

**YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN IN YANGON**

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MDevS II – 13 (18<sup>th</sup> BATCH)**

**JUNE, 2025**

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**CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AND EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN  
YANGON**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of  
Development Studies (MDevS) Degree

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## **ABSTRACT**

Human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children are serious human rights violations that continue to affect Myanmar, particularly in urban areas like Yangon. This thesis aims to (1) study the current situation of human trafficking in Myanmar and (2) investigate the underlying causes and driving factors behind the trafficking and exploitation of women and children in Yangon. Using a descriptive method, primary data were collected through face-to-face interviews with 200 victims, all of whom were women or children. The findings reveal that poverty, unemployment, limited education, and low public awareness are key factors contributing to their vulnerability. The study concludes that prevention efforts should focus on targeted awareness campaigns via television and social media, expansion of legal migration options, and the creation of decent job opportunities. Improving literacy rates and strengthening cooperation among relevant departments and communities are also essential to reducing and controlling human trafficking in Myanmar.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ACTIP   | ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children |
| ARTIP   | Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project                                   |
| ARCPPT  | Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking                        |
| ATIPD   | Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division   |
| ATTFs   | Anti-Trafficking Task Forces   |
| AIDS    | Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome   |
| BIMSTEC | Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation |
| BLO     | Border Liaison Office  |
| CBTIP   | Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons                         |
| CMMs    | Case Management Meetings   |
| DSW     | Department of Social Welfare   |
| DOR     | Department of Rehabilitation   |
| ECPAT   | End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism  |
| GMS     | Greater Mekong Subregion   |
| HIV     | Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)   |
| INGOs   | International Non-Governmental Organizations                                   |
| IOM     | International Organization for Migration                                       |
| ILO     | International Labour Organization  |
| IDPs    | Internally Displaced Persons   |
| MPF     | Myanmar Police Force   |
| MOSWRR  | Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement                            |
| MOE     | Ministry of Education  |
| MOL     | Ministry of Labor  |
| MOHT    | Ministry of Hotel and Tourism  |
| MWAF    | Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation   |
| MMCWA   | Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association                                 |
| MWEA    | Myanmar Women Entrepreneur Association   |
| NATC    | National Anti-Trafficking Center   |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| NGOs   | Non-Governmental Organization                          |
| PTSD   | Post-traumatic stress disorder                         |
| RPA    | Regional Plan of Action                                |
| UN     | United Nations   |
| UNODC  | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime               |
| UNTOC  | UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime    |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| WHO    | World Health Organization                              |
| WV     | World Vision,  |

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale of the Study

Human trafficking is a major human rights issue worldwide. The UNODC estimates that 27.6 million individuals are trafficked globally, mostly women and children. Armed conflict, economic disparity, lack of education, and gender prejudice feed this unlawful trade. Globalization via migration, tourism, and internet platforms has made underprivileged groups more vulnerable to exploitation. Human trafficking is complicated and global, tied to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and organized crime.

Southeast Asia is a key trafficking source, transit, and destination. Greater Mekong Subregion countries including Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia are hit hard. Poor law enforcement, porous borders, political instability, and socioeconomic inequality make trafficking easy across the area. Trafficking victims for labor exploitation in agriculture, construction, and fishing or sexual exploitation in brothels and private facilities is common. Myanmar is a source and transit nation, and domestic trafficking is rising.

Trafficking occurs in Myanmar during large-scale internal and cross-border migration to Thailand via the Myawaddy–Maesot route. Political and societal upheaval drives Burmese to neighboring nations like Thailand. Since the COVID-19 epidemic, little is known regarding refugees and migrant workers' healthcare and well-being in Myanmar-Thailand resettlement zones. One-third of Myanmar's population has moved between urban and rural regions, mostly to Thailand.

Political upheaval, economic downturns, military conflicts, and pervasive poverty have made women and children vulnerable in Myanmar. IDPs, ethnic minorities, and destitute groups are more likely to be trafficked. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF have reported rising trafficking for forced marriage, forced labor, and sexual exploitation domestically and abroad, mainly

to China and Thailand. Enforcement, victim protection, and sustainable reintegration programs remain difficult despite government attempts to prevent trafficking.

Yangon, Myanmar's main metropolis and commercial center, has distinct problems. Yangon has 7.83 million residents in 2014, 15.31% of Myanmar's 51.14 million. Due to population growth, urban infrastructure, and economic development, the city is the country's industrial and commercial center. At 35% of Myanmar's urban population, Yangon is the most urbanized. In 2014, 5.2 million lived in the old capital. Women outnumber males in internal migration, 53% (Department of Population, 2015). Most men and women migrate in their 20s. The IOM (2016) found that women migrate younger. 70.6% of internal migrants are under 35 (Department of Population, 2016).

While it offers opportunities, it also harbors vulnerabilities due to rapid urbanization, rural-to-urban migration, and growing informal sectors. Yangon's role as a major urban and economic hub creates a demand for cheap labor and commercial sexual services, making it both a destination and transit point for traffickers targeting women. The nature of trafficking in persons is often gender-specific, with women and girls more frequently targeted than male for certain types of exploitation and their face considerable socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Most of the children living on the streets, internally displaced individuals, and economically marginalized women in townships like Dala, Hlaing Thar Yar, and North Okkalapa are especially at risk. Limited access to education, healthcare, and social services exacerbates these risks. Moreover, Yangon serves as a transit point for trafficking operations, given its connectivity to other regions and neighboring countries.

Despite growing awareness, human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children in Yangon persist with devastating consequences. There is a lack of comprehensive, township-level data, making it difficult to design targeted interventions. Furthermore, socio-economic conditions, combined with weak enforcement of anti-trafficking laws, have created a fertile ground for traffickers to operate. Without detailed, localized studies, it is challenging for policymakers, NGOs, and community leaders to develop effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies.

The purpose of this study is to systematically explore the causes and consequences of human trafficking and exploitation of women and children in Yangon, Myanmar. By investigating the complex dynamics of trafficking in Yangon, the study seeks to empower stakeholders with actionable insights to protect vulnerable

populations and disrupt the cycles of exploitation that affect women and children the most.

## **1.2 Objective of the Study**

The objectives are:

- (1) To examine the current situation of Human Trafficking in Myanmar
- (2) To investigate the underlying causes and driving factors behind human trafficking and exploitation of women and children in Yangon,

## **1.3 Method of Study**

Primary and secondary data were used for this descriptive analysis. Structured surveys capture primary data. A questionnaire survey is required for quantitative and qualitative methods. This research interviewed 200 people, including 100 mothers and 100 children.

Secondary data comes from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Rehabilitation Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement. International Labor Organization, International Organization for Migration, NGOs, websites, and the Internet.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

The study focuses on the causes and consequences of human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children in Yangon. (200) respondents from Yangon are interviewed to achieve these objectives. The survey period is March to May 2025. The study period is from 2014 to 2024, from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division under the Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This research has five chapters. The study's motivation, aims, method, scope, and structure are explained in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 reviews literature. Myanmar trafficking is explained in Chapter 3. Survey analysis is in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 finishes with results and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Concept of Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is the criminal exploitation or sale of individuals. Force, fraud, or coercion are used to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, or receive people. The Palermo Protocol, a UN protocol, defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of individuals through force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or vulnerability for exploitation. UN (2000)

Prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, or organ removal are all forms of exploitation. Human trafficking takes several forms depending on the desired exploitation. Major forms include:

- **Sex Trafficking:** Victims are forced into prostitution, pornography, or sexual entertainment industries. This is one of the most reported and visible forms globally (UNODC, 2020).
- **Labor Trafficking:** Victims are made to work under coercive conditions in industries such as agriculture, construction, domestic work, and manufacturing. Often, they face poor wages, long hours, and unsafe environments (ILO, 2017).
- **Child Trafficking:** Children are trafficked for various purposes such as forced labor, child soldiering, sexual exploitation, or illegal adoptions (UNICEF, 2021).
- **Organ Trafficking:** Individuals are trafficked for the illegal removal of organs to meet the demand for organ transplants (WHO, 2017).
- **Forced Marriage:** Some victims are trafficked into marriages against their will, often under threat, deception, or abuse (UNHRC, 2016).

Human trafficking can be categorized based on methods, victims, or purposes:

1. **Domestic Trafficking vs. International Trafficking:**
  - **Domestic trafficking** occurs within a country's borders.

- **International trafficking** involves crossing international borders, often under false pretenses like employment opportunities.
- 2. **Sexual Exploitation Trafficking:**

Primarily targets women and girls, although men and boys are also affected. Victims are forced into prostitution, pornography, or sex tourism industries.
- 3. **Labor Exploitation Trafficking:**

Victims are coerced into working under threat or manipulation, often in sectors that rely on low-cost labor. Debt bondage and withholding of documents are common tactics.
- 4. **Child Trafficking:**

Trafficking involving minors for forced labor, sexual exploitation, begging, drug trade, or armed conflict.
- 5. **Organ Trafficking:**

Victims are trafficked specifically for the sale or harvesting of organs, often with little to no medical care provided.
- 6. **Exploitation of Migrants:**

Migrants, especially those who are undocumented, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for labor or sexual purposes.

Therefore, human trafficking is a multi-faceted crime that strips individuals of their dignity and freedom. Understanding its definitions, forms, and types is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. Given its complexity and evolving methods, a comprehensive legal, social, and international approach is necessary to combat this violation of human rights.

## **2.2 Global Trends and Patterns of Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is a major human rights concern nowadays. Modern slavery affected 50 million people globally in 2021, up 25% from 2016, according to the UNODC (2022). Many are human trafficking victims. Most are women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and other abuse.

Women and girls account for approximately 71% of all trafficking victims globally, with 50% being adult women and 21% girls (UNODC, 2022). Men and boys make up the remaining 29%, though women are disproportionately affected due to

systemic gender inequalities, economic vulnerability, and entrenched social norms. Children represent nearly one-third of all identified victims. Most girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while boys are trafficked for forced labor, war, or crime (ILO, 2022).

Globally, sexual exploitation remains the most common form, accounting for 50% of detected cases, followed by forced labor at 38%. Forced marriages and exploitation in criminal activities are also on the rise, particularly in regions affected by conflict or economic collapse (UNODC, 2022).

Regional patterns are shown in the following countries.

- **Africa and the Middle East:** Higher rates of child trafficking compared to other regions. Children make up over **60%** of identified victims in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Asia and the Pacific:** The region holds the highest number of victims globally, largely driven by forced labor in industries such as construction, manufacturing, and fishing.
- **Europe and Central Asia:** Sexual exploitation remains the dominant form, with women and girls making up the majority of detected victims.
- **Americas:** A mixed pattern with trafficking for both sexual exploitation and forced labor. Indigenous women and migrants are particularly at risk.

Conflict zones and areas with weak law enforcement are hotspots for trafficking activity. Criminal organizations, militant groups, and opportunistic traffickers exploit instability, poverty, and displacement to recruit or abduct vulnerable individuals, especially women and children.

Online exploitation has dramatically increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. Traffickers now use social media, gaming platforms, and encrypted messaging apps to recruit and exploit victims, particularly minors. The anonymity and low risk of online activity have made digital spaces critical fronts in the fight against trafficking.

Climate change and natural disasters are emerging as indirect drivers. Displacement from climate-related events like floods, droughts, and hurricanes leaves populations vulnerable to trafficking, as seen in parts of Southeast Asia and Central America.

Organ trafficking has also gained attention, with women and children from marginalized communities often targeted for illicit organ removal operations, though

reliable global data remains limited due to the clandestine nature of the crime (World Health Organization [WHO], 2023).

Women are often subjected to multiple layers of exploitation, including forced prostitution, domestic servitude, and forced marriages. Societal norms that devalue women's autonomy, limited access to education, and economic dependence are key factors increasing vulnerability.

Children, particularly those separated from their families due to migration, conflict, or disaster, are prime targets. Traffickers often use manipulation, deception, or violence to recruit children. Forced child labor in agriculture, mining, and street begging remains common across several regions.

Efforts to combat trafficking have seen some progress. International agreements like the Palermo Protocol (2000) have established legal frameworks, and regional initiatives have improved victim identification and support. However, enforcement remains inconsistent, and conviction rates for traffickers are strikingly low worldwide.

Therefore, human trafficking is a persistent and evolving crime with women and children at the center of the crisis. While awareness and policy measures have improved, global efforts remain fragmented and insufficient. The rise of digital exploitation, the impact of climate change, and ongoing conflict demand a more coordinated, proactive, and survivor-centered approach to eliminate trafficking and protect the most vulnerable populations.

## **2.3 Causes of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Children**

Human trafficking and child exploitation are caused by social, economic, political, and cultural forces. These reasons must be understood to develop effective preventative efforts (IOM, 2019).

### **(1) Poverty and Economic Inequality**

Poverty fuels human trafficking. Women and children are vulnerable to traffickers' offering jobs, education, or better living circumstances in locations with few economic possibilities. The UNODC (2020) reports that economic desperation drives people to take risks that traffickers exploit. Income inequality exacerbates this vulnerability, particularly in developing nations where wealth gaps are wide and social mobility is limited.

## **(2) Lack of Education**

Limited access to education makes individuals more susceptible to exploitation. Without education, people have fewer employment options and less knowledge of their rights, making them easy targets for traffickers (UNICEF, 2017). Girls and young women, in particular, may be withdrawn from school and pushed into early marriage or labor, which increases their risk of being trafficked.

## **(3) Gender Inequality and Discrimination**

Cultural norms and systemic gender discrimination make women and girls primary targets for trafficking. In many societies, women have lower social status, reduced access to resources, and limited autonomy, creating an environment where exploitation can flourish (UN Women, 2020). Gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and sexual violence, often precedes trafficking, further trapping victims in cycles of abuse.

## **(4) Conflict and Political Instability**

War, armed conflict, and political instability displace millions and strip away legal protections. Displaced women and children, especially refugees and internally displaced persons, face high risks of trafficking. Traffickers prey on the chaos and lack of oversight, offering fake promises of security and employment (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2019).

## **(5) Weak Legal Frameworks and Corruption**

In countries where anti-trafficking laws are weak or poorly enforced, traffickers operate with relative impunity. Corruption among law enforcement, immigration officials, and government institutions can facilitate trafficking networks (U.S. Department of State, 2022). Victims are often reluctant to seek help, fearing that authorities will either ignore their plight or punish them.

## **(6) Demand for Cheap Labor and Commercial Sex**

The global demand for cheap labor, domestic work, and commercial sex drives trafficking markets. Industries such as agriculture, mining, construction, and hospitality often benefit from exploited labor (ILO, 2017). Similarly, the commercial sex industry, fueled by consumer demand, perpetuates the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation.

## **(7) Social and Family Breakdown**

Family dysfunction, abuse, and neglect increase vulnerability to trafficking. Children from broken homes or those living on the streets are at higher risk of being lured by traffickers who promise care and stability. Traffickers exploit the emotional and psychological needs of these children, grooming them for exploitation (ECPAT International, 2018).

Therefore, human trafficking and exploitation of women and children result from a complex interplay of poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, conflict, weak governance, and market demand. Addressing these root causes requires coordinated efforts across multiple sectors, including economic development, education, legal reform, and public awareness campaigns. Without tackling the systemic issues that allow trafficking to thrive, millions will remain at risk.

## **2.4 Consequences of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Children**

Human trafficking, particularly of women and children, leaves lasting physical, psychological, social, and economic damage. It is not only a severe human rights violation but also a major obstacle to social and economic development (UNHRC, 2016).

### **(1) Physical and Psychological Consequences**

Victims of trafficking often suffer from serious physical health issues. Many experience injuries from physical abuse, malnutrition, untreated chronic illnesses, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS (Zimmerman et al., 2003). Women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation are at even greater risk, frequently facing repeated sexual violence that leads to gynecological complications, unwanted pregnancies, and long-term reproductive health problems.

Psychologically, the effects are equally devastating. Victims often experience depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal tendencies (Oram et al., 2012). The trauma of exploitation often makes recovery difficult, even after they are freed. Children are especially vulnerable; exploitation disrupts their emotional development, erodes their sense of trust, and creates lasting psychological scars.

## **(2) Social Consequences**

Trafficking isolates victims from their families and communities. Many survivors face stigma and discrimination when they return home, especially if they were sexually exploited (Surtees, 2008). In many cases, survivors are blamed for their exploitation or rejected by their families, further compounding their trauma.

The social fabric of communities also weakens. When large numbers of women and children are trafficked from a community, it damages social structures, leading to broken families, disrupted education, and a loss of trust in institutions meant to protect people. This degradation creates environments where trafficking can thrive further.

## **(3) Economic Consequences**

Human trafficking drains economic resources. Survivors often find it difficult to reintegrate into the workforce due to their physical and psychological injuries. The loss of productive potential among trafficked women and children stunts local and national economic growth (ILO, 2017). Healthcare, legal aid, and rehabilitation services for victims also require substantial public spending.

For individuals, the economic consequences are severe. Many victims are left in debt from being trafficked, as traffickers often trap them in situations of "debt bondage," where they must work indefinitely to "repay" transportation or living costs. The exploitation often leads to economic instability and poverty that can continue for generations.

## **(4) Broader Societal Impacts**

Human trafficking fuels corruption and weakens the rule of law. It strengthens organized crime networks that profit from exploitation and bribery. Societies where trafficking is widespread often see higher levels of violence, insecurity, and social instability (UNODC, 2020).

Additionally, trafficking undermines efforts toward gender equality and children's rights. When women and children are commodified, it reinforces harmful gender stereotypes and undermines progress on human rights initiatives.

The consequences of human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children are profound and far-reaching. They affect not just the individual victims, but families, communities, economies, and societies at large. Combating trafficking demands a coordinated, serious response that addresses each immediate victim's needs and the systemic conditions that allow exploitation to persist.

## 2.5 Reviews on Previous Studies

Aneeqa Mustafa, Mukhtiar Ahmed, and Raheel Ali (2023) analyzed the causes and effects of human trafficking in Pakistan. They highlighted that a combination of poverty, gender discrimination, and limited access to education creates conditions that traffickers exploit. Women and children, being the most vulnerable, often fall prey to false promises of a better future. The consequences are severe, leading to both physical and emotional harm, loss of personal freedom, and continuous cycles of abuse. Weak border controls and ineffective law enforcement further enable traffickers to operate with little fear of punishment. Moreover, deep-rooted cultural attitudes and social stigma frequently discourage victims from seeking help or justice. Combating human trafficking in Pakistan demands comprehensive strategies, including legal reforms, economic development, and public awareness initiatives. Success also hinges on international cooperation, stronger enforcement of laws, and persistent efforts to dismantle trafficking networks.

Chalayonnavin, A. (2023) explored the trafficking patterns of Thai female sex workers in Europe, focusing on ways to prevent and address sex trafficking. Vulnerable Thai women, often facing economic and social hardships, are frequently targeted by international criminal networks that exploit them through prostitution abroad, particularly in Europe. Despite the seriousness of the issue, limited research exists on current trafficking operations and prevention strategies. This study sought to fill that gap by analyzing the trafficking of Thai women to Europe, using focus groups and interviews with 25 former victims now residing in Norway, France, and Germany. Thematic analysis identified several key preventive measures: raising awareness among at-risk populations, strengthening immigration enforcement, creating international NGO networks, and providing online support services. The study recommends incorporating these strategies into the development of comprehensive prevention models to protect vulnerable women from being trafficked into sex work.

Naryono, E. (2023) studied human trafficking in Indonesia between business and humanitarian crime. Human trafficking between 2018 and 2022 has become increasingly alarming, posing a serious threat to national security. Government measures to address this issue have had minimal impact. High unemployment rates, limited job opportunities, and rising poverty have driven many Indonesians to seek work abroad, often in the informal sector without sufficient skills or education. This

vulnerable situation is exploited by human trafficking syndicates, who entice victims with promises of high wages overseas. Due to their low education levels, many are easily deceived. Upon arrival, they often face inhumane conditions, unpaid labor, or are forced into the sex trade. Tragically, many illegal migrant workers lose their lives. The growing number and severity of human trafficking cases are attributed to the government's inadequate resources in handling the issue. There are even suspicions that some law enforcement officials may be complicit in supporting human trafficking networks in Indonesia.

Krushas, A. E., & Kulig, T. C. (2023) studied exploring the physical, mental, and social health issues of sex trafficking victims by stage of exploitation. Experiencing human trafficking is widely known to cause serious and lasting harm to individuals' mental, physical, and social well-being. While health complications are acknowledged as an important factor when supporting victims, there is limited understanding of how these outcomes differ based on the timing of exploitation or in comparison to those who have not been trafficked. This study addresses this gap by analyzing data from a national sample of 986 young women without a college education. It examines the physical, mental, and social health of sex trafficking victims categorized by when they were exploited (as minors only, adults only, or both) compared to non-victims. Findings reveal significant links between the stage of exploitation and current social health challenges, with fewer notable connections to mental and physical health problems. These early results highlight that the timing of exploitation may influence the type of health issues victims face, offering important insights for future interventions.

Aye Chan Thar, & Kovudhikulrungsri, L. (2024) studied exploring the government and legal frameworks for addressing child labor rights in Myanmar. It evaluates how effectively current policies prevent child labor and protect children's rights to education and a safe workplace. Using qualitative research methods, including interviews with four child workers, two NGOs, UNICEF, and two government officials, along with narrative analysis, the study highlights critical challenges and opportunities. Findings show significant gaps in enforcing child labor laws, worsened by socio-economic hardships. Political instability and limited resources hinder government efforts to implement protections effectively. The research emphasizes the crucial need to expand educational opportunities as a core strategy against child labor. NGOs and international organizations such as UNICEF play vital roles in bridging gaps left by

government shortcomings, but also face resource and operational constraints. A comprehensive solution requires stronger policies, greater government commitment, and closer collaboration among national and international partners to promote children's rights and well-being.

Human trafficking awareness in Mandalay, Myanmar, was studied by Khin Khin Soe (2023). Young women from Bago, Ayeyarwady, Magway, Mandalay, Kayin, and Kachin are trafficked to China for forced marriage and surrogacy, typically sponsored by brokers. Mandalay's knowledge of human trafficking will be examined in the study. Poverty, joblessness, and migration drive trafficking, according to 150-person research. Lack of education limits self-protection against debt and forced work. Most responders know nothing about human trafficking. To eliminate trafficking, the report suggests TV and social media awareness campaigns, legal migration possibilities, domestic work prospects, and effective anti-trafficking measures with public collaboration.

## CHAPTER III

### OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT OF TRAFFICKING IN MYANMAR

#### 3.1 The Context of Human Trafficking in Myanmar

Myanmar has three profitable criminal businesses, including human trafficking. Most Southeast Asian trafficking victims are children and women. Trafficking victims for prostitution, marriage, domestic work, industrial jobs, and organ sale is intentional. Myanmar has widespread human trafficking due to poverty, unemployment, and migration. Women and children from Myanmar are trafficked to Thailand, China, Singapore, and Malaysia every year. People from impoverished households are mostly ignorant. Uneducated and underprivileged individuals are easy prey for traffickers. The rich-poor disparity in Myanmar is considerable. Myanmar has 70% farmers and rural residents. Most urbanites are illiterate, honest, and kind, making them open to exploitation. Pimps recruit young women and children from poor and vulnerable areas, promising a better life for them and their families. Poverty contributes to women and children being trafficked. Lack of jobs for women in Myanmar reinforces human trafficking. Women graduate from university but struggle to find work. Company, store, and government jobs don't pay enough for her family. Before departing, most young women try to find jobs abroad, connect with brokers, and sign debt contracts. People who use brokers to travel abroad are sold for prostitution, marriage, and parts like kidneys, liver, heart, and blood instead of a better life.

The last fact that motivates human trafficking is migration. It is one of the most difficult problems to control between countries. In this case, families move across the border readily with the expectation of a better chance for their lives. Migration is broadly practiced in every border region of Myanmar the societies in where individual families had heard about the new locations, through communication and from neighbors. Migration is a part of exploitation and human trafficking. Generally, moving across the borders is 'voluntary' in this situation. For instance, a family who has decided to migrate to one of the neighboring countries for work is specifically endangered to exploitation. On the other hand, the promise of good employment and higher incomes lures the migrants into human

trafficking. When the migration status of the family is illegal and unclear, there can be a lack of connection with its relatives, neighborhood, and the community; also, they could have financial problems before they get a job. For these reasons, migration is completely supporting the pimps to take advantage of the migrants.

Human trafficking is a global concern, especially in developing nations. It is a factor that steadily threatens human rights. Poverty, unemployment, and migration make “human trafficking” common in Myanmar. The fundamental reason is that economic disruptions increase human trafficking danger. The study finds that solid governance institutions, notably a dedication to the rule of law and access to justice, tougher anti-trafficking measures, and social support can minimize trafficking instances. Strong governance institutions including the rule of law, access to justice, and anti-trafficking legislation can help prevent human trafficking. These initiatives would need governments to improve and implement anti-criminal and anti-trafficking legislation, provide victims with legal aid, and prosecute traffickers. The following table (3.1) displays Myanmar's 2014–2023 human trafficking condition.

**Table (3.1) Human Trafficking Situation in Myanmar**

| Year | Cases (No.) | Traffickers (No.) | Victims (No.) |        |
|------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|--------|
|      |             |                   | Male          | Female |
| 2014 | 124         | 367               | 121           | 188    |
| 2015 | 130         | 385               | 397           | 246    |
| 2016 | 134         | 411               | 52            | 204    |
| 2017 | 225         | 671               | 68            | 287    |
| 2018 | 206         | 609               | 45            | 277    |
| 2019 | 239         | 742               | 61            | 297    |
| 2020 | 111         | 341               | 15            | 152    |
| 2021 | 22          | 60                | 6             | 23     |
| 2022 | 25          | 61                | 25            | 28     |
| 2023 | 36          | 133               | 17            | 64     |

Source: Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2024)

According to the table (3.1), the number of female trafficking victims in Myanmar fluctuated significantly between 2014 and 2023. The highest number was recorded in 2015 (246 victims) and 2019 (297 victims), while the lowest was in 2021 (23 victims). Several factors may account for this variation. First, increased law enforcement efforts and cross-border cooperation, especially with neighboring

countries like China and Thailand during peak years, may have led to higher detection and reporting of female victims. Second, socioeconomic vulnerability among women and girls, particularly in rural areas, made them more susceptible to trafficking during times of economic hardship or natural disasters. The sharp decline after 2020 can be linked to political instability and limited access to conflict-affected areas, which likely reduced both trafficking operations and the government's ability to detect and report cases. Furthermore, COVID-19-related travel restrictions may have disrupted trafficking networks and also hindered identification and rescue operations, contributing to the reduced number of reported female victims in recent years.

### **3.2 Human Trafficking mobility to neighboring countries**

Informal transboundary trade allows human smuggling and other illegal acts. Human smuggling and trafficking use informal trade networks to cross Myanmar's open borders with neighboring nations. Myanmar's law considers voluntary migration helped by brokers or unregistered labor organizations human smuggling. Such smuggling may readily become human trafficking, especially when migrants, whether they used registered labor agency or not, become vulnerable, exploited, or mistreated in the destination country.

In such cases, brokers, transporters, and those who house migrants before border crossings break the law. These individuals face long-term imprisonment under the 1999 Overseas Employment Law and 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. Despite this, many actors involved in cross-border migration maintain a status of illegality, either intentionally or unintentionally. These actors often perceive their actions, whether facilitating illegal mobility or engaging in unregulated trade, as legitimate strategies to negotiate access to improved livelihoods and economic opportunities. From their perspective, such activities are licit means of participating in development, despite being criminalized by the state.

As a result, human mobility across the Myanmar-Thailand and Myanmar-China borders has become dynamic and widespread. Some border crossings occur legally, particularly through the issuance of one-day or seven-day passes, which are used by the majority of migrants. However, a significant number of crossings take place illegally at numerous unmonitored border points. Following entry into the destination country, many migrants overstay their permitted duration and seek employment at various

worksites. This form of mobility, both legal and illegal, presents a spectrum of costs and benefits.

Among the costs, a prominent concern is the negative social impact on migrants and their families in their communities of origin. Due to their irregular status, many migrants are compelled to undertake what are commonly referred to as the “4Ds” jobs: dirty, difficult, disgraceful, and dangerous, with minimal or no legal protection. Moreover, the financial burden associated with migration often results in heavy indebtedness for migrant households. Frequently, migration costs are financed through high-interest loans.

Despite these challenges, bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and its neighboring countries, particularly in terms of joint investigations and Anti-trafficking operations, has significantly improved in recent years. However, the evolving tactics of professional smugglers and the limited capacity of local authorities to respond effectively remain key obstacles in curbing illegal cross-border movement. While stringent control and prevention measures are essential, an overemphasis on restriction can inadvertently encourage more sophisticated illegal operations. Facilitating safe and legal migration channels could present a more effective and sustainable solution, benefiting both origin and destination countries.

Legal and illegal cross-border mobility plays a vital role in sustaining rural livelihoods by diversifying income sources. In the context of limited access to formal credit and employment security, migration enables households to self-finance microenterprises and hedge against income risks. This, in turn, contributes to broader economic activity through increased local investment and consumption. Hence, mobility, while fraught with risks, can be a strategic economic decision for many rural families.

The issue of cross-border movement, particularly illegal migration, human smuggling, and trafficking from Myanmar, is complex and multidimensional. Addressing this challenge requires an integrated approach involving sustained collaboration among various stakeholders. These include government authorities in both origin and destination countries, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and migrants themselves, along with their families.

One notable hotspot for cross-border mobility is Myawaddy in Myanmar, which borders Mae Sot in Thailand. While this area is renowned for informal trade, it also

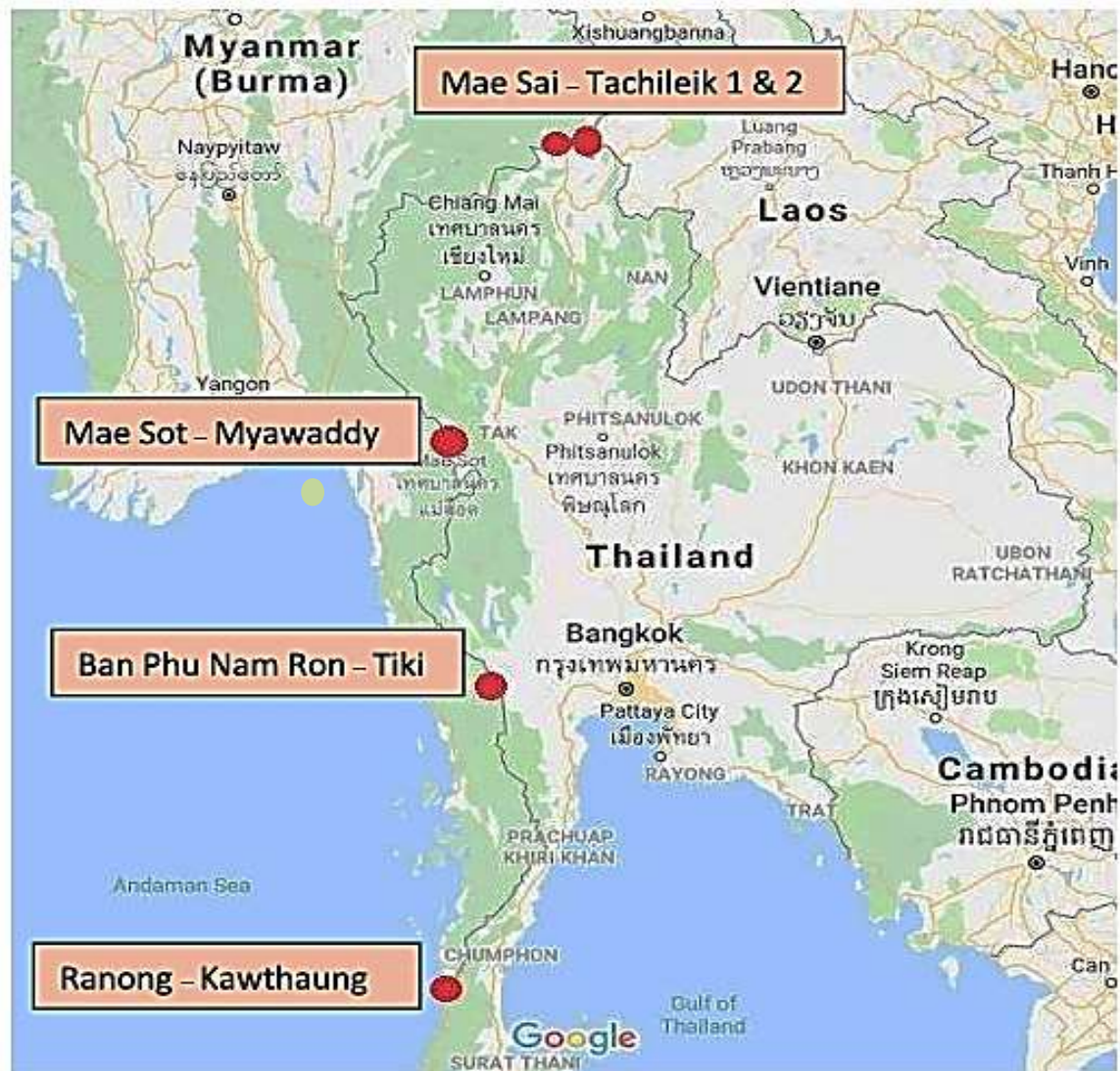
serves as a significant corridor for irregular migration. Due to the presence of multiple Thai checkpoints, individuals entering Thailand through this border often proceed on foot over several days to avoid detection. Although Myawaddy is more accessible from Yangon by road than other border towns such as Kawthaung, it hosts numerous illegal crossing points. Small boats frequently ferry individuals across narrow streams, and upon arrival in Thailand, motorbike taxis provide transport to and from downtown Mae Sot. Some illegal crossings are located near the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, which serves as the only formal entry point in the area.

Five permanent border posts (two in Chiang Rai, one in Tak, Mae Sot – Myawaddy (one in Ranong), Ranong – Kawthaung (and one in Kanchanaburi), Ban Phu Nam Ron – Tiki) are at this entrance point. MOU-recruited Myanmar migrant laborers may only cross through Mae Sot in Tak province and Ranong, therefore workers from every area or state must travel to Myawaddy or Kawthaung.

Despite the presence of a legal crossing point, as of 2009, only one-day border passes were issued at Myawaddy-Mae Sot, in contrast to seven-day passes available at other checkpoints such as Tachileik-Mae Sai and Kawthaung-Ranong. This restriction means that travelers must exit the host country within a day, often prompting them to use illegal routes for re-entry or prolonged stay. Official statistics indicated that, on average, around 2,000 individuals entered Thailand daily through the legal checkpoint, while only 1,600 officially departed, leaving approximately 400 unaccounted for. It is likely that these individuals either remained illegally in Mae Sot or returned via unauthorized routes.

In practice, since the implementation of the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, Myanmar authorities have not taken legal action against migrants officially repatriated by Thai authorities. Nevertheless, the misinformation disseminated by brokers and a deep-rooted mistrust of local authorities continue to fuel fear among migrants, compelling them to rely on illicit and often exploitative return mechanisms. In conclusion, addressing the issue of irregular cross-border migration from Myanmar requires a nuanced, multi-stakeholder approach. Strengthening legal pathways for migration, improving public awareness, building local capacity, and fostering cross-border cooperation are all critical to mitigating the risks associated with irregular migration while safeguarding the rights and well-being of migrants.

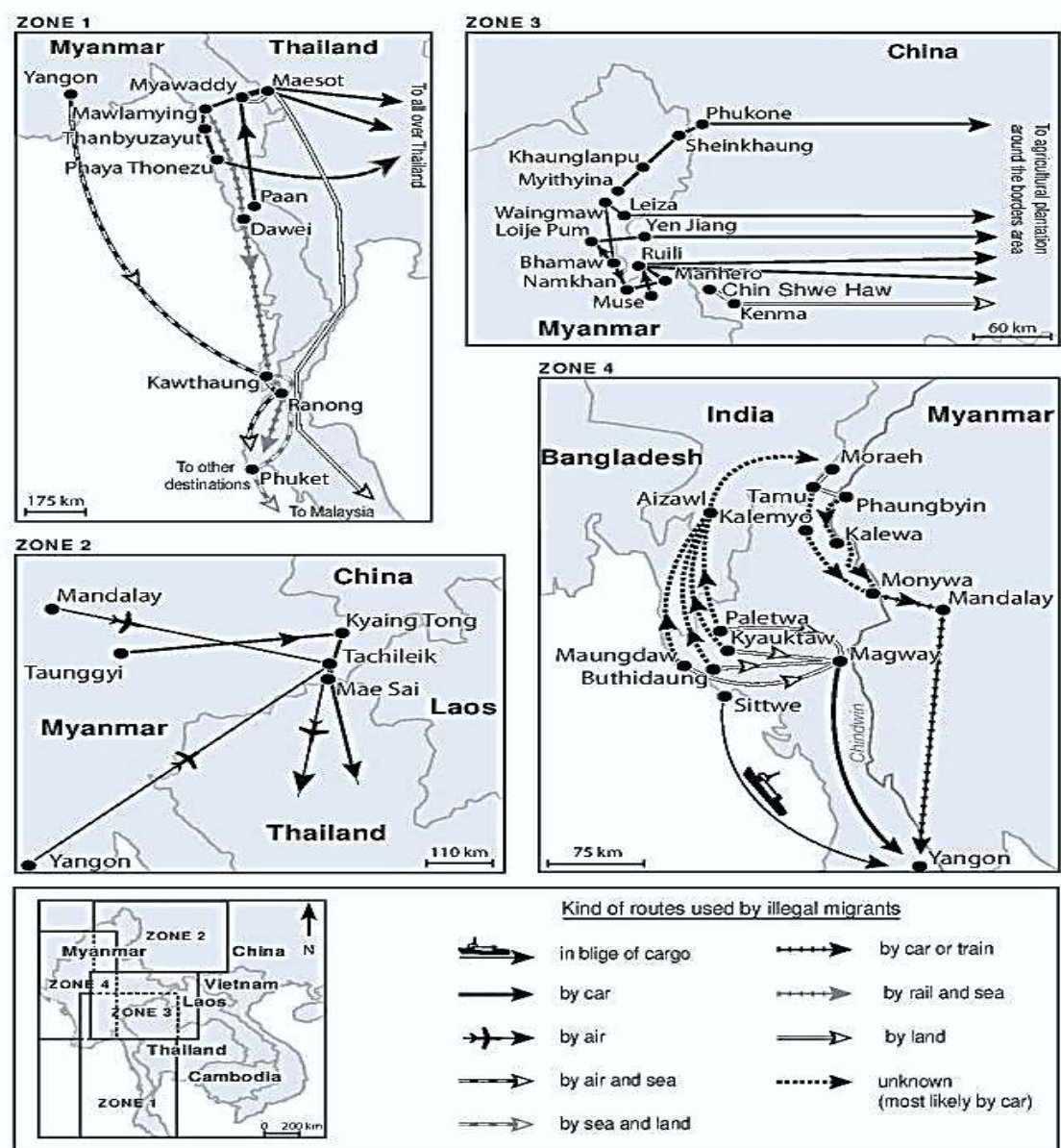
**Figure (3.1): Official Permanent Border Checkpoints between Thailand and Myanmar**



Source: Google Maps

According to IOM assessments, many Myanmar migrants live in Thai provinces far from their original regions. For example, Chin migrants are mainly in Chon Buri, Rayong, and Phetchabun; Magway migrants are concentrated in Phuket; and Rakhine migrants are notably present in Songkhla. Phetchabun, Chiang Rai, Phuket, and Surat Thani have become key destinations despite being distant from the border. The largest migrant groups are from Tanintharyi (18%), Kayin (18%), and Mon (13%). As of July 2024, an estimated 1.7 million Myanmar migrants were in irregular situations, and nearly 100,000 were in camps along the border as of November 2024. IOM also found migrant numbers in some border provinces vastly exceed official records, by factors of 5.3 in Mae Hong Son, 3.2 in Tak, and 2.5 in Chiang Rai.

**Figure (3.2): Routes taken by illegal migrants going to Thailand and China from Myanmar**



Source: Informal Trade and Underground Economy in Myanmar

According to this study, Thailand remains the primary destination for most Myanmar migrants. The data of 2023–2024 shows that about 50% of Myanmar migrants entering Thailand use irregular routes, with the highest rate 75% in Tak province, a major border area. Key entry points include Tak (50%), Ranong (49%), and Kanchanaburi (1%), though detailed breakdowns of legal vs. illegal entry in all regions are limited. In another way, migration to China also involves both legal and illegal

crossings, especially in northern areas like Muse and Ruili, but no precise percentage data is available for irregular routes.

### **3.3 Legal Framework and Government Response**

Myanmar has taken steps to address human trafficking, especially for women and children, through national laws and cooperation with international and local organizations. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was enacted in 2005 and amended in 2014. This law defines trafficking, imposes penalties on traffickers, and provides protection and assistance to victims. In 2006, the government formed the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP) to lead anti-trafficking work. The Child Rights Law, revised in 2019, also includes special protection for children from trafficking and abuse. Myanmar follows the “3Ps” approach: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution.

#### **3.3.1 Prevention**

Preventing trafficking is the goal of prevention. The Anti-Trafficking Law and National Plans of Action state that prevention include educating the public, encouraging lawful migration, addressing the underlying causes, such as poverty and illiteracy, and safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. Activities include public campaigns, vocational training, school instruction in high-risk locations, and community outreach activities. To carry out these initiatives, government organizations collaborate with regional NGOs, IOM, UNICEF, and other partners.

Myanmar offers a range of preventative initiatives. In order to provide educational programs, poverty reduction, occupational skill training, and microcredit loans, Myanmar has partnered with UN agencies, NGOs, and INGOs. A variety of mediums, including publication, production, and broadcasting, have been used to spread information about awareness-raising. Additionally, the government published newspaper stories, broadcast radio and television shows on human trafficking, and distributed brochures and newsletters produced by an international organization. Additionally, in order to raise awareness of human trafficking across the nation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, the Ministry of Labor, the Department of Social Welfare, the Myanmar Police Force, and the Myanmar Federation

of Women Affairs collaborated with international organizations and UN agencies. Nonetheless, a public awareness-raising effort must be started, particularly in human trafficking hotspots like Shan (North) State, Yangon Division, Mandalay Division, and Kachin State, as well as in the other states and divisions.

Human trafficking is mostly caused by poverty and illiteracy. In an effort to end poverty, a number of non-governmental organizations, including the Myanmar Women Entrepreneur Association (MWEA), the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA), and MWAF, have given money to underprivileged women who are running microbusinesses in order to increase their economic potential. Vulnerable women were given access to vocational skill training and employment opportunities by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, which also incurred costs in carrying out these initiatives.

### **3.3.2 Protection**

According to the Anti-Trafficking Law, victims—women and children in particular—must receive dignified treatment and not be prosecuted for illegal actions taken as a result of being trafficked. Protection services include safe reintegration, legal assistance, emotional support, temporary shelters, rapid rescue, and medical treatment. These services are offered by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement and the Department of Rehabilitation in collaboration with IOM, World Vision, and regional NGOs. For child victims, special protocols are in place, such as care arrangements and family tracking.

There is a shortage of shelter space in Myanmar, and the long-term effects of trauma on the life of a trafficked person are not given enough attention. From escaping trafficking, most victims are sent to shelters run by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW-shelters) and, from 2018, the Department of Rehabilitation, where they stay for a few days before being sent back to their relatives or communities. Repatriating victims to their home communities is a cost-effective strategy, but it may not always be in the victims' best interests because it raises the possibility of re-trafficking.

Vocational training is a regular component of reintegration programs that give assistance to certain victims, but little else is done to help them recover from their psychological trauma. A fair trial is denied to many victims who seek restorative justice through the legal system because of confusing processes and widespread corruption among prosecutors and judges. Another element impeding the victims' recovery from their trauma is the absence of restorative justice, which lowers the likelihood of their long-term, complete reintegration into society. Lastly, the Myanmar Anti-Trafficking Police Force's overwork, lack of training, and understaffing undermine the effectiveness of anti-trafficking regulations.

### **3.3.3 Prosecution**

Human trafficking is a severe offense with harsh consequences under the Anti-Trafficking Law. Investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes is a skill that law enforcement, border control, and judicial officials possess. The government has established Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (ATTFs) in key areas and works with neighboring countries for cross-border cooperation. Myanmar and Thailand signed an MoU in 2009 for cooperation on law enforcement, victim repatriation, and Case Management Meetings (CMMs). Myanmar is also a member of the COMMIT process since 2004, working with regional countries to strengthen legal action and policy implementation.

The 2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law requires the Central Body for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons to create rules and procedures to implement the National Anti-Trafficking Plan. Three Law-established Working Groups implement sector-specific work programs:

- 1. Working Group on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims;**

The Chairperson is responsible for overseeing all national prevention-related initiatives, including awareness-raising, community outreach, and addressing the root causes of trafficking.

- 2. Working Group on Legal Framework and Prosecution Measures;** This group supervises efforts related to investigation, prosecution, and legal reform to ensure compliance with national and international legal standards.

### **3. Working Group on Repatriation, Reintegration, and Rehabilitation of Victims;**

The Chairperson is tasked with coordinating the protection and recovery of trafficked persons, including safe repatriation, psychosocial support, and reintegration services.

The National Task Force on Project Implementation coordinates anti-trafficking efforts across all regions and reports directly to the Central Body. At the subnational level, the Regional and State Task Forces for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons oversee implementation down to the township level. A monitoring team led by the National Anti-Trafficking Center conducts field visits to ensure progress, identify challenges, and evaluate performance based on national SOPs.

#### **3.3.4 Regional and International Cooperation**

Myanmar actively engages in international and regional anti-trafficking mechanisms:

- Myanmar collaborates with five Mekong nations on COMMIT. The program began in Yangon on October 29, 2004. The first Sub-Regional Plan of Action (SPA) was agreed in Hanoi in March 2005, and the COMMIT Joint Declaration with the 2008–2010 SPA was accepted at the second Ministerial Meeting in Beijing in 2007.
- Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) financed by UNICEF and UNODC have improved cross-border interaction with China. Muse–Ruili hosted the first BLO on July 12, 2007. Additional BLOs were established in Laukkai–Nansan and other strategic sites to combat cross-border human trafficking.
- On March 13, 2004, Myanmar joined the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols:
  - The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
  - The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
- Myanmar participates in the Bali Process, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia since 2002, which fosters regional human trafficking and smuggling cooperation. In 2003, Myanmar joined the Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking (ARCPPT), which eventually became the Asia

Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP) and increased cooperation with Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

- Myanmar approved the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons at the 2004 ASEAN Summit in Laos and remains a party to the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and Regional Plan of Action. Myanmar hosted the 6th EWG meeting in June 2014, advancing ASEAN–U.S. collaboration.
- Myanmar fights transnational crimes including trafficking alongside regional partners like Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal under the 1997 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

### **3.3.5 Bilateral Mechanisms**

Myanmar has signed several bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance coordination with neighboring countries:

- The Myanmar–Thailand Anti-Trafficking MoU was signed on April 24, 2009. Under this agreement, Border Cooperation Offices for Anti-Trafficking in Persons (BCATIPs) were established in:
  - Tachilek–Mae Sai (March 23, 2012),
  - Kawthaung–Ranong (August 30, 2012),
  - Myawady–Mae Sot (October 31, 2013).
- The first bilateral coordination meeting between Myanmar and Thailand was held in Bangkok in November 2007, followed by the second in Nay Pyi Taw in April 2008, during which joint action plans were agreed.
- The Myanmar–China Anti-Trafficking MoU was signed in Beijing on November 11, 2009, following several rounds of bilateral meetings held between 2005 and 2009 in Bagan, Kunming, and Nay Pyi Taw.
- Under support from the Government of Japan, temporary shelters for victims of trafficking were opened in Muse (February 21, 2011) and Kawthaung (April 24, 2014). Additional emergency facilities were also set up in Myawady for displaced persons.

- Cooperation between Myanmar and the United States was formalized with the signing of the Declaration on Anti-Trafficking on December 18, 2012. The first bilateral meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw on August 1, 2013.

### **3.4 Intervention and Prevention Strategies**

Human trafficking—a contemporary kind of slavery—affects thousands of men, women, and children worldwide. Victims originate, transit, or arrive in countries worldwide. The UNODC leads global efforts to combat this crime through the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols.

This framework's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking in detail. Threats, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deceit, abuse of authority, or vulnerability are used to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, or receive people. Payments to control and exploit others are also part of the protocol.

Myanmar participates in regional anti-trafficking projects, notably the Greater Mekong Subregion. Myanmar has signed trafficking control agreements with China, Thailand, Laos, and India. Myanmar is a member of the Asia-Pacific Bali Action Plan and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The Myanmar Police Force, government departments, and the public work together to prevent human trafficking. Child trafficking, debt bondage, forced marriages, prostitution, and labor are the main kinds of trafficking in the nation. Each category presents distinct issues and demands specialized preventive and prosecution tactics.

Young girls and women are sold or pressured into marriage, often across countries. Vulnerable people are forced into prostitution by threats or violence. Forced employment entails brutal work, whereas child trafficking exploits children for sexual abuse and slavery. Debt bondage forces workers to repay debts under unjust and oppressive circumstances. Myanmar has many methods to address these acts. The strategy emphasizes legislative frameworks, law enforcement, public awareness, and international collaboration. Myanmar hopes to dramatically eliminate human trafficking and preserve the rights and dignity of all by addressing the core causes and supporting victims.

### **3.5 Causes of Human Trafficking in Yangon**

Yangon, Myanmar's largest city and former capital, plays a central role in both internal and cross-border migration, and has increasingly become a root source for human trafficking. Urban poverty and lack of affordable housing have forced many families to live in slums or informal settlements, where social services, education, and police protection are limited. In such areas, traffickers can operate more easily by taking advantage of poor living conditions, low literacy rates, and a lack of community awareness. However, high unemployment, underemployment, and the growth of the informal economy leave many, especially women and youth, vulnerable to exploitation. Poor families may be pressured to accept risky job offers or send children to work, increasing the risk of child trafficking. Many victims are lured by false promises of work, education, or marriage, especially young women who are targeted for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

The economic dominance draws thousands of migrants annually from rural and conflict-affected regions seeking better livelihoods. As the commercial capital of Myanmar, Yangon accounts for a large share of the national GDP and is home to numerous factories, services, and informal labor markets. However, the opportunities available in the city often do not match the aspirations of the incoming labor force, particularly for low-skilled migrants. Many end up in precarious, informal employment, lacking legal protections or social safety nets. This vulnerable situation makes them prime targets for traffickers and exploiters who promise higher wages or better working conditions abroad.

The growth of informal labor networks and unlicensed brokers in Yangon contributes directly to the human trafficking problem. Many people, particularly young women and unemployed youth, are lured by agents promising jobs in Thailand, China, or Malaysia. Without proper oversight, many of these brokers operate illegally, facilitating unsafe and undocumented migration pathways. Once outside of formal systems, migrants are more likely to experience deception, coercion, and exploitation through human trafficking.

The city has also become a destination for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) fleeing conflict and natural disasters, particularly from Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states. These IDPs often arrive without proper identification or support networks and face extreme economic hardship. Their desperation makes them susceptible to

trafficking schemes, including sexual exploitation, forced labor, and child trafficking. Traffickers often exploit their lack of legal status and social isolation.

Yangon's strategic location and well-connected infrastructure, such as the international airport, major ports, and road links to border areas, make it a key transit point for outbound migration and trafficking. Many traffickers use Yangon as the starting point for transferring victims to border regions like Myawaddy (near Thailand) or Muse (near China), from where they are smuggled or trafficked across borders. In some cases, victims are recruited in rural areas but are held in Yangon temporarily before being sent abroad.

At the end, Yangon's role as a primary source of migration and a hub for human trafficking is rooted in deep structural inequalities, unregulated migration systems, weak institutional governance, and socioeconomic vulnerability. Addressing human trafficking in Yangon requires a multifaceted strategy that includes labor market reform, stronger law enforcement, targeted social protection, public awareness campaigns, and improved regulation of labor brokers. Without addressing the city's unique risks and dynamics, efforts to combat human trafficking nationally will remain incomplete and ineffective.

### **3.6 Consequences of Human Trafficking in Yangon**

Human trafficking in Yangon has profound social, psychological, and economic consequences for its victims, many of whom are women and children exploited through deception, coercion, or force. As a major urban center and a common transit or destination point, Yangon faces challenges in addressing the complex needs of trafficked persons returning from both domestic and cross-border trafficking situations.

Human trafficking has become a growing concern in urban centers such as Yangon, where its consequences deeply affect not only the survivors but also the social fabric of the city. As a destination and transit point for trafficking networks, Yangon sees victims, especially women and children, being exploited for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse. Many trafficked persons return to Yangon after experiencing severe trauma, deprivation of liberty, and violations of their human rights. Upon return, they often face stigma, rejection from their communities, and challenges in rebuilding their lives, all of which contribute to long-term psychological and economic hardship. These consequences are compounded by the complexities of urban

poverty, informal labor markets, and weak social support systems, making effective rehabilitation and reintegration essential for breaking the cycle of re-trafficking.

In response to these complex consequences, the Department of Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement plays a crucial role in providing repatriation, reintegration, and rehabilitation support to trafficking survivors. The department operates official shelters in five strategic locations: Muse, Myawaddy, Kawthaung, Yangon, and Mandalay, serving both border areas and major urban cities. The shelter receives victims who have been repatriated from abroad or rescued domestically, offering immediate protection and support for their condition. While some survivors can return home and reunite with their families directly after repatriation, others, especially those who live far from the shelter or who require further recovery, are provided with temporary shelter. In the reintegration stage, some victims do not have any identification cards. We are coordinating with the General Administration Department for the recommendation of travel to their hometown. During caring in the shelter, ensure their basic needs, including provision of essential materials (such as clothing and hygiene supplies), psychosocial support, a counseling program, access to medical check-ups, engage with Public Health with the victim's consent, and daily meals. Among the victims, there is a high prevalence of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, trauma, and phobias as a result of physical and emotional abuse cases, for engaging with a Psychologist with the victim's consent. These services are made possible through government funding as well as cooperation with local and international NGOs and INGOs.

Beyond basic care, the Shelter focuses on longer-term recovery by promoting safe and sustainable reintegration into society. One of the most pressing consequences of trafficking is the loss of economic independence and job opportunities, which leaves many survivors at risk of re-victimization. To address this, the shelter and staff actively engage with local stakeholders such as garment factories, beauty salons, and vocational training enterprises to create employment pathways tailored to each survivor's interests, capabilities, and circumstances. This approach not only supports the survivor's economic empowerment but also upholds their dignity and autonomy. By coordinating with private sector partners and prioritizing the best interests of victims, the Department of Rehabilitation aims to transform shelters from temporary places of safety into launching points for a renewed and hopeful future. Thus, in the face of the serious consequences of trafficking in Yangon, the department's efforts reflect a holistic,

victim-centered model of care that balances immediate protection with long-term social reintegration.

In conclusion, the consequences of human trafficking in Yangon are far-reaching, affecting victims' physical health, mental well-being, social stability, and economic independence. As an urban hub and repatriation point, Yangon plays a central role in both exposing the risks of trafficking and offering pathways to recovery. The Department of Rehabilitation, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has taken significant steps to mitigate these consequences through its shelters and coordinated victim support services. By providing temporary care, medical assistance, daily essentials, and reintegration support through collaboration with NGOs, INGOs, and local stakeholders. The department's holistic approach, grounded in protection, empowerment, and dignity, helps trafficking survivors overcome trauma and reintegrate into society with hope and stability. Continued multi-sectoral cooperation and victim-centered interventions are essential to fully address the consequences of trafficking and to strengthen long-term resilience against this serious human rights violation. The following table (3.2) states the human trafficking situation in Yangon.

**Table (3.2) Human Trafficking Situation in Yangon**

| Sr.No        | Year | Victim (No.) |              |            |              | Total      | %      |
|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------|
|              |      | Male         | %            | Female     | %            |            |        |
| 1            | 2014 | 10           | 30.30        | 23         | 69.69        | 33         | -      |
| 2            | 2015 | 9            | 29.03        | 22         | 70.97        | 31         | 6.06   |
| 3            | 2016 | 10           | 20.40        | 39         | 79.59        | 49         | 48.48  |
| 4            | 2017 | 14           | 18.18        | 63         | 81.82        | 77         | 133.33 |
| 5            | 2018 | 5            | 6.85         | 68         | 93.15        | 73         | 121.21 |
| 6            | 2019 | 12           | 15.19        | 67         | 84.81        | 79         | 139.39 |
| 7            | 2020 | 5            | 6.85         | 34         | 87.18        | 39         | 18.18  |
| 8            | 2021 | 1            | 12.5         | 7          | 87.5         | 8          | 75.75  |
| 9            | 2022 | 9            | 52.94        | 8          | 47.06        | 17         | 48.48  |
| 10           | 2023 | 9            | 52.94        | 10         | 52.63        | 19         | 42.42  |
| 11           | 2024 | 10           | 41.67        | 14         | 58.33        | 24         | 27.27  |
| <b>Total</b> |      | <b>94</b>    | <b>20.94</b> | <b>355</b> | <b>79.06</b> | <b>449</b> |        |

Source: Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Yangon (2025)

Between 2014 and 2019, the number of identified trafficking victims steadily increased, with the highest percentage changes recorded in 2017 (133.33%) and 2019

(139.39%) compared to the 2014 base year. This upward trend can be attributed to multiple factors, including heightened migration flows, escalating armed conflict, and the expansion of anti-trafficking efforts. Improved victim identification systems, stronger government and NGO coordination, and enhanced cross-border cooperation contributed to better detection and reporting. These increases reflect not only a possible rise in trafficking incidents but also growing institutional capacity to respond to the issue.

However, from 2020 onward, the trend reversed sharply due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely disrupted mobility, border operations, and law enforcement activities. This led to a drastic reduction in victim identification, with the lowest percentage seen in 2021 (75.76% from the base year). Although there was a gradual recovery beginning in 2022, with slight increases each year through 2024, the figures remained below pre-pandemic levels. This suggests that while anti-trafficking operations are resuming, ongoing challenges such as reduced access to vulnerable communities, limited resources, and post-pandemic instability continue to hinder the full restoration of identification and protection mechanisms.

Subsequently, the increase in the female victim rate compared to males in Yangon Region is primarily due to the gendered nature of human trafficking, where women and girls are more frequently targeted for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, domestic servitude, and exploitative labor. As Yangon is a major urban and economic center, it attracts traffickers seeking to exploit females in sectors where there is higher demand for cheap or informal female labor. Additionally, women often face greater economic hardship, limited job opportunities, and lower education levels, making them more vulnerable to deceptive job offers or trafficking schemes. Cultural and family pressures, including expectations to migrate for work or enter arranged marriages, also contribute to their risk. These combined factors explain why the percentage of female victims remains significantly higher than that of males in the region.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **SURVEY ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Survey Profile**

The study examined human trafficking's origins and effects on Yangon City's women and children. The descriptive study used primary and secondary data to examine trafficking patterns.

Survey numbered 200 participants. A systematic questionnaire was used to collect primary data in face-to-face interviews. Select community members, local stakeholders, and trafficking victims were interviewed firsthand. The questionnaire assessed public awareness, attitudes, and experiences with trafficking and exploitation using a 5-point Likert scale.

Official documents and reports of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (Yangon) provided secondary data. These materials gave perspective on trafficking patterns, instances, and government reactions.

The research examines the economic, social, and cultural variables that cause women and children to be trafficked and exploited, as well as the physical, psychological, and social effects on victims. This study should improve trafficking victim prevention, policy, and assistance, especially in Yangon.

#### **4.2 Survey Design**

This study is designed to explore the causes and consequences of human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children in Yangon, Myanmar. The primary purpose of the research is to (1) assess the current situation of human trafficking in Myanmar, and (2) investigate the underlying causes and driving factors behind the trafficking and exploitation of women and children, with a specific focus on Yangon Region.

To achieve these objectives, the study employed a quantitative research approach using a structured survey questionnaire as the main data collection tool. A total of 200 respondents were selected from multiple townships within Yangon,

including areas with a high concentration of vulnerable populations such as Hlaing Thar Yar, Dagon Seikkan, and Shwe Pyi Thar. These areas were purposively chosen due to known risk factors such as poverty, internal migration, overcrowding, and a history of trafficking cases.

The sampling method used was purposive sampling, targeting individuals who are either survivors of trafficking, at-risk women and children, or community members with knowledge of trafficking incidents. Respondents were interviewed using a pre-tested questionnaire designed to capture information across four key dimensions in this questionnaire. The data collection was carried out by trained enumerators between March and May 2025, ensuring consistency and ethical handling of sensitive topics. Respondents' informed consent was obtained before each interview, and confidentiality was strictly maintained.

After data collection, the responses were coded and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Frequency distributions, means, standard deviations, and chi-square tests were used to identify patterns, relationships, and differences across subgroups (e.g., age, gender, marital status, education). This design allowed the research team to generate evidence-based insights into the drivers and impacts of trafficking, contributing to policy recommendations and intervention planning for prevention, protection, and rehabilitation.

### **4.3 Survey Results**

The survey results were divided into five parts: (a) Demographic Information, (b) Economic status of victims of human trafficking, (c) Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Physical), (Emotional), and (d) About being trafficked.

Table (4.1) The Demographic Information, including gender, age, religion, nationality, educational qualification, and marital status.

**Table (4.1) Demographic Information**

**(N=200)**

| No | Statement                 | Classification           | Frequency  | Percentage |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1  | Child/ women              | Child                    | 100        | 50%        |
|    |                           | Women                    | 100        | 50%        |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 2  | Age (years)               | Under 18                 | 100        | 50%        |
|    |                           | 18-35                    | 44         | 22%        |
|    |                           | 35-45                    | 56         | 28%        |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 3  | Marital Status            | Divorced                 | 73         | 36.5%      |
|    |                           | Married                  | 77         | 38.5%      |
|    |                           | Single Mother            | 48         | 24%        |
|    |                           | Single/unmarried         | 2          | 1%         |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 4  | Ethnicity                 | Buddhist                 | 153        | 76.5%      |
|    |                           | Christian                | 28         | 14%        |
|    |                           | Hindu                    | 18         | 9%         |
|    |                           | Muslim                   | 1          | 5%         |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 5  | Educational Qualification | Monastic                 | 4          | 2%         |
|    |                           | Graduate                 | 7          | 3.5%       |
|    |                           | High                     | 22         | 11%        |
|    |                           | Kindergarten             | 20         | 10%        |
|    |                           | Middle                   | 73         | 36.5%      |
|    |                           | Primary                  | 70         | 35%        |
|    |                           | School is not compulsory | 4          | 2%         |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 6  | Human Trafficking         | Domestic                 | 157        | 78.5%      |
|    |                           | Internationally          | 43         | 21.5%      |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |
| 7  | Wages                     | 700000 and above         | 43         | 21.5%      |
|    |                           | 0                        | 157        | 78.5%      |
|    | <b>Total</b>              |                          | <b>200</b> |            |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

Regarding Table (4.1), most of the respondents are 100% in under 18 years, 44% are between 18 years to 35 years, and 56% are between 35 years to 45 years. The majority of respondents are found different ethnic groups, and their education level is

middle and primary in most of the respondents. Most respondents were found to have been trafficked domestically, and they did not receive any wages from their respective workplaces.

Trafficking victims' work, education, home, and other economic standing. A score of 1 indicates extreme disagreement, 2 disagrees, 3 neutral, 4 agrees, and 5 strongly agrees. The mean value of all variables might be low, moderate, or high. Low mean value is a low level of trafficking victim, moderate mean value is 3–4, and high mean value is 4 or more.

**Table (4.2) The Economic Status of Victims of Human Trafficking (N=200)**

| No | Statement                          | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Having difficulty making ends meet | 4.41        | 0.58               |
| 2  | No job                             | 3.89        | 0.67               |
| 3  | Lack of education                  | 2.82        | 0.82               |
| 4  | Large household size               | 2.53        | 0.53               |
| 5  | High opinion of other countries    | 3.31        | 0.96               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>                     | <b>3.39</b> |                    |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

Based on the overall mean score of 3.39, the economic status of victims of human trafficking falls within the moderate level of vulnerability. Among the factors, having difficulty in making ends meet was rated at a high level (mean = 4.41), indicating a strong link between poverty and trafficking risk. Lack of employment also showed a moderate level of influence (mean = 3.89), while other factors such as lack of education, large household size, and high opinion of other countries were categorized at a low to moderate level. These findings suggest that economic hardship, especially severe financial difficulty, is a primary driver contributing to trafficking vulnerability.

**Table (4.3) The Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Physical)****(N=200)**

| No | Statement                   | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Exploitation/Rape           | 3.53        | 0.63               |
| 2  | Threatening                 | 3.81        | 0.55               |
| 3  | Confinement                 | 3.84        | 0.74               |
| 4  | Sexual Abuse                | 3.62        | 0.83               |
| 5  | Environmental Relationships | 2.10        | 0.53               |
| 6  | Physical Disabilities       | 3.84        | 0.43               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>              | <b>3.46</b> |                    |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

With an overall mean score of 3.46, the experiences of victims fall into the moderate level of trafficking-related harm. Among the listed items, threatening, confinement, and physical disabilities were rated at a high level (mean  $\geq 3.84$ ), indicating that these are the most commonly reported and severe forms of abuse experienced by victims. Exploitation/rape and sexual abuse were also reported at a moderate level, while environmental relationships scored the lowest (mean = 2.10), reflecting a low level of impact in comparison. These results suggest that most victims endure multiple forms of abuse, with psychological and physical harm being the most prevalent.

**Table (4.4) The Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Emotional)****(N=200)**

| No | Statement             | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Torture               | 3.28        | 0.91               |
| 2  | Emotional Harm        | 3.10        | 0.71               |
| 3  | Wanting Wealth        | 2.32        | 0.79               |
| 4  | Unhappy with Family   | 3.44        | 0.65               |
| 5  | Unhappy with Marriage | 2.15        | 0.62               |
| 6  | Overconfidence        | 3.38        | 0.71               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>        | <b>2.95</b> |                    |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

According to Table (4.4), the overall mean score of 2.95 indicates a low level of emotional behavior factors associated with trafficked victims. However, individual statements such as unhappiness with family (mean = 3.44), overconfidence (mean = 3.38), and torture (mean = 3.28) fall within the moderate level, suggesting that emotional distress and psychological traits contribute to vulnerability to some extent. In contrast, wanting wealth (mean = 2.32) and being unhappy with marriage (mean = 2.15) are categorized as low-level factors, indicating these behaviors are less commonly linked to trafficking experiences. Overall, while emotional and behavioral issues are present, they appear to be less dominant than economic or physical abuse factors.

**Table (4.5) About Being Trafficked (N=200)**

| No | Statement                      | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Being sold                     | 1.63        | 0.48               |
| 2  | Being seduced                  | 1.33        | 0.47               |
| 3  | Being threatened               | 2.00        | 0                  |
| 4  | Being cheated                  | 1.79        | 0.41               |
| 5  | Being forced into marriage     | 3.30        | 0.82               |
| 6  | Being forced into begging      | 3.37        | 0.84               |
| 7  | Being forced into debt bondage | 3.46        | 0.73               |
| 8  | Surrogacy                      | 4.16        | 0.48               |
| 9  | Residing voluntarily           | 3.19        | 0.95               |
| 10 | Natural disaster               | 3.32        | 0.70               |
| 11 | Conflict, war                  | 2.47        | 0.58               |
| 12 | Easy to access money           | 0.02        | 0.60               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>                 | <b>2.50</b> | <b>0.63</b>        |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

According to Table (4.5), the overall mean score of 2.59 indicates the average level of agreement or response across all 12 items related to factors contributing to human trafficking. This value was calculated by taking the arithmetic mean of the individual means for each item. It reflects the central tendency or typical response across the dataset.

The overall (standard deviation = 0.63) shows the average amount of variation or dispersion from the overall mean. A standard deviation of 0.63 means that most of the responses are clustered fairly close to the mean value of 2.59, with relatively moderate variability among the participants' answers across the 12 statements. This suggests that while there is some variation in how different trafficking factors are perceived or experienced, the responses are generally consistent and not widely spread out.

**Table (4.6) Consequences of Human Trafficking (N = 200)**

| No | Consequences of human trafficking | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Sexual Abuse                      | 3.60        | 0.851              |
| 2  | Fear of Social Interaction        | 2.10        | 0.536              |
| 3  | Physical Disabilities             | 3.86        | 0.406              |
| 4  | Unhappy with Family               | 3.43        | 0.645              |
| 5  | Unhappy with Marriage             | 2.18        | 0.565              |
|    | <b>Overall</b>                    | <b>3.03</b> | <b>0.62</b>        |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

As the table (4.6) shows, the consequences of human trafficking were assessed among 200 respondents using a 5-point Likert scale, where higher mean values indicate stronger agreement that a particular consequence is associated with human trafficking. The results reveal distinct patterns in how these consequences are perceived. Physical disabilities emerged as the most strongly agreed upon consequence, with a mean score of 3.86 (SD = 0.406), indicating a high level of consensus among respondents that human trafficking frequently results in physical harm or disability. Similarly, sexual abuse was also widely recognized as a significant outcome, reflected by a mean score of 3.60 (SD = 0.851). The relatively higher standard deviation for sexual abuse suggests a broader variation in respondents' experiences or perceptions regarding this issue, though the overall consensus remains above the neutral midpoint.

In contrast, other social and psychological consequences were less strongly endorsed. The mean score for being unhappy with family was 3.43 (SD = 0.645),

suggesting moderate agreement that familial dissatisfaction is a consequence of trafficking. However, when it comes to being unhappy with marriage, the mean drops to 2.18 (SD = 0.565), indicating that most respondents either disagreed or remained neutral about the impact of trafficking on marital relationships. The lowest level of agreement was found for fear of social interaction, with a mean of 2.10 (SD = 0.536), implying that respondents generally do not perceive social anxiety or withdrawal as a major outcome of trafficking in their context.

These findings highlight that respondents are more likely to associate human trafficking with tangible and physical outcomes, such as physical disabilities and sexual abuse, rather than with psychological or interpersonal consequences. This pattern may reflect the visibility of physical harm as opposed to the more subtle and less openly discussed effects of trauma, such as social withdrawal or marital dissatisfaction. This study highlights the importance of recognizing the full spectrum of trafficking’s impact, including both physical and psychosocial dimensions. The present results suggest a need for increased awareness and support services addressing the often-overlooked psychological and social repercussions of human trafficking, alongside interventions targeting immediate physical and psychological needs. In addition, further research is recommended to study the health-related impacts of human trafficking, which cannot be included in this study.

**Table (4.7) Opportunities of Human Trafficking (N = 200)**

| No | Consequences of human trafficking       | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|---|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Reintegration with Family and Community | 4.30        | 0.46               |
| 2  | Access to Shelter and Basic Services    | 4.26        | 0.44               |
| 3  | Education and Skills Training           | 4.08        | 0.26               |
| 4  | Employment and Livelihood Support       | 4.44        | 0.50               |
| 5  | Legal Support and Compensation          | 4.69        | 0.46               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>                          | <b>4.35</b> | <b>0.20</b>        |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

Complementing this analysis, Table (4.7) presents respondents’ perceptions of the opportunities available to trafficking victims, particularly in the context of recovery

and reintegration. The results show consistently high mean scores across all five categories, indicating a strong belief in the importance or availability of post-trafficking support services. The highest rated opportunity was Legal Support and Compensation, with a mean of 4.69 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.46, suggesting strong agreement among respondents about the value or accessibility of legal remedies for survivors. Similarly, Employment and Livelihood Support (M = 4.44, SD = 0.50) and Reintegration with Family and Community (M = 4.30, SD = 0.46) were also highly rated, reflecting optimism about long-term recovery prospects.

Although Education and Skills Training had the lowest mean (M = 4.08), the value still reflects general agreement on its importance. Notably, it had the lowest standard deviation (0.26) of all items, indicating a very strong consensus among respondents. The overall mean score of 4.35 and low standard deviation of 0.20 confirm a broadly positive outlook on the structural supports either currently available or envisioned for victims of trafficking.

By linking these insights, it becomes clear that while the immediate and visible harms of trafficking, particularly physical and sexual, are most commonly acknowledged, there is also widespread recognition of the need for robust, multi-dimensional support systems to promote long-term healing, reintegration, and empowerment. This highlights the importance of implementing a comprehensive and survivor-centered response to human trafficking that balances both challenges and opportunities in the recovery process.

**Table (4.8) Challenges of Human Trafficking (N = 200)**

| No | Consequences of human trafficking | Mean        | Standard Deviation |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Fear and Trauma                   | 3.96        | 0.63               |
| 2  | Shame and Guilt                   | 4.00        | 0.88               |
| 3  | Helplessness and Hopelessness     | 4.00        | 0.70               |
| 4  | Loss of Identity and Dignity      | 4.00        | 0.75               |
| 5  | Isolation                         | 4.00        | 0.94               |
| 6  | Mistrust                          | 3.98        | 1.00               |
|    | <b>Overall</b>                    | <b>3.99</b> | <b>4.90</b>        |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

Table (4.8). Highlights the psychosocial and emotional challenges that victims of human trafficking continue to face, even as they access support services. The data reveal that respondents recognize significant psychological consequences, with mean scores clustering closely around 4.00. Specifically, Shame and Guilt, Helplessness and Hopelessness, Loss of Identity and Dignity, and Isolation each recorded a mean of 4.00, while Fear and Trauma ( $M = 3.96$ ) and Mistrust ( $M = 3.98$ ) followed closely behind. These high scores suggest a strong acknowledgment among respondents that emotional and interpersonal struggles are central to the trafficking experience and persist during the reintegration phase.

The standard deviation values for this table range more widely than in Table (4.7), particularly for Mistrust ( $SD = 1.00$ ) and Isolation ( $SD = 0.94$ ). These higher levels of variability indicate differing individual experiences or perceptions, possibly influenced by the availability of social support, stigma, or the length and nature of the trafficking experience. The lower standard deviations seen in other categories, such as Fear and Trauma ( $SD = 0.63$ ) and Helplessness and Hopelessness ( $SD = 0.70$ ), point to more consistent agreement across respondents regarding these emotional consequences.

Although the overall mean score of 3.99 reflects a strong consensus on the psychological challenges faced by survivors, the unusually high overall standard deviation of 4.90 appears to be a data entry or calculation error, as it is inconsistent with the individual standard deviations reported. It may require correction or verification. Nevertheless, the individual item scores indicate that these challenges are widely recognized.

When considered alongside Table (4.7), which focuses on the opportunities and support mechanisms available to victims, the findings in Table (4.8) provide a balanced view of the complex recovery landscape. While there is strong perceived availability of legal, economic, and reintegration support, these services alone may not be sufficient to address the deep emotional and psychological wounds caused by trafficking. The persistence of shame, mistrust, and emotional disconnection underscores the need for comprehensive psychosocial interventions, including trauma-informed care, mental health counseling, and long-term community reintegration strategies.

When viewed side by side, the findings from Tables (4.7) and (4.8) reveal a critical insight: opportunities and challenges coexist in the post-trafficking experience.

A holistic response to human trafficking must therefore not only ensure the availability of material and structural support but also prioritize healing of the emotional and psychological dimensions of recovery. This dual focus is essential for fostering sustainable reintegration and long-term well-being among survivors.

**Table (4.9) Survey Results of Human Trafficking (N = 200)**

| No | Results of human trafficking                        | Mean |
|----|---|------|
| 1  | The Economic Status of Victims of Human Trafficking | 3.39 |
| 2  | The Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Physical)         | 3.46 |
| 3  | The Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Emotional)        | 2.95 |
| 4  | About Being Trafficked                              | 2.50 |
| 5  | Consequences of Human Trafficking                   | 3.03 |
| 6  | Opportunities of Human Trafficking                  | 4.35 |
| 7  | Challenges of Human Trafficking                     | 3.99 |

Sources: Survey Data (2025)

Table (4.9), Based on the survey conducted with 200 respondents, the overall mean score across the seven key areas related to human trafficking is 3.38 on a 5-point Likert scale. This score falls within the moderate agreement range, indicating that participants generally have a moderate level of awareness and perception regarding various aspects of human trafficking. The highest mean was observed in the “Opportunities of Human Trafficking” (4.35), suggesting that respondents strongly agree that trafficking thrives on socio-economic vulnerabilities such as poverty, lack of education, and false job offers. Similarly, “Challenges of Human Trafficking” (3.99) scored high, reflecting strong awareness of the difficulties in addressing trafficking cases, including limited access to services and reintegration support. In contrast, lower mean scores in “About Being Trafficked” (2.50) and “Emotional Behavior” (2.95) suggest that victims may struggle to identify or express their experiences, possibly due to stigma, fear, or trauma. Overall, the survey findings indicate that while there is a reasonable understanding of the structural issues related to trafficking, more efforts are needed to enhance awareness around emotional impacts and victim identification.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Findings**

The Mandalay Region, Myanmar, public survey examines human trafficking knowledge, awareness, and observation. Myanmar has large-scale internal and cross-border migration and human trafficking. One-third of Myanmar's population migrates between urban and rural regions, mostly to Thailand.

Sex trafficking, domestic slavery, and forced labor in textile manufacturing predominantly affect women and girls. Thailand and China are the main destinations for women and children trafficked into sex industry.

A total of 200 respondents were selected from multiple townships within Yangon, including areas with a high concentration of vulnerable populations such as Hlaing Thar Yar, Dagon Seikkan, and Shwe Pyi Thar. These areas were purposively chosen due to known risk factors such as poverty, internal migration, overcrowding, and a history of trafficking cases. According to the report of the ATTF, the number of female victims is higher than that of males because women are considered physically and mentally more vulnerable, making it easier for traffickers to manipulate them with promises of higher wages and allowances, both domestically and abroad, as part of a 'dream job'.

According to the results of 200 respondents, 100 respondents are children and 100 respondents are Women. Most of the respondents are under 18 years, 44% are between 18 years to 35 years, and 56% are between 35 years to 45 years. The majority of respondents are found different ethnic groups, and their education level is middle and primary for most of the respondents. Most respondents were found to have been trafficked domestically, and they did not receive any wages from their respective workplaces.

Most respondents said poverty, lack of work prospects, restricted economic and educational chances, overconfidence in other nations, perception of other countries, persuasion of people traffickers, and the desire to be rich cause human trafficking.

Human trafficking is common due to poverty, unemployment, and migration. Poverty and a lack of work lead individuals to relocate without researching regions and jobs. Lack of education also reduces understanding of debt and forced labor prevention.

The overall mean score of 3.39 indicates that the economic status of victims of human trafficking falls within the moderate level of vulnerability. Among the factors, having difficulty in making ends meet was rated at a high level (mean = 4.41), indicating a strong link between poverty and trafficking risk. Lack of employment also showed a moderate level of influence (mean = 3.89), while other factors such as lack of education, large household size, and high opinion of other countries were categorized at a low to moderate level. These findings suggest that economic hardship, especially severe financial difficulty, is a primary driver contributing to trafficking vulnerability.

The overall mean score of 3.46, the experiences of victims fall into the moderate level of trafficking-related harm. Among the listed items, threatening, confinement, and physical disabilities were rated at a high level (mean  $\geq 3.84$ ), indicating that these are the most commonly reported and severe forms of abuse experienced by victims. Exploitation/rape and sexual abuse were also reported at a moderate level, while environmental relationships scored the lowest (mean = 2.10), reflecting a low level of impact in comparison. These results suggest that most victims endure multiple forms of abuse, with psychological and physical harm being the most prevalent.

The overall mean score of 2.95 indicates a low level of emotional behavior factors associated with trafficked victims. However, individual items such as unhappiness with family (mean = 3.44), overconfidence (mean = 3.38), and torture (mean = 3.28) fall within the moderate level, suggesting that emotional distress and psychological traits contribute to vulnerability to some extent. In contrast, wanting wealth (mean = 2.32) and being unhappy with marriage (mean = 2.15) are categorized as low-level factors, indicating these behaviors are less commonly linked to trafficking experiences. Overall, while emotional and behavioral issues are present, they appear to be less dominant than economic or physical abuse factors.

According to Table (4.5). The overall mean score of 2.59 indicates the average level of agreement or response across all 12 items related to factors contributing to human trafficking. This value was calculated by taking the arithmetic mean of the individual means for each item. It reflects the central tendency or typical response across the dataset.

The overall (standard deviation = 0.63) shows the average amount of variation or dispersion from the overall mean. A standard deviation of 0.63 means that most of the responses are clustered fairly close to the mean value of 2.59, with relatively moderate variability among the participants' answers across the 12 statements. This suggests that while there is some variation in how different trafficking factors are perceived or experienced, the responses are generally consistent and not widely spread out.

As the table (4.6) shows, the consequences of human trafficking were assessed among 200 respondents using a 5-point Likert scale, where higher mean values indicate stronger agreement that a particular consequence is associated with human trafficking. The results reveal distinct patterns in how these consequences are perceived. Physical disabilities emerged as the most strongly agreed upon consequence, with a mean score of 3.86 (SD = 0.406), indicating a high level of consensus among respondents that human trafficking frequently results in physical harm or disability. Similarly, sexual abuse was also widely recognized as a significant outcome, reflected by a mean score of 3.60 (SD = 0.851). The relatively higher standard deviation for sexual abuse suggests a broader variation in respondents' experiences or perceptions regarding this issue, though the overall consensus remains above the neutral midpoint.

In contrast, other social and psychological consequences were less strongly endorsed. The mean score for being unhappy with family was 3.43 (SD = 0.645), suggesting moderate agreement that familial dissatisfaction is a consequence of trafficking. However, when it comes to being unhappy with marriage, the mean drops to 2.18 (SD = 0.565), indicating that most respondents either disagreed or remained neutral about the impact of trafficking on marital relationships. The lowest level of agreement was found for fear of social interaction, with a mean of 2.10 (SD = 0.536), implying that respondents generally do not perceive social anxiety or withdrawal as a major outcome of trafficking in their context.

These findings highlight that respondents are more likely to associate human trafficking with tangible and physical outcomes, such as physical disabilities and sexual abuse, rather than with psychological or interpersonal consequences. This pattern may reflect the visibility of physical harm as opposed to the more subtle and less openly discussed effects of trauma, such as social withdrawal or marital dissatisfaction. This study highlights the importance of recognizing the full spectrum of trafficking's impact,

including both physical and psychosocial dimensions. The present results suggest a need for increased awareness and support services addressing the often-overlooked psychological and social repercussions of human trafficking, alongside interventions targeting immediate physical and psychological needs. In addition, further research is recommended to study the health-related impacts of human trafficking, which cannot be included in this study.

Complementing this analysis, Table (4.7) presents respondents' perceptions of the opportunities available to trafficking victims, particularly in the context of recovery and reintegration. The results show consistently high mean scores across all five categories, indicating a strong belief in the importance or availability of post-trafficking support services. The highest rated opportunity was Legal Support and Compensation, with a mean of 4.69 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.46, suggesting strong agreement among respondents about the value or accessibility of legal remedies for survivors. Similarly, Employment and Livelihood Support ( $M = 4.44$ ,  $SD = 0.50$ ) and Reintegration with Family and Community ( $M = 4.30$ ,  $SD = 0.46$ ) were also highly rated, reflecting optimism about long-term recovery prospects.

Although Education and Skills Training had the lowest mean ( $M = 4.08$ ), the value still reflects general agreement on its importance. Notably, it had the lowest standard deviation (0.26) of all items, indicating a very strong consensus among respondents. The overall mean score of 4.35 and low standard deviation of 0.20 confirm a broadly positive outlook on the structural supports either currently available or envisioned for victims of trafficking.

Table (4.8) highlights the psychosocial and emotional challenges that victims of human trafficking continue to face, even as they access support services. The data reveal that respondents recognize significant psychological consequences, with mean scores clustering closely around 4.00. Specifically, Shame and Guilt, Helplessness and Hopelessness, Loss of Identity and Dignity, and Isolation each recorded a mean of 4.00, while Fear and Trauma ( $M = 3.96$ ) and Mistrust ( $M = 3.98$ ) followed closely behind. These high scores suggest a strong acknowledgment among respondents that emotional and interpersonal struggles are central to the trafficking experience and persist during the reintegration phase.

The standard deviation values for this table range more widely than in Table (4.7), particularly for Mistrust ( $SD = 1.00$ ) and Isolation ( $SD = 0.94$ ). These higher

levels of variability indicate differing individual experiences or perceptions, possibly influenced by the availability of social support, stigma, or the length and nature of the trafficking experience. The lower standard deviations seen in other categories, such as Fear and Trauma (SD = 0.63) and Helplessness and Hopelessness (SD = 0.70), point to more consistent agreement across respondents regarding these emotional consequences.

Although the overall mean score of 3.99 reflects a strong consensus on the psychological challenges faced by survivors, the unusually high overall standard deviation of 4.90 appears to be a data entry or calculation error, as it is inconsistent with the individual standard deviations reported. It may require correction or verification. Nevertheless, the individual item scores indicate that these challenges are widely recognized.

When considered alongside Table (4.7), which focuses on the opportunities and support mechanisms available to victims, the findings in Table (4.8) provide a balanced view of the complex recovery landscape. While there is strong perceived availability of legal, economic, and reintegration support, these services alone may not be sufficient to address the deep emotional and psychological wounds caused by trafficking. The persistence of shame, mistrust, and emotional disconnection underscores the need for comprehensive psychosocial interventions, including trauma-informed care, mental health counseling, and long-term community reintegration strategies.

The overall mean falls within the moderate level because most of the trafficking-related factors reported by respondents, such as forced marriage, sexual exploitation, debt bondage, and migration due to natural disasters, received moderate agreement. While a few factors, like surrogacy for hire, were rated high, several others, such as being sold or manipulated, were rated low. This balance between high, moderate, and low ratings results in a moderate overall mean, reflecting that victims experienced a variety of trafficking forms, but not all were equally prevalent across the sample.

Lack of jobs for women in Myanmar fosters human trafficking. Therefore, most young individuals seek jobs abroad. They are contacting agents to obtain loan arrangements before abandoning their land. People who use agents to travel abroad are sold into prostitution, marriage, and work instead of advancement.

The study conducted in Yangon Region provides critical insight into the current situation, causes, and consequences of human trafficking and exploitation of women and children in Myanmar. The analysis of 200 respondents equally divided between women and children revealed that poverty, unemployment, and low educational attainment are the most prominent root causes driving individuals into trafficking situations. Many respondents came from vulnerable urban areas such as Hlaing Thar Yar, Dagon Seikkan, and Shwe Pyi Thar Townships, where internal migration, overcrowding, and limited access to services have created environments ripe for exploitation. The lack of awareness about trafficking among participants further emphasizes the urgent need for education and targeted prevention strategies.

From an economic perspective, the findings show that severe financial hardship is a key vulnerability factor. This is supported by a high mean score of 4.41 for difficulty in meeting basic needs, indicating a strong association between poverty and trafficking risk. While unemployment and limited educational opportunities were also noted as contributing factors, they were found to have a moderate to low influence, respectively. These results suggest that anti-trafficking strategies must address not only awareness but also the underlying economic vulnerabilities, particularly in high-risk communities.

In terms of the consequences of trafficking, the experiences of victims were marked by moderate to high levels of abuse, with threatening, confinement, and physical harm being the most frequently reported. Emotional and behavioral effects, such as feelings of familial disconnect, overconfidence, and psychological harm, were present but had a comparatively lower impact. This indicates that while emotional trauma plays a role, the most immediate and devastating consequences are physical and situational forms of exploitation, such as forced marriage, debt bondage, and surrogacy for hire. Overall, the findings highlight the multifaceted nature of trafficking and emphasize the need for a comprehensive response that combines economic support, protective mechanisms, legal safeguards, and broad public awareness initiatives.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

According to the findings of the study, most respondents demonstrated little to no knowledge or awareness of human trafficking, underscoring a critical need for targeted public education. This lack of awareness highlights the importance for relevant government departments to strengthen prevention efforts by increasing nationwide

awareness of trafficking-related risks and tactics. The study also found that traffickers often exploit economically vulnerable individuals, particularly those struggling to meet their basic needs. Notably, most of the victims interviewed were from Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Dagon Seikkan Township, and Shwe Pyi Thar Township, areas known for high poverty and internal migration.

The prevention of human trafficking remains a vital sector in Myanmar's anti-trafficking response. To address this issue effectively, the government should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns using various platforms television, social media, and transportation hubs (e.g., buses, ships, airports). These campaigns should be supported by the distribution of informational pamphlets in ethnic languages and short awareness messages delivered via mobile phone operators to reach a broader and more diverse audience.

Among the provisions outlined in the bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between governments, special attention should be given to addressing the lack of wages and compensation for victims of trafficking. It is recommended that both governments negotiate and agree upon appropriate compensation rates based on the best interests of the victims and the time and conditions under which the exploitation occurred.

The study also recommends that the government facilitate legal pathways for overseas employment and expand job placement programs through bilateral labor agreements, ensuring that people have safe and regulated options for migration. At the same time, it is crucial to create domestic employment opportunities that offer a livable income to reduce the economic drivers of trafficking.

National development policies such as poverty reduction, attracting foreign investment, and increasing employment opportunities play a pivotal role in addressing the root causes of trafficking. Additionally, ensuring the legal status and protection of vulnerable groups, including children, through the issuance of secure identification documents, can significantly reduce their risk of being trafficked.

The Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons is actively working to respond to the evolving nature of trafficking in high-risk areas. To be more effective, it is recommended that the Central Body identify, adapt, and implement best-practice prevention models based on evidence and regional dynamics. Ultimately, the success of these efforts depends on the active cooperation of the public. With strong coordination

between government institutions and community engagement, Myanmar can make significant progress in reducing and controlling human trafficking.

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Footage Lab

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# APPENDIX - I

## QUESTIONNAIRES

### Section 1: Demographic Information

1. Phone number:-----
2. Name:-----
3. Domestic/International  
 Domestic  International
4. Wage  
 500000 and above  600000 and above  700000 and above  800000 and above  
 900000 and above  1000000 and above
5. Age (years)  
 Under 25 years  Between 25 and 35 years  Between 35 and 45 years  Above 45 years
6. Gender  
 Male  Female  Other.....
7. Marital status  
 Single/unmarried  Married  Divorced  Single mother
8. Ethnicity  
 Buddhist  Christian,  Muslim  Hindu
9. Educational qualification  
 Primary,  Secondary,  Higher  , Graduate  Postgraduate  School is not compulsory  
 Monastic school  Kindergarten
10. Human trafficking can occur domestically or internationally.  
 Yes  
 No
11. Did you receive wages from your work or not?  
 Yes  
 No

If yes (specify type)

## Section 2: Economic Status of Victims of Human Trafficking

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Statement                          | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Having difficulty making ends meet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No job                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of education                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Large household size               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High opinion of other countries    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section 3: Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Physical)

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Statement                  | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Exploitation/Rape          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Threatening                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Confinement                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sexual Abuse               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fear of Social Interaction | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Disabilities      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section 4: Trafficked Victims' Behavior (Emotional)

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Statement             | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Torture               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emotional Harm        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wanting Wealth        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unhappy with Family   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unhappy with Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overconfidence        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Section 5: About Being Trafficked

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Statement                      | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Being sold                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being seduced                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being threatened               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being cheated                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being forced into marriage     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being forced into begging      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being forced into debt bondage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surrogacy                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Residing voluntarily           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural disaster               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conflict, war                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Easy to access money           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Section 6: Consequences of Human Trafficking

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Consequences of human trafficking | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sexual Abuse                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fear of Social Interaction        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Disabilities             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unhappy with Family               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unhappy with Marriage             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section 7: Opportunities of Human T

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Consequences of human trafficking       | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reintegration with Family and Community | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Access to Shelter and Basic Services    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education and Skills Training           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Employment and Livelihood Support       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal Support and Compensation          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section 8: Challenges of Human Trafficking

(1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree)

| Consequences of human trafficking | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fear and Trauma                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shame and Guilt                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Helplessness and Hopelessness     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Loss of Identity and Dignity      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Isolation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mistrust                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

\*\*\*\*\* Thank You \*\*\*\*\*