Current Slavery Sex Trade

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**Introduction**

Sex trade or trafficking comprises coerced or forced exploitation which is not only confined to prostitution and has become a pervasive menace in the United States of America (USA). Several detrimental consequences are received by society as deprived public health, dreadful conditions of women and human rights, weakened social development and unsettled communities. Victims of the sex trade and trafficking suffer grave psychological and physical challenges and social disadvantages. Therefore, sex trade ought to be deemed a grave health issue with the widespread social implication that needs essential policymaking and attention of the stakeholders. Irrefutably, it is a manifestation of the modern day slavery that comprises the unlawful trade of humans aimed at the purpose of coercive exploitation (Kotrla, 2010). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime stipulates trafficking as any kind of transporting, employing, concealing and getting a person by the use of force, means of risk or coercion.

**Research Question**

What are the potential means of enslavement and coercion manifested in sex trafficking and the magnitude and implications of the menace in the United States of America (USA)?

**Discussion**

In 2013, the numbers reported by the National Trafficking Resource Center stipulated more than 4,000 circumstances of the sex trade in the United States. Essentially, it is a lucrative market across the globe with a worth of $150 billion. Critical and covert means are utilized as the mode of enslavement and coercion. The prominent delusion is ensuring the victims the provision of a good job, citizenship in other states, education or a forged marriage proposal. In addition, the common strategy of coercion among the victims is known as debt bondage (Feingold, 2005). These mobs approach families existing in poverty which seek to buy young women or girls after promising a better quality of life in a wealthier state.

The traffickers commonly recruit those sufferers who are either informally or economically vulnerable. It constitutes the girls and women who are susceptible to societal isolation, drug addiction, poverty, history of criminal behavior and school failure. Once women become a part of the sex trafficking network, it becomes very challenging for them to be independent and free. The traffickers are found to be suppressing the victims to refrain them from taking any legal actions.

**Types of Sex Trafficking**

Sex trafficking is linked with the smuggling operations headed by various crime organizations (Sadruddin, Walter, & Hidalgo, 2005). There are various types of sex trafficking where it is indicated that about more than forty percent of the people in slavery are forced to get involved in prostitution. Following are some critical types of sex trafficking:

* **Gang Trafficking:**

It is the type of trafficking where slaves are controlled by more than one individual. A group of people takes advantage of the slave. They often put tattoos on the body of their slaves to show their ownership. Besides, the victim faces sexual abuse by the gang members and he/she can be sold to other gang or person as well.

* **Forced marriage:**

In this case, victim especially the females are forced to get married. The powerful person can threaten the girl or her family if she tries to refuse his proposal. It is also possible for a man to pay to the family of a girl and get her ownership.

* **Pimp-controlled trafficking:**

Single pimp controls the victim where victims are being manipulated psychologically, physically, and emotionally. Pimp tries to gain the trust of the victim known as the grooming stage. Later, the victim is directed to engage in sexual activity at the behest of the pimp.

* **Familial trafficking:**

This is the most serious type of trafficking because a family member is a primary stakeholder in it. In familial trafficking, one of the family members gets control over the other family member and abuses him physically and mentally for personal benefit (Alvarez, 2016).

* **Action against sex trafficking:**

Sex trafficking is a serious issue in America which is being confronted through user intervention. The various organizations have been being established to identify cases of sex trafficking.

* **Not for sale:**

It is a non-profit organization that works internationally to save communities and individuals from sex trafficking and modern-day slavery.

* **Girls Educational and Mentoring Services:**

This organization advocates for the victims of sex trafficking by saving them from traffickers and giving them shelters. The organization focuses on the girl victims who get exploited by pimp traffickers, gang traffickers and forced marriage.

* **Breaking Free:**

It is the organization that saves the victims who are forced to become a prostitute. They save victims by providing shelter and jobs.

**Prevention:**

The contemporary world is well aware of human rights and education enables them to fight for themselves (Hodge, 2008). The government role is crucial to control sex trafficking by making law enforcement institutes more effective. In addition, the role of the media is remarkable. Media especially social media is active on the cause and it is almost impossible to hide the cases of sex trafficking from the world (Logan, Walker, & Hunt, 2009).

**Conclusion**

Sex trafficking has been a grave problem from decades. With robust progress and education enhancement, the issue is still not solved. People in the present world are slaves of pimp traffickers, gang traffickers, familial traffickers, and forced marriage. Different non-government organizations are working to solve the issue by helping victims in various ways. In addition, the mass media is playing its instrumental role by unveiling the cases of sex trafficking in America.

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