

---

## THE IMPACT OF THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILL, 2021: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

---

Greeshma. G, BA LLB (Hons.), CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

### ABSTRACT

Despite laws intended to prevent, stop and prosecute human trafficking, human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights that remains a problem in India. The law has been praised for being a thorough and all-encompassing strategy, but it has also drawn criticism in a number of areas. One of the main issues is that it might be difficult to discern between human trafficking and other similar activities, which could make migration and consensual sex work illegal. Furthermore, the bill's victim-centric strategy is viewed as inadequate as it ignores community-based rehabilitation, which is crucial for long-term reintegration, and instead concentrates exclusively on institutionalization in shelter homes. Because of the bill's punitive focus, there are worries that the core causes of human trafficking that is poverty, inequality, discrimination, and lack of opportunity for education and employment may be overlooked. The lack of finding for law enforcement organizations is another issue. The measure creates committies and specialized groups, but it does not provide enough finding, which might make it more difficult to effectively investigate and prosecute incidents of human trafficking. Moreover, one possible roadblock in the legal system is the lack of specialized courts. There is also a crucial problem of the lack of methods of gathering and analyzing data. Accurate and trustworthy statistics are essential for effective anti-trafficking initiatives, and the bill falls short in this regard. The study report emphasizes how crucial teaching at the school level is to increase awareness and preventing human trafficking. Although the bill calls for training and awareness, more information and resources are required to guarantee that the rules are implemented at educational institutions in an efficient manner. It is imperative to adopt a thorough strategy and communicate with relevant parties to guarantee that is in line with global norms and optimal methodologies for addressing human trafficking. Although the bill is a start in the right direction towards combating human trafficking in India, there is still need for improvement in a number of areas, including data gathering, victim-centered rehabilitation, and legal clarity.

**Keywords:** Human-trafficking, prosecution, awareness, anti-trafficking, victim-centered

## **RESEARCH PROBLEM**

The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956 has faced criticism for multiple challenges in its enforcement. In order to overcome the lacunas and the drawbacks in the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956, the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill 2021 was drafted. But this bill also was criticized for various lacunas. The Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill, 2021 falls short in adequately supporting trafficking victims and addressing the root causes of trafficking, such as demand for commercial sex and exploitation low wage labor. The bill lacks essential guidelines for regulating high risk sectors like construction, hospitality and domestic work, which are often linked to trafficking. Additionally, it fails to provide a comprehensive framework for resource allocation to NGOs and law enforcement agencies engaged in anti trafficking efforts. Inadequate funding poses challenges for investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases effectively. Another significant flaw is the absence of provisions for specialized courts dedicated to handling trafficking cases potential hindering these swift and efficient prosecution of offenders. There is also no provision for data collection analysis and storing process. The major lacuna is the provision for community engagement and awareness is completely ignored.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. How does the bill fail to provide victims of human trafficking with necessary support And what are the particular flaws and shortcomings that exist in the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill, 2021?
2. What obstacles lie in the way of tackling the core causes of trafficking under the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill 2021, namely the demand for commercial sex and exploitative low wage labour?
3. How does insufficient financing affect the overall anti trafficking efforts and what are the ramifications for examining and prosecuting trafficking cases?

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To ascertain the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill 2021 has been successful in tackling the root causes of human trafficking, as well as potential

obstacles and opportunities in the future.

2. To evaluate the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill, 2021 Resource allocation mechanism in terms of how well it supports law enforcement and non-governmental organizations working to combat human trafficking.
3. To ascertain the effects of the bills, omission of provisions for codes with specific jurisdiction over cases involving human trafficking, as well as the implications of the measures, lack of measures for data gathering, processing and storage.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research methodology adapted for this article is a doctrinal method of research which includes primary sources and secondary sources of research. Primary sources of research are conducted based on the primary sources, which include statutes, cases, laws, rules and regulations. The secondary sources of research are conducted based on the secondary sources, which include secondary methods of data collection, like textbooks, journals, articles and policies.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Millions of people's rights and dignity are violated by human trafficking, grave crime that occurs in India and other countries. It includes the use of weak people for a variety of illicit activities, including forced work, child marriage, commercial sexual exploitation. A number of legislations, including the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956, the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, the Child Labour Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act, are in place to discourage human trafficking. The Indian Constitution forbids it under Article 23(1).

Thousands of women and children are trafficked ever year, making human trafficking one of the worst organized crimes in the nation, even despite legal protection. A 2014 survey study found that almost 16 million Indian women fall victim to sex trafficking annually. A little over forty percent of them are kids and teenagers.

The main causes of the increase in human trafficking cases in India are the inadequate enforcement of the law and the low conviction rate. For example, the Union Ministry of Affairs acknowledged in Parliament that in 2020, hundreds of accused people went to trial in states

including Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha and Punjab, but not a single conviction in human trafficking charges resulted from those instances.

In order to prevent and stop human trafficking, the United Nations has developed a number of international treaties. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime is the most well known of these agreements. The Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children and the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air are two of the convictions pertinent protocols pertaining to human trafficking.

There are additionally international treaties that are pertinent to the fight against human trafficking, in addition to these protocols. The goal of Convention 182 of the International Labour Organization is to end child labour, including child trafficking. Another international agreement that targets human trafficking is the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children.<sup>1</sup>

India has a number of laws and constitutional clauses pertaining to the trafficking of individuals. The Indian Constitution for which the trafficking of individuals of human beings is mentioned under Article 23(1). The main part of law against trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex exploitation is the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA). With the enactment of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code was replaced with Sections 370 and 370A of the Indian Penal Code. These new sections offer comprehensive measures aimed at combating the problem of human trafficking, which includes the trafficking of minors, the sexual or physical exploitation, slavery, servitude or the forced removal of organs.

Apart from the particular sections in the Indian Penal Code example, section 372 and 373 pertained to the trade in and purchase of girls for the purpose of prostitution, there are other specific legislation implemented relating to trafficking in women and children. These include the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 1976, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986, and the Transplantation of Human Organs

---

<sup>1</sup> InsightsIAS, "Human Trafficking," InsightsIAS, February 18, 2022, <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2022/02/18/human-trafficking>

Act 1994.<sup>2</sup>

Both bilateral Memorandum of Understanding for the Prevention of Human Trafficking and the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution have been signed by India and a number of other nations. The protocol on the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, has been approved by India under the auspices of the United Nations Convention on the Transnational Organized Crime UNTOC.

The Indian government has taken a number of measures to counter this threat which include Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) are being established in a number of states and Union Territories with the aim of conducting rescue operations, investigations, awareness campaigns and coordination of anti-trafficking activities. Launching the Ujwala program in 2007 to offer complete services including food, clothes, lodging, medical attention, counseling, legal assistance, vocational training and rehabilitation to rescue victims of human trafficking.<sup>3</sup>

A proposed part of legislation called the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021, intends to stop, combat and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking in India. On July 30th, 2021, Smriti Irani, the Ministry of Women and Child Development presented it in the Lok Sabha.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 was the main legislation pertaining to trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex exploitation, and it intended to be replaced by the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill), 2021.<sup>4</sup>

Trafficking is defined as the enlistment, convenience, relocation, harboring, or receiving of individuals by coercion. Intimidation, fraud, deceit, or misuse of authority within the intention of exploiting them, which include other types of exploitation, including forced employment,

---

<sup>2</sup> InsightsIAS, "Draft anti-trafficking Bill," InsightsIAS, July 19, 2021, <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2021/07/19/draft-anti-trafficking-bill-2/>

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Women and Child Development, Draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 [https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20TRAFFICKING%20IN%20PERSONS%20\(PREVENTION,%20CARE%20AND%20REHABILITATION\)%20BILL%202021%20\(1\).pdf](https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20TRAFFICKING%20IN%20PERSONS%20(PREVENTION,%20CARE%20AND%20REHABILITATION)%20BILL%202021%20(1).pdf)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Law and Human Trafficking, [https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/en/bibliography/international\\_law\\_and\\_human\\_trafficking.html](https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/en/bibliography/international_law_and_human_trafficking.html)

begging, marriage and organ removal, the measure broadens the definition of trafficking.<sup>5</sup>

To care for and aid the victims, the bill calls for the creation of anti-trafficking, relief and rehabilitation committees at the federal, state and local levels, as well as anti-trafficking units at the district level. It levies fines of up to ₹10,00,000 and provides a severe penalties in a number of violations ranging from seven years to life in jail. It gives the courts the authority to order the four feature and seizure of the offenders belonging as well as the money obtained via trafficking. It requires that compensation to be paid to victims and establish a rehabilitation fund for their care and rehabilitation. It allows for the in-camera trial of cases and the preservation of the victims, witnesses, identities and privacy.<sup>6</sup>

The new measure acknowledges the gendered aspect of trafficking and contains provisions to meet the unique needs of women and children who are trafficked. This highlights the need for more gender sensitive approach. Given that the Trafficking Act of 1956 does not expressly address the gender aspect of trafficking, this is a significant advancement.

The necessity of adopting a victim centric strategy has been approached in the bill where the interest of rights of victims, including their rights to compensation, rehabilitation and protection, are given more weight in the new statute. This is a significant change from the previous act, which was primarily concerned with the prosecution of criminals.<sup>7</sup>

The new law has measures to promote international collaboration in the fight against human trafficking, including the formation of bilateral multilateral agreements with other nation. This highlights the need for strong international cooperation in this area. This is a significant advancement, since human trafficking is an international crime that calls for a concerted international response.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> The New Indian Express, "India accords high priority to combating human trafficking: MoS Ajay Kumar Mishra at United Nations," The New Indian Express, November 24, 2021, <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/nov/24/india-accords-high-priority-to-combating-human-trafficking-mos-ajay-kumar-mishra-at-united-nations-2387591.html>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2023: India, accessed November 8, 2023, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/>

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Home Affairs, Anti-Trafficking Cell, [https://www.mha.gov.in/en/divisionofmha/Women\\_Safety\\_Division/anti-trafficking-cell](https://www.mha.gov.in/en/divisionofmha/Women_Safety_Division/anti-trafficking-cell)

## LACUNAS

The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 is criticized for failing to sufficiently address the core causes of trafficking, such as the demand for cheap labour and commercial sex, even though it includes prohibitions for the prevention and prosecution of trafficking offences. To effectively address the demand for trafficking, the measure may have included provisions for the prosecution of the purchase of commercial sex, as well as for the control of companies linked to trafficking.<sup>9</sup>

The bill shortcomings is that it only particularly addresses the need for human trafficking. Although the bill includes measures to combat trafficking, it falls short in addressing the underlying issues that lead to trafficking, such as the need for cheap labour and commercial sex.

In terms of punishment for violations, the law might not take a comprehensive approach to more severe sanctions. A more thorough comprehension of the suffering produced by human trafficking, in addition to the necessity of responsibility and deterrent, would be necessary for a complete approach to punishment for offenders. This would entail making sure that punishments are appropriate for the seriousness of the offence and that they consider aggravating circumstances such the victims age and fragility, the use of force, deception or coercion, and the involvement of organized crime.<sup>10</sup>

The measure is also criticised for not offering sufficient assistance to victims of human trafficking. For instance, the measure does not call for the creation of safe homes and specialized shelters for victims of human trafficking. Rather, it depends on already existing government run facilities to care for and assist victims, such protection homes and rehabilitation centres. These facilities might not be able to offer the specific support and treatment that victims of human trafficking need, such trauma, counselling, medical attention and legal advice.

The bill does not specifically address the appointment of special officers for the purpose of protecting victims of human trafficking. Since specialized Cops might offer additional help and

---

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of External Affairs, Human Trafficking, <https://www.mea.gov.in/human-trafficking.html>

<sup>10</sup> InsightsIAS, "Draft anti-trafficking Bill," InsightsIAS, July 19, 2021, <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2021/07/19/draft-anti-trafficking-bill-2/>

protection to victims of trafficking, this could be viewed as a possible issue. Although the measure does not specifically address the hiring of specific officers, it does provide for the creation of specialized facilities and units to deal with the problem of human trafficking and provide victim protection.<sup>11</sup>

For instance, one of the main factors contributing to sex trafficking is the buying of commercial sex, which is not included by the law. The measure does not address the need for commercial sex that drives the trafficking business, even while it does allow for any punishment those who take advantage of victim of trafficking.

Moreover, the measure lacks elements pertaining to the regulation of sectors, including construction, hospitality and domestic labour, that are known to be connected to human trafficking. Although the measure protects workers in these businesses, it ignores structural problems, such a lack of control and regulations in these areas that lead to human trafficking.<sup>12</sup>

Nonetheless, the measure has been criticized for failing to sufficiently address the problem of allocating resources to law enforcement organization so they may successfully combat trafficking. Although the measure calls for the formation of dedicated anti-trafficking committees and the units at the state and district levels, it makes no provisions for providing these organisations with enough funding. This lack of funding may make it more difficult for law enforcement organizations to look into and prosecute incidents of human trafficking. Furthermore, the bill does not give law enforcement personnel these specific training they need to recognize and handle situations of human trafficking.

In addition, the measures does not provide for the creation of codes with specific jurisdiction over instances involving human trafficking, which might pose a serious obstacle to the successful prosecution of perpetrators. The absence of specialized courts can cause delays and inefficiencies in the judicial systems in trafficking. Crimes can be complicated and require certain knowledge and experience to prosecute successfully.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> National Human Rights Commission of India, Standard Operating Procedure for Combating Trafficking in Persons, [https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/sop\\_CTPI\\_19012018.pdf](https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/sop_CTPI_19012018.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> InsightsIAS, "Draft anti-trafficking Bill," InsightsIAS, July 19, 2021, <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2021/07/19/draft-anti-trafficking-bill-2/>

<sup>13</sup> National Human Rights Commission of India, Standard Operating Procedure for Combating Trafficking in Persons, [https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/sop\\_CTPI\\_19012018.pdf](https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/sop_CTPI_19012018.pdf)

Nonetheless, the measure has been criticized for failing to sufficiently address the problem of data collecting and processing. Although the measure calls for the creation of the State and District Anti-Trafficking Committees, it makes no mention of the creation of systems for gathering and evaluating trafficking data. Law enforcement organizations and other stakeholders may find it more difficult to comprehend extent and kind of human trafficking in the nation as a result of this data storage. It can be challenging to create evidence based policies and programs to stop and prevent human trafficking without a precise and trustworthy data. The bill also does not provide for the creation of a centralized database through house and process trafficking data. A centralized database may be a useful tool for exchanging information between law enforcement organizations and other stakeholders, as well as for monitoring trends and patterns in human trafficking.

The measure may make voluntary migration and concessional sex work illegal but fails to provide a sufficient distinction between trafficking and smuggling. The measure may violate the victims autonomy and dignity since it does not allow for their involvement or permission in the rescue and rehabilitation process. The law may lead to misunderstanding and effort duplication since it does not outline the duties and responsibilities of numerous agencies and authorities. The fundamental causes and contributing elements of human trafficking such as poverty, inequality, prejudice and corruption are not addressed by the measure.<sup>14</sup>

The law is presently pending in Lok Sabha, where more debate and discussion are anticipated prior to its passage. In order to properly safeguard the rights and interests of the victims and stop the threat of human trafficking in India, it is desired that the law would be strengthened and changed.

The quick identification of victims of human trafficking and their access to protection and help are not guaranteed under the bill. The bill does not outline any standards of processing for identifying and rescuing the victims. Instead, it depends on the police and District Anti - Trafficking Committees to do so. This might result in government using arbitrary and forceful measures, infringing on the victims rights and dignity.

---

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/southasia/en/frontpage/2011/june/significance-of-the-untoc-to-address-human-trafficking-interview-with-mr-g-k-pillai.html>

As advised by International Human Rights Legislation, the bill does not take a victim centric human rights based approach to combat human trafficking. The bill criminalizes other behaviors that are not necessarily related to trafficking, such as soliciting, begging or arranging travel papers. It also appears to combine migration and sex work with trafficking. Vulnerable populations like sex work, immigration and transgender people who might not be victims of human trafficking could be harassed and prosecuted as a consequence.<sup>15</sup>

The bill does not offer victims of human trafficking a thorough and all-encompassing paradigm of rehabilitation. The bill does not provide anymore assistance, instead it concentrates on institutionalizing the victims in shelter homes. The bill fails to acknowledge the necessity of community-based rehabilitation that offer victims access to welfare programs, health services, legal representation and employment possibilities in order to facilitate their complete reintegration back into their families and communities.

The fundamental cause and contributing elements of human trafficking, such as poverty, social exclusion, gender discrimination and a lack of access to chances for education and work are not sufficiently addressed by the government. The bill relies on punitive measures and law enforcement to combat trafficking instead of proposing and preventive measures or initiative to address these challenges. This might not be successful in lowering the supply and demand for human trafficking, and it might also make the impacted communities more fearful and mistrustful of one another.<sup>16</sup>

Before the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 is passed into law, it is necessary to address the few of its shortcomings. To ensure that the Bill is in line with the international standards and best practices of combating trafficking in persons, it should be revised and improved in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including the supervisors of trafficking, civil society organizations, human rights experts and the general public.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2023: India*, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/>

<sup>16</sup> Drishti IAS, "The Big Picture - India's Anti-Trafficking Bill", <https://www.drishtias.com/pdf/1682484748.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Women and Child Development, *Draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021*, [https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20TRAFFICKING%20IN%20PERSONS%20\(PREVENTION,%20CARE%20AND%20REHABILITATION\)%20BILL%202021%20\(1\).pdf](https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20TRAFFICKING%20IN%20PERSONS%20(PREVENTION,%20CARE%20AND%20REHABILITATION)%20BILL%202021%20(1).pdf)

## CONCLUSION/SUGGESTIONS

The issue of human trafficking is intricate and multidimensional, necessitating a coordinated and all-encompassing response from the public, media, government and civil society. We can work towards putting a stop to this horrible crime and restoring the victims rights and dignity by spreading awareness, upholding the law, offering assistance and empowering these survivors.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has suggested the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 as a drought law to address human trafficking in India. The goal of the measure is to offer a thorough framework for victim protection, victim rehabilitation and criminal prosecution.<sup>18</sup>

A few suggestions that could be involved in the bills improvement are as follows:

To have a single comprehensive law that nullifies all prior conflicting legislation on human trafficking, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956, and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.

While traffickers frequently pressure or pursued their victims into engaging in illicit activities such prosecution, begging or drug trafficking, it is important to make sure that their victims are not criminalised or punished for doing so.<sup>19</sup>

To enhance the function and responsibility of the district and the state anti-trafficking Committees which oversee and coordinate the enforcement of the law and the welfare of the victims and to guarantee that victims are consulted and informed of their rights and alternatives and that they have prompt access to appropriate medical, psychiatric, legal and social assistance. To improve the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations, abilities and training to effectively address the intricate and even changing nature of human

---

<sup>18</sup> Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, "Presidential decree allegedly authorizing the enforcement of 340 death sentences reportedly imposed in terrorism-related cases," accessed November 8, 2023,

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26906>

<sup>19</sup> Drishti IAS, "The Big Picture - India's Anti-Trafficking Bill,"

<https://www.drishtiiias.com/pdf/1682484748.pdf>

trafficking.

The bill should not mix up trafficking with other crimes like prostitution, begging, bonded labour, etc. Instead, it should specify precisely what kinds of trafficking it covers and how much of it. The bill should also guarantee the protection of immigrant and refugee rights and make a distinction between internal and cross-border trafficking.

The bill should guarantee that due process is observed and the trafficking cases are investigated and prosecuted in a fair, unbiased and transparent way. The bill should also adequately protect the victims and witnesses privacy and dignity, as well as offer defenses against malicious or false charges.<sup>20</sup>

The National Investigation Agency, Anti Trafficking Communities, District Anti Trafficking Units, and other authorities and agencies participating in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases should all be able to clearly and effectively coordinate their efforts through the bill. Additionally, the bill ought to guarantee that the organizations and authorities have the necessary resources, tools and training to deal with incidents of human trafficking.

In addition to ensuring that victims can prompt thorough care, protection and rehabilitation services, the bill should take a victim centric and rights based approach to the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Additionally, the bill should guarantee that the victims get compassionate and respectful treatment and that their involvement and permission are requested and honoured at every stage of procedure.

Education at the school level is a crucial instrument for increasing awareness and preventing human trafficking in India. A clause in the bill requiring instructors and students and parents to undergo regular and required education and sensitization about the origins, effects and prevention of human trafficking should be included. Human rights, consent, a safe migration, internet safety and other related themes should all be included in an age appropriate, gender sensitive and culturally relevant curriculum.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> Press Information Bureau, "Ministry of Women and Child Development invites comments/ suggestions on The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021," Press Information Bureau, July 4, 2021, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732617>

<sup>21</sup> Pramit Bhattacharya, "Child Trafficking In India," iPleaders, May 28, 2016, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/child-trafficking-india/>

The bill should guarantee that school administrators and personnel are knowledgeable about the laws and protocols concerning human trafficking. They should also be able to recognize the report and forward incidents of suspected or confirmed human trafficking to the relevant authorities and organisations. Guidelines and procedures for the defence and assistance of victims and witnesses of human trafficking on school property should also be included in the bill.

In schools, the bill should out to promote and support parents and kids involvement and Anti-Trafficking programs and campaigns. Additionally, the Bill need to honour and commend the greatest initiatives and methods in the field of anti-trafficking education at the school level.

In addition to providing frequent monitoring and assessment of the programs affects results, the Bill should allot sufficient finances and resources for its creation and execution at the school level. A system for feedback and grievance redressal for process stakeholders should also be established under the bill.<sup>22</sup>

Nonetheless, the lack of opportunities for community involvement and knowledge is one of the bill's complaints. Any effective anti-trafficking plan must include community participation and awareness, since they may aid in victim identification, prevention and rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors. A variety of actions may be taken to engage the community, including reaching out of vulnerable groups, educating the public about human trafficking and how to report cases, and creating support systems for survivors within the community. Public education campaigns, media outreach, and the sharing of information via social media and other means are examples of awareness raising initiatives.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> Childline India Foundation, "Child Trafficking," Childline India Foundation, 2023, <https://www.childlineindia.org/a/issues/child-trafficking>.

<sup>23</sup> Drishti IAS, "The Big Picture - India's Anti-Trafficking Bill," <https://www.drishtiiias.com/pdf/1682484748.pdf>