

THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDONESIA

PERDAGANGAN MANUSIA DI INDONESIA DALAM PERSPEKTIF GENDER

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Abstrak

Perdagangan manusia seringkali dihubungkan dengan perempuan, karena mayoritas korban merupakan penduduk perempuan. Kenyataannya, laki-laki maupun perempuan merupakan korban dari praktik-praktik perdagangan manusia yang mencakup beragam kegiatan yang bersifat eksploitatif dan ‘abusive’. Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk memaparkan tentang kegiatan perdagangan manusia melewati daerah lintas batas berdasarkan perspektif gender. Beberapa aspek dari perdagangan manusia didiskusikan, seperti pola, proses, dan dampak dari kegiatan perdagangan terhadap kehidupan korban. Data dan informasi berdasarkan ulasan atas beberapa studi dan tulisan ilmiah yang berkaitan dengan kegiatan perdagangan manusia, khususnya yang terjadi di Indonesia. Hasil studi ini menunjukkan bahwa korban perdagangan manusia, baik laki-laki maupun perempuan, memiliki pengalaman ‘abusive’ yang berbeda dalam berbagai sektor, sehingga membutuhkan dukungan dan perlindungan yang berbeda pula. Tulisan ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi solusi yang mungkin dapat dimanfaatkan untuk memperbaiki intervensi terhadap perdagangan manusia.

Kata kunci: perdagangan manusia, perspektif gender, Indonesia

Abstract

Human trafficking is commonly associated with women due to the fact that the majority of the victims are women. In reality, both men and women have been the victims of human trafficking through various exploitative and abusive treatments. This paper aims to describe human trafficking activities across the border areas in Indonesia based on the gender perspective. Several aspects of human trafficking are discussed, such as the pattern, the process and the impact of trafficking activities on the victim's life. Data and information for this article come from the reviews of several studies and scientific papers related to the human trafficking, particularly in Indonesia. This study shows that the males and females trafficked victims have different experience of abuse in a range of sectors, and therefore required different kind of support and protection. This paper aims to contribute in finding the solutions for the improvement of the existing human trafficking intervention.

Keywords: human trafficking, gender perspective, Indonesia

Introduction

Human trafficking is a clandestine activity that has threatened human being of all age groups as well as gender. It covers a wide range of activities that is unevenly distributed within a country and across countries. Human trafficking can be regarded as a cross-border crime since its operation often involves networking of transnational criminal organizations. Historically, trafficking practices had occurred in Indonesia for quite sometimes. In the era of Japanese colonialism, indigenous women were forced to become ‘sex slaves’ and even transported overseas (Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong) to

become “JugunIanfu”, which was a form of human trafficking, in the sex industry. The form of human trafficking practice in the era of globalization or “modern slavery” continues to occur in which the victims are not only women, but also men and children (Agustina, 2006). Most of them are trapped in the various forms of exploitative activities.

Indonesian government has shown its commitment to the elimination of trafficking, among others, by ratifying various international legal instruments and transforming them into the national law. Moreover, the government also established a Task Force on the Elimination of Trafficking

(known as P3A), from the central to the provincial level, involving four ministries namely the judiciary, education, social and women's empowerment. Nevertheless, the number of trafficking victims in Indonesia continues to increase, and ironically Indonesia is recognized as one of the supplier countries for the international trafficking victims. This suggests that the current law is not quite effective to eliminate the case of human trafficking.

Human trafficking, especially women and under age women is not new, yet, the exact extent of victims of trafficking is still difficult to predict. This, in part is because of the low levels of the reporting and the identification of the trafficked persons, the clandestine nature of the crime, and the lack of reliable data. This condition then creates a false perception that human trafficking is not as important an issue to be resolved as other cases. The issue of human trafficking also becomes difficult to address due to the fact that most victims believe that this case could embarrass their families so they tend to conceal it. In turns, this makes the public oblivious with the problem of human trafficking, often the case only ends at the family level(Sofian, et al., 2004: 6).

In regards to this phenomenon, this paper aims to address the causes, process, and consequences of trafficking on the victim's life. The matter of human trafficking is a very important social issue (problem) that deserves an intensive and systematic social research. This paper aims to contribute in finding the possible solutions towards the improvement of the existing human trafficking intervention based on the gender perspective. It focuses on both men and women by obtaining information equally on their experiences as well as the data, the causes, and the impacts of human trafficking (D'Cunha, 2002). In addition, a comprehensive knowledge on human trafficking is without a doubt needed as the inputs for the decision making process in handling the human trafficking cases based on the gender perspective. The data and information about human trafficking are based on the reviews of several studies and scientific papers related to the human trafficking in Indonesia.

The Emergence of Human Trafficking Issues versus the Data Constraints

There have been a lot of papers that were written about the human trafficking issues with most of these papers have one thing in common: the constraints of reliable data. In regards to this situation, the first part of this paper covers the emergence of the human trafficking issues in the Indonesian context, and the second part discusses the data constraint. To note, the first international agreement on human trafficking is the "International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic", which was launched in 1904, however, the context was proper enough to be employed globally.

When it comes to the Indonesian context, the women participant who joined the congress that was held by the United Association of Indonesian Women in 1932, had called for "war" against the trafficking of women. This shows that at that time, the issue of women trafficking was already regarded as a serious and important problem. In the meantime, the Indonesian government regarded the human trafficking problems in 2007 by enacting The Penal Law of Human Trafficking Elimination. Over the years, the coverage of the human trafficking law was widened in conjunction with many discussions on human trafficking that touched other issues such as migration, the changing of the prostitution patterns, the feminist and gender discourse, the basic human right, and the poverty issues¹. It is no longer a secret that poverty and lack of opportunity are always mentioned as the underlying factors that contribute to many problems, including human trafficking.

Although human trafficking has been discussed frequently and become the topic priority in the discussion agenda in many countries, there are yet a lot of aspects of human trafficking that have not been thoroughly elaborated due to the lack of information on the magnitude of the problem. Unfortunately, accurate data recorded on issues of human trafficking has still been either lacking or inconsistency with institutions that release the data of the victims differ and as a result contradict each other. This leads to difficulties in identifying the trend of the increasing or the decreasing of the

¹Retrieved from http://www.menkokesra.go.id/pdf/deputi3human_trafficking_ind.pdf.

number of victims yearly². The different perception of the human trafficking concept, may lead to this problem thus bring barriers in obtaining the data on human trafficking due to lack of understanding in the definition of the trafficking itself. The differences in the interpretation of human trafficking sadly causes some manifestations of the act to be perceived as normal or even accepted by society. It is not seen as an act of human trafficking (Darmawan, 2008). Other barriers in getting reliable data is also contributed by the nature of the operation of the crime that is developed in a disguised form and therefore not easily identified. (Agustina, 2006).

Another problem related to the data is the difficulty in obtaining a complete information on the victim's characteristic. The data that is available usually only covers general information, such as the families background (most victims come from poor families or have one or more family members with financial problems), their level of education and the occupation background (the majority of the victims are migrant workers). The victims themselves sometimes do not want their cases to be exposed because of fear of retaliation from the crime syndicate. This often makes the victim and the family reluctant to report the crime and therefore obtaining the broad picture of the human trafficking phenomenon difficult. The phenomenon of human trafficking has only reached 'the tip of the iceberg', which means, only a small number of cases have been able to surface. While there are likely more cases of human trafficking that have not been revealed yet, it is not easy to track the human trafficking activities due to its complicated nature and its execution by a system of syndication, both nationally and internationally.

The Human Trafficking Mobility

This section explains three aspects of human trafficking: the route, the transit area, and the

² According to the Indonesian police investigation in 2001, 178 cases of trafficking of women and children were identified. The number has been steadily increased. However, in the following years, the cases dropped to only 30 in 2005. In contrast, the National Committee of Woman showed that the case of woman trafficking increased during the year 2002 to 2005. In 2002, 320 cases of woman trafficking were identified and in 2005 the total case reached 1.000 (1.165 cases). Retrieved from <http://www.fatayat.or.id/?q=berita/22>.

mode of operation. In the case of human trafficking in Indonesia, the border area is commonly utilized as an exit or entrance of trafficking activities with the explanation as follows.

The Route of Mobility

The human trafficking is conducted using a similar route with the cross-border population mobility which helps disguise the activity. While as a result the human trafficking can be considered as part of the population mobility it is also important to identify the migration patterns; especially the route of mobility in order to monitor and control the human trafficking activities. Nevertheless, it is difficult to reveal the human trafficking activity, particularly in the areas that have the land border and easy transportation access to the neighbouring countries which in turns facilitates the high incidence of cross-border population mobility.

Border areas are recognized as the route for people to move across countries for various reasons, including "trading" people overseas and trafficked people are boarded from land and sea borders (and outer islands). Among the mainland areas, the border of West Kalimantan, particularly Entikong, and Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysia) are the major concentration areas in human trafficking from Indonesia to Malaysia. Human trafficking takes place across the pathways along the border areas (in Indonesia they are known as *jalan tikus*—a tiny-rounding way that are usually very small). Moreover, among the outer islands, Rupa Island and Selat Panjang in Bengkalis Regency as well as Kundur Island and Moro in Tanjung Balai Karimun in Riau Province are known as the routes for the human trafficking to Malaysia.

The wide range of border areas in Indonesia brings difficulties in controlling the stream of people moving in and out of the country. These areas are vulnerable in terms of the supervision of transporting people to neighbouring countries. The director of Women's Legal Aid Institution (LBH PIK) in Pontianak (the capital city of West Kalimantan Province) pointed out that it is not easy to detect human trafficking activities across West Kalimantan-Sarawak boundaries due to lack of control on the people's movement along the areas since there are only two cross-border checkpoints (the 1st checkpoint is in Entikong, Sanggau Regency

and the 2nd one is in Nanga Badau, Kapuas Hulu Regency) compare to 50 pathways that link 55 villages in West Kalimantan and 32 villages in Sarawak. The easy access, in terms of good road condition, and relatively short time needed to reach border areas plays a significant role in causing high incidence of population mobility which includes the trade of human being from West Kalimantan to East Malaysia³.

The Transit Areas

The victims of human trafficking come from many areas in Indonesia. It is estimated that there are no less than ten sending provinces of human trafficking (Elsam, 2005) with border zones often being used as the transit areas in embarking the human trafficking victims to the destination nations. They generally have good access and transportation infrastructure to link to the neighbouring countries. According to Elsam (2005) there are sixteen transit provinces of human trafficking in Indonesia. Amongst those are West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, and Riau, with Entikong, Nunukan, and Batam as the transit points respectively. The areas are also the transit points for the migrant workers to reach the destination nations.

The 2005 Data from the Labour Force and the Transmigration Office of Nunukan Regency indicated that the number of workers who visited the transit areas tended to increase overtime. The data recorded approximately 70.060 people, with South Sulawesi Province as the highest contributor to the figure. Moreover, the actual number of people who crossed the border areas was possibly bigger than the figure since it excluded those who were smuggled or trafficked without legal documents. The data estimated around 100.000 people move to Malaysia every year.

The Mode of operation

Document forgery is part of the human trafficking activities, which is especially needed at the transit areas. In the regions, the syndicates of human trafficking forge the (prospective) victim's documents, mainly identity card, who will be trafficked overseas as migrant workers. (Faked)

³Retrieved from <http://www.kompas.com/kompas-cetak/0306/20/daerah/375209.htm>.

identity card is issued by the local government at any transit area to ease them the issuance of a cross-border pass, a document needed by a person to move across boundaries, or a passport issued by an immigration office at any transit area. A person holding a cross-border pass or a passport issued by the transit areas officer will be able to move across the country borders for social and/or cultural visits. However, at the destination, they usually work illegally without any working permit.

The operation of human trafficking is often discussed in the context of labour migration. Migrants may be vulnerable to exploitative labour due to their illegal status in the destination countries. Such exploitative labour practices can be considered as a manifestation of trafficking forms. The data provided by the Consortium of Indonesian Migrant Workers ('Kopbumi') shows that in 2002, as many as 37.508 migrant workers who became victims of violence, torture, sexual abuse, rape, unilateral dismissal, fraud as well as unpaid wages. Most likely they were victims of human trafficking.

Migrant workers are a particularly vulnerable group of human trafficking. Debt bondage and poverty often make Indonesian migrant workers trapped in the practice of human trafficking. In addition, the practice of illegal labour recruitment also makes the condition of migrant workers particularly vulnerable and unprotected due to lack of official documents which makes them easily exploited. The report from IOM Indonesia also shows that migrant workers are vulnerable to trafficking with developed Asian countries and the Middle East, including Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Japan, Kuwait, Syria, and Iraq as the destination places (Andrevski, Larsen, & Lyneham, 2013).

The incidence of human trafficking accelerates overtime because "trading" of people are seen to acquire more profit than that of other illegal businesses. Furthermore, there are the high demand of cheap labourers and migrant workers in many destination countries, such as Malaysia. Human trafficking is a racket conducted by a system of syndication to fulfil the demand of cheap workers (Wright, No Date). In addition, an enormous number of populations that coincides with a high rate of unemployment among productive group of population and the frail labour protection are also the

salient factor that contributes to the increasing number of migrant workers who are trapped in the human trafficking practices.

Indonesia is also recognized as a receiving country of human trafficking. As reported by a variety of mass media, in December 2002, there were 150 foreign sexual workers found in Batam (Riau Islands Province) in a border area between Indonesia and Singapore. They were derived from Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and some countries of Europe. Meanwhile, there are at least twelve provinces in Indonesia that are also known as the receiving areas of human trafficking aside from Riau Islands Province (Elsam, 2005).

The Human Trafficking activities from the Gender Perspective

The Victims of Human Trafficking

As mentions previously, the victims of human trafficking range from infants, children, adolescents, to adults. Based on the cases of human trafficking that can be revealed, the majority of the people trafficked are women. This occurrence is not only related to the Indonesian context, but is also found in almost all regions around the world that deal with the problem of human trafficking. While relatively small in comparison to the female victims, there are also males who become the victims of human trafficking.

Related to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Indonesia Contracted Temporary Migration (CTM) database, the human trafficking cases in Indonesia that were able to be identified were 3,701 of trafficked Indonesians between January 2005 and January 2010 with the majority of the trafficked persons were female (90%; n=3,343). In regards to the social demographic situation of the trafficked persons, the majority of them were aged 18 to 24 years (34 %; n=1,256) with more of the victims aged less than 18 years (24%; n=887). Half of the sample (50%; n=1,863) were single, with also some married people (28%; n=1,053). In terms of the education background, the largest proportion of them had low level of education, approximately 39% (n=1,445) of them received some elementary schooling and 27% (n=1,007) were identified as never attended school. Most of them (30%; n=1,093) had been employed as domestic workers before

trafficked (Andrevski, Joudo, & Lyneham, 2013). Regarding to the type of work, the IOM data shows that the Indonesians trafficked people were engaged in a diversity of jobs in the destination countries such as domestic service, sex work, shopkeeping, waitressing, dancing and factory work, among others. Further analysis made by the IOM Indonesia shows that the majority of the Indonesians who were trafficked transnationally worked in non-sex industry sectors at the destination countries (89%; n=2,696), compared with 11 percent who were trafficked into the sex industry (n=319).

In line with the report made by the IOM Indonesia, a report made by an Independent nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, or CEDAW in Indonesia also showed that 89% of the trafficking victims were women and children from total number of 1,757 of the Indonesia's population who became victims of the human trafficking crime⁴. The majority of the trafficking victims came from West Kalimantan, West Java, East Java, North Sumatra and West Nusa Tenggara⁵.

An interesting found that can also be seen from the IOM data is the case of domestic trafficking. Based on the data from the IOM Indonesia there were about 18 percent (n=686) of the sample had been trafficked within Indonesia. There was not much difference in the proportion of males and females in the domestic trafficking (18% and 19%, respectively). More children were identified to be domestically trafficked than adults (53% and 47%). The destination places for trafficked within Indonesia varied, but the most common destination places were Riau Islands province, followed by North Sumatra and East Java. For those trafficked within Indonesia, a greater proportion of people trafficked were for the purpose of joining the sex industry (40%; n=274) compared to the people trafficked transnationally.

The data from a variety of sources shows that the victims of human trafficking are not only women and children. Even though the number is

⁴ Retrieved from www.mitrawacanawrc.com, accessed on March 4, 2014.

⁵ Retrieved from www.suarakarya.com, accessed on March 4, 2014.

small by comparison, men are also vulnerable to become the victims of human trafficking. The placement of the Indonesian labourers in the foreign countries threatens them to be entrapped in the practice of human trafficking. The process includes manipulating activities in various forms of acts such as document forgery and delivering incorrect and incomplete information about the job, the payment and the work load.

The International Catholic Migration Commission of Indonesia mentions that the majority of male labourers, who were sent to the plantations areas in Malaysia were more likely to be exploited⁶. Moreover, according to the Consortium of Indonesian Migrant Labour Protection, approximately 74.616 of the Indonesian workers became the victim of human trafficking and (18.000) were forced to be sexual workers.⁷ Many of them were also forced to work with low payment, while being locked up when not working and received abusive treatments.

Based on the concept of human trafficking, the treatments that were received by workers clearly indicated that they were victims of human trafficking. The victims often performed jobs that did not match with the payment and they also did not have opportunities to do other activities. Their working condition became even worse with employees often unfairly applying deductions on their salaries as high as 50 percent. This salary deduction was often forced to the workers in order to pay their debts, since all costs of their transporting to Malaysia was reckoned as debt. However, since they did not know the total amount of the debt that should be paid, it made the workers further entrapped in the exploitative working conditions. The workers did

⁶In some countries such as Ireland, male are forced to do sexual activities although the numbers are less than the female victims. About 40 percent of male victims, between young age to 40 years old, are forced to work as sexual workers in Dublin. They are probably trapped in human trafficking practices. Beside, there were also male children who were kidnapped and traded to work as beggars or street traders. Cases from other countries show that children (mostly male) were also trafficked to work in mining sectors or were involved in the military activities. Retrieved from <http://www.catiw.international.org/factbook/ireland.php>.

⁷Retrieved from <http://www.pikiran-rakyat.com/cetak/2005/0905116/0801.htm>.

not have control over their payment. Thus it can be said that the workers' lives were handled by many parties, such as the recruiters, the labour sending agents and the employees.

Another case of male human trafficking related to fishing activities. The data shows that in Thailand in 2003, approximately 100 male fishing ship crews were exploited. The majority of them were migrants and some of them were under 16 years old. They were not paid for the job and prohibited from returning home in the period of 3 years. In fact, 38 of the people were never return home because they were already dead. Some of them were buried in some island in Indonesia⁸.

All cases indicate that men are also at risk of being the victim of human trafficking as women. Yet, women are more vulnerable than men because women experience a multi dimension of exploitation (Sihite, 2007:203). The gender bias stereotype, the subordination of status and the lack of women's role in the social lives are the salient factors that impacted many aspects, such as the economics, politics, and culture which cause women to be treated as the second class citizens. Poverty and lack of opportunities are also considered as the underlying factors that contribute to the problem. Women tend to have more serious problem and become the potential target to be trafficked which often ends with multiple oppressions (Truong, 2006).

The Recruiters and the Recruitment Process

The recruiters as the actors are not only part of the syndicated or criminal organization, but they could also be the members of the victim's family, such as the husband, the parents (father or mother) or other relatives. They are one of the actors involved in the entire human trafficking process. Even officials, whose obligation is to protect their society members, may also play the active roles in protecting the syndicated organization. The recruiters may have formed a conspiracy with the police officers, the immigration agents and the corrupted bureaucrats in either the local or the provincial level or both. This symptom indicates the existence of multi criminal practices in the human

⁸ Retrieved from <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/636>.

trafficking and the weaknesses of the controlling system from the related institutions or bureaucracy.

The input stage includes two processes: Firstly, the victims are kidnapped by members of the human trafficking syndicate; secondly, the victims are recruited by an agent who sometimes becomes the partner of the formal labourer recruiters or other parties and acts as a freelance recruiter. The labour sending companies (*PJTKI*) are the formal agents that are responsible in recruiting and embarking workers abroad. The recruitment process sometimes involves the victims' relatives or parents to smooth the action. In the meantime, the human trafficking processes are the same as the mechanism to embark labourers abroad. Most of them were recruited in the village level. In reality, the recruitment mechanism is not conducted properly or in accordance with the formal procedure. There are some conditions in the sending process that lead the labourers to be entrapped in the human trafficking practices. Sometimes, their passports are taken by their employees or the pimps to avoid them running away. This situation makes their status illegal and vulnerable in the destination places thus makes it easy for them to be exploited for other illegal purposes, such as being recruited as drug dealers. The syndicate takes advantage of their illegal status to assist their criminal practices (Sihite, 2007:211)

The victims are trapped in various conditions related to places. They are promised to have a high payment for working in hotels or restaurants as waiters or in factories and in plantation sites. This is of course, not true. Other recruitment process that is frequently applied in Singkawang, West Kalimantan, is through a marriage contract. The marriage is part of the syndicate way since the bride is then forced to become a sexual worker.

The Impact of Human Trafficking

The Impact of the human trafficking gives not only a negative influence towards the psychical, the physical or the sexual condition of the victims (male and female) but also damages the social structure. The human trafficking makes the victim lose contact with their families as well as the society which make them even more vulnerable. The children who become the victims are also lack of opportunities to continue their education as they are

also separated from their parents. These children are forced to work for approximately 10 to 18 hours per day which certainly gives bad influence towards the children's growth. The human trafficking also disturbs the transferring process of cultural and moral values from parents to their children and from generation to generation. Children and women often become victims of human trafficking repeatedly. Unfortunately, the victims who are able to get away from the crime sometimes do not immediately receive positive support, either from their families or the society. They are often neglected and this situation may lead them back into the crime of human trafficking again.

Women who are trafficked for sexual workers, as D'Cunha mentioned (2002), experience traumatic condition that is more serious than the male victims. Unfortunately, the interventions process to assist them is not yet gender responsive. They do not receive proper treatments, such as protection or specific treatments in order to overcome their traumatic experience physically or psychologically. They often face difficulties in getting rid of the trap of human trafficking. Moreover, the female victims often experience problems in dealing with the immigration officials because they are treated as illegal migrants since they do not have related documents or exit permit.

The IOM Indonesia report shows that the large proportion of men reporting some form of abuse and the range of abuses (i.e. psychological and physical abuse, deprivation of food and water, ideological pressure, forced of drug consumption). Moreover, men are often deterred from seeking or accepting assistance because of the stigma, the discrimination or the shame associated with being a victim of trafficking. According to Brunovskis and Surtees, trafficked men may also reject any assistance offered to them, or choose not to seek help, for several reasons, such as they do not see themselves as victims; they believe that their exploitative situation is better than other alternatives such as not having any employment or the ability to earn (Lyneham & Larsen, 2013).

Analysing about the conditions for the occurrence of human trafficking, poverty and lack of opportunities, are always mentioned as the underlying factors that contribute to the problems. As mentioned by Wright, about 80 percent of the

human trafficking victims are labourers that have no land, including the people who only earn small money. In order to improve their lives and driven by the limited opportunities to work in their place of origin, some people decide to migrate and deal with high risk of trafficking activities. This makes traffickers truly take advantage of that situation by exploiting the people who have marginal lives. The traffickers have invented, designed and developed a social system in which human trafficking is embedded. The trafficked people cannot exercise any effective control on the process they are participating in. The exposure of job opportunities overseas, in one side encourages the activities of trafficking by taking advantage of the illegal status and the poverty condition of the migrant workers.

The Closing Remarks

The human trafficking issues can be considered as a complex phenomenon because it involves numerous basic causes and various forms of manifestations. More importantly, the practices of human trafficking are also considered as a violation of human rights. Trafficking in human also causes long misery to the victims' psychical or physical conditions. There are many reports or papers that discussed the suffering condition of the victims and their families as well as the driven factors that contribute to the human trafficking. However, to obtain accurate and reliable data on trafficking is still a problem. The data on human trafficking cases differ from one institution to another and when it is published, it becomes difficult to verify and trace the source of information. The differences in perceptions in understanding of the concept are probably discerned as one of many factors that cause such phenomenon. Until now, the human trafficking data is still focused on the women who have been traded as sexual workers. Regarding to the human trafficking concept that covers all kind of labour exploitation, more cases should be identified.

The government of Indonesia anticipated the seriousness of the human trafficking problems by enacting The Penal Law of Human Trafficking Elimination in March 2007. Through the implementation of this law, it is expected that the trafficking practices can be optimally eliminated. Several strategic efforts have been carried out to cut the chain of human trafficking practices in some areas, such as in the place of origin of the victims,

the transit and the border areas by establishing task forces which have authorities to handle the problems of human trafficking. The NGOs also take an active role in assisting the victims at the border areas. However, all efforts are yet sufficient to abolish the practice of human trafficking, because it still exists and even tends to increase each year. It seems somehow beyond the policies or laws to handle such complicated and sophisticated problems. It also needs strong bilateral or multilateral commitment and cooperation to eliminate such criminal activities. The occurrence of human trafficking cannot be considered as a peripheral type of criminal action that relates to women issue, but it should be regarded as a global issue and a transnational crime.

Considering the gender influence in all aspects of the human trafficking process, the intervention to eliminate human trafficking by gender perspective should be internalized in all aspects as an integral part of a whole. Any practices to restrict women who want to go abroad and seek a job, for the safety reason, only tainted the women's rights and in turns discriminatively force women to always depend on men. This situation just perpetuates the gender bias stereotype and uncovers the root problems of human trafficking practices.

Other important aspect that should be taken into account is the rights to protect the people, who have been traded. According to Truong (2006), this can be conducted through the involvement of the victims as well as their families in the dialogues that relates to the issues of human rights protection against human trafficking. Their views are important to be considered as they are the ones who experience all the abusive treatments. By implementing their view-points, hopefully the best way to overcome the conditions can be found.

Particularly in relations to the needs of the trafficked men, there must be some specific considerations based on their experience and their familial, social and cultural circumstances. According to Andrevski, Larsen, and Lyneham (2013) there is clearly a requisite for a better respond to the needs of the trafficked men as well as to develop approaches that do not stigmatise them as trafficked victims, thereby preventing them from receiving help.

Finally, as trafficking and other related forms of exploitation affect men, women and

children, there is a requirement for the support services and programs that are capable of addressing the needs of all trafficked people. This requires responses that are able to cover and integrate all of the victims' experiences, needs and rights while at the same timesensitive to the sex, age, language and cultural background of the trafficked people.

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