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Q6(c)

How serious is the problem of trafficking against women and children in India?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Challenges of Social Transformation

Challenges of Social Transformation: Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability; Poverty, deprivation and inequalities; Violence against women; Caste conflicts; Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism; Illiteracy and disparities in education.

Core demand of the question

- How serious is the problem of trafficking against women and children in India?
- Link poverty, kinship, and the sex-ratio

Revision summary

Trafficking in women and children is organised and undercounted.

Sexual, domestic, marital, and labour forms all operate.

Poverty, daughter devaluation, and missing girls feed demand and supply.

Informal homes and workshops hide victims.

Law exists; source-area rights and convictions do not match the scale.

Introduction

Trafficking of women and children in India is serious because it is organised, cross-border and internal, and rooted in poverty, caste, and missing girls. It is not a rare crime at the edge of society.

Body

Scale and forms

- Sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage, and child labour are the main forms, along routes from Nepal, Bangladesh, and poorer Indian districts.
- NCRB undercounts. Shelter and NGO data still show a standing industry, not episodes.

Why it is structurally serious

- **Feminization of poverty** and landlessness supply the catch. Seed and Earth plus dowry make daughters disposable.
- Adverse sex ratio in prosperous belts creates a market in brides, a trafficking neighbour of PCPNDT failure.
- Informal urban labour hides child and woman workers in homes and small units.

Response gap

- **ITPA** and anti-trafficking units exist. Conviction, victim citizenship, and source-area land rights remain weak.

Flow diagram

Poverty caste -> Trafficking
Skewed sex ratio -> Trafficking
Informal city -> Trafficking

Conclusion

The problem is grave because it is a market sitting on kinship inequality and informal work. Policing without title, school, and sex-ratio repair will not end it.

Facts & figures

ITPA

Immoral Traffic law that is only one, and a narrow, legal tool.

Bride trafficking

Flow into low sex-ratio regions as a demographic aftershock.

NCRB limit

Official crime counts miss much bonded and hidden movement.

Feminization of poverty

The supply condition that makes recruitment easy.