across the international borders. Women moving out in search of livelihood options become easy prey to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and are also devoid of any knowledge on safe migration policies. India, Bangladesh and Nepal in South Asia have been identified as the major sources from where men, women and children get trafficked for the purposes of involuntary domestic servitude, bondage of debt, camel jockey, commercial sexual exploitation and so on. Human trafficking among the women and girls has been one of the largest in terms of magnitude and poses the greatest challenge more so when a disaster strikes!

The present paper attempts to identify the vulnerability factors within the perspective of a natural disaster particularly for women and girls who fall prey to being trafficked from their home. The study is based on secondary sources of information that identify regions which are frequently hit by disaster and compares them to those regions which have a high potential for being trafficked. The study relies and relates with selected micro level field visits in some of these areas which are of high vulnerability. It highlights certain factors that have contributed significantly during a disaster such as the age specific sex ratio and cultural components within the hazard prone districts.

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**Keywords:** Women and Disaster Risk Reduction, Trafficking of Women, Vulnerability to Trafficking, Disaster hit regions, Commercial Sexual exploitation

## Context

It need not be emphasized that regions that are in the grip of extreme poverty, human rights violation, conflict ridden and war torn have enhanced

the risk and vulnerability of women and children to trafficking. The world today is a witness to the mass exodus of people migrating from one place to another as a result of a conflict, war, natural calamity, ethnic cleansing, terrorism and insurgency or simply moving in search of livelihood options. Human trafficking has been an issue of concern whenever disaster strikes. Disasters never restricts itself to administrative boundaries or recognize any international borders. These areas therefore become the most vulnerable from the perspective of different laws that exist across the borders. The inapplicability of laws thus force the policies to remain an unfinished agenda. So a victim of disaster hit region becomes even more vulnerable if she happens to be a women or a girl. She becomes an easy prey for the traffickers who are quick to lure these innocent women into their trap. When a disaster hits, women move out in search of alternative livelihood options often end up crossing the international borders. The trafficker's network is quick to nab these innocent hapless women looking out for a livelihood in order to survive. The slender collection of laws which are difficult to implement across the countries and international borders are often unable to protect these cross border victims. Micro level field visits show that most of the victims of human trafficking are often lured or abducted from one country or from their homes and subsequently forced into prostitution, bonded labourer in agricultural and manufacturing settings, domestic services, organ trade and other trans-national crimes and servitude in another country or a place where the victims are complete alien to. Human trafficking has been prevalent in areas which reel under abject poverty, food insecurity, insensitive social and cultural milieu and displacements due to natural and man-made disasters. Disaster only doubles the hardships faced. Although human trafficking can take different forms in different regions around the world, but most human trafficking cases follow a similar pattern, i.e., traffickers use acquaintances or false advertisements to recruit men, women, and children in or near their homes and then transfer them to and exploit them in another city, region or country (Palermo Convention, 2000).

South Asia happens to be a home to the second largest number of internationally trafficked persons (UNFPA, 2006). India, Bangladesh and Nepal have been identified as the major source countries for women and children that are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, involuntary domestic servitude and bondage of debt. South Asian region in particular has witnessed exploitation of women and girls under the garb of fraudulent marriages, false job promises, culture, religious beliefs and deceit. They become even more vulnerable in a situation as a result of a disaster which snatches away their land, house and the few livelihood options that were prevalent in their places of residence forcing them to move out into unknown destinations.

The present paper attempts to identify the vulnerability to trafficking among women and girls in India for sexual exploitation, especially during a natural calamity that hits their region of livelihood options. The study is based mainly on secondary sources of information, and relies upon field visits undertaken in some of the sample districts of disaster hit regions for authentication of the secondary sources of information vis-a-vis the micro level data. Although, there are sufficient studies to establish that women are more vulnerable to disasters; there is not sufficient research to establish that it is during disasters that the risk of human trafficking reaches its peak. When disaster renders people shelter less the women in particular become vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation including trafficking which becomes a business for people who are involved in this illegal trade.

Many such studies remain unattended in the absence of a law, which is the first and foremost factor in providing a preventive measure in risk reduction process towards the disaster related victims who have been forced to leave their hearth and home in search of livelihood options. The purpose of any law is manifold. It establishes and maintains the order, resolves disputes if there are any and finally it protects the rights and liberties of people. The disaster law or more appropriately called as “disaster response law” also aims for serving these purposes. It aims for mitigation of disasters, protection and rescue of victims and rehabilitation of the victims. A disaster response law framework consists of international treaties, municipal laws of countries which provide guidelines for mitigation, protection, rescue and rehabilitation work. In India, the “Disaster Management Act” forms the bulwark of the disaster response law. In countries where gender discrimination is tolerated, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards. Not only is the percentage of women and girls who die in such countries higher, but the incidence of gender-based violence—including rape, human trafficking and domestic abuse—is also known to increase exponentially during and after disasters (UNDP/BCPR:2010). Their extreme vulnerability can be made from the fact that during Tsunami in the Karakai region of Puducherry, adult female fatalities outnumbered adult male fatalities nearly 2:1 (WHO,2013). A pioneering report developed by the Lawyers Collective (2003) supported by UNIFEM examines the role and function of law enforcement and the adjudication machinery in dealing with the problem of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), the lacunae specific to each component namely, the police, the prosecution, the judiciary and the correctional institutions, those that are responsible for the ineffective functioning of the criminal justice system (CJS) and suggest that changes can be made to improve the functioning of various components of the CJS in dealing with the issue. The report presents vast data from two metropolitan cities of India, namely, Mumbai and Delhi, which hosts a

significant proportion of the victims for sexual exploitation. The respondents include police, advocates, officials of the state homes, and analysis of reported cases under ITP Act in Kamla Nagar Police station, New Delhi and Nagpada police station, Mumbai. The report presents the profile of law enforcement machinery in the two cities for CSE cases registered under the ITP Act. It analyses the procedures for reporting CSE cases and sections of ITP act used for booking the cases and highlights excessive use of section 8 and 20 of ITP act which criminalizes the victims. The report suggests reasons for acquittals of criminals like unworthy witnesses, lack of collaboration, discrepancy in witnesses, procedural problems, absence of women officers. It also highlights the demographic, social, economic and spatial characteristics of victims staying in government shelter homes and the innumerable problems faced by the victims in these homes including poor living conditions and other associated survival coping mechanisms. The research report suggested invaluable recommendations for improving the law enforcement machinery especially the effective training for police and prosecution. However, an interview with the Lawyers Collective stated that the implementation of the law has had a ballooning impact on the culprits. When one puts pressure in nabbing a culprit, the pressure simply flows elsewhere where the laws are lenient thus resulting in a no impact. This impacts in achieving a zero or a miniscule conviction rate.

### **Hyogo Framework for Action**

Gender is a cross-cutting principle of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2000-2015: on Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster, which states that: *“A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training.”* In addition, the Beijing Agenda for Global Action on Gender-Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (2009), adopted following the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled *“Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century,”* calls for gender-sensitive approaches to disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery strategies and natural disaster assistance.

Gender priorities were integrated into the report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, January 2005 in Kobe, Japan and the Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: now abbreviated to HFA (HyogoFramework for Action). In the opening section, the HFA states that a gender perspective should be *“integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training”* (HFA,

2005). However, while it has been suggested that this provides the ‘most explicit reference to gender of any other international policy frameworks for DRR’ (UNISDR, 2009) it is not without limitations. Most importantly its call to integrate gender into all areas of DRR did not result in gender being integrated even into the HFA itself, and in the remainder of the document gender/women are mentioned only twice: once when discussing early warning systems and once when discussing the need to ensure equal access to appropriate training and educational opportunities. This suggests a lack of real commitment to adopting a gender perspective that has not changed much in the intervening years.

The third edition of the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: From Shared Risk to Shared Value: The Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR,2013) makes scant mention of gender matters; in fact the word ‘gender’ is not mentioned at all; neither is ‘girl’; and ‘women’ is mentioned three times in 288 pages. The three occurrences of ‘women’ are all in the same place: They concern the after effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 in which employment for women recovered more slowly than for men, due to the slow recovery of the female-dominated food processing sector, while the many new employment opportunities in the construction sector were mainly for men. This is disappointing considering the 2011 Global Assessment Report (UNISDR, 2011) had previously noted that gender was still not being adequately addressed in disaster risk reduction.

However, one is unable to trace any imprints of these guidelines when it comes to law making. The disaster management laws have turned a blind eye to the specific needs of women and especially women in agriculture. In India, the Disaster Management Act’2005 do not even mention the word “women” or “gender”. There are no gender specific post-disaster studies and the special needs of women are not highlighted. While gender mainstreaming has entered the disaster rhetoric, gender is far from mainstreamed in policies and gender is still not part of mainstream disaster risk reduction and response practice (Bradshaw & Fordham, 2013).

Human trafficking is usually exacerbated by the lack of legal assistance services available to victims and by the lack of awareness concerning the existing legal protection available to victims of trafficking. Victims and witnesses of human trafficking are often not aware of the mechanisms available to obtain justice and redress. On the other hand, law enforcement officials and judicial organs may not have adequate resources and training to ensure full victim protection. The issue of trafficking and displacements caused by disasters is closely related. It is the displacement caused by natural disasters which result into massive trafficking. It has been estimated by WHO that women and children are particularly affected by

disasters, accounting for more than seventy five percent of displaced persons..

A composite disaster response law is still trying to be developed which addresses the problem of trafficking during disasters. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 in India neither mentions anything about special needs of women nor addresses the problem of trafficking during disasters. A well meaning disaster law shall address the problem of trafficking and shall also aim for its control. In case of disasters it is the positive duty of the State to protect its citizens from the disasters and also during and post disasters. Thus there exists a right against disasters in the citizens. Since the present paper focusses on the problem of trafficking the scope of the disaster response law could be expanded to include the anti trafficking laws and the guidelines for the displaced persons for the purpose of providing an unbreakable shield against the traffickers.

### **Factors of Vulnerability post Disaster**

Disasters do not occur in vacuum. Disasters affect everyone differently depending upon the different vulnerabilities. The different vulnerabilities are shaped by existing discriminatory socio- economic conditions. Disasters result from the combined factors of natural hazards and people's vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities take the form of physical exposure, socioeconomic vulnerability, and limited capacity to reduce vulnerability and disaster risk. Capacities to reduce vulnerabilities and risks arise out of a complex mix of factors, which include poverty, social class, age group, ethnicity and gender relations. Women are made more vulnerable to disasters through their socially constructed roles. As Elaine Enarson (2012) states “..gender shapes the social worlds within which natural events occur.” Women are tied down by the gender roles ascribed to them by the society. They are responsible for the children and elderly people at home and are doubly burdened. Women themselves being vulnerable are left destitute in case of destruction of their homes and become far more vulnerable to hazards. Many families are forced to relocate to shelters. Inadequate facilities for simple daily tasks such as cooking means that women's domestic burden increases at the same time as her economic burden, leaving her less freedom and mobility to look for alternative sources of income. They are less informed and do not possess skills (including literacy) which act as life saving mechanisms in times of disasters.

Designation of 'November 25' in 1999 as UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was of major significance. The UN adopted in the 23rd Special Session of General Assembly a document entitled 'Women 2000: gender quality, development and peace for the

twenty-first century'. It clearly spelt out the action needed to address the problem of violence against women especially human trafficking of women and children. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) was adopted in November 2000, along with two optional protocols by which countries would undertake in-depth measures to combat smuggling of migrants and the trafficking in women and children. The protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children is the first attempt to address trafficking in persons in a comprehensive manner based on the expanded understanding of the term 'trafficking' and its multiple dimensions. The protocol applies to the prevention and combating of trafficking as well as to the protection of and assistance for victims and cooperation among state parties.

The passing of the 'Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000' by the US Senate was another important development in the global process designed to address human trafficking. The act provided a good assessment framework for multiple agencies to review progress on anti-trafficking initiatives. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, brought out by the Government of United States of America every year is based on the assessment of government and civil society action in each country to combat trafficking. It places different countries in different tiers depending on the action their governments have taken to combat the problem of human trafficking. "UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, resolving to combat all forms of violence against women and the subsequent 2005 World Summit Outcome; the first-ever 2004 Security Council Open Debate devoted to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations (in follow up to Resolution 1325), and the momentous Security Council Resolution 1820 adopted in June 2008, establishing sexual violence as a priority global security concern have provided significant inputs for UNIFEM's role towards developing appropriate strategies for reducing human trafficking especially for women and children". Trafficking is the process of recruiting, contracting, procuring or hiring a person for CSE. Therefore, trafficking is a process and CSE is the result. The 'demand' in CSE generates, promotes and perpetuates trafficking which is a vicious circle. The victims of trafficking during disasters are not pushed into CSE as soon as they are trafficked. Thus, as a matter of fact, ITPA proves to be quite ineffective for curbing trafficking during disasters. The ITPA envisages only trafficking for CSE. Commercial activity need not be in a brothel, but could also occur in places including a residential dwelling, a vehicle, etc. Therefore a police officer who is acting under ITPA has powers to take steps in all such situations where trafficking leads to or is likely to lead to CSE in

any form, including those under the facade of massage parlours, bar tending, ‘tourist circuit’, ‘escort services’, ‘friendship clubs’, etc (Nair:2007, 12).

The ITPA needs to be amended for making the act of trafficking per se punishable. The pushing of victims into trafficking should not be a pre requisite for applying for the prevention of trafficking. Moreover, ITPA should be made a self sufficient law and made in link with the Disaster Management Act’2005 (DMA). A separate chapter on “Trafficking during Disasters” can be added in ITPA and can establish a machinery of its own which is independent of the local police of the area where the disaster occurs, for example it can link itself with the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) under the DMA. The victims of trafficking during disasters should not be prosecuted under ITPA which is what ITPA actually do. The role of NDRF should be extended to preventing trafficking during disasters and the wrong doers should be harshly punished.

It is interesting to study three major factors of vulnerability that affect women and girls most as a result of disaster. Each one of these have been discussed below.

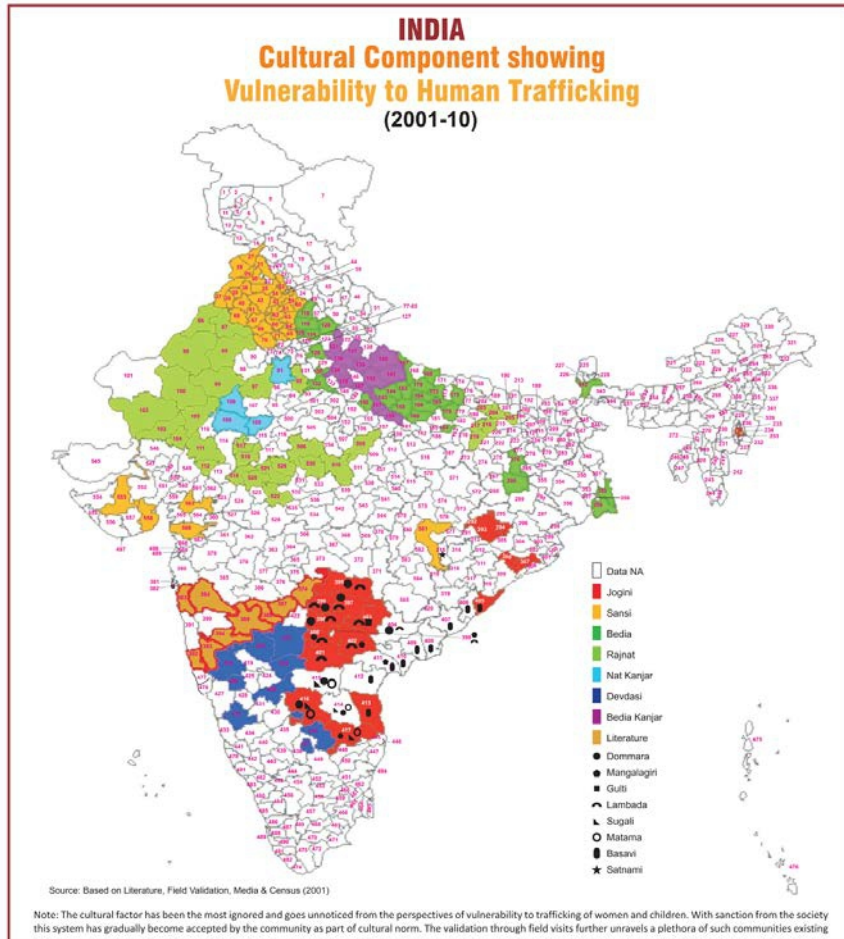
### **Cultural Component**

It need not be mentioned that when a disaster hits it is the women who are the worst sufferers and take upon themselves the responsibility to carry forward the society, family and children in the name of legacy of protecting their culture and tradition on behalf of the whole community. So at such times the cultural factor becomes even more influential in taking the women victims towards being sexually exploited in order to make a living. It is for the first time that the Census of India has documented few of these communities and their distribution pattern in space. Field visits further unravelled a plethora of such communities that exist today. The Rajnats, Bedia, Dommara, Lambada, Joigini, Satnami, Kanjar, Sansui, and the list goes on. Culture and tradition thus at times plays a dominant role in the lives of the women in the disaster hit areas.

The cultural factor perhaps is the one which has been ignored and goes unnoticed from the perspectives of vulnerability to trafficking of women and children. With sanction from the society this system has become accepted by the community as part of the cultural norm. The traditional cultural practice of dedication of girls to gods and goddesses in temples has been in existence for ages. As these norms gained social sanction, prostitution as a system became institutionalized. After an initial persuasion into the profession, girls either become the property of wealthy men or a wage earner for her family (Dutta,2001). Though, many states have banned this practice, various reports indicate that this dedication still continue in the form of *Jogini*, *Devadasi* and *Basavi* in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra



and Karnataka. In some other communities the practice of prostitution has been accepted as traditional and given the name of ‘*Parivarik Dhandha*’ (traditional family occupation) like that practised by some of the communities such as the *Bedia*, *Rajnats*, *Kolta*, *Banchra*, *Mahar*, *Matang* and *Sansi*. These are socially sanctioned and accepted. Map number I, depicts the distribution of the Vulnerable population in terms of cultural context.



Map No I

The *Bedia* boys marry *Kanjar* or *Sansi* communities. They protect their daughters in law keeping them indoors under ‘*pardah*’. They believe that their *Bahus* are the pride of their families. However the same attitude and sentiments are not extended to their daughters(Pandey). They are pushed into the flesh trade immediately after puberty. This practice is socially sanctioned. Rituals symbolizing womanhood are performed. Nearly 95 percent of these communities belong to scheduled caste and the scheduled

tribes. “India is so far the only land where women / girls are worshipped as well as marketed by their own parents and brothers as a commodity in the name of caste and suffer inequalities and shame for no fault on their part” (Sanlaap,2008) A disaster hit region promotes such a culture even more as there are no livelihood options left for the women. The society and family justify such occupations in the name of culture and traditions.

### **Age Specific Sex Ratio (10-24 yrs)**

The combination of a situation where disaster hits a place having a strong cultural factor especially for the age group of 10-24 is a deadly combination. This fact can be found from the secondary sources of information. The Census of India 2001, provides the data on sex ratio under various age group. The map shows the districts where the age group 10 to 24 years are conspicuous by their absence. The number of girls and women who have gone missing belonging to this age group is huge. Several studies show the importance of such an indicator for asserting the age group who are the most vulnerable.

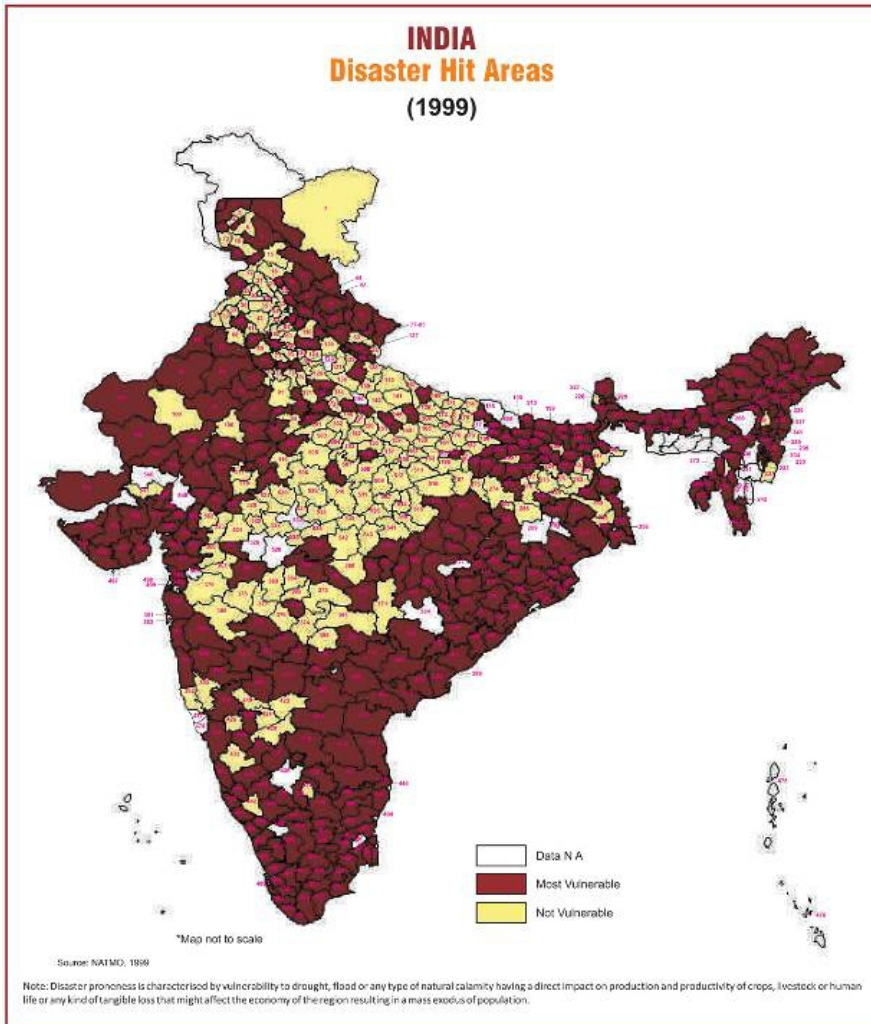
This fact was authenticated during the field visit. Some the women interviewed at the brothels of Sonagachi in Kolkata belonged to Murshidabad in North Bengal. They stated that floods were a regular feature in their region every year forcing them to move out. Women and girls thus end up in the brothels. The women who arrive make sure to bring with them another one in the subsequent years. Similarly other districts from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh also displayed a similar picture. Data from Census of India clearly displays this phenomena.

### **Hazard Prone Vulnerable Districts**

Disaster proneness is characterised by vulnerability to drought, flood or any type of natural calamity, which has a direct impact on production and productivity of crops, livestock or human life or any kind of tangible loss that might affect the economy of the region resulting in a mass exodus of population. Disasters lead to a breakdown of social institutions, making food securing and humanitarian supplies ‘difficult’. This leaves women and children ‘vulnerable to kidnapping, sexual exploitation and trafficking’. The 2008 devastating floods in Bihar had left children vulnerable to trafficking and many girls ended up being ‘sold as brides’ (Indo-Asian News, 2009). Natural hazards like floods, droughts, earthquakes, typhoons, enhance displacements and forced migration. The hazard prone areas create conducive conditions for such large scale displacements year after year. The Kosi belt of Bihar and Brahmaputra and Ganga flood plain areas in Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal are inundated year after year due to floods displacing a large number of people. Similarly drought situations in Central

parts of India, Rajasthan, Gujarat also force people to look for outside support. The coastal belts area also prone to inundation of saline water due to cleaving.

Such a indicator includes all the hazard (natural) prone areas of the country which have been hit by natural calamity such as drought, floods, earthquake, etc. Owing to natural disasters such as droughts, floods and hailstorms there is a loss of crop, cattle and property leading to the fall in family income and forcing the population to migrate. The present study has utilized the data created on the map prepared by the National Atlas Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) ( Refer Map No II).



Map No II

There have been two distinction made between those that are hit by a disaster and those which are not. The type of hazard that had been considered

for the study were only natural hazards and does not consider the conflict ridden zones and riot hit regions. This indicator indicates a positive correlation showing the higher the value the higher is the vulnerability. These areas include most of the coastal plains, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, and parts of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

## **Conclusion**

Among the major reasons that contribute towards creating conducive conditions for vulnerability to human trafficking, are abject poverty, landlessness, lack of income opportunities, economic exploitation of labour, food insecurity, insensitive social and cultural milieu and most importantly mass scale displacements due to natural and man-made disasters. Disasters leading to mass displacement of vulnerable population year after year pose as the greatest challenge with hundreds of missing people, particularly women and children, in the flood hit areas. This is extremely challenging not only for the state government but also for the non-governmental organisations involved in the relief and rehabilitation.

Preventive measure is the key to overcome the widespread net of human trafficking. A continuous on-going effort is necessary to strengthen and create awareness at the grassroots level. A close coordination between societies, parents' organization, women's group, local-self government machinery, police, mass media, civil society and non-governmental organization is warranted to keep traffickers at bay. Such coordination has worked wonders in several regions of Nepal-India and Bangladesh-India borders. The need of the hour is to strengthen such co-ordination mechanisms at the identified vulnerable areas to create awareness related to safe migration procedure requirements (like seeking identity proofs of persons offering jobs, job offer letters and finding out the whereabouts of prospective grooms). This method has been found to be extremely useful in creating the right kind of awareness in comparison to other methods as traffickers try to avoid luring an awakened community. Involvement of adolescent boys and girls in creating awareness on safe migration has been effective to identify fraudulent marriages as vulnerable groups usually share their anxiety with their peer groups in villages. Several instances show where girls reported to their teachers in schools about scrupulous marriages of their friends that were being formalized. Teachers in turn convince the parents to seek proper identification and whereabouts of the prospective groom before marriage can be solemnized. Such actions have saved several cases of human trafficking.

These collaboration can be forged ahead with other stakeholders and building of capacities for effective awareness on safe migration with NGO

partners in the local areas, local self governments (PRI), community/religious leaders and women's groups create the necessary environment for safe migration. This necessitates the development of tool kits, action guides and publicity material on safe migration procedures and consequences of human trafficking to create appropriate awareness and knowledge sharing mechanisms. Facilitating networking among NGOs for learning and sharing information and developing mechanisms for joint collaborative monitoring in the border areas, vulnerable districts and states would go a long way to generate knowledge against human trafficking.

Enforcing and strengthening of community initiatives like maintaining of social registers for all marriages (with unknown partners and community members) will create the necessary security environment against scrupulous and fraudulent marriages.

Initiatives of building capacities and support grass-root level NGOs to enable them to link government initiatives on poverty alleviation programmes like MGNREGA, Swadhar, Ujjawala to help providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and access the due entitlements from the government programme.

These government schemes are an innovative approach in order to address the requirements of women under difficult circumstances. The National Commission for Women should support in establishing the community referral mechanisms such as providing short stay home facilities along with counselling by trained practitioners to the trafficked victims. Regular imparting of basic knowledge skills on possible methods being adopted by traffickers, legal entitlements, etc., will ensure that the anti trafficking squad remain not only informed but vigilant as well. Such initiatives will contribute in the smooth reintegration of the survivor victims into the society.

### **Recommendations**

- *Dissemination of reports with concerned ministries such as the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Social Welfare & Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs and several others, so that preventive measures are imbibed into their ongoing schemes and inter ministerial policies be made to tackle the problem in the right perspective.*
- *There is a need for greater convergence of the ongoing schemes in the various ministries of the vulnerable districts. It is important that the capacity build of governance institutions be initiated in order to bring together all existing programme for achieving a greater impact on people's lives. It is recommended that courses be introduced in training institutions such as the 'Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration'*

*(LBSNAA), Mussoorie and the 'National Institute of Rural Development' (NIRD).*

- *Initiatives must be developed to build capacity and support grass root level NGOs for linking government initiatives on poverty alleviation programmes like MGNREGA, Swadhar, Ujjawala, etc for addressing the needs of women under difficult circumstances and in providing alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities during a disaster.*
- *Local village level committees to be constituted for regular interaction with young girls and other women as a preparation to cope up with any calamity.*
- *Women NGOs to be conducting constant training of women for awareness and self-rescue preparedness.*
- *A strong infrastructure needs to be set up in the most vulnerable districts for disaster preparedness. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, establish community referral mechanisms such as short stay home facilities along with counselling to the trafficked victims by trained practitioners. Such initiatives will go a long way in the smooth reintegration of the survivor victims during a post disaster scenario.*

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