
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
OF WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN PAKISTAN**

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ABSTRACT

Women trafficking is the act of obtaining someone by coercion, fraud, or deception and then using them for trafficking, imprisonment, or acceptance with the intent to benefit from their exploitation. This study aims to the socio-economic status of trafficked women and highlights the issues, reasons, and causes of women trafficking in Sindh. Mostly women are exploited for forced labor and sexual exploitation. In this study, mix method was used for the data collection. Three hundred twenty samples were collected through questionnaires from several types of employers, such as advocates who have worked on women trafficking and violence against women. Also included were those who worked in the human trafficking cells and women Thana at Hyderabad and Karachi. Data were analyzed through STATA 15.0 and SPSS 20.0, using reliability, correlation, and regression analysis techniques. In the study, there is one dependent variable overall health, and there are five independent variables education, income, social life, physical fitness, and psychological health. This issue significantly increased in Pakistan and the international community. Ultimately, they face several social, economic, and health problems. The victims of women trafficked for sexual exploitation negatively impact social damage, critical health issues, and psychological and physical health conditions. Prevention of trafficking, victim protection, and prosecution of traffickers, multiple interventions would be necessary for care. A health professional can play a crucial role by promoting preventive awareness from the standpoint of holistic care. Moreover, programs for education must be implemented to safeguard women from negative health effects.

Keywords: Women trafficking, Forced labor, Sexual exploitation, Physical health

INTRODUCTION

Women trafficking is the act of obtaining someone by coercion, fraud, or deception and then using them for trafficking, imprisonment, or acceptance with the intent to benefit from their exploitation (UNODC, 2012). Women trafficking means being traded for forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation. Women's lives are constantly in danger in a patriarchal society like Pakistan. Women who travel away from home face a lot of difficulties. The definition of "trafficking in women", according to the Global Alliance against trafficking, is: "Recruiting women for jobs or services within and across state borders through violence or the threat of violence, abuse of power or a dominant position, debt bondage, deception, or other forms of coercion; Any act related to the promotion (UNODC, 2011b).

According to anecdotal evidence, the victim of women trafficking is one of many unauthorized foreigners entering Pakistan. There is evidence that women and children are trafficked abroad from Pakistan for sexual exploitation. Chinese, Russian, Nepali, Iranian, and Bangladeshi traffickers are reportedly in Pakistan, according to NGOs (UNODC, 2013). Although the specifics are unknown, these women were thought to be trafficked for sexual exploitation. There are no reliable statistics that show the severity of the issue. Women and children are still being trafficked into the Gulf countries for sexual exploitation (Connell Lisa Mary, 2012). However, previous researchers' information indicates that women and girls are frequently brought into the United Arab Emirates illegally to work as dancers before being sexually exploited. By obtaining adult documents fraudulently, fake birth certificates, the foundation for identity cards and passports applications, are where document fraud starts. Even professionals in necessary fields who work with sex and come into touch with women and girls at risk of being trafficked have poor awareness of human trafficking (Sanders, 2012).

Coercion does not include economic pressure or non-physical forms of violence. A woman or girl's agreement to perform sex labor is regarded as genuine, even if it was gained in exchange for money. How much incorrect information was utilized to get the original permission is unclear (Nielsen, 2011). Extremely sophisticated and organized criminal networks carry out trafficking in women and girls. Venues and hotels, particularly in the United Arab Emirates, work

with international partners to apply for visas. It is particularly challenging to stop entertainers at border crossings when they have obtained legitimate passports and valid visas through fraud, unlike trafficking victims who leave Pakistan with these documents. Similar networks of recruiters and agents may be involved in the domestic and international trafficking of women and girls. Investigating connections to local and international trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation is necessary (Aronowitz, 2014; Nielsen, 2011; UNODC, 2012).

In Pakistan and the larger worldwide community, sex trafficking, which encompasses other types of forced or coerced sexual exploitation outside prostitution, is a severe and spreading issue. These include worsening public health, dysfunctional communities, a decline in social development, and human and women's rights (UNODC, 2008). Sexual trafficking victims are socially excluded and have poor physical and mental health. Therefore, sex trafficking warrants legal and medical attention as a serious public health issue with wider societal repercussions. Health practitioners should seek to enhance clinical screening, identification, and support of sex trafficking victims and their access to legal and social resources (UNODC, 2011a).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To explore the impact of women trafficking on the socio-economic status of trafficked women in Pakistan.
- To examine the socio-economic determinants' impacts on women's health in Pakistan.
- To analyze the overall health issues and root causes of women trafficking in Pakistan.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is there any impact of women trafficking on the socio-economic status of trafficked women in Sindh?
- Are there any socio-economic determinants that impact women's health in Pakistan?
- Are there any health issues and root causes of women trafficking in Pakistan?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Globally, 70% of all trafficking people belong to women. Trafficking of women and girls 75% for sexual exploitation. (UNODC, 2013). Trafficking in women refers to the forceful smuggling, transaction, and kidnapping of women and teenage girls fraud. Trafficking of women and children is legal and socially unacceptable as well as punishable criminal activities. It is a severe form of human rights violations and domestic laws, but humanity has constantly increased due to globalization and trade. Trafficking in women beings is high in third-world countries, but it is also governed by some parts of developing countries (Kandle, 2006). Most contemporary slavery refers globally to the modern-day. Women trafficking is an example of how globalization can facilitate and increase crime rings for economic development. It occurs both locally and transnationally within developed and developing countries. Human trafficking for sexual abuse is a severe crime because it includes people's purchases and sales, often children, and compulsion and slavery (Elliott, 2011). The nature of the sex trade has been globally archaic, given the progression of women's rights law. In addition, many international treaties and protocols have been approved jointly with both human trafficking and sex trafficking, and the increasing number of trafficking is also in violation of the laws adopted. Despite such efforts by the global community, data show that trafficking in human beings continues to rise (Karie Kabance, 2014).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has estimated international annual profits of trafficking worldwide around \$ 50 billion. According to the UN Office of Crime and Crime, 2019, about 60 percent of human trafficking worldwide is for sexual exploitation (NIOC, 2020). This means that sexual trafficking yearly a multi-billion-dollar industry. As researcher Siddharth Kara, the sex trade is one of the ugliest contemporary actualizations of global capitalism. Globalization benefited through the industry's massive and profitable accessibility through the management and border control, transfer, international trade, and modernized technology such as the internet and mobile phones (Siddharth Kara, 2009). Despite the ability to improve women's trafficking, global awareness has also increased (Elliott, 2011). Women trafficking is now more than ever before. In the mainstream media, states must be put under pressure state to act. The international community should respond to the weak public by

using globalization to its advantage and working together to resolve women trafficking solutions. Regarding the sex trade, international and individual enforcement laws emphasize the importance of protecting trafficked victims. Women trafficking sacrifices are often cautious and are criminally in comparison to it (Karie Kabance, 2014; Kindle Hari Kala, 2006; UNODC, 2012).

Consequently, women trafficking is a hidden crime, so the exact figure on the global scale of this issue may rarely get (Aronowitz, 2014). Due to the depth of global data and data analysis on human trafficking, two reports regularly cited by research scholars, international statistics on human and women trafficking are the Global Report of UNODC on trafficking and the American Administration of Human Rights U. S State Department trafficking report (Nielsen, 2011). In the case of sexual trafficking, accurate reporting begins with the victim's identification as the authorities have improved the treatment of victims; there is unusual reporting (Sanders, 2012). This exception to the current framework of the international community is the first step in finding global solutions for both women trafficking and trafficking in human beings (Connell Lisa Mary, 2012).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

We chose the efficient planning study introduced as our study's examination technique to investigate and identify women trafficking in Pakistan. The consequences of this efficient planning study would permit us to distinguish and research plans identified with intelligent contacts. Likewise, it would allow us to determine research questions for future examinations.

We followed our primary objectives and rules on the most proficient method to direct a check. The researcher uses STATA 15.0 and SPSS for data analysis. The techniques proposed by these methodologies simplify systematically and straightforwardly, guaranteeing a significant degree of thoroughness, reliability, and regression for the regression analysis (OLS method). The OLS equation is described below.

EMPIRICAL MODEL

OLS

$$HLTH = \alpha + \beta_1 edu + \beta_2 eco + \beta_3 PH + \beta_4 SL + \beta_3 PSI + \mu$$

Where:

HLTH :	Health (Overall)
EDU :	Education
ECO :	Economic
PH :	Physical Health
SL :	Social Life
PSI :	Psychological Impact

The dependent variable is Health (overall), and there are five independent variables: education, economic, physical health, social life, and psychological impact. The term μ represents the error term. The constant $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5$ of the model's parameter and describe the interrelationship between dependent and independent variables.

Correlations

Variable	Health	Education	Economic	Physical Health
Education	.315*			
Economic	.522**	.301**		
Physical Health	-.217**	-.514**	-.117**	
Psychological Impact	.179**	.224**	.125*	.397**

** . Significant at the 0.01 level and

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 1 represents the most positive and statistically significant correlations between the variables (health education, economic, physical health, social life, and psychological impact). The physical health variable only has negatively significant correlations with the other variables. However, health, education, economic, social life, and psychological impact had a significant relationship.

Reliability Analysis

Variable	Items	α
Health	5	.72
Education	2	.89
Economic	4	.82
Social life	6	.87
Physical Health	5	.76
Psychological Impact	3	.83
Overall	25	.84

According to Cronbach Alpha, a score of 0.6 is considered untrustworthy or suspicious, whereas a score of 0.7 is considered average or acceptable. Because 0.8 is good and 0.9 is best, the outcome is between 0 and 1. It is reliable and shows the cumulative and individual results for any configuration, regardless of the variable, as shown in the table. Cronbach Alpha is used to assess the dependability of each question by deciding whether to eliminate it, and all questions score over 0.8, ensuring a research-oriented standard. The estimation results show that the overall data reliability is above .83, and each variable is estimated separately. Individual variable results are also above .7, minimum variable results are .72, and higher one variable results are .89.

Regression Analysis

Variable	Health
Education	0.425*** (0.0379)
Economic	-.188* (0.111)
Social Life	0.517*** (0.153)
Physical Health	-0.354*** (0.094)
Psychological Impact	-0.395*** (0.129)
Constant	6.46** (0.050)
No of Obs.	320
R squared	0.209
Adj. R squared	0.199

Standard errors in parentheses
 *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

The relationship between the trafficking women's health and other determinants has been analyzed by Ordinary Least Square (OLS) method statistics of trafficked women. The estimation results show that education and social relation/life significantly correlate with women's health at .01 and .05 levels. The economic, physical, and

psychological variable negatively affects women's health. The R-Square and the probability of the model are positive.

DISCUSSION

One of the most significant issues in this world is women's trafficking. The main driving forces in Pakistan are poverty, educational disparity, and lack of knowledge of one's legal rights. As a result, these victims may suffer from various grave health issues, particularly sexual and reproductive health, drug misuse, and other issues. Women's trafficking is increasingly acknowledged as a significant global public health issue.

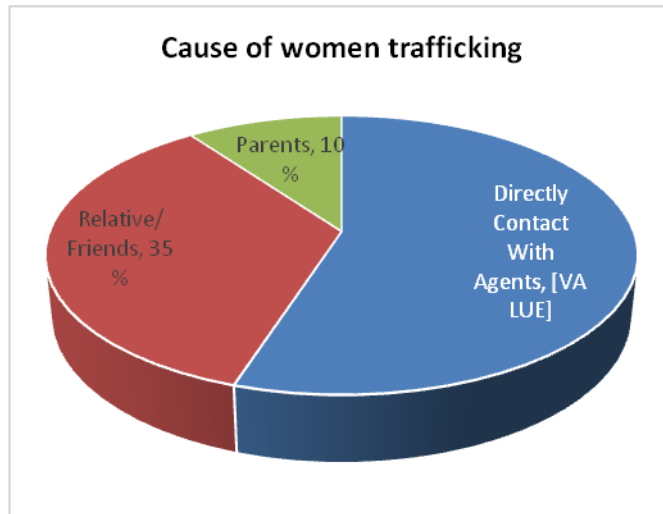
Therefore, at all levels of care, numerous interventions are needed. Human trafficking can be prevented, victims can be protected, and traffickers can be prosecuted as part of interventions to end trafficking in women. The public's continued lack of threat awareness is an issue. Therefore, there is a pressing need to enhance public understanding of this terrible crime, its effects on individuals, and the development of effective control measures. Public awareness campaigns and incorporating health and trafficking information into current programs, policies, education, and curricula are two ways to achieve prevention. Therefore, to prevent human trafficking in Pakistan, both governmental and non-governmental organizations must collaborate.

Causes of Trafficking

There are several reasons for trafficking that differ from one country to another. Trafficking is a complex trend affecting economic, cultural, social, and other factors. Most of these factors are particular to individual business patterns and countries in which they occur. However, many factors in the broader trade are found in general or in different areas, cases, or practices. One of the factors is that due to the transfer of victims, criminals have initially exploited initial arrangements or cooperation, which initially place more collective measures after the victims in other areas or regions of the country. It is not always the same for which they plan to move (Tharani et al., 2012).

As woman trafficking, it was already introduced as part of this study, which corrupts women's transition. Human trafficking cannot be stopped, but women's trafficking can be controlled. Even though there

is no country capable of entirely preventing women trafficking, some countries can reduce women trafficking through law and enforcement. Therefore, there are several reasons for women trafficking, and the results of this study are also confirmed. Some common factors are local conditions that want to move the population into a better economic state: poverty, lack of economic or social opportunities, human rights disputes, and dangers that cause-related risks. Trafficking can increase due to political instability, militants, civil uncertainty, internal armed clashes, and natural disasters. Due to a lack of opportunity and population displacement, exploitation, and abuse through forced labor, their weaknesses increase (UNHR, 2014).



These factors (mentioned in the figure) pressure and stress the victims, thrust them into trafficking, and manage women trafficking. Other factors can also play a key role in attracting potential victims. Wealth is a relative concept, and Poverty leads to trafficking n and trade patterns in which the victims move from more impoverished conditions. In this context, the rapid growth of the Internet, including telecommunications and media, which can be broadcast on the Internet worldwide, may increase the desire to move. Thus, would-be vulnerable migrants to traffickers. Some parents only sell their children for money but hope they will avoid the chronic poverty situation and go to a place where their lives will be better opportunities and more likely. In some areas, socio-cultural methods also help

women trafficking. For example, the devolution of girls and women in a community makes them harmless to vulnerable to smuggling. Among these factors are porous borders, corrupt civil servants, involvement of internationally organized criminal groups and networks, limited capacities or engagement of immigration, border control officers, and law enforcement. The lack of recruitment awareness can also be identified as Pakistani women's point of view on the cause of trafficking in the Gulf countries (Farooq-e-Azam Cheema et al., 2016).

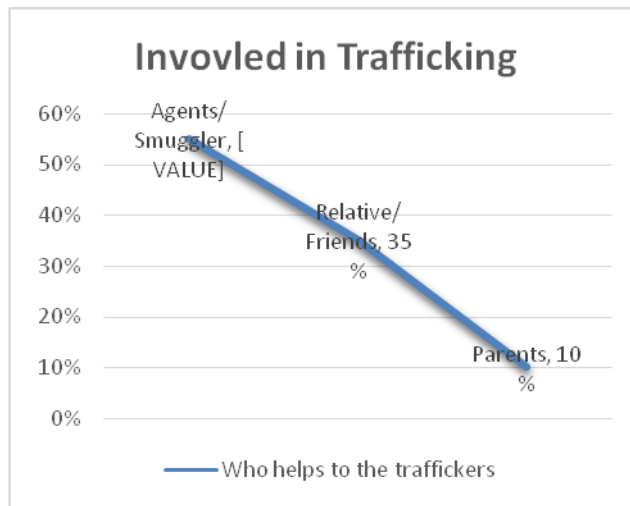
Moreover, nowadays, in Pakistan and for the reasons mentioned above, the biggest problem posed by trafficking in persons is the incidence of traffickers throughout the country. This was an important reason for the support of all key informants from government and non-governmental offices. The traffickers have extended their network from the lower level to large cities to trace potential victims. Traffickers brainwashed poor girls and women with false promises of a glorious life in Pakistan. Apart from that, the biggest problem in women trafficking in current Pakistan and the factors above are traffickers across the country. With the help of non-government and government offices, it was submental that all-important meaningful information was benefited. Traffickers expanded their cages in big cities and were allowed to follow potential victims (Lin Chew et al., 2000). Through the false promise of a great life, there is a factor of preaching that has been studied.

How Victims Are Trafficked

Most victims of trafficking, especially children and women, exploitation for sexual exploitation and pornography. However, trafficking also converts labor context, like domestic services, small-level businesses, and agriculture work. Traffickers use force to participate in these activities, such as women and children for trafficking. Power can be involved in physical use or severe physical damage. Physical violence, rape, smoking, and imprisonment are often used to control the victims. Especially during the preliminary stages of sacrifice, when victims' resistance has been completed. Fraud includes false promises about employment, wages, working conditions, or other matters. For example, individuals may travel to another country under the contract of well-paid work in a firm or any other organization to

only satisfy themselves for labor. Others responded to ads overseas in modeling, babysitting, or service industries but were forced to suffer after reaching their destination (UNODC, 2012).

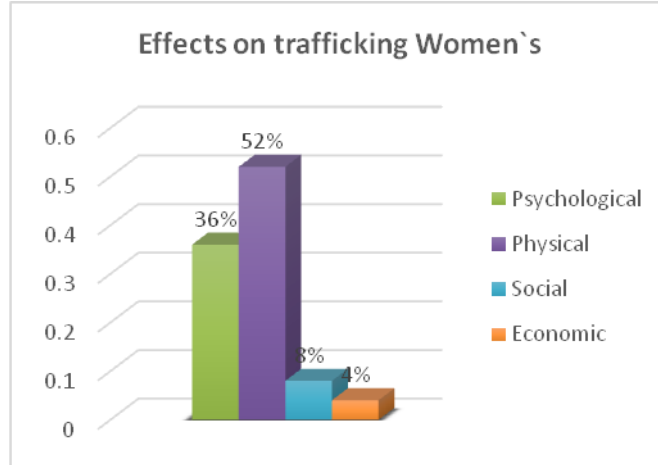
Traffickers are often associated with debt constraints or pensions, in which traffickers claim the payment of an actual or alleged debt. However, it is appropriate the offer a sacrifice by paying a loan. Traffickers can charge the victim's fee for transport, hostel, food, and other accidents, interest, penalties for disappearing for everyday tasks, and lousy behavior costs included. In debt, people with debt constraints are targeted at any time they can never pay, and it can be part of an effective plan of psychological cruelty (Neha A. Desh Pande., 2013).



Factor Associated with the Traffickers

There is no one-person role and involvement in women's trafficking. There are many characters in which traffickers go through many stages to send a woman from one country to another. According to the research, 55% said that criminals had contacted the government because they did not support the plan, which was difficult for them. Because they face many difficulties, such as immigration problems, documents, and much more, when they help the traffickers for some cost, they give false data/ documents so traffickers can easily send them wildly. When their friends and relatives help the smugglers for smuggling, who are involved in such work, they mentally torture the

victims. Preparing for work in another country, people take a decent job after family, better-surviving lifelike, and sometimes forcefully send the smugglers to another country. In this way, the country's smugglers are increasing daily, which has become worse for society.



Effect of Women Trafficking

Women trafficking is terrible, and the victims are not positively impacted by their families and community of origin, granted that women are trafficked to earn money. People are bought, forced, or sold yearly at the world's borders. Thousands of women and other young teenage girls were forced into sexual exploitation. This work makes billions of dollars annually, most of which are used to finance organized crime.

Victims of sex trafficking are likely to deal with potentially harmful situations that may adversely affect their emotional, physical, and mental health. Physicians, midwives, nurses, doctors, and other healthcare providers can play a vital role in identifying victims of sex trafficking to be the first step to providing both support and advocacy for women and girls. As a supplier, it can play a significant role in interfering with victims to advocate for improving physical and psychological health to help victims improve their social conditions (Deshpande & Nour, 2013).

Psychological Impact

Victims of sex trafficking are relieved of daily trauma, emotional and psychological abuse, and violence. Post-trauma stress

disorders, severe diagnosis, and depression are usually psychological problems among sex workers. Trafficked women complaints, shame, humiliation, self-esteem, self-hatred, infidelity, denial, suicidal thoughts, illusion, confusion, and feelings of fellow believers. In their early thirties, it is not uncommon to experience sexual traffickers psychologically and emotionally disabled by working circumcision. In a study, the providers said that sexually smuggled women were less stable, more isolated, had higher levels of fear, more severe trauma, and more mental health than any cognitive brain. In addition, victims can be targeted for drug addiction issues or drug trafficking that can be used to use drugs through their trade or prevent malicious conditions (UNODC, 2011a).

Physical Impact

Trafficking victims are susceptible to sexually infected diseases such as gonorrhea, urinary tract syphilis, and other infections. Trafficked women face PVC pain, vomiting / anal tears, stomach trauma, and urine problems due to commercial sex work. Trafficking victims often do physical abuse and torture. A date concierge and headache should also be taken to the screen for painful brain injury, which may lead to memory loss, fatigue, headache, and inefficiency. Often victims have heard the insulting experiences, for example, being smuggled into the commercial sex industry and forced to have sexual relationships with twenty men in a day. This experience removes humanity in person, mainly when it is long. They break a lot of self-confidence and embarrassment and are incredibly angry when convinced. In some cases, health can be severe and lead to depression, concern, drug abuse, and suicide attacks (Maliha Hussain & Shazreh Hussain, 2012).

Social Impact

Women trafficking are deprived of the family's life, and the general social activities are reduced; potential adjustments can be complex. Even when everything is in place for their conservation, the siege of society is likely to slow down their progress. Although insufficient data is reported on the social impact of the sex trade, their old evidence shows that victims have significant unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, and social inclusion. Women with disabilities in

sexual activity, women's resources, limited options, and more risk of violence and abuse are not traded (Wheaton et al., 2010).

Economic Impact

Women are a high-profit and low-risk adventure; adults and children invest in personal life for personal purposes. Several adolescents make a smell of smuggling revenue that exploits any person indefinitely. Women trafficking destroys the future of any society, and trafficking does not effectively affect its members. The situation worsens when women and children are most affected. Women trafficking is a form of contemporary slavery, a stormy wind that does not push anybody. It violates the victim's fundamental human rights and affects their joint work in society. This is a global problem that needs to be addressed everywhere. We must work as individuals, families, communities, and prominent organizations to eliminate evil in society and the world (Connell Lisa Mary, 2012).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pakistan's government is aware of the challenges of trafficking in women. It is committed to doing something and addressing the issues at the National, regional, and international levels. Trafficking is not just a complex trend but a hidden crime. Although there are more efforts to fight against traffickers to control trafficking in women, the government has implemented a multi-purpose strategy and implemented it quickly. Trafficking among women is one of the biggest concerns in this part of the world. Significant factors in Pakistan are inequality in education, economic deprivation, gender discrimination, feudalism, and the implementation of legitimate rights. As a result, these victim's various health problems, particularly reproductive health, drug use, and more. It is necessary to take care of healthcare facilities to help the victims. Therefore, many interventions are required at three levels: prevention of trafficking, protection, and prevention of victims. From the overall care perspective, a healthy worker can play a decisive role in providing general awareness. In addition, an education program must be needed to protect women from serious health consequences.

In Pakistan, in two provinces, Sindh and Punjab, women are more trafficked. Two types of women are trafficked: one working in agricultural farming as labor, and some farming with his family. That

type of woman is trafficked forcedly with the help of a landlord/landowner and others who are psychologically tortured for sexual exploitation. With the help of neighbors, friends, or relatives involved in that type of activity after being tortured by the victims and forced her willingly prepare for trafficking. Those women working under the landowners to survive life and their family is related to the poor and illiterate families.

Moreover, they work for their survival and improvement to work with families under landowners. Those who are older than 15 years of age to 30 years of age in backward areas of the cruel landowner refer to traffickers for trafficking, most people in which they are not able to complain against landowners. It is likely to traffic them primarily for sexual exploitation and, in rare cases, labor purposes. Other women are psychologically pressured to for trafficking women related to urban areas. The leading cause of women trafficking is poverty, unemployed, and illiteracy.

Women trafficking includes forced coerced sexual abuse, which is not limited to prostitution and has become a significant and growing issue in Pakistan and the larger community. The societal costs include degrading women and human rights, poor health, interrupted community prevention, and extenuating social development. Victims of sexual trafficking receive adverse health and psychological conditions and social harm. Thus, sexual trafficking is an acute problem with generous social implications requiring legal and medical attention. Consequences requiring medical and. Healthcare workers can help detect, identify, and improve victims of sexual trafficking and access to legal and social services in a medical environment.

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