

CHAPTER -1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity which involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means for the purpose of exploiting them. It is a lucrative and fastest growing criminal industry in the world (Perera 2011:1). The concept of trafficking in people refers to the criminal practice of exploitation of human beings where they are treated as commodities for profit and after being trafficked are subjected to long term exploitation (Doshi, 2012:3). According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word 'traffic' means 'barter', 'illegal trade' and 'traffickers' means the 'illegal traders'. It is an illegal commercial trade of human beings, where they are exploited and treated like commodities for profit. Both men and women may be victims of trafficking but the primary victims worldwide are mostly women and girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Trafficking can occur anywhere, an urban area or a rural area, within a country or outside, where there is illegal migration. Trafficking is directly related to migration issues, and migration whether legal or illegal is driven by "push" and "pull" factors. The reasons why people leave their country of origin (push factors) either through legitimate or illicit channels are the same. Migration takes place from rural to municipal areas, from poorer to wealthier nations. The push factors are inadequate employment opportunities, poor living conditions, lack of basic education, poor health, political and economic insecurity, ethnic, caste and gender discrimination, dissolution of family, death of one or both parents. The pull factors are increased ease of travel,

higher salaries and standard of living in large cities, established migration routes, active demand for migrant workers in destination countries (Aronowitz, 2009: 11-12). As compared to men, women are more vulnerable to trafficking for several reasons. Traffickers can easily intimidate women into obedience. Another factor that puts women at risk for trafficking is gender discrimination. In many parts of the world, women are traditionally taught to respect and obey men due to patriarchal societies. Traffickers particularly prize submissive women from male-dominated societies. Traffickers want compliant workers, not rebels who constantly fight back (Farrell, 2011: 39).

Trafficking in women is the trading of women for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour. Most of the women are from the disadvantaged social strata, including poor backgrounds, broken families, some are illiterates and unemployed. They are lured by the traffickers with false promises of better jobs and livelihood. Women and girls are subjected to physical and sexual abuses and forced into prostitution. Traffickers also take undue advantages of regions which are affected by war, natural disasters, poverty, high rate of unemployment, political instability and so on. Traffickers lure vulnerable women and girls from villages to towns, cities and also abroad. The exploitation of women and children takes place not only before trafficking, but also during and after trafficking. Trafficking affects all regions and majority of the countries in the world. Trafficking in human beings takes place mainly for the purpose of exploitation. There are certain indicators of human trafficking which are categorised under the sex-based and non-sex based. Sex-based includes trafficking for prostitution, commercial sexual abuse, paedophilia, pornography, cyber-sex, and different types of disguised sexual exploitation that takes place in some of the massage parlours, beauty parlours, bars and other manifestations like call girls racket, friends clubs etc. Non sex based trafficking could be for different types of servitude like

domestic labour, industrial labour, adoption, organ transplant, camel racing, marriage related rackets etc. The growing traffic in women is principally for the purpose of prostitution is an international problem which can be found in both developing and industrialized nations (Roy, 2010: 2).

Indicators (sex based and the non sex based) of human trafficking are of utmost importance in understanding the dimensions, extent and ramifications of human trafficking. It helps to understand the measure of harm done to the victims as well as the gains to the exploiter. The indicators can be listed under the generic and the specific type. The generic indicators of human trafficking commonly seen in the Asian context include: commercial exploitation of a person where the exploiter, who could be one or more persons located at different places, gain monetarily out of the exploitation of the person. The gain may be in the form of cash or kind or even services. In generic, there is money transaction benefitting one or more persons and the detriment of at least one person. There is a lot of exploitation on the trafficked person involving several crimes and violations. The exploiter continues carrying out the business without much challenge. The exploiter acquires huge assets by exploiting the victims. The exploiter establishes adequate safety valves to ward off any onslaught by law enforcement agencies or other exploiters or a media. There is a strong nexus of the exploiters with other exploiters and even responder/s which may appear to be of friendship but could be deep rooted and conspiratorial. Such responders include corrupt officials in the law enforcement machinery or a corrupt media person, a corrupt social activist or a corrupt political personality etc whereas corruption remains the common denominator, the responder could be anyone who can wield or influence clout and has capability to manoeuvre the situations.

The specific indicators of human trafficking involve transportation from the source area to the destination area, from the original community to the exploited community. Trafficked person is a victim who is vulnerable and easily exploited. They lack awareness of rights, education, support from parents and community. Economic disparities and uneven levels of income also cause deprivation and make the person vulnerable. Poor response systems and law enforcement systems facilitates the acts of offenders and violators as they get or feel a sense of impunity and immunity. The high demand for sex in hotels, massage parlours and in place of sex tourism is a clear indicator that trafficking of women, girls and boys for sexual exploitation does take place in these spots. Therefore, the levels of demand are a clear indicator of human trafficking. Trafficking has been taking place in all sectors but it is mostly found in sex trade especially concerning women and girls (Nair, 2011: 16-18).

1.1.1 Trafficking of Women on Global Level

The trafficking of human beings, particularly women and children, is significantly evident in every continent. According to the Report on the State of World Population 1997, commercial sex is increasing in the third world countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and in Eastern Europe because of high unemployment, rural poverty, growing inequalities of wealth. It mostly targets refugees, victims of natural disaster, from conflict zones and individuals from poor countries. The United Nations estimates that trafficking in person generated approximately \$7 billion in 2002 and the amount has risen to about \$32 billion in 2010 (Bright, 2011: 3). The United Nation Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (also referred to as the *Palermo Protocol on Trafficking*), which entered into force in 2002 (the Protocol supplements the United Nations Conviction against Transnational Organized Crime) defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment,

transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of the abuse of power or of the vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (Nair, 2011: 11).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) also estimates that between two hundred thousand to three hundred thousand children are trafficked each year for forced labour and sexual exploitation in West and Central Africa. UNICEF estimates that between ten thousand to fifteen thousand West African children work on cocoa plantations in Cote d'Ivoire, having been sold by middlemen to farm owners for up to \$340 each. International Organization for Migration (IOM) says that in 2002, thousands of Ethiopian girls are trafficked to the Middle East, particularly Lebanon to work as domestic servant. Once they arrive, their employers seize their travel documents and the girls are subjected to physical and sexual abuse, and approximately two hundred and fifty Somali teenagers and children, some as young as two or three years old, have been found after they were abandoned by traffickers who took money from their parents to place them. The International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and USAID (The United States Agency for International Development) have developed strategies to prevent the exploitation and abuse of trafficked victims (Bright, 2011: 12-13).

The Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), a coalition of non-governmental organisations working towards the elimination of trafficking in women has introduced a new definition that is used by many other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). They distinguish between trafficking and forced labour/slavery-like practices. The GAATW defines trafficking as: all acts involved in the recruitment and/or transportation of a person within and across national borders for work or services by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt bondage, deception or other forms of coercion. Their definition of 'forced labour and slavery-like practices' is the extraction of work or services from any person or the appropriation of the legal identity and/or physical person of any person by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt bondage, deception or other forms of coercion (Rijken, 2003: 59). The Global Alliance against Trafficking defines 'Women Trafficking' as all acts involved in the recruitment and/or transportation of a woman within and across national border for work or services by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt bondage, deception or other forms of coercion. Every minute of a day, the most vulnerable women and children are raped for profit and pushed into the flesh trade.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has the mission of contributing to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime and corruption. The organization's protocol defines three basic elements of trafficking, and these are the process, the means and the purpose. UNODC explains that "the crime of trafficking be defined through a combination of the three constituent elements and not the individual components, though in some cases three individual elements will constitute criminal offences independently" (Ariyapala, 2011: 3).

Table 1: Basic Elements of Trafficking as designed by UNODC

Process	<p>Recruitment Transportation</p> <p>Exploitation</p> <p>Transfer</p> <p>Harbouring</p> <p>Receipt of persons</p>
Means	<p>Threat</p> <p>Force</p> <p>Coercion</p> <p>Abduction</p> <p>Fraud</p> <p>Deception</p> <p>Abuse of Power</p> <p>Abuse of Vulnerability</p> <p>Giving and receiving of payments</p>
Purpose	<p>Exploitation which includes:</p> <p>a) Prostitution and other forms of Sexual exploitation</p> <p>b) Forced labour and services.</p> <p>c) slavery and similar practices</p> <p>d) involuntary servitude</p> <p>e) Removal of organs</p>

1.1.2 Scenario of Women Trafficking in SAARC Countries

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC comprises 3.0% of the world's area, 21.0% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$ 2.9 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2015. According to the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002, 'trafficking' means moving, selling or buying women and children for Prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking (Nair, 2011: 11). In Afghanistan women and girls are trafficked within the country and to Pakistan and Iran for commercial sexual exploitation and temporary marriages. Women and girls are kidnapped, lured by fraudulent marriage proposals or sold for forced marriage and prostitution in Pakistan. Women and girls are also trafficked internally as a part of the settlement of disputes or debts as well as for forced marriage and labour and sexual exploitation (Perera, 2011 p.53).

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report - Afghanistan, 2018, Afghan women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking and domestic servitude primarily in Pakistan, Iran and India. Afghan boys and men are subjected to forced labour and debt bondage in agriculture and construction, primarily in Iran, Pakistan, Greece, Turkey and the Gulf states. The government demonstrated increasing efforts by enacting a new law on human trafficking in January 2017 that attempts to reduce conflation of smuggling and trafficking, and criminalize *bacha bazi*, a practice in which men including some government officials and security forces exploit boys for social and sexual entertainment. The government investigated, prosecuted and convicted traffickers, including

through the arrest and punishment. The Government of Afghanistan does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. With funding and staff from an international organization, the government reopened a short-term shelter in Kabul for trafficking victims. The government has opened 15 child protection units that prevented the recruitment of more than 300 children into the security forces in 2016. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Official complicity remained a serious problem, especially in the sexual exploitation and recruitment of children by Afghan security forces. Victim protection efforts remained inadequate; the government did not develop or employ standard operating procedures for victim identification or for referral of victims to rehabilitation services, which at times resulted in the government's arrest and prosecution of trafficking victims as criminals. The government increased its law enforcement efforts. In January 2017, the government enacted the Law to Combat Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, which prohibits all forms of human trafficking. It has continued to raise trafficking awareness through radio, television, and print media and also encouraged *Mullahs* to raise awareness through their weekly sermons.

The Trafficking in Person Report – Bangladesh, 2018, reports that Bangladesh is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Migration is the main factor where both men and women migrate willingly to work in the Middle East, Southern and East Africa, South and South East Asia, Europe and the United States. Before their departure, many migrant workers assume debt to pay high recruitment fees, imposed legally by recruitment agencies. Some agencies also commit recruitment fraud, including contract switching in which they promise one type of job and conditions but then

change the job, employer, conditions or salary after arrival. Women and girls who migrate for domestic work are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Women and children from rural areas in Bangladesh are trafficked to urban centres for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work. Bangladeshi women and children are trafficked to India or passed through India to Pakistan and the Middle East for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour (Perera, 2011 p.54). Some are forced to work in brick kilns while some kiln owners sell bonded females into prostitution purportedly to recoup the families' debts. NGOs allege some officials allow human traffickers to operate at brothels, at India-Bangladesh border crossings and at maritime embarkation points. With nearly 700,000 Rohingyas fleeing Burma for Bangladesh since August 2017, Bangladesh is host to 1 million undocumented Rohingyas. Rohingyas women and girls are recruited from refugee camps for domestic work in private homes, guest houses or hotels and are instead subjected to sex trafficking. They are transported within Bangladesh to Chittagong and Dhaka and transnationally to Kathmandu and Kolkata and are subjected to sex trafficking. The government maintained anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. The 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PSHTA) criminalized sex and labour trafficking and prescribed penalties of five years to life imprisonment and a fine of not less than 50,000 Bangladesh Taka (BDT) (\$610). These penalties were sufficiently stringent and with regard to sex trafficking, commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. The government began the process of biometric registration for Rohingya refugees and allowed the UN, international organizations and foreign governments to provide assistance and protection to the refugees. The government trained military personnel to recognize and prevent trafficking in persons prior to their

deployment abroad on international peacekeeping missions and provided anti-trafficking training for its diplomatic personnel.

According to the Trafficking in Person Report – Bhutan, 2018, the Bhutanese who migrate overseas for work are vulnerable to human trafficking by unlicensed or unscrupulous recruitment agents. Bhutanese girls- working as domestic servants and entertainers in *drayang*s or Bhutanese karaoke bars - may be subject to sex trafficking and labour trafficking coerced by debt and threats of physical abuse. Rural Bhutanese are transported to urban areas, generally by relatives, for employment purpose and are victims of sex trafficking. The government maintained efforts to prevent human trafficking. The government did not have a national action plan to combat trafficking. In partnership with Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, NGOs and UNICEF, the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MoLHR), conducted an awareness event for 200 *drayang* (Karoke bar) dancers and their employers to provide information on human trafficking legal provisions, reporting mechanisms and protection services.

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report – Sri Lanka, 2018, Sri Lankan men and women migrate willingly to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and South Korea to work as construction workers, domestic servants or garment factory workers. However, some find themselves in situations of involuntary servitude when faced with restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, debt bondage, in some instances facilitated by large pre-departure fees imposed by recruitment agents. Children are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and less frequently for forced labour. The designated Foreign Terrorist Organization Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continued to recruit, sometimes forcibly, children for use as soldiers in areas outside the Sri Lankan government's control. The government's efforts to

provide protection for trafficking victims improved nominally but remained limited. The government did not provide foreign trafficking victims with legal alternatives to their removal to countries where they would suffer retribution or hardship. The government prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its penal code. Trafficking offenses are punishable up to 20 years' imprisonment; these penalties are commensurate with those assigned for other grave crimes.

According to the Trafficking in Person Report – Maldives, 2018, *Maldives* is a country for a large number of men, women and children to become subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking, making it a chief source country from human trafficking. Recruitment agents in source countries collude with employers and agents in Maldives to facilitate fraudulent recruitment and forced labour of migrant workers. Women from Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe as well as girls from Bangladesh and Maldives are subjected to sex trafficking in Maldives. Some women from South Asia are forced into prostitution after entering the country with their trafficker under the guise of tourism. The government has demonstrated mixed efforts to prevent human trafficking. The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has responsibility of coordinating government and NGO anti-trafficking efforts through the Anti-Trafficking National Steering Committee.

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report – Nepal, 2018, Nepali women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking in Nepal, India, the Middle East, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Nepali men, women and children are subjected to forced labour in Nepal, India, the Middle East, and the United States in construction sites, factories, mines, domestic work, begging and the adult entertainment industry. Unregistered migrants, including the large number of Nepalis who travel through India or rely on unregistered recruiting agents, are particularly vulnerable to

forced labour and sex trafficking. Many Nepalis living in areas affected by an earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 are vulnerable to trafficking. Traffickers utilize social media and mobile technologies to exploit their victims. Some government officials are reportedly bribed to include false information in genuine Nepali passports, including of age documents for child sex trafficking victims, or to provide fraudulent documents to prospective labour migrants. This is a tactic used by unscrupulous recruiters to evade recruitment regulations. The government demonstrated increased efforts to prevent human trafficking. Following the April 2015 earthquake, the Nepal Police Women's cell ran awareness programs in eight districts on the increased risks of trafficking. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW) began developing a mechanism to record the number of victims identified. It also maintained partial funding of eight rehabilitation homes and emergency shelters for female victims of gender based violence including trafficking.

The Trafficking in Persons Report – Pakistan, 2018, reports that in Pakistan the country's largest human trafficking problem is bonded labour in which an initial debt assumed by a worker as part of the terms of employment is exploited, ultimately entrapping other family members, sometimes for generations. Children are bought, sold, rented, or kidnapped and placed in organized begging rings, domestic servitude, small shops, brick kilns and sex trafficking. NGOs report boys are subjected to sex trafficking around hotels, truck stops, bus stations, shrines. Illegal labour agents charge high recruitment fees to parents in return for employing their children, some of whom are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Women and girls are sold into forced marriages. In some cases, their new 'husbands' force them into prostitution in Iran or Afghanistan. In other cases, including some organized by extra-judicial courts, girls are used as chattel to settle debts

or disputes. The government reported its continued implementation of the 2015-2020 national strategic frameworks against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

The Trafficking in Person Report – India, 2018, states that forced labour constitutes India’s largest trafficking problem. Men, women and children in debt bondage, sometimes inherited from previous generations, are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories. The majority of India’s trafficking problem is internal and those from the most disadvantaged social strata that is the lowest caste Dalits, members of tribal communities, religious minorities, and women and girls from excluded groups, are most vulnerable. Within India, some are subjected to forced labour in sectors such as construction, steel and textiles industries, wire manufacturing for underground cables, biscuits factories, pickling; floriculture, fish farms and ship breaking. Thousands of unregulated work placement agencies reportedly lure adults and children under false promises of employment for sex trafficking or forced labour, including domestic servitude. Traffickers increasingly use websites, mobile applications and online money transfers to facilitate commercial sex. Children continue to be subjected to sex trafficking in religious pilgrimage centres and tourist destinations. Some NGOs and media report that girls are sold and forced to conceive and deliver babies for sale. In India, prime destinations for both Indian and foreign female trafficking victims include Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Gujarat, Hyderabad and along the India – Nepal border; Nepali women and girls are increasingly subjected to sex trafficking in Assam and other cities such as Nagpur and Pune. Some corrupt law enforcement officers protect suspected traffickers and brothel owners from law enforcement efforts, taking bribes from sex trafficking establishments and sexual services from victims and tipping off sex and labour traffickers to impede rescue efforts. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revised its strategy guiding Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU’s) to ensure more

effective identification and investigation of trafficking cases, and to allow coordination with other agencies to refer victims of rehabilitation services. The government frequently used the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) and various provisions of the IPC, which have sufficiently stringent penalties, to prosecute sex trafficking. Article 23 of the Constitution of India, guarantees right against exploitation, prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour, and makes their practice punishable under the law. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986, renamed after amending the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, this special legislation deals with trafficking. The Act defines the terms “child”, “prostitution”, “public place”, “special police officer”, and “trafficking officer”. The objective of the Act is to inhibit/abolish traffic in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution as an organized means of living. Offences specified under this Act are punishment for keeping a brothel or allowing the premises to be used as a brothel. These include punishment for living on the earnings of prostitution, procuring, inducing or taking persons for the sake of prostitution, detaining a person in premises where prostitution is carried on, prostitution in or the vicinity of public places, seducing or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution, and seduction of a person in custody.

The law confers wide powers on the concerned authorities in matters of rescue and rehabilitation of victims and survivors and provides for stringent action against the exploiters including closure of brothels, surveillance, internment, as well as aggravated punishment when the offences are committed on children (Sen and Ahuja, 2009:61-62).

1.1.3 Women Trafficking in India: Some Observations

As it is known women trafficking has been a contemporary alarming issue in India which has been neglected for a long time. The exploitation of women and children for trade dates long back to human history. While the issue has been existing since a long time the same has not been taken seriously. As people did not want cases of human trafficking to be brought into the limelight, even if a woman or a girl was trafficked or raped it never got reported for the fear of the society. As a result, the victims and their family were ostracized from every possible means.

Some believe that the practice of human trafficking started in the 1700's when small children were made to work for long hours at a stretch. Since their parents could not pay back loans to the employers it resulted in bonded labour where children could not leave even when they became adults. In India, human trafficking can be traced back to the later Vedic age that is the 7th or the 8th century. During this time, forced prostitution started when certain sections of women could not find suitable husbands or early widowhood. Other causes of forced prostitution were unsatisfactory married life or other social pressures, especially if women had been abducted or forcibly enjoyed thereafter being denied an honourable status in society. Further, when women had been given as gifts in religious or secular events forced prostitution was common. Such women were frequently forced to take up prostitution as a profession. There was the practice of the 'Devdasi system' which refers to a form of 'Dakshina' or sacrificial fees offered to the temple priests. Young virgin girls from socially disadvantaged communities were moved to the temples during special occasions to live as temple dancers. Priests could marry, enjoy, or abandon them. In other cases, they would be employed as maid servants and later many would find their way to the brothels or to slave markets. Yet another source of supply was the royal palace. A king could summon pretty maids to his palace, sexually exploit them for some days

and then send them away. In the Vatsagulma region, the minister's wives had to oblige the king by paying visits, on being summoned to the palace. In Vidarbha, pretty maids were sexually exploited by the king for a month and then sent away. When such women came out of the palace, one obvious solution for their future life was prostitution. Couriers would at times marry some of them while others had very few alternative courses open to them. Kautilya says that prostitutes were recruited from four sources: either they were born as prostitutes' daughters, or were women who had been punished for adultery or purchased, or captured in war. A totally abhorrent manner of procuring women for temple prostitution was buying women and giving them to the temples as they felt that they would grow rich in their lives and live in heaven for a long time. Though, later this system was banned by the Prohibition of Dedication Act of 1982, it still prevails in some parts of India (Chattopadhyay and Roy, 2005: 196-200).

Historically sex trade was not a tradition and people cohabited as a way of living. After the transformation of the society into a 'reformed' one in the last century, multi partner sexual activity prevailed as 'hidden' and is considered as 'immoral'. The conceptualization of prostitution as universal goes hand in hand with other important notions. One of the core notions behind the discourse of prostitution is its inevitable, first, because it is a universal phenomenon and second, because of its intrinsic relation to what has been called the necessity to satisfy human needs or we can say to satisfy the male sexual desire. Male sexuality is portrayed as insatiable, instinctual and uncontrollable, reducing to an essentialist universal notion. Because of this, society is forced with the moral dilemma; how can male sexual desire be soothed without disheveling society's moral fabric? Approached as a moral problem, it was condoned for the sake of the society's wellbeing. It was only when the relationship between the prostitution and venereal disease was discovered, that it began to be regarded as a full-fledged problem in need of

a solution. Solution to the prostitution problems were borrowed from previous European attempts, which had been confined to declining whether it would be wiser to regulate or abolish it. The regulationist discourse departed from the afore mentioned notions, claiming that this alleged social disease must be controlled and sought to introduce legislation to implement a regime of control. Their abolitionist adversaries, however, rejected all arguments derived from the regulationist discourse, and replaced them with others, calling prostitution an ‘illicit act’, a sign of society’s injustice, and calling for its total disappearance. Each discourse produced unyielding and narrow concepts which have continually been reproduced throughout the history (Nencel, 2001).

India has also been a transit point for the neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan where girls and women are trafficked into India as well as other nations where they are physically sexually abused, exploited, some are taken as maids and exploited due to their vulnerability. A government report produced by the Innovative Financial Advisors Pvt. Ltd suggests that almost 20,000 women and children were trafficked in India in 2016. Trafficking of child and women is a serious concern prevalent in India. The statistics of the Ministry of Women and Child Development states that 19,223 women and children were trafficked in 2016 against 15,448 in 2015, with the highest number of victims being recorded in the eastern state of West Bengal. People from the lower caste or the tribal communities and the women and children from the excluded groups of the society are generally lured of a better lifestyle and employment opportunity and sold by the agents.(www.fiinnovation.co.in).

1.1.4 Women Trafficking in West Bengal: Present Scenario

West Bengal is a state in eastern India, between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal with over 91 million inhabitants (Census of India 2011). It is India's fourth most populous state. Apart from the ethno-linguistic it shares its borders with Bangladesh in the east, Nepal and Bhutan in the north. It also borders the Indian states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Assam. Bengal has been marked as the state with the highest number of victims of Human Trafficking. The Union Government has presented a report on Human Trafficking in India at the Rajya Sabha and West Bengal tops the list. A steep rise of more than 70% is observed in the data of the number of women and children trafficked from Bengal in the last couple of years. The data showed that 3,856 women and children have been trafficked from West Bengal in 2015 and the number has increased to 6,672 in 2016. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) of India, reports that 78 percent of trafficking of girls in India happened in West Bengal and 74 percent of those cases remain untraced (The Telegraph metro, Siliguri, July 2014: 8). However, the actual members of trafficking cases might be higher than the NCRB figures as several incidents go unreported.

Table 2: Number of Women and Children missing (State wise)

Year	Category	States				
		West Bengal	Rajasthan	Maharashtra	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka
2015	Women	2,064	909	1,379	761	643
	Children	1,792	2,387	295	143	178
2016	Women	3,559	975	1066	1064	786
	Children	3,113	2,519	172	317	332

Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India (The Telegraph, March 10, 2017)

1.1.5 Trafficking in Women in Darjeeling Hills: Statement of the Problem

The research area for the present study is Darjeeling Hills, West Bengal, India. Darjeeling Hills includes Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and few other hill towns. Darjeeling district is the northernmost district of state of West Bengal situated in the eastern India. It is located in the Eastern Himalayas. Previously, Darjeeling was the district headquarters for Darjeeling Sadar, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Siliguri subdivisions (wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in). Recently, Kalimpong has been declared as the 21st district of West Bengal on 14th of February 2017 by the West Bengal government and Mirik has been made a sub-division. Darjeeling town is the capital of the Darjeeling district. The district is situated in the northern part of West Bengal state and northern side of Eastern India. Darjeeling is also known as the Queen of the Hills due to its inexplicable beauty. It is a hill station with a blend of diversity of nature, culture, wildlife and adventure as well. As per the Bengal District Gazetteers, Darjeeling lies between 26°31' and 27°13' north latitude and between 87°59' and 88°53' east longitude and its total area is about 1,200 square miles. The principal town and administrative headquarters of the district is Darjeeling town situated at 27°3' north latitude and 88°16' east longitudes; in shape it is an irregular triangle. Its neighbours are Bhutan in the east, Bangladesh, Jalpaiguri district, North Dinajpur district and Bihar in the south, Nepal in the west. The area of the district is 3149 sq.km and the present population exceeds 17lakh (Bengal District Gazetteers, 2011).

The climate of Darjeeling is extremely variable with nearly tropical climate prevailing in the foothills and Terai region and subalpine condition in the areas above 3000m. 'Darjeeling' was known as 'Dorjeling' in the past, which was actually a monastery built by the local tribal's (Denzongpas) in 1765 on behalf of the Chogyal of Sikkim. Darjeeling had been a part of the

kingdom of Sikkim which was inhabited by the Lepchas or the Rongs. 'Dorje' meant 'thunderbolt' and 'ling' meant 'place'. Most of Darjeeling formed a part of dominions of the Chogyal of Sikkim, who had been engaged in an unsuccessful warfare against the Gorkhas of Nepal. Kalimpong another sub division of Darjeeling was under Bhutan but again after the British defeated and annexed Kalimpong as well as the Dooars in the Anglo-Bhutan war (Treaty of Sinchula - 11th November,1865). After Independence of India in 1947, Darjeeling was merged with the state of West Bengal and a separate district was established consisting of the hilly towns of Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong and the Terai areas of Siliguri (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>).

Darjeeling district has both hills and plains. The northern part of the district is hilly whereas the southern part is plain. Administratively it has four sub-divisions - Darjeeling Sadar, Kurseong, and Kalimpong are in the hilly region and the Siliguri subdivision is in plains, and this region is popularly known as Terai. Darjeeling-Pulbazar,Rangli-Rangliot, Jorebungalow and Sukhiapokhri are the Community Development Blocks in Darjeeling subdivision; Kalimpong-I, Kalimpong-II and Gorubathan are the three blocks of Kalimpong sub-division; Kurseong sub-division has Kurseong and Mirik CD Blocks and Siliguri sub-division has Siliguri-Naxalbari and Kharibari-Phasidewa Community Development Blocks (Chaudhuri, Dasgupta, Roy 2014:pp.IV-V). It also is mentioned above that presently Kalimpong subdivision has become a separate district of West Bengal.

Darjeeling district has a diversity of people or ethno linguistic groups comprising of the Nepalis, Bhutias and the Lepchas in majority followed by the Biharis,Bengalis,Marwaris, Bhutanese and even Chinese. The traditional Darjeeling economy has been centred on three T's i.e. Tea, Timber and Tourism. But all three sectors have reached their maximum levels and find no place for improvement (Chaudhuri, Dasgupta, Roy 2014:p.IV). In spite of its popularity and demand of its

tea in the international market it still has low pace of development and economic growth paving the way for youngsters to seek employment opportunities elsewhere in other towns, cities and other countries.

The strategic location of Darjeeling Hills is supportive of the human trafficking trade. The location has provided ample opportunities for decades to the traffickers to consider an easy passage for migration of women and girls as the region is surrounded by many countries or international borders. Trafficking in women takes place mostly from the underprivileged sections of the society, from poor and simple backgrounds who can be lured easily, broken families, fake marriages, migration for better job opportunities, and impact of social media etc could push them into being easy targets for the traffickers.

Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and other factors have given advantage to the traffickers to lay their firm grip on the innocence and simple minded people from the hills. 'Siliguri' is one of the fastest developing cities within the North Bengal zone and has become an easy transit point or easy gateway for trafficking of women and girls from Darjeeling Hills as well as the nearby nations due to its porous nature that it shares its boundaries with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and also the North Eastern Regions. Trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills has been the prime focus of the present study. Darjeeling Hills have been mainly considered for recreational purpose and the rampant occurrence of the societal issue like trafficking of women and girls has not been focussed much. Many children, young men and women are found to be missing from Darjeeling and its surrounding sub-divisions, and there is no clear information about them. Further the victims of human trafficking do not have any knowledge about the identity of their abductors and the causes for their abduction. Cases of human trafficking have drawn attention of the authorities only for a limited period of time, and families that have suffered the loss of their members due to

trafficking have been left with pain and agony to be endured through their lifetime. Darjeeling has been deemed as the source area from where women and girls are lured with false promises to the transit zones like Siliguri or other border areas from where they are trafficked to the destination areas which are mostly the bigger towns, cities and also foreign countries.

While human trafficking in Darjeeling is a pressing concern, minimal research has been undertaken on this subject. Though it can be said that there are previous research works conducted on women trafficking on an international scale and in the Indian context, not much has been done on Darjeeling Hills irrespective of the fact that trafficking from Darjeeling Hills is alarming and it is on the rise. Keeping this in mind the present study has been organized and completed. 'Trafficking of Women in Darjeeling Hills' is the core topic of this study. As the issue of trafficking in Women in Darjeeling hills remains unnoticed in the field of social science research till now, the proposed research work intends to fill this vacuum. Local NGOs, Police administrations (both city and the Railway Police Force) from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and Siliguri have been approached and interviewed on this subject. Official facts and figures have been collected for the study. This study has further explored the subject in-depth by compiling case studies of the victims of trafficking in this area.

It has been found by completing a related survey of literatures as well as by carrying out fieldwork for the present research study that there is a very unique cultural practice in Darjeeling hills which is termed as 'Chor ko Shor', a practice where after elopement the girl is returned back to her home after three days along with the tying of the knot. In the hills there is a wider practice of falling in love and getting married in this way. When girls go missing, hardly there is any complaint filed in the police station by the family members due to the fear of social disgrace and also with the hope that the girl would be returned after three days. But this time period which

is three days, proves to be pretty long, as within this time frame the girls are either taken to different cities, flown abroad or simply trafficked.

It is also found in the study that the traffickers who are also known by the term 'Dalals' or 'Dalalis' could be either neighbours, relatives, lovers, people who have been trafficked before or sometimes even the parents. The traffickers pick the victims from bus stops, railway stations, airports, streets, beauty parlours or even from their homes. The Dalals move to the potential sites for victims especially poverty stricken areas. The traffickers are very calculative as to from where and when they can pick their victims. They have a very large scale networking, spreading all across and are using modern methods to track their victims. Traffickers are constantly discovering new routes and entering new regions which are hit by earthquakes, floods, cyclones, drought or other natural calamity which are considered as their softer targets. The occurrence of natural disaster leaves millions displaced, homeless and impoverished. Traffickers indeed become successful with their smart moves especially during these times of crisis, by pretending to be a saviour, by offering a helping hand which in course of time, the same hand pushes the victims into the flesh trade. Poverty and hunger makes women and children belonging to the poorer sections of the society highly vulnerable to human trafficking.

Shri Rishi Kant, the Director of 'Shakti Vahini', NGO working against trafficking stated in a National Seminar on "Trafficking in Person: Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation in 2016, organized by the Department of Law, North Bengal University that many girls from Darjeeling Hills were trafficked to Kashmir, North India and many other places. He also has mentioned that North Bengal particularly Darjeeling Hilly region has been a very easy target for trafficking of women as it shares its porous boundaries with other nations. The nature of these international

boundaries has been making this area susceptible to trafficking, though it also has a prolonged history of movement of people, goods and commodities

1.2 Objectives of the Study

1. To study the nature, socio-economic factors leading to trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills.
2. To assess the social environment of women who are vulnerable to trafficking in terms of their status, sources of income and modes of expenses, and participation in their family's decision-making process.
3. To discuss various plans and legislative measures taken by the Government/s to combat women trafficking and their implementation particularly in Darjeeling Hills.
4. To analyse the role of the NGOs and the Police particularly the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in tackling the trafficking of women and in rescuing the victims of Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the causes of women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills?
2. What is the age group of women who fall as prey to trafficking?
3. What are the major social implications of women trafficking?
4. What are the economic factors leading to women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills?
5. Is lack of education responsible for women trafficking?
6. Does gender bias or discrimination promote women trafficking?
7. Are the schedule caste, tribal or minority groups the most targeted to trafficking?
8. What are the mechanisms that can check and prevent women trafficking?

9. What type of role does NGO's and Police play in rescuing victims?
10. After being rescued, how is the attitude of the society towards the victims?
11. What kind of rehabilitation is provided to the rescued victims?

1.4 Research Hypothesis

It is important to set a specific and clear proposition or predictive statement about the possible outcome of a scientific research. The research hypothesis set at the commencement of the present research study is that patriarchy impacts human trafficking in a distinct manner.

1.5 Review of Literature

Review of literature too has been done on international, national, state as well as on district level for the present study to gain a better understanding on the issue of trafficking of women particularly in Darjeeling Hills.

Bales (2000) has discussed how slavery is illegal trade prevalent throughout the world. According to him, the cost of engaging people into slavery is minimal, and as a result it is not worth the hassle of securing permanent legal ownership. The author has also pointed out that when the utility of these trafficked individuals is over, they are like livestock, requiring little care and vulnerable to be disposed away anytime. Speaking about different forms of slavery he has mentioned about Chattel slavery, where a person is captured and sold into permanent servitude and ownership is asserted. He has also written about debt bondage where a person pledges against loan, contract slavery, and so on. Further, the author has also discussed how modern labour relations are used to hide new slavery, war slavery, and how slavery is linked to politics. He then deliberates how to combat slavery.

Miko and Park (2002) in their article entitled '*Trafficking in Women and Children: The U.S. and International Response*' have defined trafficking in people especially women and children, for prostitution and forced labour as one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity and one that is of increasing concern to the U.S. Administration, and the international community. Trafficking has been affecting every country in the world due to the flow of trafficking from less developed countries to industrialized nations, including the United States, or toward neighbouring countries with marginally higher standards of living. Since trafficking is an underground criminal enterprise, there is no precise statistics on the extent of the problem and estimates are unreliable. But even with the use of conservative estimates, the scope of the problem and estimates are unreliable. The various causes of trafficking are dealt in this article along with the regional trends.

Nair (2002) in his book '*Human Trafficking Dimensions, Challenges & Responses*' has discussed the main concern of the National Human Rights Commission in controlling the alarming rise in trafficking. There was a strong indication from the available information that women and children were becoming vulnerable to trafficking as they were unable to survive with dignity because of lack of livelihood options, lack of awareness of human rights. They factors have led them to be trafficked. Both primary and secondary data was used for the study conducted by the author. Primary data was obtained through canvassing interview schedules, focus group discussions, case studies and non-participants observation. Secondary sources were provided by formal and voluntary institutions. The victim's age, marital status, first sexual encounter, attitude of the police along with the role of NGOs and the rehabilitation programmes have been analysed in the study. According to the author, only preventive measures and better initiatives can prevent trafficking in the society.

Rijken (2003) in his book *'Trafficking in Persons Prosecution from A European Perspective'* discussed the problems of human trafficking from an international perspective. He researched about the legal bodies and their enactments in trafficking, and the solutions to overcome the international trafficking with a realistic approach to improve the prosecution of trafficking in persons at the national and the international level.

Sen (2004) in his report on *'Trafficking in Women and Children in India (2002-2003)'* observed that human trafficking in West Bengal is influenced by deep-rooted social and economic factors. West Bengal along with its neighbouring country Bangladesh is a central hub of women trafficking. After crossing the border, women are kept in West Bengal before they are passed on to other nations if planned, such as the Middle East. Research indicates the presence of a human trafficking racket involving West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. West Bengal, being the cultural and trade hub of eastern India has a massive influence on the practice of human trafficking. Two decades back, the incidence of buying and selling of minor girls was found to be the highest in West Bengal. Women and minor girls who are trafficked from West Bengal end up in red-light areas of Mumbai, Delhi, and Goa. The West Bengal police in association with the Kolkata Police Department oversee the cases of human trafficking that fall under their judiciary. A state advisory board had been constituted in 1994 that is still working in this direction. Further, the government of West Bengal has taken steps for involving the Panchayat Raj Institutions for the prevention of trafficking.

Bales (2005) in his book *'Understanding Global Slavery'* wrote about bonded labour, sexual slavery, the different forms of trafficking, forced prostitution child placement, debt bondage or

indentured servitude, removal of organs, mail-order brides, and so on. He also wrote about a bonded girl Meera, who, when freed from the bondage, helped in freeing others too from the landlord or slave holder. Bales shared his understanding about the demand behind trafficking and how to reduce the demand for prostitution along with legal approaches. He has contributed with his new updates on trafficking and on slavery.

Bales (2007) described how slaves were costly in the past but now are cheaper than ever. Today's slaves cost little but can generate high returns as their ability to work has not decreased with price. Slave's price depended upon the value of the land, the annual wages paid to free agricultural worker/s, and price of oxen. As mentioned by him the low investment on the slave means no special care and can be easily replaced. He wrote about ending slavery with anti-slavery with anti-slavery campaigns and awareness through books, films, websites, and blogs.

Ishmael (2007) in *'A long way gone'* narrated his life from the perspective of a little boy, who along with his brothers and friends were so fascinated by the western world especially rap music, they all decided to flee home. Only after travelling a long distance, they realized the expected terror. They decided to return, and on their way back home they encountered unknown people telling them about brutal killings taking place in the region. Their attempts of escaping from the hands of the violent rebels were not successful as even children were not spared from being forced to handle guns like the G3 and AK-47s. Boys as young as seven were also made a soldier by force. They were given drugs like cocaine mixed with gun powder and forced to smoke marijuana to make them forget the pain and the harsh reality. They were shown war movies. Ishmael relates how he lost his friends in the firing as he could not stop this, with the corporal

making them do more killings to get food, fuel, and other amenities. He had begun to feel that his squad was his family, that his gun was his provider and protector, and that his rule was to kill or to be killed. His childhood had gone without him having the realization of the same. Finally, the staffs from UNICEF had come to help them and to have them rehabilitated, where he and others were taken care of. It helped them to recover from the traumas of war and the violence and atrocities experienced during their childhood.

Zach (2007) author of the *'Be the Change'* is an abolitionist, who brought to light the fact that there is a scarcity of help needed to raise awareness of individuals in society regarding slave trade. He is a teenager who tries to spread the message all over the world through bands like Leeland and Switchfoot. He believes that his generation has the power and passion to change things. He has written about children who have been traded by their parents at their tender years due to poverty, unemployment, and so on. These children have been robbed of their childhood. He has cited biblical examples like how Joseph had been sold by his brothers into slavery as he wants to end the sale of human beings. He has further written that even one person can make a difference by living up to his passion in order to fight slavery.

Ghosh and Kar (2008) discussed in their article *'Trafficking in Women and Children in West Bengal'* the state of trafficking in women and children in West Bengal. According to them, the concern of trafficking offences against children and women in India in general, and West Bengal precisely, has emerged as a critical social issue in the contemporary era. The paper derived a large pool of credible data from an intensive study of as many as 22 villages and strategic locations under 12 police stations of the six districts of the southern part of West namely Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Hooghly and West Midnapur during 2005-2006.

Supplementary data was collected from official NCRB records and reports as well. The key findings of the study were that West Bengal serves as a source, transit, and destination for national as well as international trafficking in children and women. This is surprising as the state is understood to have undergone an evolution during the past few decades in terms of positive institutions that aim at gender justice. As the state shares its boundary with multiple states and other countries, the geographic location makes it vulnerable for human trafficking. According to the field study the border areas of West Bengal are most suitable for trafficking of women and girls. Girls are brought from Bangladesh and Nepal as well as from strategic locations within the state so as to supply them to the cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Haryana, Ahmadabad, or Pune. They have discussed five cases of trafficking where girls as young as 13 years old were trafficked. Girls having poor economic conditions and having single parent family are more vulnerable for being trafficked. Trafficking has been linked to migration and mobility. Globalization has paved the way for development of tourism, business, and entertainment agencies in the region. Police too harass the victims more than those who have committed the crime. These limitations not only make the socially economically backward people vulnerable to trafficking, but also explain why re-trafficking is so rampant in the society. Preventive measures are discussed in this article.

Jesse and Kasten (2008) in their book titled '*Enslaved*' discussed the different forms of contemporary slavery including chattel slavery, debt bondage, sex slavery and forced labour. Chattel slaves, the term taken from the French word for "cattle", are considered their master's property, and can be bought, sold, traded, and even inherited from generation to generation. America has a long history of slavery, with sex slavery having ensnared millions of women and girls. Some were as young as four, and they had been kidnapped, deceived by false promises, and

even forced to work as prostitutes. This book includes collection of stories from survivors of forced labour, domestic slavery, and human trafficking. Micheline Slattery was from Haiti and the form of slavery which she experienced was that of 'restavec' - meaning "staying with" her father who was assassinated by a ruthless gang. Her mother did everything to look after the family, but again the gang also killed her mother. With the help of an old couple, she was brought to her aunt's family only to be ill-treated. Both of her aunt and uncle were voodoo priests and had promised to sacrifice their youngest daughter if they would be given wealth in return. When the time came, they wanted to sacrifice Micheline, so she was taken to the cave and placed in the altar, but the snake god refused to accept her. She therefore managed to escape from there and met her cousin who again treated her very badly, from there she was taken by Leonie who seemed to be a good woman but later she changed into a hard-hearted woman. She sent Micheline to America and again to Connecticut from there, where she married a man who made her his slave, tortured and raped her every night and also made her undergo abortion. She wanted to end her life but was stopped when she was told that she could divorce her man which she later did and was let free at last. She has now become a strong activist fighting against human trafficking. There were others like Jill Leighton, AbukBak, Beatrice Fernando and others who were the victims of sex trade, domestic violence but they have managed to escape and shared their experiences with the world.

Aronowitz (2009) in the book titled '*Human Trafficking, Human Misery*' wrote about trafficking of human beings in the context of a globalized world, focusing on the relation between the traffickers and the victims, and trafficking as a network and as a business. His work also focuses on the growing problems of trafficking and the preventive measures required protecting the

victims of slavery in the host countries upon returning from other foreign nations where they had been trafficked to, with the help of law enforcement agencies.

Joyce (2009) in the book titled '*Human Trafficking*' brought to light the different forms of trafficking which are taking place in every continent along with the causes leading to it, like poverty, cultural influences, lack of education, involuntary servitude, corruption and weak enforcement of laws, lack of awareness, war, demand for services and huge profits. The author also focused on the social effects, such as poverty, debt, illiteracy, cultural effects as the same make people believe that a group is better than the other, gender discrimination whereby males are more superior than women who feel worthless and develop low self-esteem, as well as the means which can be implied in order to stop trafficking and the role of United Nations to stop human trafficking.

Kara (2009) in his book '*Sex Trafficking*' brought out the true confessions of the trafficked victims who were interviewed around the globe. He measures the growth, the profitability of sex trafficking and has brought forward metrics that have never been brought before. He also wrote about the various forms of trafficking that has been taking place by fraud, by force and in other forms.

Sen and Jayashree (2009) wrote about the interlink between migration and trafficking in their book '*Women and Children*' and also throw light on the international scenario as regard to the reasons leading to trafficking, victims of commercial sexual exploitation and non sex based exploitation. It talks about the legal measures to solve the problems of trafficking from the very micro level studies along with the mapping which has to be considered from the point of law and order and keeping all parameters and dimensions in view.

Skinner (2009) in *'A Crime so Monstrous'* narrated the plight of the Haitian people in relation to trafficking whereby they were traded by the Arabs who called them as 'Abeedi' meaning black slaves. How they had to undergo beating, rape, torture, humiliation, and different forms of sexual abuses are explained in the narration. The author had travelled around the globe to study about the victims' life as a slave and has come up with several case studies about the life of those who are subjected to various forms of exploitations like forced prostitution by the traffickers, pimps and police administrations. He also highlighted the case study of a lady Tatiana who had been freed. She, instead of retreating from the world as others did, went to confront the traffickers, risking her life and testifying in their prosecution. Later, she also founded an organization 'Atalantas' where they reached out to trafficked women by placing stickers on bathroom mirrors of brothels, slipping them contact information in lipstick containers, letting slaves know they were not alone and helping them and giving hope to come out from the humility and shame they had been through.

Subba and others (2009) in the book entitled *'Indian Nepalis Issues and Perspectives'* discussed the issue of trafficking of Nepali women in India owing to the high demand for Nepali girls who are mainly trafficked through Darjeeling-Sikkim-Jalpaiguri regions. It also focuses on the factors linking to trafficking and the measures to be implemented to check trafficking.

Roy (2010) in her book *'Women and Child trafficking in India: A Human Right Perspective'* focused on the discourse of human trafficking from the historic past and to the present day. The

author pointed out the difference between trafficking and smuggling that while a smuggled person is freed a trafficking victim is not. She has exposed women and child trafficking in India along with the factors like deception, intimidation, feigned love, isolation, use of physical force and debt bondages, and the different ways used to combat it through legislation, executive and judiciary, and other governmental measures.

Sharon (2010) in the book '*Radhika's Story*' had given a testimony of an innocent girl Radhika from Kavresthali, north-west of Kathmandu, Nepal, who was from a poor family. She had been lured by a person Sanjay Lama, who promised a better job and better living condition. She had been drugged and taken to India and when she woke up there was excruciating pain in her lower left abdomen. She discovered that her kidney had been removed without her consent. She was in Chennai (Madras) hospital, but there too she was not free as Murari Pariyar was her captor who brought her back to Nepal and kept her in his house. There she met Rajesh Kumar who was introduced to her by Pariyar. She was forced to marry him, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She was abandoned by her husband, and she was living with her son when two men came to visit her and introduced themselves as her husband's cousins. They promised to take her to her sister's house in the city and when she agreed she was forcefully taken to Assam (Silchar) and into a brothel. Her son Rohan was taken away from her by the pimp. She had to please even thirty clients a day. After six months in Assam she was taken to Kolkata (Sonagachi area) with her son, where again she was separated from him and forced into selling her body. She met Jigme here who had come as a client but was more interested in knowing her as a person. He helped her to escape from the brothel but was chased down and taken back again. However, with her courage and strength, she once again made an escape along with her son never to return. She

finally reached Maiti in Nepal, where both of them were counseled and rehabilitated. Now she is in her village with her family never to forget her past.

Shelley (2010) in her book '*Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*' examined all forms of trafficking globally, and the numerous interconnected elements that comprise the crime of human trafficking, including the interplay of supply and demand and the role of transnational organized crime. She claimed that women are at times themselves the traffickers, running many brothels. She discussed the nature and forms of human trafficking, the routes and destinations of traffickers and how they use their methods in transition, and the efforts that can be put in to stop trafficking.

Thakuri (2010) advocated the idea that women should be made aware about human rights. She mentioned in '*Flippancy*', a book on women's rights, the atrocities faced by women in trafficking and prostitution, as well as physical violence, matrimonial or domestic violence, sexual violence, dowry deaths, rapes, and sexual harassments. The safeguarding of woman's rights along with legal measures can prevent and stop these anti-social happenings from taking place.

Bright (2011) focused on the exploitation of human trafficking through rape, beatings, malnutrition, diseases, horrible physical and sexual abuse. His work highlighted how people are being trafficked on various grounds. It also discussed about the prevention and solution of human trafficking. Although this kind of trade or act cannot be stopped it can be reduced drastically by engaging various anti-trafficking agencies and non-governmental organisations in creating awareness on trafficking in addition to setting laws to protect rights of women. His work

also discussed case studies of trafficked victims from across the globe. His main objective was to rescue, reintegrate, and rehabilitate the victims of trafficking into the society.

Farrell (2011) threw light on various forms of exploitation and factors that lead to trafficking, ranging from child marriage, camel jockeying, and sex tourism to children being abducted for militant groups. He discussed trafficking of women, children as well as babies in Asia and across the globe. He also shared the survivor's stories pertaining to what all they had to undergone while living as sex slave in their own country as well as in other countries. He moreover focused on human trafficking from different dimensions such as political, societal, statistical and scientific angles, coming up with solutions which can overcome the trafficking issues.

Hua (2011) in her book on '*Trafficking Women's Human Rights*' discussed the trading of human beings for servitude or sexual slavery where they are bought and sold. This practice has been as old as a civilization. She said that the conditional nature of obtaining rights, racial differences through governmental documents including a range of congressional hearings, trafficking reports and studies, presidential addresses, transcripts from anti trafficking cases, media sources including media coverage, journalist narratives and non-governmental organisations can bring about a change in the society.

Nair (2011) focused on the indicators of preventing trafficking in persons. Some case studies also have been included in his book '*Human Trafficking, Dimensions, Challenges and Responses*'. Here, the role of the NGOs has been discussed along with members from different professional backgrounds who can work together to combat trafficking in society.

Perera (2011) in his book '*Human Trafficking: A Crime that shame Humanity*' attempted to bring out all forms of human trafficking globally starting from Asia to America and Africa. It also brought out the nature of the traffickers, the factors leading to human trafficking, the problems like how the individuals fall as prey to the traffickers due to various reasons, and the protective measures such as anti-human trafficking by law enforcement agencies.

Doshi (2012) in his book titled '*Readings in Women and Children Trafficking*' discussed the forms of women and children trafficking. He wrote about the various abuses faced by the victims of trafficking. He found out that even after their rescue, women and children are again trafficked for labour and other forms of exploitation. He also wrote about the preventive measures and role of the existing law enforcement agencies for combating trafficking.

Upadhyay (2012) described the ways human trafficking has been taking place, its different types ranging from slavery to prostitution, the role of human rights in regard to women, and also the awareness among the women. Further, he discussed the different sections of the constitution dealing with the prevention of women and child trafficking; and how laws can be checked so to stop trafficking.

Jahan (2012) in the article titled '*Women and Child Trafficking in Bangladesh: An overview of Causes and Consequences*' stated that trafficking of women and children from Bangladesh is carried out primarily in India, Pakistan, and the Middle Eastern Countries largely for the purposes of forced prostitution and in some cases for labour servitude. Male children from

Bangladesh are mostly trafficked to Middle East to work as camel jockeys, an activity that is both psychologically traumatizing and physically hazardous. The writer discusses the various techniques or strategies of trafficking. The traffickers use force and deception to trap their prey. Trafficking is carried out by well-organized syndicate or 'Mafia' group that operates both nationally and internationally. The local agents collect the targeted women and children from different places of Bangladesh and then handed them over to the brokers who arrange the travel to the border belt areas and hand over to their counterparts across the border. Demand and supply factors are responsible for trafficking. The issues related to health, social, and legal consequences of trafficking have been highlighted here. It talks about the current trafficking issues and the protection of the victims of trafficking.

Deshpande and Nour (2013) have written in the journal '*Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls*' that sex trafficking involves force or sexual exploitation not limited to prostitution. Victims of sex trafficking can be of any age and of either sex but the majority of them are women and adolescent girls. The methods of coercion, recruitment and enslavement are mostly carried out to coerce victims into situations of sex trafficking. Most commonly, victims are promised a good job, education or citizenship in a foreign country or offered a false marriage proposal that is turned into bondage. Many victims are sold into sex trade by parents, husbands, and significant others, whereas others are unwillingly and forcibly kidnapped by traffickers. They have mentioned that the most common tactic of coercion used among victims is debt bondage, an illegal practice where the victim has to pledge personal services in order to repay some form of debt, such as transportation into a foreign country or living expenses. Traffickers recruit victims who are economically or socially vulnerable like women and girls who are susceptible to poverty, societal isolation, drug addiction, family violence etc. It may also include orphans,

women with physical disabilities and those who are illiterate. Once the women and girls become involved in the sex industry, it becomes very difficult for them to escape. Victims of sex trafficking acquire adverse physical, social, psychological health conditions and social disadvantages.

Ghosh and Kar (2014) conducted an intensive field study of 22 villages and other strategic locations under twelve police stations of the six districts of South of West Bengal namely Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Hooghli and West Midnapur during 2005-2006. According to the field study the border areas of West Bengal are most suitable for trafficking of women and girls. Girls are brought from Bangladesh and Nepal as well as from strategic locations within the state so as to supply them to the cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Haryana, Ahmadabad or Pune. They have discussed five cases of trafficking where girls as young as 13 years old were trafficked. Girls having poor economic conditions and having single parent family are more vulnerable for being trafficked. Trafficking has been linked to migration and mobility. Globalisation has paved the way for development of tourism, business, and entertainment agencies in the region. Police too harass the victims more than those who have committed the crime. These limitations not only make the socially economically backward people vulnerable to trafficking, but also explain why re-trafficking is so rampant in the society. Preventive measures are discussed in this article.

Deb and Sanya (2017) in their research article titled '*Human Trafficking: An Overview with Special Emphasis on India and West Bengal*' attempted to explore the causes and mode of human trafficking, mainly women and children, globally with a special reference to India and West Bengal. They have collected secondary data from NCRB records. According to them the causes of human trafficking are poverty, political conditions, war, social and cultural practices,

the demand for cheap labour, child marriages, mutilation of organs, sex tourism, child labour migration etc. It has been mentioned that in West Bengal, women and children continue to fall prey to illegal recruitment agencies that entice them with false job offers and then trap them into domestic slavery. A case study has been narrated where a young girl was trafficked to Pune for commercial sex and was rescued by the Police. Police had also rescued a group of 30 young Bengali girls who were also trafficked to Pune but only four of them could be rescued due to illegal problems. According to them in order to prevent trafficking 3Ps are important- Prosecution, Protection and Prevention. The Indian government has not taken any step to combat human trafficking. India's effort to protect victims of trafficking varies from state to state but remains inadequate in many places. The community should be sensitized about trafficking; the members should be motivated to keep watch for irregular movements of child victims from their areas. Awareness programmes to be held in villages, local schools, among kids of the poor society and public to be alert of being victimized.

1.6 Research Gap

From the above comprehensive review of the existing literature, it can be concluded that many research studies have been conducted on women trafficking across the globe. Some were undertaken in the Indian context. Nevertheless, there exists no research work undertaken solely on women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills. The cases of trafficking in the Darjeeling hills are on the rise but the issues related to it remain unnoticed in the field of social science research till now. The present research study is an attempt to fill up the research gap with deeper insights into the subject.

1.7 Research Methodology

The focus of the study is to develop a thorough understanding about the nature of human trafficking, and the socio-economic and other factors leading to trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills. The methodology applied in this research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. A pilot study was conducted to determine the size of the sample along with the tools to be used. Descriptive observation has been used for observing and describing the behaviour of the subjects that is the victims, without influencing or having any pre-conceived idea about their situation/environment. Case studies have been carried out to derive in-depth information from the cases or the victims of trafficking. The age group selected for the case studies were from 12 to 40 years. Two different sets of interview schedules comprising both structured and unstructured questions were put forward to the NGO staffs and police officials, and their answers were recorded by the researcher in a face to face situation. A logical investigation was conducted to keep it free from biases and manipulation of emotions and social values. Collected quantitative data have been framed in the form of statistics and shown in tables/charts etc. The research work is exploratory in nature as it explores the issues of trafficking of women that has been taking place in Darjeeling Hills. The study is also analytical and empirical in nature as empirical data had been collected by conducting field work and then those collected data have been analysed appropriately.

1.7.1 Area of the Research Study

The main research area for the existing study is Darjeeling hills. But without including Siliguri as an additional research area, the existing research work cannot be completed as well as will not be a fruitful one as Siliguri has been one of the infamous corridors for trafficking of women and

girls from Darjeeling hills. It has been the transit point for the people of Darjeeling hills. The research study has been done by organizing the fieldwork to collect data from the NGOs, Police officials and victims of trafficking from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and Siliguri.

1.7.2 Selection of Respondents

The present research study has been carried out by focussing on the target population/groups, and then generalizing the results of the study. The target population for this study are the women and girls who fall in the age group of 12-40 years old and are the victims of trafficking. The other two target groups are the NGOs and the Police who work for combating trafficking and have provided useful information needed in the present research study.

1.7.3 Selection of Sample

A sample design is a definite plan for obtaining or selecting the needed sample from a given population. In order to draw the sample, a clear idea of the chosen population was ascertained. The samples for this study were chosen purposively. In purposive sampling the researcher selects the samples deliberately or makes his/her own decisions in selecting the samples which represent the whole or target population. Particularly, snowball sampling has helped the researcher to get in touch with adequate number of cases (women) who were the victims of trafficking. For the existing study, case studies of 30 (thirty) women and girls who were victims of trafficking were done. 14 (fourteen) officials from different NGOs and 11 (eleven) Police officials from relevant police stations (Thana) were approached and interviewed to collect needed data for the existing study.

1.7.4 Sources of Data

Data have been collected for this study from two sources: primary sources and the secondary sources. Primary sources are the observation made by the researcher as well as direct responses from the respondents to the researcher. Primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time directly in a face to face situation by using semi-structured interview and thus it serves as an original source of data for the study. In the present case, primary data have been collected from the survivors of trafficking, NGOs officials as well as Police officials (the City Police and the Railway Police Force). Along with these, many other relevant human sources of different fields have provided information for the study. Secondary data are the second hand information collected through books, journals, articles, newspapers, magazines, research reports, census reports, seminars and information collected from the governmental departments and records from various organizations. Books, journals and the official records from the DCRB (District Crime Record Bureau) Office, Darjeeling, have been consulted and utilized in the present research.

1.7.5 Tools and Techniques for Data Collection

Data have been collected using a mixed method with both qualitative and quantitative data. In order to address some of the objectives of the present study, the researcher used interview technique using structured and unstructured questions for NGOs and Police officials for a proper understanding of the factors which lead to trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills. In order to address the second and third objectives of the present study, the researcher have used the case study method to do an in-depth investigation of the cases (victims of trafficking) and to collect data from them.

Interview, case study and observation were the major tools and techniques for data collection. A field diary was used as a very important tool to note down activities observed during the fieldwork including the thoughts and reflections of the respondents. So, a record was taken of all the things observed around, like the surrounding, the utilities, and the personal information which they gave to the researcher. Answers given by the respondents were recorded and noted down by the researcher. An audio recorder was used during the interview to record the verbatim of some of the informants in accordance with their permission. Few participants hesitated to give a smooth flowing answer when they noticed that their information was being penned down by the researcher. In such a situation, they were made to feel comfortable by the researcher by building a good rapport. The use of the recorder helped in collecting all the information given by the respondents which proved helpful for preserving the entire verbal part of interview for later analysis.

1.7.6 Preparation of Questionnaire/Schedule

Three different sets of semi-structured questionnaires were framed for the victims of trafficking, NGO officials, and Police officials. Questions were kept simple so that those could be easily understood and answered by the respondents/informants.

1.7.7 Interview

Face to face interviews have been conducted with the members of the NGOs, Police officials and the victims of trafficking. Semi-structured interview schedules were used to collect data from them.

1.7.8 Observation

Observation as a method helps in seeing and understanding the social environment, the individuals, and their behavioural patterns. Observation method, in the present case, has given more insights to learning as the researcher could observe and record much information from the NGOs, police as well as the survivors of trafficking. The researcher had to gain the confidence of the NGOs, police, and victims/cases by convincing them about the utility of study. The researcher observed that most of the cases (victims of trafficking) were very emotional as they were crying during narrating their past incidents. Some of them were very welcoming while some took time to open up to the researcher. The researcher observed that many of them lived with their families, while others were living with their friends. The NGOs and the police too were very helpful and co-operative to provide necessary information.

1.7.9 Case Studies

Intensive and in-depth studies have been conducted on the victims of trafficking. Their case histories have been recorded as to know how they were trafficked to other places and how they were rescued later on. These in-depth studies of the victims of trafficking have helped in fulfilling the aims of the study.

1.7.10 Data Analysis

The collected data has been analyzed by utilizing both the quantitative and qualitative techniques. Qualitative data has been analyzed on the basis of systematic and analytical description / data reduction whereas the quantitative data has been analyzed using the statistical

tools and presented through tabulations, graphs etc. The field data have been analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the study to draw out inferences.

1.7.11 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The present research study which is done on Himalayan society has been carried out with sociological perspective. It is a fact that a number of challenges that emerge owing to the exploitation and trafficking of human beings are reported to be preventable. The reason is that these challenges do not arise naturally in uncontrollable conditions. Instead, they are orchestrated by what is understood to be an unacceptable blend of social factors permitting individuals who are vulnerable to be enslaved and abused to the point that severe consequences result. These outcomes are noted to be otherwise prevented by focus on the social determinants facilitating human trafficking. Social determinants are known to be taking a central place within the processes that mitigate and promote the exploitation of women and children in Southeast Asia. In particular, the facilitation of empowerment and education, together with the creation and enforcement of effective policies, holds the potential of lessening the vulnerability of women and children to modern-day slavery.

Addressing social determinants would be the primary approach to the achievement of equity. The identified social determinants that are associated with human trafficking serve as the upstream opportunity of preventing and mitigating the trafficking of children and women in Southeast Asia, thereby fostering social equity among communities that are stratified. Every human being, notwithstanding their socio-economic status, has a fundamental right to be living a life devoid of abuse and oppression. Indeed, human trafficking amounts to a fundamental human rights violation from the sociological point of view as it engages in abrogating so many other human

rights such as rights to life, liberty, security, freedom of movement, health, education, just work conditions, and freedom from torture, to name a few. Reportedly, key social determinants facilitating human trafficking include female gender, poverty, migration, age, lack of enforcement and policy, ethnicity, culture, displacement and conflict, caste status and ignorance of trafficking methods. Conversely, there exists some protective determinants mitigating trafficking such as citizenship, formal education, higher caste status, maternal education, and birth order (Perry & McEwin, 2013:138).

Trafficking of women has been an emergent problem throughout the world. Women and girls are being sexually exploited. The present study focuses on this problem occurring in Darjeeling hills where innumerable women and girls have gone missing. The structural functional approach has helped for a proper understanding of the social situation in general and problem of trafficking of women in particular of Darjeeling hills. Societies are wholes comprised of systems which are inter-related. Each part has meaning in terms of its relation with the whole, performing a specific function within the system. Society is thus a system of interdependent elements all of which contribute to the integration and adaptation of the system as a whole (Swingewood, 2000:142). Sometimes, when these elements fail to function properly, it leads to the disorganization or dysfunction of the social system. Functional theory shows the issues or societal problems which occur in society due to the dysfunctioning of the elements or the parts of the society (Francis, 2012: 72-75). Trafficking of women as a social phenomenon has been studied with the help of structural functional approach where the element or the social institutions play a major role in preparing individuals fit for the society.

Feminist approach has also helped to understand the issue from women's perspective. Just like class struggle, there emerged the feminist struggle which aimed at doing away with sex

difference. Feminist theory tried to analyse the conditions which shape women's lives and to explore cultural understandings of what it means to be a woman. The issues related to oppression and social subordination of women gave way to feminist theory. Feminists refuse to accept that inequalities between women and men are natural so inevitable. They insist that this should be questioned. According to them in a non-patriarchal society there would be no social difference between men and women as authority of men would not exist. Radical feminism was based on two emotionally charged central beliefs. First, that women are of absolute positive value as women, a belief asserted against what they claim to be universal devaluing of women. Secondly, that women are oppressed-violently everywhere by the system of patriarchy. Over the period of time, Delphy put it as 'If women were the equals of men, men would no longer equal themselves' (Jackson, J. 2011). A feminist approach towards understanding women trafficking in Darjeeling hills, West Bengal, prioritizes the security of the trafficked individuals and recognize the process in which victims are subjected to threats by the traffickers as well as the state itself. In the present study, it is acknowledged that there is a need of investigating the social construction and the chains of human trafficking.

The theory of gender and sexuality has been used since the early 1970's to denote culturally constructed femininity and masculinity as opposed to biological sex differences. The concepts of gender and sexuality both take 'sex', a highly ambiguous term, as a point of reference. In the English language the word 'sex' can denote both the distinction between male and female(as 'two sexes') or sex as an erotic activity e.g.to 'have sex'. Similarly, 'sexual' can refer to the different activities or attributes of men and women, as in such phrases as the sexual division of labour. The female sex is usually subordinated to the male sex. Theories of gender oppression describe women's situation as the consequence of a direct power relationship between men and

women in which men have fundamental and concrete interests in controlling, using, subjugating and oppressing women-that is, in the practice of domination. By domination, oppression theorists mean any relationship in which one party (individual or collective), the dominant, succeeds in making the other party (individual or collective) the subordinate, an instrument of the dominant's will, and refuses to recognize the subordinate's independent subjectivity. Or conversely, from the subordinate's viewpoint, it is a relationship in which the subordinate's assigned significance is solely as an instrument of the will of the dominant (Lengermann and Niebrugge, 1995). Women's situation, then, for theorists of gender oppression, is centrally that of being used, controlled, subjugated and oppressed by men. This pattern of gender oppression is incorporated in the deepest and most pervasive ways into society's organization, a basic structure of domination most commonly called patriarchy. Patriarchy is not the unintended and secondary consequence of some other set of factors- be it biology or socialization or sex roles or the class system. It is a primary power structure sustained by strong and deliberate intention. Indeed, to theorists of gender oppression, gender differences and gender inequality are by-products of patriarchy (Ritzer, 2011: 131,457,459). The focus of the present study is on the trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills is also result of the domination-subjugation relationship among men and women. In the present research there is a realization that gendered identities and gendered interactions of individuals exert a deep influence on women trafficking in Darjeeling area. Girls and women have a predisposition to become victims of human trafficking. Variables that lead to the vulnerability of being trafficked include membership in a marginalized group. Girls and women who are trafficked are thought to encounter a high rate of sexual and physical violence, including torture.

The notion of patriarchy functions as a critical tool in the robust analysis of gender relations. As a concept, patriarchy finds the history of its use among social scientist. Sylvia Walby, a noted sociologist, patriarchy must be examined through lateral thinking which plays a role in facilitating the nuances and complexities of the association of patriarchy and social factors. According to Walby, patriarchy is the system of social structures and practices in which men engage in dominating, oppressing, and exploiting women. Walby argues that patriarchy exists in the modern-day societies in a complex manner through six defined and unique structures. These are production relations in the household, paid work, the patriarchal state, male violence, patriarchal relations in sexuality, and patriarchal cultural institutions. Moving on, two forms of patriarchy in the social world have been denoted by scholars, namely hard patriarchy, and soft patriarchy. While hard patriarchy is rape and evidently illegal, soft patriarchy is asymmetry of power, infiltrates and subverts relations. Essentially patriarchy is a social structure in which men have a monopoly on power with women expected to be submitting to this power. The theorists of patriarchy view the male members of the society as controlling access to power that is instrumental. Within the system of patriarchy, men define the role that women must be playing by force, direct pressure or through ritual, law, tradition, customs, education, etiquette, and the division of labour. Patriarchy is a way of thought; a set of ideas acting to explain and justify the dominance of males. It is time and again argued that the roots of patriarchy and its related inequality were set in the earliest periods of human's existence as a result of genetic as well as reproductive differences between male and female. The theory of patriarchy, aligned in close association with evolutionary psychology, posits that gender inequality has become an inherent element of human social structures (Walby, 1999: 153-174). Reflecting on the scope of the present research on women trafficking in Darjeeling area it is worth mentioning that it is a

humanitarian concern, instead of a partisan issue. Human trafficking is a real manifestation of a patriarchal culture, wherein men rule by virtue of their desire for dominance. Men engage in fantasizing domination and power when they show patronage towards the trafficking of women and children. Taking the control over their lives gives them the illusion of control over others. Without the affirmation of this power they do not feel competitive with other men in the patriarchal society.

The theory of stigma is also applicable to the present study. In a number of cultures, human trafficking is highly stigmatized. Stigma, as understood to be a process attempting to disgrace or discredit an individual or a group on the basis of a circumstance or an identity, keeps the victims of human trafficking from seeking out much-required assistance and counselling. Emile Durkheim was the first scholar who considered exploring stigma as a distinct social phenomenon in the 19th century. According to him, stigma is a socially constructed notion of social acceptance on the basis of identity and association. Sociological approaches to stigma in the following years have considered defined frameworks.

Erving Goffman, in the 20th century, considered stigma as the phenomenon whereby a person having an attribute discredited by society is not accepted owing to the attribute. Stigma, as perceived by Goffman, is a process by which the reactions and actions of others impairs the normal identity of an individual or a group. According to Goffman's theory of stigma, a stigma is to be perceived as a behaviour, attribute or reputation which is discrediting in a specific manner. In a prominent manner, it leads to the individual being mentally classified in an undesirable manner by others. Goffman considered defining stigma to be a unique form of the gap existing between actual social identity and virtual social identity. Moving forward with Goffman's theory of stigma, he divided the relation of individuals to a stigma into three distinct categories. These

are the stigmatized bearing the stigma, the normal not bearing the stigma, and the wise among the normal who are accepted by the stigmatized as “wise to their condition”. Goffman put emphasis on the idea that the stigma relationship exists between an individual and a social setting that upholds a particular set of expectations. Individuals are to cope with stigma in myriad ways, the same varying across groups, situations, and time. Gerhard Falk, a famous sociologist, had commented that all societies would always engage in stigmatizing some behaviours and conditions since doing so enables group’s solidarity (Goffman, 2018:24-31). The association between human trafficking and stigma is strong, with survivors of human trafficking being socially marginalized. Prior to the study with cases of women trafficking in Darjeeling area it is perceived that there remains a necessity to battle stigma that surround women and children who are victims of the organized crime of human trafficking. Humiliation in the private and public space is common for a survivor of human trafficking, irrespective of the gender.

The theory of globalization is very significant in determining the trafficking taking place from a global perspective. As there is widespread awareness which is stretched beyond our conventional boundaries ‘global consciousness’- a consciousness that not only drives our life but also at an empirical level, is a source of socio-cultural change. Globalisation refers to those processes which tend to create and consolidate a unified world economy. The globalisation discourse in India has set from the 1990s. During this decade the mantra of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG) was set into motion by the Indian state (Somayaji & Somayaji, 2006:1-6). Globalisation is also characterised by greater mobility of goods and people on a rapid pace. Remote parts of the world are now integrated into the global economy. Globalisation gives way to migration of women and children from one country to another which can also make them the servants of globalisation where they become easy targets for trafficking. There are two ways in

which globalisation has influenced the internationalisation of trafficking in persons. Firstly, it can be said that the victims of trafficking in persons are more often and more easily moved from one place to another place and from one country to another. The organisation of the trafficking has become easier through the use of modern communication techniques and the various forms of transportation that can be used to transport victims from one place to another. With the use of these techniques, the traffickers are for instance more able to serve the specific demands of the sex market. Secondly, it is widely observed that poverty and unemployment affect women more often than men. Consequently, the effects of globalisation affect women disproportionately, making them more vulnerable to trafficking practices. It is widely recognised that poverty and underdevelopment is one of the main reasons for the existence of trafficking in persons. Therefore, trafficking mainly takes place from poor, underdeveloped countries to rich countries (Rijken, 2003: 5-6).

Globalization has a mixed impact on migration and trafficking. Market integration has generated substantial economic growth on a global scale, resulting in more jobs, improved livelihood and an overall reduction in poverty. At the same time, by bringing larger benefits to individuals and countries already possessing physical and human capital, globalization has accentuated disparities within and between countries. Some of the effects of this incident are the increases in urbanization and cross border migration. Further, globalization is distinguished by increased focus on competitive markets. Such competitive markets tend to be characterized by considerable inequality in incomes and wealth and it is this inequality and disparity coupled with the rise of consumerism that as much as poverty, are promoting migration and trafficking (Sen and Ahuja, 2009: 20). Darjeeling is experiencing globalization in the form of increased trade relationships with other parts of the world by virtue of their tea plantations and tourism. Such a

form of integrated economy which has been becoming weak day by day pushes human trafficking to thrive. Modern day human trafficking is found to be a lucrative business that has only emerged to be rewarding with the advent of globalization. Indeed, it is understood that economic globalization and its factors have an increasing influence on trafficking in Darjeeling hills.

1.8 Chapterization of the Study

Chapter 1: Introduction

The chapter discusses the issue of women trafficking in Darjeeling hills. It also throws insights about the global scenario of trafficking taking place along with the indicators of human trafficking. Historical scenario of trafficking in India has also been discussed with the focus on the present status. Objectives, research questions and review of literatures, research methodology have been put down in this chapter. It also introduces theoretical and conceptual framework for the present work.

Chapter 2: Role of NGOs to Prevent Women Trafficking in Darjeeling Hills

The second chapter presents the Profile of the local and International NGOs and their role played in combating women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills. Registration number of the NGOs, their location and the designation of the informant/s are mentioned and presented through tables. The data collected from the NGOs are also presented and discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Functioning of Police Administration to Control Women Trafficking in

Darjeeling Hills

This chapter discusses the function of the police administration to control women trafficking in Darjeeling Hills. The information collected from the city police as well as the railway police force along with the official data collected from the DCRB (District Crime Record Bureau) office at Darjeeling have analysed here. Tables are presented with the number of missing adults and minors (females) during the past years.

Chapter 4: Case Studies on the Victims of Women Trafficking

The fourth chapter presents the case studies of the victims of trafficking. Case studies have been done and recorded from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and Siliguri.

Chapter 5: Major Findings, Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

This chapter presents the summary of major findings of the study. It prescribes some recommendations for preventing and combating trafficking of women in Darjeeling hills.

1.9 Significance of the Study

- 1) Darjeeling Hills is the main study area, with the research focussing on the nature and status of women more acutely so that people are highly alerted and aware of the need to combat women trafficking.
- 2) The study can also help the Non-Governmental Organizations to form a nexus in working against trafficking in the region by taking certain necessary steps to prevent trafficking.

- 3) This study can also help parents to implement measures to check on their wards and become more vigilant towards the outer magnified circle of their children, either in their academic or professional field.
- 4) The Police too can be programmed to function in a much efficient and prompt mode to combat trafficking and to track down the traffickers.
- 5) This study brings out more insight about trafficking in Darjeeling which had been left unnoticed, thus filling the gap in the field of research as well as adding more knowledge and contributing to the discipline.

1.10 Ethical Considerations for the Present Work

While conducting any research, it is to be kept into consideration that the research procedures must not be causing any kind of harm to the respondents or the participants. The researcher in the present case has applied several methods related to research ethics for carrying out this study on trafficking of women in Darjeeling Hills ethically, as it is a very sensitive issue. Obviously, the research required protection and full privacy of the respondents. Firstly, the researcher obtained consents from various respondents related different Non-Governmental Organizations. Secondly, the researcher also met and took the approvals from the legal enforcement departments like City Police, the Railway Protection Forces, and the Governmental Railway Police Forces for collection of data. Many Sub-Inspectors, Circle Inspectors, ASI, OC (Officers in Charge) were also interviewed. Some respondents wanted to be interviewed only over the telephone. But the researcher assured them that their identity would be kept in anonymity. The researcher also informed and assured the interviewees that their information could prevent many others from being victims of trafficking. This assurance helped them to turn up for a face-to-face interview.

Verbal consent of the respondents was taken by ensuring adequate level of confidentiality and protecting their privacy. Therefore, the researcher has maintained anonymity of the individuals in the entire study. The respondents were able to open up more, without any fear of having their identity disclosed. This helped the researcher to collect the very pertinent information/data from them. The researcher has prioritized the dignity and given utmost respect to respondents by considering the very thin line which has been drawn between the exploiting and the exploited. If the researcher goes too far in carrying out the study, then the researcher is exploiting the participants, and if the researcher has not done enough then it is considered that justice is not being done to the study. Therefore, the researcher has been successful in understanding and prioritizing the dignity, rights, safety, and wellbeing of the participants in the study. Consequently, the researcher had maintained certain boundaries while collecting information from the victims as the data collection process could revive their bitter past. Therefore, the researcher has taken utmost care of not disturbing them by going to extreme level of questioning.

1.11 Limitations of the Study

Some issues might be the limitations for the undertaken research study but these issues were overcome by the researcher by applying the following measures:

- 1) The researcher visited the NGOs and police offices to meet the officials who are generally very pre-occupied, traveling and busy persons. The researcher visited repeatedly to check on the officers' availability there and finally was successful to collect the needed information from them.

- 2) The topic being very sensitive, it was a big challenge for the researcher to find out the victims of trafficking as people hesitated to disclose the identity of the victims. But with the use of snowball sampling this limitation was overcome.
- 3) Some of the trafficked victims (respondents) on whom case studies have been done mainly the tribals spoke in bi-lingual language of Hindi and tribal language so sometimes which became difficult for the researcher in understanding their cases. To overcome the situation, an interpreter was used who helped in explaining the cases.