

Master's thesis

On

*“Trafficking and sexual exploitation in Nepal”: A case study of post trafficked women/girls from Nuwakot and Sindupalchok districts of Nepal.*

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**Abstract:**

The objective of this thesis was to explore the factors influencing migration, human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Nepal from Nuwakote and Sindhupalchok districts of Nepal. Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation has been an ongoing issue in Nepal but due to recent globalization and lack of employment created by unstable political situation, growing population and socio economic differences in Nepalese society this issue has raised in an alarming rate and needs.

Qualitative methods in form of semi structured interviews and key informant interview has been used as data collection tools and the results have been explained descriptively based on the information gathered. The study tried to explore various push and pull factors that have contributed towards trafficking of women and girls from rural areas of Nepal. Lack of education, empowerment, social discrimination based on cast and ethnicity were identified as main push factors whereas the demand for cheap labor, employment opportunities and better lifestyle in neighboring countries were identified as pull factors attracting rural population to migrate. These pull factors were later found being used by traffickers to lure vulnerable women and girls for the purpose of trafficking. Similarly the study also addressed the perspective of local governmental and nongovernmental organization working towards the prevention of trafficking from Nepal. Various political, social and economical reforms were identified as preventative measures. The research identified that trafficking can only be prevented by collaborative and holistic approach and by positive reformation and development of all dimensions i.e. economical, social and political dimensions.

**Keywords:** Migration, Women trafficking, Globalization, Traffickers, Empowerment, Nepal

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**List of Abbreviations:**

ILO: International Labor Organization

KII: Key Informant Interview

CSE: Commercial Sexual Exploitation

EE: Economic Exploitation

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

CEDAW: Convention of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

GON: Government of Nepal

UNODC: United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime

WTO: World Trade Organization

MOWCSW: Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

MoHP: Ministry of Health and Population

MoLRM: Ministry of land reform and Management

AATWIN: Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal

Ngos: Non-governmental Organizations

INGOs: International Non-governmental Organizations

UN: United Nations

# **Chapter 1 : Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Human trafficking is a global humanitarian phenomenon that is gaining considerable attention by the help of media coverage, academics, political and international framework of laws and instruments but still one of the greatest challenges of modern society. Human trafficking is a form of slavery, marked by forced labor, debt bondage including a variety of crimes, associated with the recruitment, movement, sale and receipt of people (including body parts), into a range of hyper exploitative conditions all around the world (Lee 2007:1-3) and thus became one of the fastest growing criminal business throughout the whole world (Kara 2009:18-19). This modern form of slavery induces different magnitudes and ways of exploitation violating human rights, the international and national laws as well as state's obligations.

Globally it is estimated that 27 million men, women, and children around the world are victims of what is now often described with the umbrella term "human trafficking", among them more than 2.5 million are estimated to be categorized and involved in forced labor (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking (ILO, 2007). Middle east has been identified as the prime destination for trafficked persons, as (UNODC, 2012:7) reports that Middle East holds approximately 70 percent of trafficked victims from other parts of the world. The magnitude of exploited victims of trafficking of any kinds, more than half are in Asia and Pacific while other significant numbers are existed in Latin America, Caribbean, Middle East and Northern Africa and approximately half of the victims are women and children and most of them are in forced labor including sexual exploitation (The Asia Foundation 2000).

The definition of human trafficking is applied from UN (United Nations) which is an important organization in determining of international legal frameworks concerning anti human trafficking issues and other international crimes. The Palermo protocol as developed by UN is an important instrument to fight against human trafficking and admit

the importance of contributing causes to trafficking, such as poverty and inequality while introducing preventative and post trafficking measures that are likely to benefit trafficked persons. According to the protocol article 3 a) human trafficking is defined as:

*“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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 labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”*(United Nations 2000: 2, Article 3a).

The main convention and protocols (instrument) addressing human trafficking issues are:

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- Protocol against the smuggling of Migrants by land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNODC 2006:1)

This is important to know that the components of human trafficking consist of series of process with different phases rather than a single crime. During the first phase a person is recruited which is followed by national or transnational transportation to the endpoint or destination. Similarly, second phase consists of the procedure of selling/traffic a person into the third phase of forced and/or debt bonded labor slavery for the purpose of exploitation and utilizing profit. Some of the crimes committed against individuals in this slavery process include threats, extortion, theft of documents or property, false imprisonment, wickeder or sexual assault, pimping, rape or even death (Aronowitz 2009:9). The processes of recruitment, transportation or any other human trafficking

activities are rooted in corruption of government officials, forced prostitution, and violence and different crimes are linked to each stage in the trafficking process.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

Trafficking mainly of Women has been a serious concern for developing country like Nepal as well as some parts of the developed world. Human trafficking is worst form of human rights violation and it is also a criminal act where people are forced to do what they do not want to do, it is against the dignity and rights of the person. In most of the cases, Nepali men and women migrant workers face problems such as fraud recruitment, low wages, bad working conditions, discrimination, forced labor, sexual abuse, exploitation, sold from one owner to another and even torture and killings when they are in foreign land. These kinds of severe human rights violation has also lead to suicide and long time mental illness and thus reduces the productivity of them considered sometime burden by their own family members. Similarly, when they will arrive in homeland they suffer series of public scrutiny and social stigmatization together with mental, physical and social problems. Lot of these women migrants end up in prisons because of false documents and illegal stay in foreign land (UNODC, 2008:48).

Women trafficking in general also has been associated with higher likelihood of various illness including AIDS rated of HIV infection among migrant sex workers range from 21 percent in urban areas of Nepal to as high as 72 percent in Mumbai, India (UNAIDS, 2000), which further diminishes their chance of being accepted in the society as post trafficked women are always considered to be carriers of STDS (Sexually transmitted diseases) in Nepalese society. They often end up being health burden and unproductive part of the population as most of them are neglected by family members and upon their return has to spend their lives in rehabilitation centers (The Asia Foundation, 2000).

Due to poverty, lack of education, lack of rights and lack of empowerment, Nepalese women are most vulnerable to the traffickers and thus easily manipulated by traffickers. Government of Nepal has anti-trafficking laws, regulations and authorities to counteract and prevent women trafficking from local to national level though the outcome and

implementation are not much significant. The national as well as international endeavors to prevent women trafficking in case of Nepal has been found weaker in comparison to the strategy of traffickers (criminals) and women trafficking practices has been a problem to the individual victim's of trafficking, to their families and to the nation itself until today.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

Human trafficking in general means any forms of trafficking such as bondage labor, selling of organs, sexual work, prostitution etc. and consists of all gender and ages but the main objective of this thesis would be to explore only one of the dimensions of human trafficking i.e. the trafficking related with sexual exploitation of women and girls from Nepal. Thus acknowledging the main objective of this thesis following research questions were formed:

- *What are the underlying causes and consequences of women/girls trafficking in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchock districts of Nepal?*
- *What are the perspectives of governmental and non-governmental organizations on human trafficking issues in Nepal?*

The major parts of the thesis will be consisting on the exploration of causes and underlying factors responsible for trafficking from the selected areas of Nepal, the thesis will further try to examine the consequences of trafficking on the life of trafficked individuals. Furthermore, the thesis will focus on the current efforts and perspective of Nepalese governmental and non-governmental organization on severity of this problem and recommendations to combat human trafficking in Nepal.

### **1.4 Justification of the study:**

The idea of writing this thesis on topic human trafficking has emerged from 7th semester project. During the 7<sup>th</sup> semester project I had the opportunity to work with my 2 other colleague on the same topic of human trafficking, which was focused on the migration and sex trafficking but at a general level. After the completion of that semester project, my

desire to work on and further explore this topic increased. Human trafficking is not only the concerns of the developing country like Nepal but is a global problem and gaining much attention till today. Since I come from that part of Nepal, which has also been considered as one of the vulnerable areas of human trafficking my interest in exploring the causes of, human trafficking has increased immensely.

Despite of the fact that so many officials, programs, investments and organizations are behind this dehumanize crime to stop but its nexus has always been a challenge in Nepal. So, unlike in the previous semester in general, it is of great once again attempt to make further exploration and make meaningful research in depth, hoping to shade light on hidden connections, drawbacks and possible inferences in the context of Nepalese human trafficking for sexual exploitation problem (The Asia Foundation, 2000).

## **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

### **2.1 The global epidemic of Women trafficking**

Globally, out of all trafficked persons, women account for 55-60 percent of trafficking victims; women and girls account for about 75 percent (UNODC, 2012:7) Women trafficking refer to the forceful transportation, transaction, and abduction, and deception of women making them do undesirable work. Women and children trafficking are legally and socially unacceptable as well as punishable crime as it is a severe form of human right violation and domestic laws. However, along with the increasing trend of globalization and liberation trade of human flesh has been continuously increasing worldwide and even became worse. The trend of human trafficking is relatively high in third world countries but is also prevailing among some parts of developed western countries although it is overlooked (Kendle, 2006: 8).

South Asia is one of the most vulnerable and prevalent human trafficking regions of the world and most of victims were women and girls. The proportion of the women convicted

of trafficking is higher than female convicted for crimes in this region. According to the Global report (UNODC), 47 percent of the victims were found to be trafficked for force labor whereas 44 percent were trafficked for sexual exploitation in this region but severity for individual countries may vary. According to UNODC, 41% of convicted traffickers are female in south Asian region. Some of the countries have data while others lack and so it is quite difficult to see the problem dimension and its impacts. South Asian victims of human trafficking are not only found in neighboring countries but also detected in a wide range of destinations in different regions of the world (UNODC, 2012:73).

The scope and scale of human trafficking in the south Asian region had increased during the period of Asian growth and economic crisis in the 1990s and India is the regional hub of trafficking in South Asia. Globalization and economic freedom have also opened the way for criminals to operate and carry out their business aided by easy borders for movement of goods and people. Multiple marginalization in the societies such as inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, caste, poverty, language, and the lack of access to health, education, land, and livelihoods are the reason for higher number of women and girls becoming the victims of trafficking among the certain ethnicities and caste (Gupta, 2010).

## **2.2 Human Trafficking and Exploitation**

### ***a) Forced Labor***

Forced labor accounts for 36 percent of total trafficking cases (UNODC, 2012: 7) and it incorporates the forceful actions and performances, and human rights violations, as well as restrictions on human freedom. According to ILO's (International Labor Organization) conventions and international instruments (UN protocols), forced labor is "slavery, act similar to slavery and debt bondage" (ILO 2005:5) with the main aim of profits through the exploitation of persons. ILO argues that human trafficking issues need to be tackled from a labor market perspective, and further suggest that labor institutions and authorities can play a very important role for the prevention of human trafficking by monitoring of people trafficked for the purpose of forced labor or exploitation (Samarasinghe 2008:29). The

ILO's notion of forced labor is that "the work of service is exacted under the menace of a penalty and it is undertaken involuntarily" (ILO 2005:5). The danger of penalty can take various forms such as psychological threats and extreme physical violence, restraint or even death threats to the trafficked person or relatives and family. Likewise, penalties can also be of financial acts, such as lack or loss of any payment wages attended by threats (ILO 2005:5-6). The ILO has three different typology of forced labor with its broad forms:

- "Forced labor imposed by state or by armed forces – which includes three main sub- categories, namely forced labor exacted by the military or by rebel groups, compulsory in public works, and forced prison labor.
- Forced commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), which includes women, men and children who have been forced by private agents into prostitution or into other forms of commercial sexual activities which is the main concern of this thesis.
- Forced labor for economic exploitation (EE), which comprises all forced labor imposed by private agents and enterprises in sectors other than the sex industry. It includes forced labor in agriculture, industry, and services, as well as in some illegal activities" (Bohl 2010: 27).

These three typologies cannot be generalized as same human trafficking cases, and needs to be clear distinction between those who are forced and trafficked into labor and others who are not forced.

### ***b) Sexual exploitation***

Both voluntary migration and trafficking can lead to sexual exploitation of women. Women are trafficked inside and outside the borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation by the traffickers. The women migrating for foreign employment often become victims of sexual abuse and exploitation unknowingly as though they are often aware of illegal migration but are kept unknown about the working conditions and nature of work. Women trafficking for

the purpose of sexual exploitation accounts for 58 percent of all trafficking cases detected globally, while trafficking for forced labor accounts for 36 percent (UNODC, 2012: 7).

According to the department of foreign employment of Nepal 2.3 million Nepali women have migrated in search of employment in Gulf countries and each year their number ranges from 67,000 to 83,000, however according to the report by Foreign Nepali workers rescue centers of these women only 3,000 women has proper documentation i.e. they migrated legally and voluntarily, the status and state of migration adopted by the rest of the cases are undocumented and these women who have migrated through other informal channels are most vulnerable to trafficking as they try to migrate via illegal channels. These undocumented migrants often end up being sold as prostitutes to neighboring countries and are subjected to sexual exploitation and violence. Due to fear of stigma from family and society, even voluntary migrants who end up in disastrous working condition and face sexual abuse do not report their cases to the Nepalese Government and other assisting organizations (SWW, 2013).

In context of Nepal, according to trafficking report, 53 percent of the victims were women and 33 percent were girls as per data 2007-2009 detected (UNODC, 2012: 69). “It is estimated that around 200,000 women and girls from Nepal have been trafficked and sold for prostitution into several cities of India and about 5000 girls are sold in each year. The trafficking of women and girls got attention in media and to the government when the times of India has identified the 100,000 Nepalese women working in Indian brothel in 1989. Many girls and child have been also trafficked to work in Indian circuses where they face sexual exploitations and several other tortures” (Crawford and Kaufman, 2011).

### **2.3 Migration and Trafficking in Nepal**

Nepal is a landlocked country situated between the world’s most populated and giants countries with china in the north and India in the other three east, west and south parts. Demographically, the total population of Nepal has grown speedily from 5.6 million people

in 1911 to 29 millions in 2009 and it is projected that approximately 14% of Nepal's urban population are living in 58 different municipalities, and it will grow up to 24% in 2017 and 32% by 2027 (ADB 2009:24), Kathmandu and other different cities of Terai as the main settlements. This rapid growth of people migrating from rural to urban areas of Nepal, India and several other Gulf countries is due to lack of economic opportunities, lack of employment chances and facilities and as an effect of Maoist crisis (1996-2006) with political instability and armed conflict. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia with a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$468 in 2008 (Bohl, 2010: 15).

Many countries have evolved from the agrarian to industrial economy in the last decades, however, Nepal has not done any progressive transformation in the transition process and in recent few years, foreign labor migration has become a prime part of Nepal's economy. The remittances obtained from migrant labors in foreign countries, has been strong contributing factor and it comprises nearly 18 % of Nepal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (ADB 2009:1). Thus, if remittances are declined than it may pose a significant risk to the country's balance of payments and overall macroeconomic stability that would have negative implications leading to the unemployment and underemployment. Some of the internal remittance is also derived from seasonal work in other rural areas of Nepal (Seddon et al 2002:3). Although the country's poses political instabilities and difficulties of making reforms and development programs, Nepal's GDP grew by 3.8 % from 2005-2009 due to increased remittances by migrants working in foreign countries. Poverty reduction is a key priority in Nepal's development strategy, and it has achieved a significant poverty decline from 42 % in 1996 to 31 % in 2004.

There are poverty and socio-economic differences among cast, ethnic and minority groups and the poverty reduction has been stronger among more advantaged and higher cast groups such as Brahmans, Chhetris and Newars (ethnic group), compared to social and economic excluded and disadvantaged groups such as Dalits, Janajatis and Muslims (ethnic groups). Dalits (lower cast groups) have a poverty incidence of 46 %, Muslims 41 % and hill Janajati 44 %, Terai Janajati 35 %, compared to Newars 14 % and higher cast of Brahmans with 18 % (ADB 2009:129).

Most of the trafficking in women/girls in Nepal is linked with the Nepalese medieval and patriarchal social construction. Human trafficking in Nepal does not have any authenticated beginning date, but antidotal data suggested that there was also internal trafficking of women/girls even before the Rana Regime (1847-1951), which was also considered dark ages in Nepal. During that time girls were bought from surrounding areas of Kathmandu valley and were recruited to work in royal and high profile places as housemaids, concubines, dancers and singers. These girls once entered into Rana place used to become the private property of the person who bought her and she was denied to have rights of maintaining her own private lives. When the Rana Regime was collapsed in 1951 with democracy, some Rana families took these girls together with them for their luxury and sexual pleasure and fled to India. Since, when Rana families got economic problem they could not employ these housemaids as a result some of these girls were sold and some bound to end up in Indian Brothels. These prostitute women later opened their own brothels and started recruiting women/girls from their own origin of Nepal (ONRT, 2008: 5).

Since, then by 1960s, trafficking of Nepalese women has been established as a criminal business between the Indian sex traders and Nepalese pimps and trend of trafficking for sexual exploitation continued and grows also during the Panchayat period (1960-1989). The main reasons behind this increment are, “i) the continued feudalistic approach to development, low socio-economic status of women and girls and the discriminatory cultural practices, ii) open up Nepal to the outer world and iii) lack of effective enforcement of the trafficking laws. Besides, other broader processes leading to trafficking include i) growth of carpet and other industry in the late 1980s, ii) internal armed conflict (1996-2006) and iii) growth of unsafe foreign labor migration, especially after 2000” (ONRT, 2008: 7).

The current trend of women trafficking is slightly different from that of past where women were sold and sexually exploited specially in the Indian brothel houses but when Government of Nepal open work permit for Nepali women to work in gulf countries, trend of women migration increased and these women are often sexually exploited in destination countries or in India though they were migrated for the reason of better employment and

wages. Previously, Nepalese women used to be trafficked to south Asian countries, however the area of women trafficking have been widened up to gulf and African countries after Nepal open the permission for the women to work in foreign countries (The Asia Foundation 2000).

The official record shows that women workers account only 3 percent of total Nepalese migrant workers, however, unofficial estimation shows that out of total migrant workers 30% are women working in the foreign countries (Maiti Nepal, 2013). Along with the increasing trend of women migrant workers, trend of women trafficking has also increased. Nepalese women are mainly trafficked for prostitution in Nepal, India, Middle East countries and Chinese district (Khasa) and are also subjected to forced labor. The agents often traffic women from the illegal route to Middle East countries where thousands of women are obliged to work forcefully being an illegal work. Many factors including social, political, cultural as well as increasing trend of migration as a result of globalization and liberalization have contributed much for the increasing trend of women trafficking. The most vulnerable group identified in the foreign land seeking for opportunities are the women migrants without proper documentation, close friends, family or other support networks. These women are afraid to contact the authorities and ask help even faced with difficult working conditions, low wages and sexual exploitation because of their shortcomings of proper documentation and other social causes (UNODC, 2012:52).

Apart from government induced migration routes for foreign employment another way of recruitment of Nepali women migrants to Gulf countries and Malaysia is through India (mostly from Delhi and Mumbai). There is no any authenticated data on the number of women migrants via these transit points but it is expected that around 50 percent Nepali women have gone in the Gulf countries through these routes. When the Government of Nepal in Gulf countries has identified the cases of sexual abuse, death and women violence, women's migration was banned in March 1998, but the number of women migration rather than declining was increased in huge number via illegal channels and routes. Even though the ban was lifted in January 2003, which applies only to organized sector, but not in the informal sector such as domestic work, Nepalese domestic workers continue to be employed unofficially (Seddon, Gurung and Adhikari, 2006: 172). This has forced many

Nepali women to seek informal networks for travelling abroad for employment opportunities and it makes them even more vulnerable of being trafficked (UNODC, 2008: 45).

#### **2.4 Governmental anti-trafficking initiatives in Nepal**

In order to combat human trafficking in Nepal, various commitments have been made in international as well national level along with specific policies and strategies. The Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR), Convention of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Person and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) have been signed by the Nepalese government. However, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000, are yet to be signed by the Nepalese government. (UNODC, 2010:52)

In line with the international commitments, Government of Nepal (GON) has initiated national plans and policy to combat trafficking. The subordinated bodies of GON, Ministry of Women and Children, Women Commission, and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are the major government organizations to formulate policies related to prevention of trafficking. These organizations consider advocacy and policy issues as a weapon to fight against trafficking. Similarly, the ministries such as “MoWCSW, Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), MoHA, MoLTM, Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM), Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) including Poverty Alleviation Fund plays significant role in the prevention of trafficking in women and children through their targeted and regular programs” (Kapur & Sanghera, 2000). Along with the government effort, non-governmental organizations such as Maiti Nepal, Sakti Samuha, Paurakhi also plays crucial role to combat human trafficking with different awareness and rehabilitations program (UNODC, 2012).

One of the major governmental initiatives by GON has been to strengthen anti trafficking legislation in the country, as such The Traffic in Human (Control) Act, 1986, which was enacted on November 28, 1986 to stop “human trafficking”. The main objective behind this Act was to provide law rectification measures to victims. This Act was based on existing provision mentioned in Muluki Ain (Code of law of the land) which was formed in 1964. The Muluki Ain is a code with legislations on punishing the offenders of trafficking. The provisions within this code are 10-year imprisonment to the offenders if they are caught before or during trafficking and 20 years of imprisonment if offenders are caught after trafficking. The code also has provision of punishing offenders of forced labor and slavery, which ranges from prison term of 3-10 years depending on the severity of the act (Kapur & Sanghera, 2000).

As defined in Article 4 of the 1986 Act, human trafficking act defined in Nepal (Kapur & Sanghera, 2000) includes: “

- To sell a person for any purpose.
- To take a person abroad with an intention of selling her/him.
- To have a woman engage in prostitution by persuasion or enticement or deception and fraud or pressure, or to encourage anyone to be engaged in such acts.
- To make attempt to commit any acts mentioned above, or to render assistance to commit such acts or to encourage anyone to be engaged in such acts.”

Similarly due to the documented case of sexual exploitation and forced labor of women migrants particularly in gulf countries, the GON devised a new foreign employment act 2007, the provision under this Act prohibits and restricts foreign employment of women under the age of 30 in gulf countries, however women beyond that age are allowed to work viewing that they can defend themselves and are less vulnerable if have contracts or agreements (UN Women, 2012: 6).

## **2.5 Non- Governmental effort and programs**

Alliance against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN), National Network against Girls Trafficking (NNAGT) are the two main networks of NGOs working against trafficking at a national level in Nepal. The main works of these NGOs are focused on campaigning, advocacy, lobbying and awareness raising programs together with governments and in vulnerable parts of the country. Similarly, there are many NGOs such as Maiti Nepal, WOREC, ABC Nepal, Sakti Samuha, Aasha Nepal and Peace Rehabilitation Center (PRC) etc. which are working to prevent, rescue and to rehabilitate the victims of trafficking. Among them Maiti Nepal is one of the influential and leading NGO to combat human trafficking in Nepal which was established in 1993. Maiti Nepal has established 3 preventions homes outside the capital Kathmandu, rehabilitation and crisis Centre at Kathmandu and several borders check points across the border between the India and Nepal. This NGO has been also successful in making formal partnerships with many organizations in India and other countries to track recruited victims and criminals through information sharing, lobbying and advocacy. It also works in the most vulnerable area offering awareness and prevention programs with care and support to the victims to counteract trafficking (ONRT 2008: 73, 75).

Maiti Nepal has been playing crucial role to rescue the trafficked victims from Indian brothels with the support of Nepalese police, Indian police and other relevant Indian NGOs. Even after the rescue, Maiti Nepal also provides different kinds of rehabilitation assistances according to the need of the victim's cases. Not only that Maiti Nepal also supports these victims to file the case against the traffickers by bringing the issue in front of the court for the favor of the victims (ONRT 2008: 73, 75). Among others, Maiti Nepal identifies and intercepts trafficking victims through its border monitoring program, conducts rescue operations, provide skills and income generating activities, provides victims with shelter and essential services, and implements initiative hope which offers medical treatment to victims infected with HIV of sex trafficked victims (American Bar Association, 2011).

## **2.6 Ethnicity, caste and trafficking**

In general, it is believed that only certain ethnic and caste groups are vulnerable to the women/girls trafficking for sexual exploitation but in facts many studies have shown that all caste and ethnic groups are vulnerable to trafficking. According to (Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women and Children) survivor report of sex work, “it appears that the highest proportion of trafficked victims constitutes for hill Janajati (45% to 55% of the total trafficking survivors), followed by hill Dalit. Dalits’ share may go as high as 23 per cent. The share of Brahman/Chhetri trafficking survivors ranges from as low as 15 to 24 per cent. The data reveal that there are also substantial numbers of trafficking survivors from Madheshi communities, especially from Tharu, Rajbansi, Satar, Bhagat, Yadav, Kumal, Thakur and Muslim communities. According to the print- report (1994-2001), are Tamang (12%), Chhetri (10%), Kami (7%), Damai (6%) and Brahmans (5%) are the five major trafficking survivors' social groups” (ONRT, 2008: 10).

## **2.7 Traffickers and the Process**

UN defines traffickers as those persons “ who enable or partake in the trade and exploitation of individual human beings ” (UN, 2008:2). A study on profile of 231 traffickers during the period (1994 to 2001) by IIDS and UNIFEM, for Nepal found out that among 231 traffickers 75 percent were male and 25 percent were female thus establishing the fact that male traffickers are more common in Nepal than female traffickers. The study also classified traffickers based on socio-economic dimensions, of the total traffickers 78 percent of male traffickers were found poor but literate, the age of the traffickers ranged from 18-54 years. According to the report “the highest proportion of traffickers was from Janajati (36%), followed by Brahman/Chhetri (24%), hill Dalits (21%) and Madheshi communities (16%) and the rest 3 per cent traffickers caste/ethnic groups were not identified. Among the individual caste/ethnic group, the highest proportion of traffickers were from Tamang (16.5%), followed by Chhetri (14%) and Kami (14%)”(ONRT, 2008: 19).

Several studies have shown that open border is a great barrier in controlling migration to India or via India to several other Gulf countries. Government of Nepal has established 26 check official checkpoints to control migration throughout the entire 1850 kilometers of border between India and Nepal, but there are hundreds of exit points, which lack security and NGO volunteers and through these point's illegal cross-border movement happens. Several studies showed that trafficking take place through networks of traffickers and its networks extends from village to destination countries. In case of Nepal the traffickers (recruiters) work alone, in small groups or as a part of large group in organized crime and they are called as dalals (men) or didis (women). Trafficker's work by creating links with customs, police, border-police, overseas recruiters, travel agents and agencies etc. and the means of trafficking in most cases are love, false marriage, coercion, force or threat, better employment opportunities and education (ONRT, 2008: 20,21)

## **2.8 Chapter Conclusion**

This chapter shows the global epidemic of women trafficking as a human rights violation and rights of the persons. Women trafficking have become great concerns for the third world countries like Nepal and also some of the developed word till today. Multiple marginalization in the societies such as inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, caste, poverty, language, and the lack of access to health, education, land, and livelihoods are the reason for higher number of women and girls becoming the victims of trafficking among the certain ethnicities and caste in Nepal. Foreign labor migration through the illegal routes by India is a great concern of Nepal as the government has banned after the cases of sexual abuse, exploitation and death rises in Gulf countries. Though the government has signed and initiated regulations to combat human trafficking in Nepal but its nexus is challenged by geographic, existing gender inequality, corruptions and lack of enforcement of obligations.

## **Chapter 3. Theories and theoretical framework:**

The thesis will be based on different theories, which would be used to conceptualize theoretical framework. The first theory neo classical theory describes about the push pull factors as the driving causes for the migration, Neo-liberalism describes the cross-border movements of people due to globalization and then legal optimism and pessimism theory which demonstrates about the legal aspects and its implication. Since the aim of this thesis is to investigate causative factors of human trafficking in the selected areas, these theories can be used to correlate the factors with human trafficking issue. These theories are further described below.

### **3.1 The neo classical migration theory**

The neo classical migration theory was the first analytical framework, which was made to explain push and pull model as the migration factors. In neo classical theories, the push factors are recognized as the causes of migration, which is about the migrant's motivation for migrating from the country of origin. Similarly, the pull factors are well known attractions of the destination countries. In general, it is understood that push factors are determined by demographic growth, lack of economic opportunities, low living standard and political repression at the country of origin, and the pull factors are linked to higher labor demands, better economic chances, availability of land, and political freedom in the destination countries (Castle & Miller 2009).

Neo classical theory can be viewed both from macro and micro level perspectives. At the macro level, "the neo classical theory assumed that the geographical disparities in the supply and demand for labor would generate migration flows, and that these flows slowly would balance wages and conditions between underdeveloped and developed countries, that eventually would lead towards an economic stability" (Bohl, 2010: 29). Because of this phenomenon migration would then cause labor to become less shortage at the destinations countries, and limited at the sending countries, which makes the capital to move in the

opposite direction, and eventually in long period eliminate reasons for migration (De Haas 2003:4).

Similarly, at the micro level, migration is considered as an individual decision based on a rational cost-benefit calculation, which includes migrant's free will and full access of knowledge's of where they can be most fruitful and gain more wages. It meant to say that migrant's who are looking for better income opportunities are well known about free access to the labor market, income levels and better employment opportunities at the destination country. The main critic of this theory is that, this theory neglects that most migrants (who are poor) have less and inconsistent information, and are often subjected to different kinds of constraints imposed by employers, agents and governments. Further more, it is not only poorest from developing countries migrates to richer and more developed countries, but people of intermediate social status also do migrate which are in transition state of undergoing economic and social change (Bohl, 2010: 29).

### **3.2 Neo-Liberalism:**

Neo-liberalism is a symbol of open world characterized by the market economy where market has the supreme power to determine the socio-economic functioning, where importance of an individual depends on how market recognizes him/her. Neo-liberalism is the "ideology of globalization" (Colás, 2005:76) which focus on the free trade and global village where movement of people has been set free. Scholars have various critical receptions regarding the shortfall of open market economy. As Castles argued,

*"Globalization is the integral part of forced migration and forced migration has to be defined with broader understanding of social transformation process in global social order or disorder."(Castles, 2009)*

In fact, alone with the emergence of Neo-liberalism, movement of people began. Movement of people created opportunities and challenges at the same time. As the increasing trend of global opportunities, migration started which later became the cause for the forced

migration creating social disorder. As Castles further argues, the social disorder is the result of uneven participation of the people in the structured global market mechanism. Such inequalities associated with the globalization insisted the unfair competition making ample room for exploitation. Human Trafficking is also a result of such exploitation of human being. The changing scenario of the global setup towards market economy from previous closed economy creates dominance on the social structure as Harvey mentioned

*“Neo-liberalism curbed the power of labor, deregulate industry, agriculture, and resource extraction, and liberate the powers of finance both internally and on the world stage” (Harvey, 2005).*

As David Harvey mentioned, Neoliberalism has created two types of freedom namely bad and good. Positive freedom can be regarded as a freedom of speech, freedom of using skill in the fullest scale. However, negative freedom is associated with the exploitation of the labor, social isolation for the marginalized people, inequalities resulting from distribution of resources, which in turn become the cause for the resource exploitation.

The exploitation of resource reduces the opportunities in the domestic land causing high mass of poverty. The lack of opportunities ultimately creates push factors for the youth to be trafficked, similarly, the demonstrative effect resulting from the liberal economy creates pull factor to youth to be migrated (Bales, 1999). Both Push and pull factors are directly associated with the human trafficking. Obligation of poor family to maintain hand to mouth problem and attraction of urbanization and liberalization creates a room for human trafficking, as youth want to search new opportunity in the new place.

Human trafficking got its pace after market economy, as globalization put fuel into fire to increase the mobility of the people creating space for trafficking. There is an urgent need of making international campaign to combat trafficking however specific code of conduct among the concerned countries is yet to formulate to reduce trafficking. However, the global effort of mitigating human trafficking revolved around prevention, prosecution, and protection (UNODC, 2006).

Crisis of human trafficking is severe crisis being faced ever (Hoque, 2010). In his own words,

*“Trafficking the painful reality of female sex workers in Bangladesh and argues that the current rate of growth in sex trade in Bangladesh is fostered by social and economic vulnerabilities that impel young women to engage in commercial sex work. Consequently, what has emerged in Bangladesh and across the borders in India, Malaysia, Pakistan and other Middle Eastern countries is the culture of women/girls trafficking both internally and across borders”*(Hoque 2010).

As in the Middle East and South Asian Countries, Nepal is also becoming the center for human trafficking though the government and non-governmental organizations have made a gainful effort.

### **3.3 Legal optimism and pessimism:**

The aspects of legal optimism and pessimism used in this thesis is to discuss and describe the relation between the society and law, “sociology of law examines how law affects the society and vice versa” (Gurvitch1973: 48), it is further used in the analysis of Nepalese law’s ability to fight human trafficking. According to this approach, legal optimism and legal pessimism have divergence views on the functionality of laws associated with the anti human trafficking acts. Legal optimism is considered to be an instrument to solve problems and is also a method for social control and it helps to prevent and resolve social conflicts effectively (Nielsen, 2011). Whereas legal pessimism argues that regulations and laws has limited power when it comes to regulating society and social norms, instead of laws governing social norms as argued by legal optimism, pessimistic approach argues the opposite (ibid).

Based on the arguments of Legal optimism and pessimism theories, strict anti-trafficking legislations can be used as an instrument to combat human trafficking, since legal optimism describes about law as the power governing the social activities, the law of a country controls people’s behavior i.e. in layman’s term a country with strict rules and regulations

will have lesser crime compared to countries with lesser law applicability, however legal pessimism proposes different views and argues about law having negligible impact on regulating people's behavior (Nielsen, 2011).

Based on these two theories the thesis would devise questionnaires for interviews of post-trafficked women/girls and key informant interviews, where participants would be asked about their views on current legislations in the country and how effective it is to prevent trafficking in general and the adequacy of justice and help provided to them through government legislations on human trafficking. Similarly the key informers would be interviewed on the applicability of the existing laws on human trafficking, its adaptability and drawbacks. These two theories will enable us to get insights on how optimistic people and anti-trafficking organizations are on adhering to the fact that stricter anti-trafficking rules can prevent trafficking in context of Nepal, is it only the laws that are needed to be changed or made more complex with various forms of capital punishment to the accused or it is more the social norms as argued by legal pessimistic approach that needs modernization in terms of empowering women by means of education and employment.

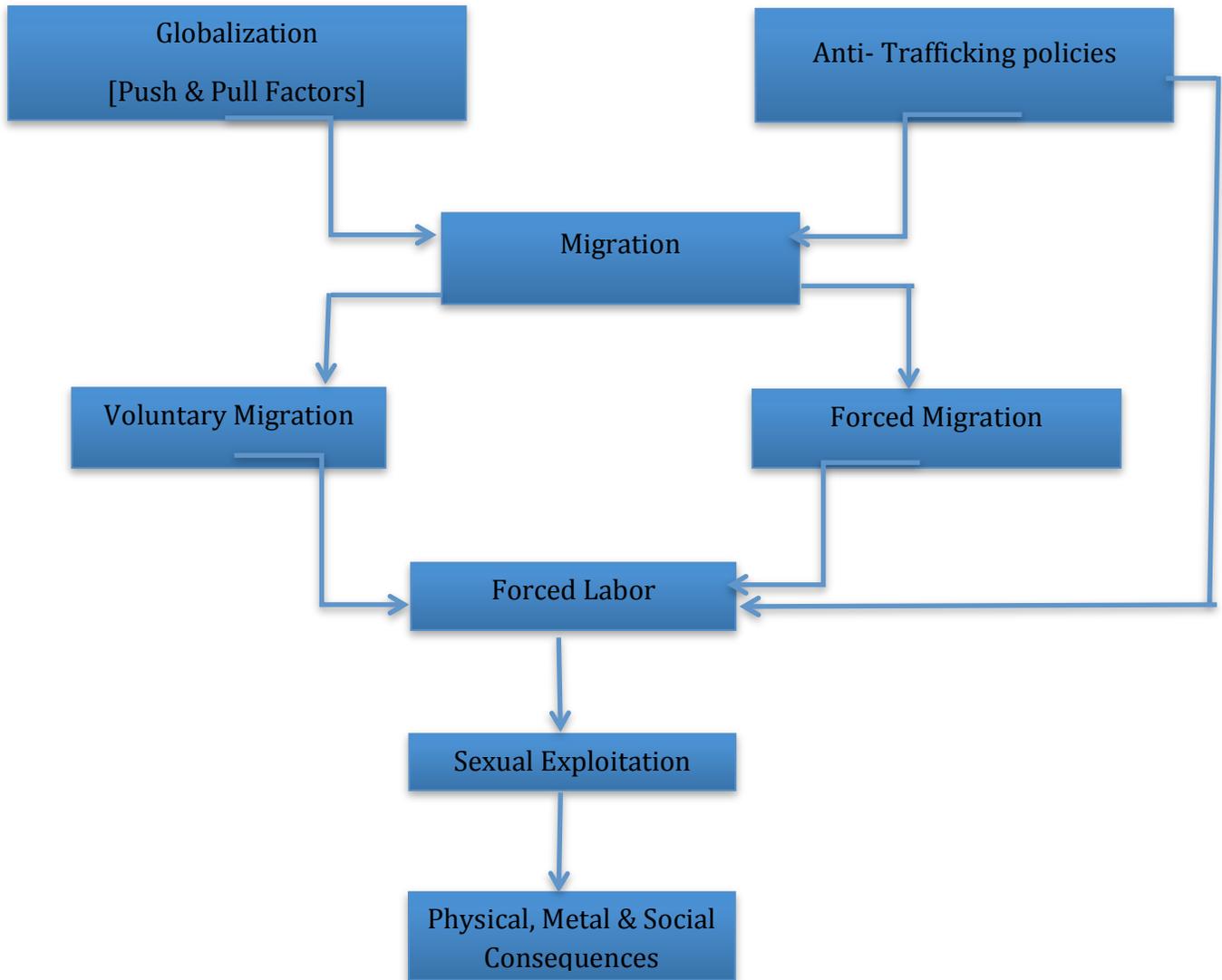


Figure 1: *Theoretical framework based on Neo-liberalism & legal positivism, pessimism*

The theoretical framework presented above was devised by the author and is entirely based upon the theories of neo classical migration, neo-liberalism and legal optimism & pessimism. It is developed for the purpose of guiding the entire research supported by the argument and concepts of the mentioned theories.

As seen in the figure above, migration is a two way process influenced by both push-pull factors (such as country context, economic and social prospects, poverty) as described by neo classical theory, and its also aided by anti-trafficking rules and legislations inside a country. Push and pull factors are created due to inequalities between the economic

conditions of countries and people are forced to migrate in search of better opportunities, these migration can be both voluntary and involuntary i.e. voluntary migration as a result of people own wish for better lifestyle whereas involuntary when people are forced to migrate due to deteriorating country condition, poverty and personal reasons.

Migration is further aided by anti-trafficking rules i.e. in absence of strict anti-trafficking rules often results in facilitating traffickers who are then able to lure the vulnerable parts of population and trafficked them for forced labor and prostitution. Even some of the voluntary migrated people end up in forced labor due false employment arrangements. These forced migrants are often seen exploited by company owners and other people as in case of Nepal higher number of female migrants working in gulf countries are reported to be victim of sexual abuse and forced into prostitution, which as a consequence leads to different mental and physical illness. These people are reported to be mentally socially and physically abused in migrated countries and when they are forced to return back to Nepal these people end up being stigmatized and seen as burden to society.

## **Chapter 4 : Research methodology**

This chapter presents the methodological, theoretical concepts and empirical data chosen in order to guide the whole research and also analyze the main concerns of this study that is to investigate the push and pull factors together with the governmental and non-governmental authorities' legislation, policies and programs to combat human trafficking.

Qualitative method of semi-structured interview among the post trafficked women/girls and key informants interview with the key persons from governmental and Non-governmental organization were carried out to gather the data needed to fulfill the aims of this thesis. In order to carry out the interviews, a research assistant Mr. Keshav Bhattra, was employed by the author and he was guided with necessary instructions and tools.

The spirit of the research question will guide the research methodology. Since, this research study aims to explore the causes (push and pull factors) and consequences of

women trafficking for sexual exploitation in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchock districts of Nepal. Both kinds of migration whether it is voluntary or involuntary (forceful), are caused by push or pull factors from country of origin to country of destinations. Along this stream of migration reason could be employment opportunity, economic gains, standards life style, and family economic statuses or any other, women/girls are trafficked at higher ratios and are sexually exploited inside or outside their country of residence. So, this thesis will be focused to examine the same kinds of causative factors leading to human trafficking from real victims details through the sets of qualitative interview questions. This research will address the research questions in an analytical and descriptive way aided by the theoretical concepts of, neo- classical migration, neo-liberalism and legal positivism & pessimism.

The qualitative data will be obtained taking into account the consequences of neo-liberalism on human trafficking. How increasing trend of the globalization and liberalization-playing role in increasing the level of trafficking will be the core issue study. The methodological tools developed for the study will focus on the causes and consequences of human trafficking from perspective of neo-liberalism. The global opportunities offered by liberalization have increased the movement of people. The government enacted policies and acts to welcome the globalization and liberalization. However, such policies have played role in human trafficking.

*"Neoliberal policies are instituted on the idea that for the expansion and maturity of social and economic international relations to occur, countries must prioritize capital gaining endeavors and detract from large social welfare investments. Over the time neoliberal globalization has buttressed exploitative and inequitable relationship between nations and has made the gap between the rich and poor expand. Together, the canonization of profitable factors have made economically vulnerable individuals, such as women in struggling economies, left completely exposed to the inequalities of the market. The subsidization of social services continually dwindles under neoliberal globalization, deconstructing the provisory shelter women have from the constraints*

*of the global capitalist patriarchy and the male biases of market competition and individualism. Developing regions have been forced to offer cheap, exploitable and disposable labor and goods as a means to remain economically viable in the world market today. It is in this transformation that women have been coerced to become a nation's more profitable product" (Sanders, 2012:1).*

As Sanders mentioned, the methodological tools being used in the study will focus on the extent of inequalities created by the globalization in between haves and have-not and its effect on society. How distraction of investment for social welfare obliges poor to be exploited will be explained analytically. The competitiveness resulting from the increasing trend of market economy is indirectly forcing developing region to offer cheap and exploitable labor. The labor force of developing world is often found as a subject of profitable product, which can be easily manipulated.

Sex trafficking associated with the labor transformation, is a worst example of globalization as market economy has directed women forcefully or manipulating them to be sex worker. Though men, women, children of developing region are the major target of the traffickers, women trafficking has the predominance especially in Southeast Asian region (Lee, 2007: 51). The women having vulnerability and isolation use to be the major target for trafficking as they represent the minority class of the society culturally, politically and socially (ADB, report).

Nepal as a member of WTO (World Trade Organization) is also a part of globalization and liberalization for more than two decades. It has decade long experience of opening door for foreign employment, which in turn facilitate informal migration leading thousands of women/girls to work in different parts of world as an employee. Different sources show that the percentages of unskilled labor flying abroad are higher than the skilled labor. According to the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Labor and Transportation Management (MOLTM), 75 percent are unskilled while only 25 percent labor are semi-skilled among the Nepalese workers going abroad for the work. The age group between 20-30 years comprises 80 percent of these Nepalese foreign workers and 75 percent are even not

completed their secondary school education. Skilled youths relatively have better job opportunities in foreign markets, whereas unskilled workers have reportedly been facing several problems that end up doing low ranking jobs at lower salary. Some unskilled labors even have been facing several problems including loot, deception, and torture and labors having marginalized background are vulnerable for the trafficking. The government of Nepal has enacted several laws and policy to combat the trafficking. National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons 2011-2016, National Child Protection Policy 2011, and Foreign Employment Policy 2011 are some of the anti-trafficking policies of Nepal Government (MOLTM, 2010).

Taking into account the stated fact, the present methodological approach will directly examine the scenario of women trafficking of Nepal. The increasing trend to neo-liberal economy influences Nepali women/girls to migrate from local to national region and then to cross- border countries and then and thus become victims of trafficking. The socio-cultural issues, the pull and push factors and effect of neo-liberal policy of government which foster the increasing trend of trafficking rate will be the core issue of study. The descriptive and analytical methodology is applied to make surveillance on the anti trafficking policies, causes and consequences of the trafficking, practical difficulties in mitigating the trafficking created by neo-liberal policy of Nepal.

As the study is designed to observe the social causes and legal factor associated with trafficking for sexual exploitation, hence the theoretical approach based on the concept of legal optimism and pessimism will also be used as a part of this thesis, which will be detailed later in the theories section. The reason behind selecting this distinct theoretical concept is to examine the dimensions of women trafficking and its mitigating measures from legal perspective via abilities and enforcement. The concept of legal optimism and pessimism will be helpful to study women trafficking from legal perspective and its functions in combating trafficking for sexual exploitation. The legal pessimism always doubts on the ability of law in building just society whereas legal optimism believes on the strength of law to be able to shape the social norms and values positively (Neilsen, 2011).

Referring this concept, this thesis will examine legal abilities to combat human trafficking, policies, plans, and programs from the perspectives of government and non-government organizations.

Since, this study focuses on the causes and social consequences of women/girls trafficking in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok districts of Nepal and the initiation of concerned stakeholder in combating the human trafficking. The nature of the study will be solely qualitative, based on the semi-structured interviews of post-trafficked victims and key personals from Governmental & Non-Governmental organizations. The information's will be collected from both target groups to explore the causes behind trafficking for sexual exploitation and to make meaningful outcome through all these gathered facts.

#### **4.1 Demographic of study Area and target groups**

To explore the causes and consequences of women trafficking for sexual exploitation, two adjoining districts that has higher prevalence of trafficking cases i.e., Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok were selected. In order to accomplish this research and to gather primary information that will be necessary for the answering of the research questions post trafficked women for sexual exploitation who are residing in the rehabilitation centers of Kathmandu were considered but they must has to be from either Nuwakot and Sindupalchok. These selected districts are regarded as a sensitive area and are more prone to women trafficking and mostly the girls of indigenous community are being targeted for trafficking by the traffickers (UNODC, 2008: 7,17).

Nuwakot & Sindhupalchok districts



Figure 2: map showing the case study districts Newakot and Sindupalchok (copied from Google)

The reason for choosing post trafficked victims of trafficking from these most vulnerable areas is to examine what causative factors is behind them to be trafficked and also to investigate why still magnitude is severe which would also help the policy and program makers to counteract human trafficking. Taking post trafficked women as target group would help to gain valuable information for the research purpose as victims are able to narrate the real scenarios of problems and consequences, the descriptive information thus gathered would be helpful to generalize the causes and consequences of human trafficking particularly in these areas in Nepal.

## 4.2 Research Design

In order to make any type of research a well-set research design is necessary to fulfill the objectives of the study. Generally, research design means definite procedure and techniques which guides to study and provide ways for research viability. It is arrangements for collection and analysis of data. This is further illustrated by the following flowchart:

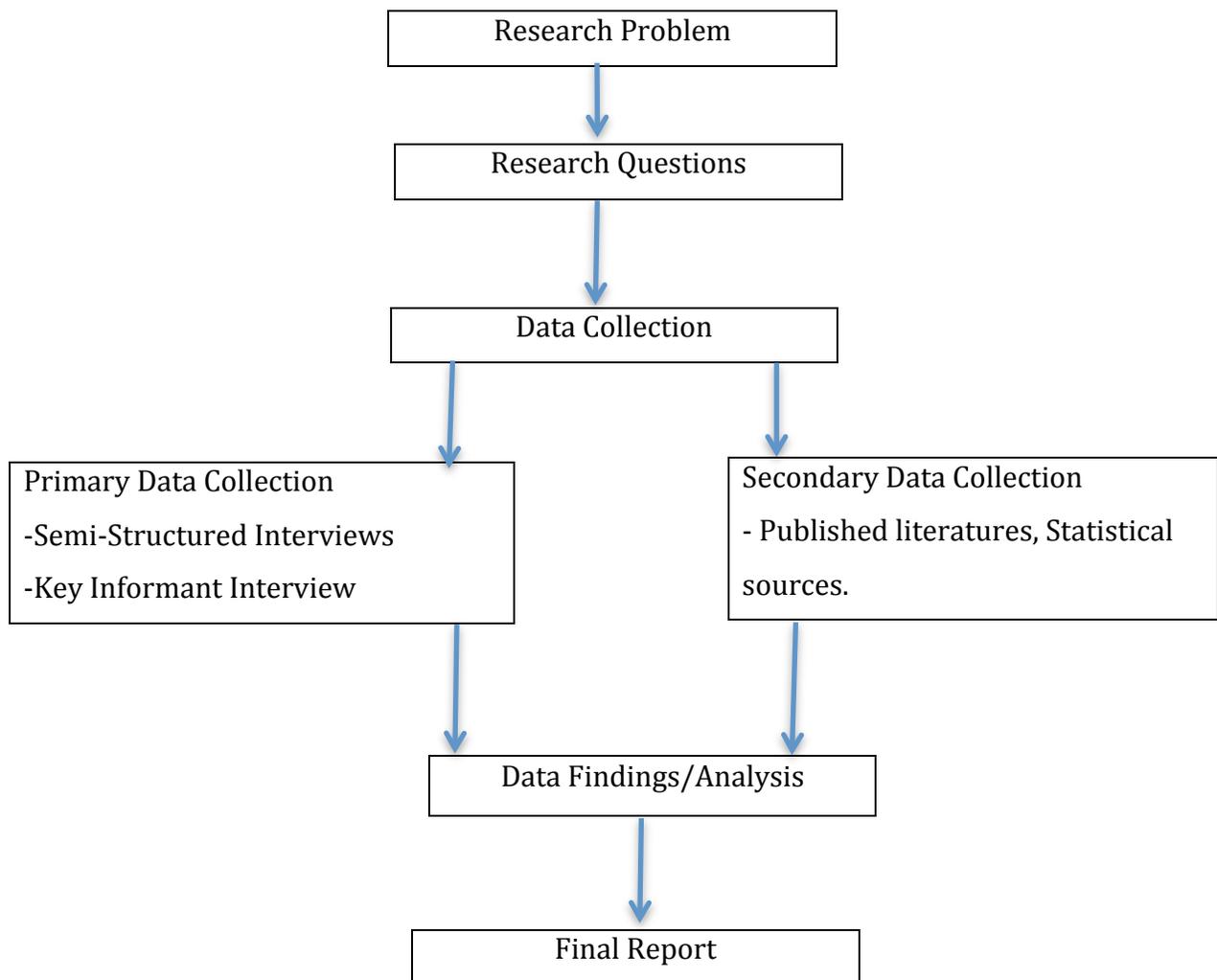


Figure 3: Flowchart of Research Design

### **4.3 Sampling method:**

For this thesis, the participants were chosen by the method so called Non-probability purposive sampling. Sampling is the method of selecting portion of finite population which to be studied. Nonprobability sampling does not involve the random selection of the participants rather select the predetermined samples from the population and purposive sampling involves when the researcher selects participants based on a purpose i.e. for this research the author selected post-trafficked women with a predefined purpose of gathering information on causes of sexual exploitation. The main reason for selecting this method is that it is inexpensive and can be carried out quickly. (Battaglia, Michael P, 2011: 523,524)

Sampling criteria for this research were:

- Must have been trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Must be living in rehabilitation center in Nepal
- Must originate from study area i.e. Nuwakot and Sinduplanchok

Based on the sampling criteria participants were contacted through personal networks in rehabilitation center. Of 25 participants who were contacted for this research only 7 participants agreed to be the part of this research as the research was based on sensitive issue. Thus the response rate was 28%.

### **4.4 Data collection Method**

This study was based on both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary sources of information were gathered through semi-structured interviews with post-trafficked women while information on governmental legislations and organizational perspective on this issue was gathered through key informant interview of personnel's from Maiti Nepal.

#### **4.4.1 Primary data:**

##### *Qualitative Semi-structured interviews:*

Primary data for this research was obtained from semi-structured interviews with the post-trafficked women from Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok districts of Nepal. A questionnaire with series of question on demographic distribution, social dimensions and causes of sexual exploitation was used. This method was chosen for the data collection because an interview can help the researcher to get detail information on the subject in the participant's own words.

According to Steiner Kvale a semi-structured interview is an "Interview whose purpose is to obtain descriptions of the interviewee's life world with respect to interpreting the meaning of the described phenomenon" (Kvale, 1996:5). Since, the objective of my research is to get detailed information about the causes of trafficking and the experiences of target groups and this approach is suitable when the aim of the research is to get in-depth descriptions that explain and give meaning about the issues of problem. I decided on using one on one qualitative interview among the post-trafficked women/girls because in focus group interview people often know each other, which can lead to conscious or subconscious posturing or suppression of some comments that can undermine the perceptions of other participants.

One of the other advantages of using qualitative interview methods is that by using open-ended questions like why and how, qualitative interviews provide the opportunity for participants to describe their experiences in their own words and this is important for this research to learn a lot about important aspects about our target group's experience, their knowledge and causes that leads to the sexual exploitation conditions. The other advantages of using qualitative research is that it allows us as interviewers to probe for more details and ensure the participants are interpreting the questions in the way they were intended. The qualitative interview also allows interviewer to use own knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills to explore interesting or unexpected ideas or themes raised by participants. However this method also has some disadvantages since this

method is more intrusive than quantitative approaches so the participants may say more than they intended to say and this method is time consuming while interpreting and analyzing the results because the results are subjective and will therefore mostly be longer (Kvale, 1996).

#### *Key informant interview:*

Key informant interviews were also used as primary data collection method since one of the main objectives of this research was to figure out perspective of local GO and NGOs on the subject matter. Thus key persons from leading organizations working towards the prevention of trafficking were contacted which included persons from Ministry of Women and Child welfare, key spokesperson from Youth Ngo and official from Maiti Nepal. They were contacted through personal networks and email. Of all the organization contacted for the research purpose information couldn't be gathered from Maiti Nepal because of their busy schedule. Mr. Keshav Bhattarai was employed to conduct the interviews. The interview was scheduled for 15-20 minutes. The information's were recorded in tape and later transcribed for the analysis.

#### **4.4.2 Secondary data:**

The secondary data used in this research were obtained from various literatures and statistics committee of Nepal. Similarly published data from various governmental and nongovernmental organizations have also been used as secondary source of information.

#### **4.5 Ethical considerations**

The interview can affect the people being interviewed and therefore the moral and ethical reflections were considered before the interview (Kvale, 1996). Ethical considerations were taken into account while gathering data thorough interviews. Prior to real interview, Maiti Nepal was contacted to get the permission for conducting an interview with the post-trafficked women/ girls and the organization made arrangement and room available. The

ethical considerations that have been taken into account while conducting this interview are:

**Consent:** Verbal consents were made to all the selected post-trafficked women/girls from Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok prior to the study. A detailed explanation was carried out in order to inform the participant about the nature and the purpose of the study. Furthermore all participants were told that they were free to withdraw from participating if they were uncomfortable at any point of time.

**Confidentiality:** As confidentiality was perceived as a sensitive issue, participants were informed that their names and their views would remain confidential and the information would only be used for the purpose of the thesis and nothing else.

**Privacy:** All interviews were conducted at a room provided by the Maiti Nepal and participants were allowed to take one friend with them to make them feel more comfortable.

#### **4.6 Reliability and validity**

To ascertain the reliability of questionnaires expert review method was used. The thesis supervisor was asked for feedbacks on the validity and importance of questionnaires being used for the interviews. Similarly the questionnaires were pretested on friends to ascertain the understandability of questionnaires so that amendments could be done before conducting the actual interviews.

#### **4.7 Transcription and Analysis of data:**

All the interviews were carried out by the research assistant Mr. Keshav Bhattarai in Nepalese local language to ease the level for understanding which were recorded in a tape recorder and sent back to author; all the interviews were transcribed from Nepalese to English for further analysis but only one interview from each 2 groups (Post trafficked

women/girls and GO & NGO personals) were transcribed as an example by the author, which is attached in the appendix 1 & 2.

## Chapter 5 : Results and Findings

### 5.1 Findings from Semi-Structured interviews (Post trafficked women):

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the research participants:

Participant /Region*	Age *	Education	Economic Status	Trafficked country	Incentive provided for Migration	Routes of migration
1.SP	14	Primary	Poor	India	Employment, education	Agent
2. SP	17	Primary	Poor	India	Better life, education	Agent
3.SP	18	Primary	Very poor	India	Better job, money	Relatives
4.NW	17	Primary	Poor	Kuwait	Foreign employment	Employment Agent
5. SP	15	Primary	Poor	India	Job Opportunities	Neighbor
6.NW	13	No education	Very Poor	India	Marriage	Husband
7.NW	20	No education	Poor	Iraq	Employment	Employment Agency

Region\* - NW (Nuwakote) SP( Sindhupalanchowk)

Age \* - Age at which participants were trafficked

Table 1 above describes the demographic characteristics of the participants who were recruited for the purpose of this study. Of 7 participants who decided to participate in this study, 4 were from Sindhupalchok while 3 of them were from Nuwakot and were living in rehabilitation center being governed by Maiti Nepal and Shakti Samuha. The average age of the trafficked participants was found to be 16.28 where 13 being the lowest reported age and 20 being the highest.

Of seven participants, 5 of them reported to have primary education (School level education), while 2 of the participants were uneducated without any form of formal education. Similarly all of the participants were found to have lower economic status i.e. all of them were poor. 5 of the participants were trafficked to India while participant 4 and Participant 7 were trafficked to Kuwait and Iraq respectively.

Arranged employment with high paid jobs, quality education and modern lifestyle were the most common incentives provided by the traffickers as reported by almost all the participants, While one of the participant (Participant 6) reported being trafficked to India through false marriage and later sold into an Indian Brothel. Most of the participants reported on being trafficked by local agents.

In her own words as described by Participant 6;

*"I was married to a guy from neighboring village at age of 13 as my parents didn't have enough money to support me and my brothers, after the marriage my husband told me that we will travel to Bombay for honeymoon, I was excited, he told me that we will stay in a aunts house in Bombay, When we reached he left me with the aunt and told me that he will be back with some food but he never came back". (Translated by Author in English)*

## **5.2 Victimization and Causes (Push-Pull factor) as reported by participants:**

During the interviews, participants were asked to describe the factors that had role to play in their trafficking. As seen from the interview, most of the participants reported about their lower economic status as the main cause that prompted them to fall for fake promises

and incentives provided by the traffickers. Apart from poverty, lack of awareness, education, female employment opportunities, political instability and family pressure were also found to be key push factors as reported by participants. Information's from interview identified, better employment prospects and promises of modern and better lifestyles identified as key pull factors used by traffickers and employment agencies.

In her own words as described by participant 3,

*"We have a huge family with lots of siblings and since I was the oldest one my parents wanted to me to work and look after the family, I tried searching jobs but I couldn't get one because I had only primary education, thus I came across a guy in our neighborhood through my friend who could help me to go to India, he promised me of better job and I went with him, later I found out that I was sold into one brothel in India for 20,000 India currency". (Translated by Author in English)*

Similarly Participant 4 who was trafficked to Kuwait had different story, in her own words

*"I went to Kuwait through an employment agency in Nepal through India as domestic household helper to a rich family in Kuwait, I was promised with a salary of 900 USD every month, but I received only 200 USD.. When I asked the house owner about the salary I was verbally abused and threatened to death, I was forced into doing things which I wasn't supposed to do, finally after 2 years of horrified life I was able to run away from that employer to a Nepali guy who promised me of better job in Kuwait, he later sold me to a place where I was sexually exploited.. So who can you trust?" (Translated by Author in English).*

### **5.3 Consequences of trafficking on Victims as reported by the participants:**

During the interview, participants were also asked about the consequences they faced as a victim of trafficking and later upon their arrival back in Nepal. All of the participants reported on physical and mental abuse during their stay in foreign land, since most of the participants were recruited for sexual exploitation to India, they reported on facing physical and verbal abuse by the clients and brothel owners. They also reported that they

were not provided with any health care and had to work everyday with little or no pay. They were kept aloof from family members weren't permitted to call or write letters and had to live their life in complete isolation and captivity which made them mentally sick at times and some of the participants reported having suicidal thoughts.

Upon their arrival in Nepal which is mostly through the help of anti-trafficking organizations, most of the participants reported that they didn't want to go back to home directly because of stigmatization and scrutiny they were about to face with.

According to participant 3 in her own words,

*"I went back to my home as soon as I was brought to Nepal by Maiti Nepal, at the beginning my family was happy because I had some money with me, later when I told them my real story and told them that I was forced to work as prostitute.. They started viewing me as Disease Carrier and stopped talking with me and some of them even told me that I should die, because I have AIDS. So I faced torture even when I came back to my own country and my own family, even though I didn't do it intentionally, so I had no choice but to leave my village and stay with people like me in rehab centers". (Translated by Author in English)*

Similarly as described by the participants 7 in her own words,

*"Initially I came to Iraq for the domestic work, upon my arrival to Iraq I was forced to work more than the hours that was told me in Nepal, for 1 year I was not provided with any salary and when I inquired them for the salary, I was sexually and verbally abused many times and even threatened to death if this case be told to any person". (Translated by Author in English)*

All of the participants are now living in rehabilitation centers operated by anti trafficking organizations are being supported to live a productive life through different initiatives like awareness education, vocational skills development activities, training centers, workshops. Most of the participants reported on having desire to get back to their homes as soon as they are mentally, physically and economically self standing.

#### **5.4 Findings from Key Informant Interviews:**

In order to get the perspective of organization working towards prevention of trafficking a KII was conducted for 15-20 with key personnel's from the contacted organization.

According to the spokesperson from Ministry of Women and children and social welfare, trafficking in general is a global issue and has been identified as serious problem in developing and also in some parts of developed world. In context of Nepal, he added trafficking as a serious crime and highly condemnable act, which has serious consequences on physical, mental well being of the victims and their families. Women in general are vulnerable due to pre-existing social norms and gender discrimination and due to ineffective government policies on women empowerment and educational facilities marginalized communities from rural Nepal are especially vulnerable to trafficking. In his own words " Poverty, illiteracy lack of employment opportunities, illegal recruitment for foreign employment are root causes of women trafficking in Nepal". He further added that women in particular fall for fake promise of employment and better life as promised by the traffickers and agents. According to him due to globalization and free movement of people, employment has been the widely used tool while recruiting victims and due to ineffective border control policies people usually chose the illegal and easy way for foreign employment and thus fall prey to these traffickers. Though government of Nepal has been working on various policies and reforms to tackle this issue but the implementation of these rules has not been effective thus reforms are needed to trace the agents and traffickers particularly conducting illegal channels for migration. When asked about the organizations policies for ant trafficking he added that the key area of reform in Nepal has been on development and only fractional amount of budget are being used in these areas, however the ministry has been working with different local organizations to prevent trafficking in vulnerable areas.

He raised his concern on current political instability of Nepal, which has been the hindrance on reforming existing policies to suit the demand, and needs of current generation. On prevention policies he added that equal participation of women, liberal

educational policies, employment opportunities, awareness raising interventions and stricter punishment to the offenders could be preventative strategies. Though the problem has been growing as epidemics in context of Nepal, but he was optimistic on current political stability and suggested that it will come up with better prevention strategies.

According to spokesperson from National federation of youth Nepal, women trafficking is a serious and highlighted current issues although this organization does not work directly with women trafficking issue but are working to enhance youth empowerment, capacity building and advocacy for the ongoing youth problem and policies related with human trafficking as well. He further added that lack of awareness among rural women about trafficking, lack of equal opportunities, employment and poverty aided by norms and values of women in Nepalese culture are the root causes of women trafficking. In his own words “the gender discrimination and inequality existed in the Nepalese rural societies is often the means that facilitates the migration and women’s leave their home uninformed accompanied by their desire of better life in neighboring countries India”. It is not only the poorest and uneducated are trafficked as most people assumed but he added both educated and uneducated have been trafficked through false employment promises.

About recent trend of migration, he was conscious and said that banning women migration is not the resolution but managing foreign migration in a better way would enhance and decrease the illegal foreign migration and thus reduce the women trafficking too. Accordingly, if foreign migration could be tackled through more systematic way by providing necessary skills to the women who want to enter global market then it also helps to strengthen the national economy as they can earn more than if send without skills and awareness. In his own words “women are particularly behind and their problem are unsolved because there is the lack of women involvement in the decision making process and if women will be involved equal as men in parliament, their problem like women trafficking will be also solved”. He think that although there are many NGOs working to prevent women trafficking but without strict governmental laws it might be almost impossible and further added that women trafficking has to be addressed through 3

dimensions socially (security and equal rights), economically (skills building and employment opportunities) and by reformation of strict national policies.

Similarly, according to the spokesperson from small entrepreneur self employment fund, about the rising concerns of women trafficking in Nepal, the root causes of women trafficking are pull factors of the destination countries such as better employment and economic opportunities as offered in big cities of India and Gulf countries. He pointed out that lack of employment opportunities for women in rural Nepal aided by inequality in education and lack of awareness are the major contributing factors of women trafficking. He mentioned in his own words “if women are provided self - surviving skills in their own local area and given first priority of jobs specially for the poor, then we can reduce the vulnerabilities among the women which eventually reduce the migration and women trafficking too”. He further added that awareness about the trafficking in trafficking prone districts; employment opportunities and equal education to both boys and girls certainly would be the ways to prevent women trafficking. He also recommended that if Government provides employment and income generating opportunities for women then automatically those that are trafficked in search of employment in foreign countries would be eliminated.

## **Chapter 6: Analysis and discussion:**

### **6.1 Analysis of findings from semi-structures interview (Post trafficked women):**

The findings from interviews suggested that women from marginalized area like Nuwakot and Sindupalchok are more vulnerable to trafficking. Based on the findings from interviews and Key informant interviews, poverty was identified as a key factor driving this inhuman act, however poverty wasn't found to be a single factor leading to human trafficking apart from poverty lack of women rights, empowerment, gender discrimination and unequal opportunities were also found as factors promoting women trafficking. All of the seven participants were lured by traffickers with the false promise of better employment, education and better life style, which illustrates the different forms of existing economic

and social inequalities in Nepal and its exploitation by traffickers. The results from this research are similar to a research on women trafficking with special reference to prostitution, the study concluded that Women trafficking in Nepal is not because of a single factor like poverty but is a nexus of various factors like women education, empowerment, social practices and dysfunction in households (Subedi et al., 2001). Modes of trafficking in general can be divided into “Hard” and “ Soft” mode of trafficking, where Hard trafficking refers to deceptive form of trafficking and soft trafficking refers to trafficking with consent from the family members, the participants in this study based on the interviews were mostly victim of Hard trafficking.

The interview data revealed that most of the participants in this study had only primary education and had poor family background suggesting that education can be a contributing factor when it comes to awareness of trafficking and migration. Unfortunately these vulnerable areas like Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok are also the districts with very low level of literate female population. The national data suggests that adult female literacy in these districts is 8.0 % and 10% respectively (Subedi et al., 2001). Education has been identified as a key area that needs to be worked upon to prevent women trafficking in south Asian countries, due to lower level of education among females they often are unemployed so any chances of employment be it in internal cities or elsewhere can be used a bait by the traffickers, thus providing equal opportunities of education and raising awareness should the first step towards preventing women trafficking in context of Asian countries (Asia foundation, 2008).

As suggested by neo-classical migration theory, push factors are determined by demographic growth, low living standard, lack of economic opportunities and political repression and this study also found out that all of the participants have similar kinds of factors as suggested by the neoclassical migration theory that forced them to look for opportunities that they lacked in their own country. Similarly, the participants were also attracted by pull factors comprising of labor demands, better life style, better economic opportunities and wages in neighboring countries and as promised by the traffickers and employment agencies.

Two of the participants in this study who were trafficked to work illegally in countries like Kuwait and Iraq respectively were later victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, thus globalization as suggested by theory of Neo-liberalism which argues on free movement of people also comes up with different positive and negative aspects. On positive notes due to globalization people who lack opportunities in their native country are free to move to other part of the world and explore better opportunities. In context of Nepal globalization has been a boon in a sense that high proportion of country's GDP is based on remittances from the migrated foreign workers. However this has also resulted in unequal social transformation and helped to broaden the existing economic disparities between rich and poor. This disparity manipulates poor and uneducated people to migrate without proper knowledge about the nature of work, employment conditions or their rights as a worker and they often fall victims to illegal traffickers. On the other hand globalization has helped the developed nation to hire cheap labors from developing countries, this process has also resulted in increment of human trafficking.

## **6.2 Analysis of the findings from Key Informants Interview:**

The findings from KII suggested that, the current laws and regulations concerning trafficking in Nepal is not sufficient and needs some serious amendments in order to prevent trafficking in Nepal. As reported by KII participants there are many NGOs and INGOs working in Nepal to combat women trafficking however the problem still remains a serious concern in Nepal and as found out by this research KII participants also reported that women trafficking in Nepal is not only caused by one single factor but is a complex phenomenon driven by various social, economical and political factors.

Though KII participants were part of different organization with different strategies however their concerns and recommendations were similar. Based on their recommendation there are still loop holes in present Nepalese context, thus the problem of trafficking can only be addressed by considering and reforming all the driving forces i.e. social, economical and political.

### *Social Reforms:*

The entire KII participant focused on the importance of social reforms in Nepal. Social reforms included equal participation of women in every sector, women empowerment, eradication of gender discrimination and violence against women. Women and girls should be empowered with provision of free education and job opportunities. The KII participants stressed on the fact that education can provide awareness and also enable people to find suitable employment in their own country, thus reducing the chances of migration and vulnerability to trafficking. Nepalese society mostly in rural areas has already been plagued by caste system, dowry system and marginalization of minority groups, female from this group are always vulnerable thus proper social reforms are required to abolish caste, gender and social discrimination in Nepal. As seen from the literatures, which were used, as secondary sources, women and girls from ethnic minority groups like Dalit (lower caste) are the ones being trafficked than high-class groups. Thus social reforms should focus on women and girls from ethnic minorities by providing them with provision of free education and employment chances. Similarly forming empowered and socially aware communities with social cohesion that are capable of preventing themselves and their members from traffickers could also be a method of prevention.

### *Economical Reforms:*

Trafficking has been described as "the dark underbelly of globalization" (CRS, 2014). The rapid economical, technological and social changes worldwide has increased peoples vulnerability to human trafficking and at the same time has provided the offenders with chances to exploit vulnerability (ibid) , similar concerns were presented by KII participants , with growing migration for foreign employment in Nepal , at one side the remittance has been a key income source for National economy , while on the other hand the brain drain and reported cheap labor exploitation and sexual abuse has left Nepal with reducing number of productive young generation. One of the KII participants expressed his concern on how media technology has left people vulnerable, due to technological globalization everyone has access to Television, radio these days, and mostly young population from remote areas are lured by the foreign employment advertisement which manipulates their

preexisting thought on luxurious foreign life, and ultimately they seek ways to migrate and often end up being trafficked. Everybody in Nepal wants to go abroad, he added. To stop this illegal trade, economic reforms should be a prime concern for Nepalese government.

One of the most important factors leading to migration in Nepal has been the stagnant development sector, though Nepal has been in the process of development but due to unstable politics industrial reforms and development hasn't been enough to match up with the growing population and their employment needs. Similarly investment sector, agricultural sector hasn't seen much of development, thus people from the areas where agriculture is the main stay of economy are forced to migrate in search of better opportunities. Thus serious economic reforms are needed to sustain the growing population. Creation of enterprises, industries focused on production sector with equal participation of female workers should be considered, provision of micro financing with minimum interest should be provided to agrarian families. For uneducated population, vocational education and training courses on fields like carpentry, jewelry making, carpet industries, cooking, sewing and weaving courses should be provided so that they are able to create chances of employment within the country. Capacity building, skill development, women empowerment should be focal areas.

#### *Political Reforms:*

While politics in developed countries is considered to be driving force behind the country's overall development, in context of Nepal politics has played an opposite part. The KII participants expressed their deep concern over the political instability in Nepal and how has it left Nepal in severe crisis. The decade long Maoist conflict in Nepal had tremendous impact in migration and displacement of rural families, where people were forced to leave their homes, these people were also easy victims for traffickers and during that era large number of girls have been reported to be trafficked to India and neighboring countries. Though the Maoist crisis has now been over, political instability still remains a concern in Nepal.

Anti trafficking laws and regulation, program and policies though are addressed in Nepal, however their implementation hasn't been sufficient enough to prevent the problem of human trafficking in Nepal. Trafficking among women has largely been viewed as deceptive migration for labor, ignoring the facts on possible sexual exploitation and child labor that comes along. Poor implementation of existing laws and regulations, corruptions, lack of monitoring and coordination among concerned stakeholders, suppression of women rights and mobility can be seen as drawbacks in the overall governmental approach towards issue of trafficking.

The KII participants reported that instead of making provision for tougher immigration requirement for women, for ex the foreign employment act which banned women less than 30 years old to seek employment in foreign countries, government should focus on systematic and supportive migration policies generally for women. Due to this policy, women are forced to use illegal routes and channels for employment increasing their vulnerability. Government should make provision on skills development prior to migration so that migrated foreign workers can find suitable jobs and migration should only be carried out by authentic government agencies with minimal cost. Similarly, the Nepalese government should collaborate with the governments from neighboring countries for proper border control and help to migrate workers in unfortunate situations. Though various GO and NGO organizations in Nepal are working on preventing trafficking but they need further support from government in terms of resources and legal frameworks. All the KII participants suggested that NGOs and INGOs working in Nepal cannot be effective until and unless government legislation are strong and supportive enough.

As argued by the legal optimism and pessimism theory and as supported by the KII participants, effective laws and regulation can change the shape of society and control the criminal activities around society, but they expressed pessimistic views on the current

political laws and support from Nepalese government. After decade of political turmoil Nepalese politics has finally achieved stability and now is working towards social and development reforms and provision of New Constitution with reforms on various prioritized sectors including human trafficking which can be viewed as an optimistic path.

## **Chapter 7: Conclusion and Recommendations**

Migration for foreign employment in Nepal is now a common phenomenon with thousands of people migrating each year to fulfill their wish for better life. The unstable politics, socio-economic disparities and existing norms and traditions in Nepalese society with respect to gender, ethnicity and caste can be considered the push factors contributing towards migration. Government has also been actively promoting foreign migration for the benefits that comes along i.e. remittance that now is a vital part of Nepal's national economy. Among the pull factors high labor demand, employment opportunities and technological and media advancement are key factors attracting poor rural population, this attraction to foreign employment comes up as a great opportunity that is exploited by traffickers and fake employment agencies and used as bait for trafficking.

The results from semi-structured interview in this research with 7 post trafficked girls identified poverty as root factor leading to emigrational thoughts that was later exploited by the traffickers and ultimately these girls ended up being trafficked for sexual exploitation. Though poverty was identified as root cause, various other factors were also identified as contributing factors, factors like low education, lack of awareness and empowerment, social exclusion, gender and ethnic discrimination, norms and religious traditions, family pressure and size were also found as contributing factors.

These findings along with the information gathered from various literatures and key informant interviews established a fact that trafficking is not promoted by one single factor but is a complex chain promoted by interplays of various social and economical factors. Thus reforms in one area is not sufficient to prevent this social crime, instead initiatives

should focus on collaborative development of various dimensions i.e. social, economical and political within a country aided by different Non governmental and external agencies to achieve any significant improvement.

The thesis also revealed that usually minority and disadvantaged socio-economic groups are vulnerable to trafficking as reported by interviewers while the higher groups are comparatively found involved in voluntary migration. Trafficking doesn't only involve sexual exploitation and bondage labor but also comes up with severe physical, mental and social consequences to the individuals and their families as well as loss of productive population and violation of human rights. Different initiatives are being taken by the government and related organization working towards the prevention of trafficking the results however are still pessimistic due to insufficient priority by the government.

Corruption and weak governance are other factors hindering the effectiveness of anti trafficking laws in Nepal. At times offenders are seen being supported by the politicians and police, which consequently encourage the traffickers to commit similar kinds of crime again. Open border policy where traffickers move undetected due to ineffective border control is another vital area that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible. Amidst all the problem of human trafficking in Nepal, the current political stability in Nepal comes up as a fresh hope to enlighten a path towards success and prevention of youth migration by developing an economically, politically and socially sound Nepal.

Based on the findings from semi structured interview and key informant interviews various recommendations were identified that could be implemented in order to prevent trafficking of women and girls in context of Nepal. The recommendations are illustrated below.

- Creating a sustainable method of development programs incorporating women/girls and NGOs groups through vocational training, education and awareness activities to empower women and help them to be self-sufficient.

- Government should provide incentives to the socially disadvantaged communities, and make provisions of free education and equal employment opportunities especially to the young members of socially disadvantaged families in rural Nepal.
- Capacity building of the local communities by providing them with resource so that they can help in raising awareness towards traffickers and ways to identify them.
- On National level, ministries like MWCSW should coordinate with other relevant ministers and organizations by providing them with needed resources, funding's and grants to better incorporate post trafficked victims.
- On National level, political reforms on anti-trafficking laws and regulations should be carried out by mapping vulnerable areas and identifying vulnerable communities. Similarly, the government should work in conjunction with external Governments from various other countries and come up with remedies and stronger punishment to the offenders.
- At local level, enterprises and micro financing should be promoted and managed in a way that ethnically disadvantaged communities are able to operate their own small profit oriented business.

## **Chapter 9 : Strengths and Limitations of the study**

The strength of this research lies in the fact that, this research was based on one of the most prominent yet undermined issue in Nepal i.e. women trafficking and sexual exploitation. Due to sensitivity of the topic itself and hesitation from the participants to talk freely on this topic, the author had a hard time collecting information. The information's used in this research are based on the real life scenarios faced by the victims themselves. The explanatory method i.e. semi-structured interviews and key informants interviews used in this thesis make this research authentic and reliable as the findings presented in this research are entirely based on the descriptions obtained from the post trafficked persons and have not been manipulated or altered in any ways. The information gathered from this research can be used for a much broader research in this area by sampling large pool of population. Thus this research can be used as a baseline informative research for broader future researches.

Since the research is based on the information provided by 7 post trafficked women and 3 informant interviews, the lower sample size makes it hard to generalize the results to all geographical regions and population of Nepal. Similarly due to the limited time frame and sensitivity of the subject matter large proportion of participants and organizations refused to be the part of this research. The explanatory method used in this thesis can also be classified as a limitation of this thesis because statistical significance are considered to be more reliable.

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## Appendix:

### Appendix: 1 (Interview with post-trafficked girl from Maiti Nepal, Rehabilitation center- Participants 1)

1. How old were you, when you were trafficked? [ 14 years ]
2. Area of residency at the time of trafficked? [ Sinduplanchwok ]
3. what is your educational background?
  - a. Primary (x)
  - b. secondary
  - c. university/ college
  - d. No education.
4. How was your relation with your family?
  - a. Good [ x ]
  - b. Somewhat good [ ]
  - c. Not so good [ ]
  - d. Bad [ ]
5. Did you hear about girls/women trafficking before?
  - a. Yes [ ]
  - b. No [ x ]
6. IF yes how did you know?
  - a. Friends [ ]
  - b. Teacher [ ]
  - d. Family members [ ]

c. TV, Radio, Newspaper [  ]

e. Others [  ]

7. What was your reason behind migration?

a. To earn [  ]

b. Employment [  ]

c. To maintain economic status [  ]

d. False marriage [  ]

e. Others [ Education ]

8. With whom did you go?

a. Family member [  ]

b. Kin member [  ]

c. Friends [  ]

d. Agents [  ]

e. Others please specify...

9. If agent was/ were brothel member, where did you meet them?

- I met him at Sindhupalchok at my own village

10. How they convinced you, what incentives were you provided with?

- Better employment opportunities and education

11. Where and when did you know that you are trafficked?

- When I arrived in India and sold for sexual work, I realized that I have been sold

12. How would you define your nature and working condition?

- I never thought that I would be sexually abused and exploited, suffocating and very difficult

13. Did you suffer from any kind of abuse, violence or disease?

- Yes severely, at a point I thought that I would die here, hopeless, helpless

14. How much did you earn monthly there (brothel/ other)?

- I was not provided any wages for entire period; I was only provided place to stay and food

15. How did you utilize that money?

a. Buying clothes/ ornaments/ cosmetics

b. Sending home – for whom?

c. Collecting and balancing

d. Others (please specify)

- I was not provided any money

16. How much time did you spend there? (Year/month/day)

- 4 years

17. Why and how did you return from there? (Specify the reason)

- I return with the help from the Maiti Nepal, my family's effort and with the help of some brothers living in India

18. When did you return from there? [ 2012]

19. Did you went your home after returning?

a. Yes [ ]

b. No [ x ]

20. If yes, how much time did you stay there and why you came here?

a. (.....)

21. If not, why? Please give the reason?

- I was afraid of my society and my family and fear of public scrutiny

22. Who helped you to come here?

- Maiti Nepal has a lot from rescuing to settling me here

23. What kinds of services are being offered to you by this rehabilitation center?

- They are providing me with professional vocational skills like sewing, weaving etc.

24. Would you want to go back in your home now?

a. A. Yes [  ]

b. No [  ]

25. Why? Please give the reason

- I am fearful of my family and society of uniformed migration for work in India, I would like to learn something here and want to became self standing and independent with some skills and hopeful to return one day

26. What suggestion would you want to give for betterment of girls and women trafficking situation?

- Girls should be provided with equal rights and education as boys together with equal opportunity for work in Nepal

27. What is your future plan?

- I am learning sewing and waving now and hope that I can be self-standing one day

**Appendix: 2** (Interview with joint secretary of Ministry of women and children and social welfare, MoWCS)

1. What do you think of when the term “Women Trafficking” as forceful occupation is mentioned?
  - Human trafficking is a big problem not only in developing but also in developed world, women trafficking in general means when women are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor without their consent.
  
2. What factors do you think are responsible in the increment of trafficking in Nepal?
  - Lot of factors interplay when it comes to trafficking but the main factors identified in context of Nepal has been Poverty, illiteracy, employment opportunities, illegal recruitment for foreign employment.
  
3. Why do you think women in general are more vulnerable when it comes to trafficking in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok?
  - Marginalized groups in remote areas such as Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot are always in risk of trafficking due to their economic condition, thus they fall prey to false promises of employment and better life by traffickers and due to their lack of awareness they are easily victimized.
  
4. What are your views on social and cultural influence on women trafficking?
  - I think that socio-economic differences, suppression of women rights and their rights to education and employment are important factors that play a role.

5. What are your perspectives on foreign employment regulations for Women in Nepal? How does it prevent or facilitate women trafficking?
  - Due to globalization people are migrating to different countries for search of better employment opportunities in context of Nepal due to the lack of structured foreign employment policies, and lack of awareness some traffickers use foreign employment as tool for recruiting these women. So I think ineffective foreign employment regulations are helping these traffickers.
  
6. Many Nepalese women are being trafficked to neighboring countries like India due to ineffective border control for instance in India, what are your views on that?
  - Since this is national issue this needs to be addressed, as quickly as possible but due to political instability in Nepal this issue hasn't been addressed properly however the government is working towards it.
  
7. Migrant workers in gulf countries are often victim of sexual abuse and are forced into prostitution, what are the government initiatives for such victims?
  - We only have documented cases of exploitation of people who have migrated through government-recognized channels; people who migrate through unauthorized means are never reported. However the embassies in local countries are working to address this issue by supporting workers right in respective countries and helping them to address their problem.
  
8. Apart from documented cases of Migration through legal ways, many women and girls are being trafficked through illegal channels, how can this be controlled?
  - As I said earlier this is a national issue and stricter laws and regulations are needed, reforms should be made on foreign employment and strict inspection policies are

needed. For example, we have been working with different Ngo on vulnerable open border areas to look for traffickers and trafficked women.

9. Do you think the Nepalese governments policy on anti-trafficking is strong? Or do you think it needs amendments?

- Though we have domestic laws and strict punishment on trafficking, but due to social norms and stigma lot of trafficked women never report, we also have signed international treaties on trafficking but its implementation on local and district level is still insufficient.

10. Describe the anti-women trafficking initiatives being carried out by your agency or organization.

- Our organization i.e. national ministry has been working with various local NGOs by supporting their initiatives on raising awareness particularly to women and girls similarly on national level we are working on policies for women empowerment and border control.

11. What are the recently enacted national policies that have influenced activity in any of the anti-trafficking initiatives?

- Due to reported cases of women abuse in gulf countries the government of Nepal has banned the travel of women less than 30 years of age similarly we are making reforms on strict punishment to the offenders.

12. How is government in terms of funding and priority supporting your organization?

- Nepal being a developing country much of the resources are used for development, however we do get constant support from the government for helping out local agencies working on anti trafficking.

13. What other organizations/policy makers are supporting anti-trafficking legislation?

- We have international treaties and support from various international organizations working towards this issue. They provide with us reliable information and problems they face and we work towards helping them.

14. Have you or your agency/organization identified additional policies and recommendation that would help to combat human trafficking in Nepal?

- The basic cause identified has been poverty and lack of awareness as well as gender discrimination in Nepal particularly in remote areas so stressed should be given on empowering women so that they can live productive life in their own countries, the system of micro-financing should be strengthened and government should come up with development programs with equal participation of women.