

## **Association of Educational Factors, Child Trafficking and Profession: A Multivariate Analysis**

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### **Abstract:**

The present study aims to investigate the influence of profession of the respondents on their perception regarding association of educational factors with child trafficking. The study is carried out in District Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A sample of 392 respondents is selected from Advocates, Journalists, and University Teachers through stratified random sampling one of the components of probability sampling technique. At bivariate level, all the indicants/attributes of educational factors like lack of educational facilities, ignorance of parents, dropout from schools, harsh attitude of teachers, and passive role of media are associated with child trafficking. At multivariate level, influence of profession is observed on the association of variables. Reasons of dropout cases may be surveyed and alternate mechanism may be introduced to solve the problem. Media may also be requested to educate community on the issue. It is also suggested that rehabilitative measures may be taken by the government in collaboration with NGOs for the vulnerable communities and victims of the province that may include financial, psychological and educational support.

### **Key Words:**

Educational Factors, Child Trafficking, Profession, Multivariate, Peshawar.

### **Introduction:**

Societies' socio-economic development is conditional to the level and quality of knowledge of its people. The sources and institutions of knowledge are vital in providing direction to the society and individuals. Indeed, provision of education is essential for peaceful and sustainable progress of society (Din, Ahmad and Malik, 2013). Children are put to these institutions in an early age being planned and considered safe and productive. Societies which cannot provide such institutions to its young lot endanger their present and future. The risks associated with lack of educational opportunities are numerous that could include child trafficking. Tumlin (2000) pointed out that the victims of child trafficking

under study were mostly either illiterate or had low level of education. In some studies, the reasons of non-enrolment or leaving school before completion were recorded to be financial constrain and non-availability of schools in the nearby (ILO, 2003; Moore, 1994; Tumlin, 2000; Mirza, 2010). Wolthuis and Blaak (2001) reported that one out of seven children are deprived of education. Girls are seventy percent of this population. The present study seeks to investigate if this lack of educational opportunities and ill-well environment could be associated with child trafficking. We would also look if profession has an influence upon the attitude of respondents towards educational factors and child trafficking in Peshawar.

### **Literature Review:**

Children with safe environment and facilities are protected from the ills of society (EUJHA, 2000). Noor Education Trust (NET) (2008) reported that education is primarily linked with trafficking as majority of the victims under their study were illiterate. It is also observed that in the study area priority in education is given to boys in poor families for considering them as endowment for future.

Not only the victims are reported to be facing lack of educational opportunities and ill-well environment at school, but their parents are also either illiterate and or lacking vision due to low level of exposure and awareness (Tumlin, 2000). It is reported that parents compromise the safety of their children for return of certain amount, however, it is also pointed out that mostly such parents are unaware of the conditions out there (Salah, 2004; Dowling, Moreton, and Wright, n.d.).

It is also observed that awareness level of the community regarding the issue of child trafficking is low as neither it is covered in curriculum nor properly addressed through media. Rafferty, (2008) suggests that students, teachers, parents and other community members are to be trained and made aware about the issue of human trafficking. Rafferty (2008) and some other researchers like Hughes (2000); McLoyd (1998); Roth, (2004) also highlight the bleak role of media in glamorizing the world and convincing the immature children and youth that life at the other end is bright, instead of making them aware of the issues waiting for them. Such messages of media turn the target more suitable to be grabbed by the traffickers.

Nevertheless, media positive role is also reported by studies in some countries with reference to educating community, vulnerable population, and officials about the aspects and routs of child trafficking (USAID,

2006; Wallinger, 2010). Similar function was undertaken by media in Europe. They targeted vulnerable groups, teachers, police, doctors and border guards (Rosenberg, 2004).

It is observed that one cannot win the fight against trafficking unless supported by media in real essence. Media role as source of factual information built the capacity of common people and thereby they could get easily mobilized against this social evil. On the other hand, passive role of media creates a serious problem for victims. They become hopeless and could not find way and support to escape (Kempadoo, 2005).

However, it is also observed that most of the time, due to misunderstanding and/or lack of knowledge, the media reporters confused child trafficking with other similar offences like human smuggling etc. (see for example Chuang, 2006; Demleitner, 2001; Sajid, 2010). These misrepresentations of the concepts by media are often taken for granted by lawyers and use them interchangeably (Dinan, 2008; Aradau, 2008). Muhammad (2005) conducted study under the title “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, A Situation Analysis of Pakistan” argued that instead media is reporting the issue of child abuse but still people portray the other side of the picture and claiming non-existence of such issues in Pakistan. Such situation demands critical role of media in covering the issues objectively.

No exact estimated data of children trafficked (CT) in Pakistan exists. However, few studies reported trafficking cases from different parts of the country. Tumlin (2000) pointed out a very serious nature of trade-cum-sport that endangers the lives of the trafficked children in the disguise of camel jockeys and 19,000 children of 02-11 years of age were reportedly moved to Middle East whereas Kane (1998) estimated 20,000 to 40,000 children's involvement in the business of prostitution in Pakistan. BNWLA\* (1997) and TICSAT† (2002) referred to the reports of SAARC‡ and UNICEF mentioning 4500 children being used for bonded labour in exploited way after they were trafficked to Pakistan. Iijima (1998) stated that majority of the trafficked children under the age of 16 years in South Asia were moved to India and Pakistan; most of the trafficked women and children in Pakistan are Bangladeshi, including 80 percent victims of trafficking from Bengal in Karachi. Mostly, they are either kidnapped or married to agents or falsely induced to better life and then abused in

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\* BNWLA stands for Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association.

† TICSAT stands for Trafficking in Children South Asia

‡ SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

brothels in Pakistan, and law enforcement agencies know about the entry points of them, even, police are getting their own share up to 20 percent in the sale and purchase of children and women in Pakistan (Awan, 1993; and CATW<sup>§</sup>, 2003). Ahmed (1997) highlighted that trafficked women and girls are further victimized by the Pakistani laws through Zina Ordinance of 1979 and The Passport Act of 1974 and hence such laws and treatment of the law enforcement agencies are putting such victims in embarrassing situation.

Azam (2009) pointed to the source areas of human trafficking and smuggling in Pakistan which include Gawadar, Quetta and Taftan districts in Balochistan; Mardan, Peshawar, Swat, Swabi, Nowshera, Chitral and Charsadda districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Muzafargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin and Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab; and Jacobabad and Naushera Feroze districts in Sindh. NET<sup>\*\*</sup> (2008) reported that many internally trafficked women and girls were sent to the Gulf States mainly for sexual exploitation. The age of nearly 86 percent of the victims was below 20 years when trafficked, and majority of them (83 %) were Pakhtun mostly from Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi and Nowshera districts while the traffickers belonged to Punjab, Kashmir, Sindh and Baluchistan.

The prevalence of child trafficking (CT) reflects the omnipresent poverty, deterioration of institutional norms and control, and lack of relevant laws and deficient implementation in both the sending communities and receiving communities. Human trafficking is prohibited by the constitution of Pakistan and it is obligatory on the state to enact appropriate laws to ensure full compliance with the relevant article. Pakistan is a sending, receiving and transitory country for trafficking (ILO, 2002). Further, forms of trafficking i.e. internal and transnational exist in Pakistan; however, Pakistan is facing certain challenges in determining its causes and effects and that is why the trends, patterns, complexities and magnitude of the problem is yet to be determined. The government of Pakistan enacted a law (Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002) that declared only transnational trafficking as an offence but its status as an offence internally is ambiguous (Azam, 2009). Some other forms of trafficking exist in Pakhtun society which are

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<sup>§</sup> CATW stands for Coalition Against Trafficking of Women

<sup>\*\*</sup> Noor Education Trust is a non-profit organization working in Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan for the promotion of women rights and its protection. It conducts research on different customary practices prevailing in Pakhtun society that violates the rights of female.

practiced under the marriage tradition of *walwar*, *swara*, price bride, child marriage, forced marriage and even kidnapping and selling of children especially girls. However, most of such cases go unreported for the reasons to be further explored in future research (for some aspects see Ali, Abdullah, Khan and Karim, 2014; The Express Tribune, March 16, 2016).

Theory of routine activities established by Cohen and Felson (1979) explains that a crime could be erupted if a chance of interaction exists among the three variables i.e., suitable target, lack of capability of guardian, and motivated offender. The present study is designed in light of the mentioned theory with the conceptual framework of independent variable as educational factors, and dependent variable as child trafficking. Further, profession as background variable is controlled for multivariate analysis to see its influence on the perception/attitude of respondents.

#### **Material and Methods:**

The present study is conducted in District Peshawar with the aim to determine the relationship between child trafficking and educational factors. A sample size of 392 including university teachers, advocates, and journalists is randomly selected and proportionately allocated (Chaudhry and Kamal, 1996). The respondents selected for the study are considered to be the opinion leaders of a society and are able to influence the general society, local administration, regional and national legislature, therefore, it is worth to know about their perception of the issue.

The study was designed with the conceptual framework consists of educational factors (independent variable), child trafficking (dependent variable), and profession as controlled variable.

A comprehensive questionnaire with the help of literature, based on Likert Scale, is developed for data collection. The questionnaire is first discussed with experts and amendments are made accordingly. Thereafter, the questionnaire is pre-tested for its relevance to objectives of the study. Again, the inconsistencies and ambiguities were addressed before starting the final phase of data collection.

Data is analyzed through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ) and Gamma ( $\gamma$ ) statistics are used for measuring association and direction between the variables. Further, to see the spuriousness of the results at bivariate level of analysis, multivariate analysis is carried out where 'profession' as background variable is controlled for investigating its influence on the respondents' attitude and perception. First, at bivariate level of analysis, only dependent variable is

indexed and crossed with independent variable. Second, at multivariate level of analysis both the variables are indexed and are used in cross tabulation to see the spuriousness of relationship for the three professions of the respondents.

### Results:

#### Relationship between educational aspect and child trafficking is discussed in this section as follows;

A highly positive ( $\gamma=0.693$ ) and significant ( $P<0.05$ ) relationship is found between the lack of educational opportunities and child trafficking. Similarly, a highly positive ( $\gamma =0.570$ ) and significant ( $p<0.05$ ) relationship is observed between ignorance of guardians and child trafficking (Table 1).

Moreover, a positive ( $\gamma=0.467$ ) and significant ( $p<0.05$ ) association is found between child trafficking and drop out from schools. Similarly, positive ( $\gamma=0.529$ ) and highly significant ( $p<0.05$ ) link is ascertained between corporal punishment and child trafficking.

Relationship between child trafficking and no proper presentation of the issue in the text books is observed to be non significant but positive ( $\gamma=0.220$ ). Similarly, a positive ( $\gamma=0.329$ ), however, significant ( $p<0.05$ ) result exists between role of media and child trafficking (Table 1).

**Table No. 1 Association between Educational Factors and Child Trafficking**

Statements	Attitude	Child Trafficking			Total	Statistics
		Agree	Disagree	Not sure		
<b>Lack of educational opportunities put children at risk to trafficking.</b>	Agree	291(74.2)	29(7.4)	1(0.3)	321(81.9)	$\chi^2 = 51.46$ (.000) $\gamma = .693$
	Disagree	18(4.6)	16(4.1)	0(0.0)	34(8.7)	
	Not sure	23(5.9)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	37(9.4)	
<b>Ignorance of parents results in children vulnerability to trafficking.</b>	Agree	287(73.2)	37(9.4)	1(0.3)	325(82.9)	$\chi^2 = 29.14$ (.000) $\gamma = .570$
	Disagree	38(9.7)	13(3.3)	0(.00)	51(13.0)	
	Not sure	7(1.8)	9(2.3)	0(0.0)	16(4.1)	
<b>Drop out from schools turn children in to the hands of traffickers.</b>	Agree	254(64.8)	30(7.7)	1(0.3)	285(72.7)	$\chi^2 = 17.97$ (.001) $\gamma = .467$
	Disagree	47(12.0)	15(3.8)	0(0.0)	62(15.8)	
	Not sure	31(7.9)	14(3.6)	0(0.0)	45(11.5)	
<b>No proper presentation of issue in the text books</b>	Agree	245(62.5)	36(9.2)	1(0.3)	282(71.9)	$\chi^2 = 5.643$
	Disagree	47(12.0)	15(3.8)	0(0.0)	62(15.8)	

<b>is also causes trafficking.</b> <b>Corporal punishment is responsible for child trafficking.</b>	Not sure	40(10.2)	8(2.0)	0(0.0)	48(12.2)	(.227) $\gamma = .220$
	Agree	195(49.7)	14(3.6)	1(0.3)	210(53.6)	$\chi^2 = 27.78$ (.000) $\gamma = .529$
	Disagree	60(15.3)	15(3.8)	0(0.0)	75(19.1)	
	Not sure	77(19.6)	30(7.7)	0(0.0)	107(27.3)	
<b>The role of media is passive in highlighting the issue of child trafficking.</b>	Agree	247(63.0)	35(8.9)	1(0.3)	283(72.2)	$\chi^2 = 11.44$ (.022) $\gamma = .329$
	Disagree	48(12.2)	8(2.0)	0(0.0)	56(14.2)	
	Not sure	37(9.4)	16(4.1)	0(0.0)	53(13.5)	

#### **Association between Educational Factors and Child Trafficking (Controlling Profession)**

The relationship between independent and dependent variable is worked out by controlling profession as back ground variable in order to probe if the relationship at bivariate level is spurious or non-spurious. It is evident that the influence of profession on the respondents attitude regarding educational factors and child trafficking showed that respondents with the profession of university teaching had positive relationship ( $\gamma = +.638$ ) with the mentioned variables. The association between the variables is also significant ( $p < 0.017$ ). The profession of Advocate is also positively and significantly associated with the educational factors and child trafficking ( $\gamma = +.411$ ;  $p < 0.007$ ). Contrary to the above, the profession of journalist is positively linked with the variable ( $\gamma = +.285$ ), however, the association is not significant ( $p < 0.745$ ). The relationship of the profession of university teacher and advocate is non-spurious while for journalist it is spurious. In other words, there is negligible variation in relationship of the variables in advocates and teachers, however, this variation is significant for the profession of journalist.

**Table No. 2 Association between Educational Factors and Child Trafficking (Controlling Profession)**

Profession	Educational Factors	Attitude	Child Trafficking			Total	Statistics
			Agree	Disagree	Not sure		

<b>University Teacher</b>	Educational factors like ignorance of parents, drop out, social issues not part of text, corporal punishment, passive role of media	Agree	81(69.8)	4(3.4)	2(1.7)	87(75)	$\chi^2 = 12.09$
		Disagree	6(5.2)	0(0)	0(0)	6(5.2)	5 (.017)
		Not sure	16(13.8)	3(2.6)	4(3.4)	23(19.8)	$\gamma = .638$
<b>Advocate</b>		Agree	124(71.7)	10(5.8)	4(2.3)	138(79.8)	$\chi^2 = 14.01$
		Disagree	16(9.2)	6(3.5)	3(1.7)	25(14.5)	6 (.007)
		Not sure	10(5.8)	0(0)	0(0)	10(5.8)	$\gamma = .411$
<b>Journalist</b>		Agree	88(85.4)	5(4.9)	1(1)	94(91.3)	$\chi^2 = .588$
		Disagree	8(7.8)	1(1)	0(0)	9(8.7)	(.745) $\gamma = .285$

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Note\*Values presented in the above table indicate frequency while values in the parenthesis represent percentage

### Discussion:

Education is the unanimously agreed path to development of both individual and society. However, due to either weak economic position or least priority to education in the developing countries, the educational facilities are pathetic. Relationship between educational factors and child trafficking in the study area is discussed in this section along with influence of profession on the perception of respondents as follows;

Perhaps provision of education to citizens could ensure stronger sense of responsibility and improving level of awareness which would ultimately provide sound ground to halt the social evils like child trafficking. Similar findings are derived by EUJHAC (2000); NET (2008); and Wolthuis and Blaak (2001), who stresses on provision of quality education to children for predicting a prosperous and safe future. Similarly, the study also suggests that the level of capability of guardians/parents is statistically related to the level of existing risks for minor in society. Stronger the guardian lesser would be the risks for child/ward in society and vice versa. Ignorance of parents curtail their capacity of providing safe and visionary environment to children. The findings of the present study are in accordance with Tumlin (2000); Salah (2004); and Dowling et al. (n.d.) who reported that most of the victims of child trafficking are from such families where the parents are not aware of the real situation out there. Moreover, the study findings indicate to the positive attitude of society towards the importance of education for the children. This could be an encouraging tendency in Pakhtun society.



The government may increase the investment in education to provide access to quality education and work for minimizing the chances of dropout. Corporal punishment is considered to be associated with child trafficking. Possibly corporal punishment could be one of the reasons of drop out which provide abundant supply of suitable targets to the traffickers. Although the government of Pakistan banned corporal punishment in schools, however, it has been internalized and institutionalized since long, therefore, its deletion could not only be possible through making laws rather consistent and target oriented training for teachers seem to be inevitable. These findings are in line with Tumlin (2000); Salah (2004).

Sense of social responsibility in community is subject to the incorporation of material on issues of collective significance in school curriculum. Educating the youth of society on such critical issues would develop a defense mechanism in society against the menace of child trafficking. The findings of the present study suggest that the attitude towards the incorporation of material on the issue of trafficking in school curriculum is positive which shows its important role in awareness raising among the most vulnerable group of the society i.e., children. On the other hand, it could also be deduced from the findings that society is willing to accept the inclusion of curriculum on child trafficking in school system. This willingness could be due to the existence of high risks and incidence of child trafficking in the region. These findings are in consonance with Rafferty (2008).

The findings suggest that media is not performing its due role of highlighting social issues that could result in obvious awareness in society as a whole. The media due to commercialization may be giving time only to such issues that can earn fame and money. In this context, the society feels an obvious and vital role of media as an institution to raise awareness for curbing the menace of child trafficking. These findings are consistent with Hughes (2000); McLoyd (1998); Rafferty (2008); USAID (2006); Rosenberg (2004) where they reinforce the role of media for awareness raising in community.

The results at multivariate level of analysis indicate that university teachers and advocates consider educational factors vital in predicting child trafficking. It could be due to their direct and consistent interaction with the issue both academically and practically. For example, university teachers independently and in collaboration with organizations conduct researches and recommending programs for helping the deprived, marginalized, and socially excluded segment of society. The advocates are dealing with the cases on issues of such nature in court of law. They are experiencing both aspects i.e., protective and exploitative aspects of the child trafficking. Hence, it could be deduced that the association at bivariate level is non-spurious. On the other hand journalists are the people in field and reporting the issues. However, it seems that their interaction is neither

consistent nor prevailing for longer time with the parties involved in child trafficking. This could be one of the reasons of the spurious results at multivariate level. Other reasons could be the non-reporting of such issues by the families in a rigid and closed Pakhtun society. Making such issue public and involving journalists could definitely put the respect, status and honor of the family at risk.

### **Conclusions and recommendations:**

We intended to see for association between educational factors and child trafficking through this research endure while controlling profession of the respondents. Lack of educational opportunities, ignorance of parents and community, harsh attitude of teachers, lack of awareness and sensitization due to non-incorporation of material in school curriculum and inadequate coverage by media turn children suitable targets for trafficking. This situation also encourages and motivates the traffickers and the incidence increases. The impotent capability of guardians to protect their wards is due to ignorance and lack of wisdom. One of the important theories related to the crime is the theory of routine activities established by Cohen and Felson (1979) which is reflected in the findings of the study.

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa needs to work out to take steps in developing a conducive and attractive educational environment at educational institutions. It is suggested that government in collaboration with civil society devise consistent plans and programs to reach out to far flung schools of the province in order to investigate the actual causes of drop out and solve the issue. Media may also be made part of this program with the aim to educate community on the issue. It is also suggested that rehabilitative measures may be taken by the government in collaboration with NGOs for the vulnerable communities and victims of the province that may include financial, psychological and educational support.

No study is without limitations. Similarly, the present study does not include the opinion of the victims and their parents as we could not find source to locate them. We hope that these stake holders will be approached in future research for in-depth investigation.

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