



REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: DIMENSIONS AND PROSPECTS OF SHELTER SERVICES

Mahendra Kumar Rai 

Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, TU, Kathmandu
Corresponding author: mahendra.raai@rrlc.tu.edu.np

Received date: 30 Aug. 2024 – Accepted date: 10 Feb. 2025

ABSTRACT

The reintegration of survivors of human trafficking is a challenging task. Shelter service offers services related to economic, social and psychological dimensions. This paper aims to assess the major dimensions of reintegration of shelter services and to explore the prospects of shelter services for successful and sustainable reintegration. A mixed-method research approach was applied to assess the dimensions and prospects of reintegration of shelter services for successful reintegration. The sample size for quantitative survey was 120 and for qualitative interview was 21. The respondents of the survey were survivors and concerned stakeholders whereas participants of KII and IDI were experts and survivors. This study is qualitative led so quantitative data was used to support and validate qualitative findings. Shelters are essential in preparing survivors for reintegration by offering comprehensive support that includes social, economic and psychosocial services. These services help survivors regain financial stability, emotional well-being and social confidence, which are all vital for reintegration into family and community life. About two third survivors needed financial support whereas 14 percent aspired to take skill training which can be effectively facilitated by shelters. Of the total survivors, 53 percent male survivors had received training related to driving whereas 45 percent female survivors had received training related to tailoring. Shelters play a pivotal role to provide immediate, short-term and long-term services for making survivors empowered. The shelter care and support enhance survivors to become capable, aware and empower which leverage for successful reintegration. To enhance the impact of reintegration efforts, specific systems,

strategies, and policies must be developed. The prospects of shelter services include creating a standalone reintegration policy for survivors, establishing a robust identification and data management system, improving the use and coordination of existing resources and strengthening inter-agency cooperation. These steps are pivotal for improving the long-term prospects of reintegration services.

Keywords: human trafficking, survivor, reintegration, dimension, prospects.

INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking in the form of illicit activities is grave violation of human rights with potential negative consequences on survivors of human trafficking. Survivors need special care and services for their successful and dignified reintegration in the family and community. Nepal is a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking (National Human Rights Commission [NHRC], 2019). Human trafficking is a heinous crime and serious problem in Nepal. Its nature is characterized by internal, cross-border and international particularly for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation (Nepali *et al.*, 2023). The constitution of Nepal 2015 and Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007 are strictly prohibited the trafficking of human beings (Government of Nepal [GoN], 2007 & 2015). However, trafficking in person is widespread in Nepal and it is also connected with different facets (Hurtado, 2024 & World Bank [WB], 2021). In such a situation, it is essential to provide shelter care and services for reintegrating survivors of human trafficking in dignified and sustainable way.

Reintegration of survivors is described as the process as well as strategy (Rai *et al.*, 2023). Survivors are often underrecognized and remain high chance of revictimizing if not provided comprehensive and integrated services (Gorden *et al.*, 2018). However, dignified and successful reintegration is often a complex process of approval, consisting of social, psychosocial and economic components (Dahal *et al.*, 2015). The shelter offers composite and comprehensive services which significantly contribute to successful reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. The dimensions and prospects of shelter services determine the success rate of reintegration of survivors. The restoration of livelihoods, identify, dignity, self-dependence and participation are the crucial aspects of reintegration of survivors. There are multiple factors associated with the reintegration process. Asquith and Turner (2008) stated that reintegration, as a comprehensive process, entails providing practical, emotional, educational and social support to individuals. The goal is to ensure their safe, dignified and sustainable reentry into society and to facilitate a normalize life.

Reintegration is a multifaceted process that helps individuals rebuild their economic, social and psychosocial connections. This process is essential for restoring their livelihood, dignity and ability to participate fully in civic life (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2019). Surtees and Laura (2021) argued that reintegration encompasses the recovery and economic inclusion of individuals after a trafficking experience. It includes securing a stable and safe living environment, attaining a reasonable standard of living, ensuring physical and mental well-being, and accessing opportunities for personal, social, and economic development, all while receiving essential social and emotional support. As reintegration is the final stage of restoring dignified and sustainable life, the component known as restitution need to manage for survivors for their self-independence and economic empowerment (Angkasa *et al.* 2023). The survivors of human trafficking also affected from different types of traumatic situation need special care and legal treatment for compensation (Maloku & Maloku, 2020).

Most survivors of human trafficking endure significant physical, emotional and psychological trauma, requiring specialized care and support for successful reintegration into society. Generally, reintegration assistance includes services that address the physical, psychological, economic and social recovery needs of trafficking survivors. Surtees (2012) argued that survivors often rely on family members for support throughout their recovery and reintegration, with a safe, supportive and protective family environment contributing positively to their successful reintegration. The network development, job placement, micro-businesses and social enterprises are the vital means to empower survivors economically for their dignified reintegration in family and community. Furthermore, Surtees and Laura (2021) draw a conclusion that successfully reintegrated survivors experience better status in all aspects of life particularly in economic, social and psychosocial dimensions.

The study on dimensions of shelter services and prospects of shelter services for successful reintegration are very limited. Previous studies have reported on the practices of shelters, care and services including access to justice to the survivors for reintegration. However, no previous research has described the dimensions and prospects of shelter services for dignified and sustainable services. The present study addresses this gap by adopting the mixed method approach in seven shelters of Kathmandu. Though Nepal has developed a significant number of anti-trafficking efforts by developing national plans, policies, laws and strategies, there are no conducive and

proper laws, plans and policies for promoting and enhancing successful reintegration of survivors of trafficking. The lack of a proper budget, conducive and clear law, plan, policy and framework for reintegration of survivors create the situation of re-trafficking and double vulnerability.

Research Questions

- i. What are the major dimensions of shelter services for reintegration of survivors of human trafficking?
- ii. How the survivors of human trafficking can be reintegrated in family and society in successful and dignified way through shelter support?

Research Objectives

- To assess the contribution of major dimensions of shelter services for reintegration of survivors of human trafficking, and
- To explore the prospects of shelter services for reintegrating the survivors of human trafficking in family and society.

METHOD AND MATERIAL

Research Design

This study employs exploratory and descriptive research design in which survivors, right activists, researchers, defense lawyers and concerned stakeholders from Kathmandu valley were interviewed. The embedded mixed methods of qualitative and quantitative approaches has been adopted to explore the major dimensions and prospects of shelter services for reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. Kathmandu valley was selected as the study area due to the availability of large number of shelters and most of network members, right activists and defense lawyers.

Sampling and Sample Size

The respondents for this study were selected applying simple random sampling for quantitative data whereas purposive sampling was employed to select respondents for qualitative data. The size of sample for quantitative data was 120 in which 57 were survivors, 21 were network members, 10 were right activists, 10 were researchers and 10 were defense lawyers. Furthermore, the sample size for qualitative data was 21 in which the total number of key in format interviews were 14 and indepth interviews were 7. So, a total of 141 samples were drawn, in which 120 were drawn for quantitative data and 21 were for qualitative data.

Data Collection Tools

The questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data whereas checklists was applied to collect qualitative data. The field survey and interview were conducted between 10-28 March 2024.

Data Analysis

The STATA version 18 software was applied for analyzing quantitative data whereas thematic analysis technique was used to analyze qualitative information. Thematic analysis for qualitative and descriptive analysis for quantitative data was applied. Six major themes were generated based on the qualitative information. For generating themes, codes were developed first then grouped as per the thematic clusters.

Ethics Approval and Consent

The written ethical approval was taken from the Ethical Review Board of Research Directorate, Tribhuvan University by following required process and procedure. Before collecting data, oral consent from key informants and concerned stakeholders and written consent from survivors of human trafficking was taken. The information obtained from survivors as well as concerned stakeholders was kept confidential and used only for this study purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average age of survivors of human trafficking is 35 years, while the concerned stakeholders are slightly older on average at 39.6 years. Most survivors fall within the 35–39 age group (38.60%). Gender distribution shows a significant contrast: 68.4 percent of the survivors are female, whereas 63.5 percent of the stakeholders are male. In terms of caste or ethnicity, the majority of survivors belong to Indigenous Nationalities (43.86%), followed by Madheshi (15.79%) and Tharu (12.28%). About two third survivors are married, with 12.28 percent separated and 10.53 percent divorced.

Regarding literacy, about 81 percent of the survivors are literate compared to 98.4 percent of the stakeholders. Similarly, about 35 percent of the survivors have only a primary education while 26 percent had intermediate level of education. In terms of religion, the vast majority of both groups identify as Hindu (70.18% of survivors and 74.60% of stakeholders). Minor representation among survivors includes Kirat (17.54%), Buddhist (8.77%), and Christian (3.51%).

Table 1
Background Characteristics of Respondents

Background Characteristics	Survivors of Human Trafficking		Concerned Stakeholder	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<24	0	0.00	1	1.59
25-29	12	21.05	6	9.52
30-34	11	19.30	10	15.87
35-39	22	38.60	13	20.63
40-44	8	14.04	14	22.22
45-49	4	7.02	12	19.05
50+	0	0.00	7	11.11
Average Age	35.0 years		39.63 years	
Gender				
Female	39	68.42	23	36.51
Male	18	31.58	40	63.49
Caste/Ethnicity				
Indigenous Nationalities	25	43.86	22	34.92
Chhetri	6	10.53	17	26.98
Brahmin	4	7.02	23	36.51
Dalit	6	10.53	0	0.00
Madheshi	9	15.79	0	0.00
Other	0	0.00	1	1.59
Tharu	7	12.28	0	0.00
Marital Status				
Divorced	6	10.53	5	7.94
Married	35	61.40	40	63.49
Separated	7	12.28	1	1.59
Unmarried	5	8.77	17	26.98
Widowed	4	7.02	0	0.00
Literacy Status				
Literate	46	80.70	62	98.41
Illiterate	11	19.30	1	1.59
Level of Education				
Primary	16	34.78	0	0.00
Lower than Secondary	5	10.87	0	0.00
Secondary	10	21.74	0	0.00
Intermediate	12	26.09	7	11.29
Bachelors	1	2.17	18	29.03
Masters and above	2	4.35	37	59.68
Religion				
Hindu	40	70.18	47	74.60
Kirat	10	17.54	8	12.70
Buddhist	5	8.77	8	12.70
Christian	2	3.51	0	0.00
Total	57	100.00	63	100.00

Source: Field Study, 2024.

Dimensions for Reintegration of Survivors of Human Trafficking

Reintegration of survivors of human trafficking is complex process which is associated with multiple components (International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2019). The economic, social and psychosocial aspects are the major dimensions of reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. So, to fulfill the multidimensional needs of survivors, it is essential to incorporate and manage different crucial components for successful reintegration. The interaction with concerned stakeholders, key informants and survivors revealed the fact that the unavoidable needs of reintegration include immediate needs, short-term and long-term needs. The needs like need and situation assessment of survivors, counseling including psychosocial counseling, basic health check-up, primary stress management, initiation of official procedure including case history, shelter, food and communication with family members if available are fall under immediate needs. The short-term needs encompass provision of basic needs, health services, security, psychosocial counseling, facilities related to recreational activities, legal services and provision of soft loan and seed money. Whereas long-term needs are time consuming and costly too that includes needs like education, skill training, capacity building training, legal services for providing justice to survivors, family and community counseling, market link up, seed money including financial grant and job placement. The essential aspects for sustainable reintegration varies from survivor to survivor. The need and aspiration of survivors mainly depend on types of survivors, traumatic situation and their physical and mental status. Figure 1 reveals that about two third survivors need financial support followed by skills and training (14.04%) and job placement (12.28%). This fact demonstrate that financial independence is the prime factor for reintegration.

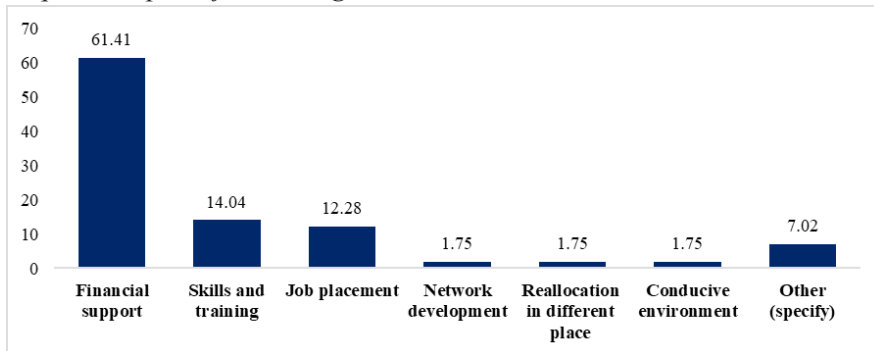
Economic Dimension

The economic aspect is fundamental and crucial for successful and dignified reintegration. Economic independence and self-reliance are crucial for increasing confidence levels, which leverage for successful reintegration into family and community. The practical support like vocational training based on market demand, training for running small businesses, financial literacy, job placement, soft loans, seed money and grants directly improves

their ability to earn an income and sustain themselves (Nepali *et al.*, 2023). Economic empowerment contributes to increasing the level of confidence to generate income. The efficacy of skill training, the role of the private sector and provision of soft loans are crucial for economic reintegration. Survivors also benefit from their personal networks, past experiences and social connections, which help them find work or start businesses.

Figure 1

Required Aspects for Reintegration

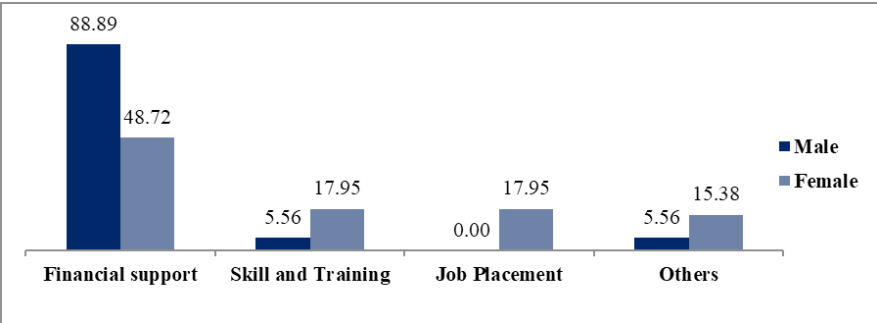


Source: Field Study, 2024.

The findings of KIIs and IDIs revealed that the economy is the fundamental basis of reintegration. The provision of soft loans and grants also leverage for successful and dignified reintegration. The economic dimension of reintegration is crucial for establishing economic self-sufficiency and independence. The skills development training including vocational training, job placement, development of business plans, access to banks and financial institutions, career guidance and counseling, and financial literacy contribute to making survivors empowered economically. The economic empowerment is the panacea for human trafficking and it is one of the best ways to reintegrate into family and community.

The survey result also supports this fact that most of the male and female survivors required more financial support for a successful reintegration process (88.89% vs. 48.72%). Similarly, about 6 percent of male and 18 percent female survivors required additional skill and specific training whereas about 18 percent female survivors required job placement for improving their economic status (Figure 2).

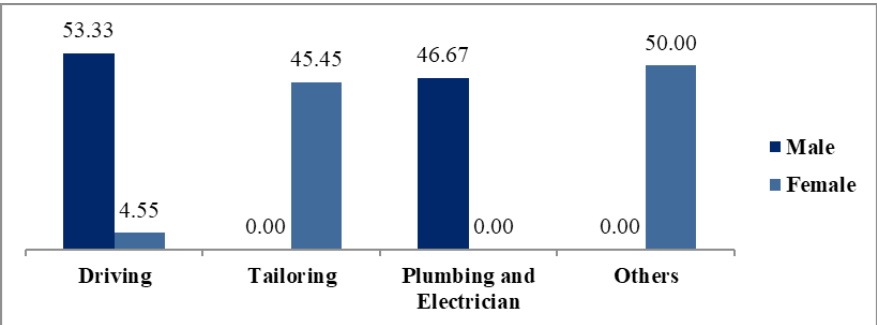
Figure 2
Essential Support for Reintegration to Survivors of Human Trafficking



Source: Field Study, 2024.

Rebuilding livelihoods helps increase survivors’ confidence and supports their reintegration into their families and communities. This can be achieved by offering training programs that align with current job market needs. Figure 3 illustrates that about 53 percent of male survivors received training in driving, while 47 percent were trained in plumbing and electrical work. Among female survivors, about 45 percent were trained in tailoring, 5 percent in driving, and remaining 50 percent received training in areas like cooking, hospitality and running small business.

Figure 3
Training Received by Survivors of Human Trafficking



Source: Field Study, 2024.

Social Dimension

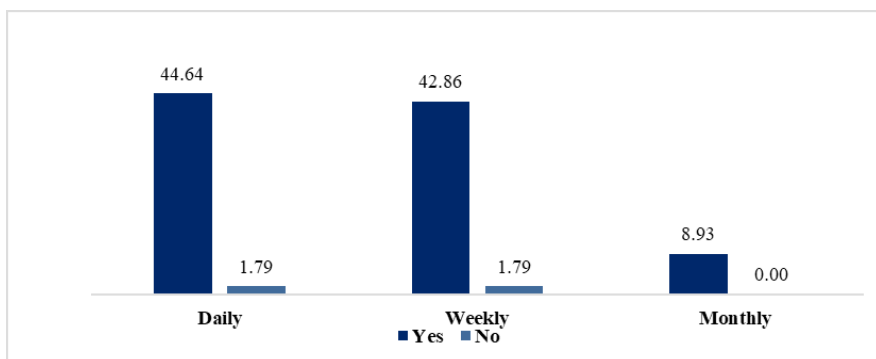
Reintegration of survivors of human trafficking consists of their re-inclusion and re-incorporation into their family and community (IOM, 2019). It also encompasses the acceptance by their family, peers

and community, and the capacity of survivors to utilize development and economic opportunities available at home. Due to the mentality of survivors to be rejected by family and society (Pandey *et al.*, 2018), the shelter should provide specific services for family reunion environment. The shelter services play a crucial role in the social reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. Survivors requires professional and community services in which shelter provides the required skills, education, support and network for a reintegration process (Choi *et al.*, 2020). The government bodies like department of foreign employment, foreign employment board, local authorities and other stakeholders need to support reintegration through policies and programs. The shelter-based services, including institutional mechanisms and frameworks are fundamental criteria for social reintegration of survivors.

The findings from KIIs and IDIs revealed the fact that better provision of housing and accommodation, social security, education and training, health services, and access to justice are the prime factors for social reintegration. Most of the shelters provide these services to survivors however due to lack of sufficient funds and resources, the continuity of these services is not sustainable. In most cases shelter is dependent on donations from agencies which regularity cannot be fixed and affects the effectiveness of these services.

Figure 4

Role of Communication for Reintegration



Source: Field Study, 2024.

After financial support, the social reintegration is the next biggest challenge, especially for female survivors. Many face social stigma, exclusion and blame due to deeply rooted patriarchal beliefs (Rai *et al.*,

2023). Due to survivor blaming culture and patriarchal society, the shelter should provide a sufficient training and capacity-building program that contribute for empowering them in an effective manner. The communication status and familial as well as societal network have direct and positive nexus with the social reintegration of survivors of human trafficking into family and community. Figure 4 reveals that weekly and daily communication of survivors with family members contribute to enhance the confidence of reintegration. The fact shows that better communication enhances the confidence level of survivors, whereas on the other hand, ensure better interaction with family members that leads to successful reintegration.

Psychosocial Dimension

Survivors of human trafficking often face multiple challenges to their daily lives and livelihoods (Choi, *et al.*, 2020). Human trafficking directly exerts psychological effects on survivors (David *et al.*, 2018). Firstly, survivors face mental trauma during trafficking and stigma and social blame after returning from destination countries. These can make them difficult to fit into family and community, thus affecting their emotional well-being and leading to negative psychological consequences such as depression and anxiety (Carpio, 2020). Such types of mental trauma, social stigma, depression, social blame, alienation, aggression and anxiety are the major hindrances of survivors for reintegration into family and community. So, the assessment for mental disorders is one of the most crucial part of reintegration for its sustainability (Abas *et al.*, 2013). The strong coping mechanisms adopted by the shelters contribute to reduce posttraumatic stress disorder (David *et al.*, 2018).

The findings from KIIs and IDIs revealed the fact that psychological aspect is crucial for sustainable and dignified reintegration. Better counseling for psychosocial well-being, counseling to family and community yield better results for the mental health of survivors and ultimately contribute to removing social stigma and mental trauma, including anxiety. Furthermore, the findings revealed the fact that most of the shelters have the psychosocial services for psychosocial reintegration of survivors of human trafficking, but the effectiveness of services of the shelters depends on the human resources and available funds.

The short-term and long-term counseling, including career counseling, are core components for successful reintegration. A shelter

staff of Sunita Foundation shared her views as “need and aspiration assessment of survivors of human trafficking is the immediate need of each and every survivor of either sex. Assessment of psychosocial counseling needs is the unavoidable aspect of shelter services that we provide. Psychosocial counseling helps to get out of social stigma and also orient to life career”. The availability of psychosocial services was perceived to be inadequate whereas the impact of available services observed positive.

Future Prospects of Reintegration of Survivors of Human Trafficking

Nepal is a significant source country for human trafficking involving sexual exploitation, forced labour and removal of organ (Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children [AATWIN], 2023). The rising incidence of human trafficking in Nepal underscores the urgent need for comprehensive care and services to facilitate the reintegration of trafficking survivors. The government of Nepal has established counter-trafficking laws, regulations and institutional mechanisms, however, there is a notable lack of legal and policy provisions specifically addressing the reintegration of trafficking survivors. Given the evolving nature of human trafficking, it is crucial to implement dynamic intervention to prevent trafficking and support for reintegration of survivors. Multiple factors are associated with reintegration process which are crucial and inevitable to successful and sustainable reintegration (Zewude *et al.*, 2023). So, it is imperative to develop and enact a comprehensive reintegration policy, along with the necessary laws, criteria, systems, processes and procedures to ensure a successful and dignified reintegration. The findings of qualitative and quantitative data revealed that following aspects leverage for ensuring successful and dignified reintegration in the prospective days.

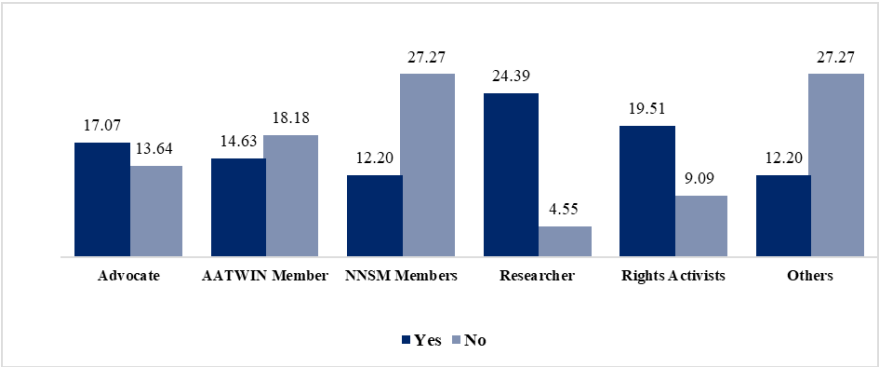
Development of Reintegration Policy for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a sensitive issue and often seeks special attention and treatment of survivors for their care and services for successful reintegration (Rai *et al.*, 2023). The anti-trafficking policy frameworks also leverage for effective reintegration process (Clemente, 2024). The incidence of human trafficking entails trauma and offense which requires legal provisions for its proper management (Khamzin, 2022). The interaction with defense lawyers and researchers showed that the lack of reintegration policy is the failure to provide human rights and justice to

the survivors of human trafficking, which violates the fundamental human rights enshrined by Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). So, a separate reintegration policy of survivors of human trafficking is essential to provide social, economic and psychosocial services for empowering survivors and making ready them to reintegrate into family and society in an effective and efficient way. Policy allows to incorporate both the voices as well as needs of survivors which enhance the reintegration process effective and sustainable (Rocha, 2016).

The finding of quantitative data shows that about one fourth of respondents i.e., National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) members replied that existing legal and policy provisions are not sufficient, which is followed by Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children (AATWIN) members (18.18%), advocates (13.64%) and least is observed in the group of researchers (4.55%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5
Status of Adequacy of Legal Provision of Reintegration



Source: Field Study, 2024.

In the context of policy provisions, the federal government could play a guardian role in developing a reintegration policy for survivors and in line with the federal reintegration policy, provincial and local level reintegration policies could provide the basis for successful and dignified reintegration if developed. So, in the coming days, reintegration policy with sufficient funds, infrastructure as well as human resources are the most important components for successful reintegration of survivors.

Establishment of Survivor Identification System and Mechanism

The legal and policy provisions of Nepal related to anti-human trafficking have not included the system, guidelines and mechanisms of survivor identification. So, the case of identification of survivors of human trafficking is very complex and in most of the cases, the migrants returned in a formal way are not screened as susceptible survivors of human trafficking. In the context of Nepal, most of the incidence of human trafficking is interrelated with foreign labour migration (National Network for Sage Migration [NNSM], 2021). The need of survivor identification system and mechanism is the first step to provide care and services to real survivors of human trafficking. However, the identification of survivors of trafficking is quite difficult and a very small portion of Nepali survivors of trafficking is identified and a larger segment has remained in an illicit state (AATWIN, 2023). The consistent, comprehensive and uniform identification of survivors is very difficult that hinders not only to protect and rescue the survivors from exploitative situation but also for providing care and services.

The findings of key informant interviews revealed the fact that due to lack of survivor identification mechanism, guidelines and procedure, the government as well as non-government organizations have failed to identify and screen the real survivors of human trafficking. The failure of the identification of survivors negatively affects the management and provision of care and support. For effective and successful reintegration of survivors, it is necessary to develop standard guidelines, criteria, mechanism and procedure for making survivor identification effective and uniform.

The government of Nepal has adopted Palermo Protocol in 2020, however there is no any survivors identification guidelines and systems. So, it is urgent need to develop survivor identification guidelines, systems or mechanisms for effective rescue, repatriation, empowerment and reintegration into family and community. The findings revealed that for making shelter services effective for the reintegration process, the development of survivor identification guidelines and systems are essential. The proper identification of survivors plays a crucial role, ranging from need and status assessment to management of care and services to survivors. The provision of survivor identification guidelines and systems enhances the success rate of reintegration by reducing re-trafficking.

Requirement of Regular Data-base Mechanisms

The effectiveness of the referral system and One Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs) relies heavily on the availability of a regular and accurate database. Without a well-maintained and up-to-date database, providing adequate care and services to survivors is nearly impossible. Therefore, establishing a regular database mechanism is crucial for the effectiveness of shelter services and the sustainability of reintegration efforts. Findings from key informant interviews indicate that both government and non-governmental entities are struggling to maintain systematic records of trafficking survivors.

The lack of comprehensive data hinders progress in ensuring justice and achieving effective reintegration of survivors. As highlighted by a key informant from Sunita Foundation, “Institutional memory and consolidated data at federal, provincial and local levels are essential for developing plans, policies and strategies and for implementing programs effectively”. Consistent and organized data management is vital, as providing care for trafficking survivors without accurate data is almost impossible. Therefore, developing and implementing a unified data collection system is necessary to ensure consistency. AATWIN’s recent initiative to compile and track data from its 34 member organizations serves as an excellent example of how data integration supports program development and execution.

Effective Mobilization of Existing Institutions and Mechanisms

Structurally, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) is regarded as the apex body. Under this ministry, there are committees of combating human trafficking at national, provincial, district and local level. The main responsibilities of national level committee are to rescue and repatriate the survivors of human trafficking and also provide guidelines to district and local level committees for combating human trafficking and refer to the concerned institutions. These committees are also responsible for identification of survivors for reintegration; however, the progress and status does not seem at an expected level. On the one hand, the labour ministry is responsible only for rescuing, repatriating, and providing compensation to migrant workers who use formal channel whereas this ministry is not responsible to survivors of human trafficking either in rescuing and repatriating or providing compensation as well as reintegration packages. Besides this ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance are important ministries

for better mobilization of existing institutions and mechanism to ensure for sustainable reintegration. The institutional mechanisms and structures in true sense leverage the survivors for reintegration (Ochanda, 2022).

The key informant interviews emphasized that the involvement of local communities and local government is essential for supporting survivors through awareness programs, counselling, skill training, targeted support packages, and capacity building for survivors, their families and community members. To make reintegration more effective, existing institutions and structural mechanisms must be strengthened. Since many shelters and rescue organizations lack full capacity to provide all necessary services, it is important to implement strong referral systems.

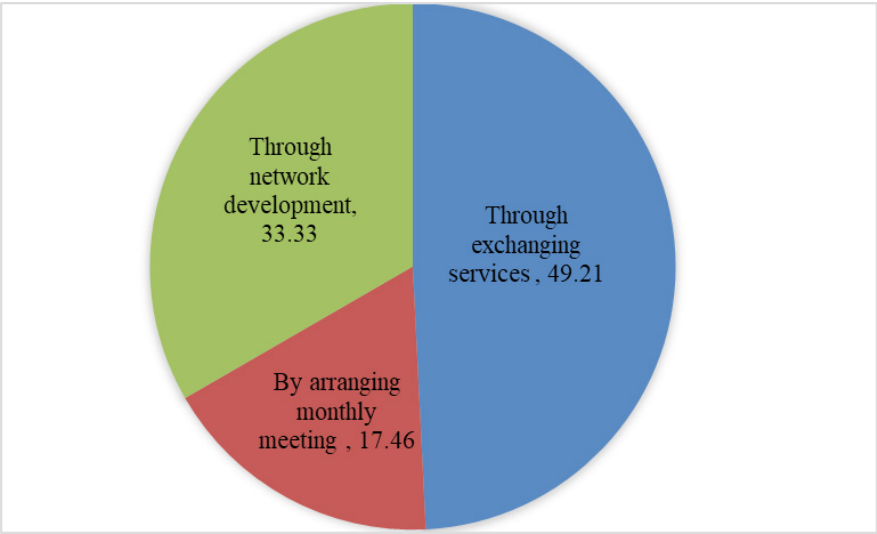
The network members of AATWIN also collaborate and coordinate with each other, especially in the case of access to justice, health service and services which requires longer period of time. The reintegration of survivors of human trafficking can be made effective with the effort of making the existing structure and institution more functional, responsible and resourceful.

Coordination and Collaboration for Effective Services and Successful Reintegration

The coordination and collaboration among different structural institutions is crucial for successful and dignified reintegration. The collaboration with educational institution is prime facet to curtail the incidence of human trafficking that also contributes for effective reintegration (Sotelo, 2024). Similarly, faith-based organizations play a key role in policy response to human trafficking which ultimately contribute to rehabilitation and reintegration (Hounmenou, 2023). The findings from KIIs revealed the fact that coordination and collaboration are prerequisites for providing care and services, including access to legal services and capacity building for survivors that leverage them for successful and dignified reintegration of survivors into family and community. Different stakeholders apply different way to cooperate and collaborate with other agency. The survey findings shows that about half of stakeholders coordinate and cooperate through exchanging services whereas one third through network development and about one fifth shared that they are the best means of coordination and cooperation through arranging monthly meeting (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Way of Coordination and Cooperation



Source: Field Study, 2024.

The effective coordination and cooperation ensure comprehensive package for reintegration. In the delivery of such a package, the coordination and collaboration between different agencies is essential. The comprehensive reintegration packages like health, counseling, education, life skill training, provision of seed money, access to justice, follow-up and monitoring and social security are the most important components which leverage for successful reintegration. And for such types of packages there should be inter-agency collaboration as well as coordination in good faith. The lack of inter-agency collaboration and coordination in terms of providing reintegration services and facilities is one of the hindering factors for successful reintegration. So, the collaborative and coordinated effort need to develop for successful and dignified reintegration. Only the coordinative as well as collaborative efforts have ample role for successful reintegration.

CONCLUSION

The survivors of human trafficking requires special need and care for restoring their lives and livelihoods. The increasing incidence of human trafficking requires more services and packages for survivors of human trafficking for their successful reintegration into family and community.

The economic, social and psychosocial are the major dimensions of reintegration of survivors in which shelter-based care and services are crucial for providing immediate, short-term and long-term services. Shelters are important to provide three inevitable dimensions for empowering survivors to make them self-reliant, independent and capable. The lack of reintegration policy, regulation and survivor identification mechanism, the success rate of reintegration of survivors is not as expected. The role of shelter is pivotal for providing social, economic and psychosocial services that empowers survivors and makes them ready financially, mentally and socially for reintegration. As Nepal is one of the emerging source countries for trafficking, especial measures and strategies are essential for tackling human trafficking activities and reintegration services for the survivors. The successful reintegration can be increased through separate reintegration policy for survivors, development of survivor's identification mechanisms, regular data-base system, enhancing the functionality and mobilization of existing resources and effective coordination and cooperation for effective shelter services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Research Directorate, Tribhuvan University, for providing me financial grants to carry out this study. I also express my sincere thanks to the respondents who provided the required information for this study.

REFERENCES

- Abas, M., Ostrovski, N. V., Prince, M., Gorceag, V. I., Trigub, C., & Oram, S. (2013). Risk factors for mental disorders in women survivors of human trafficking: a historical cohort study. *BMC Psychiatry*, 13, 204. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-244X-13-204>
- Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal [AATWIN]. (2023). *Identifying Victims of Trafficking in Persons among Nepali Foreign Migrant Workers: Experiences and Practices*. Kathmandu: Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal.
- Angkasa, A., Hendriana, R., Wamafma, F., Juanda, O., & Nunna, B. P. (2023). Development of a Restitution Model in Optimizing Legal Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking in Indonesia. *Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies*, 8(1), 93-128. <https://doi.org/10.15294/jils.v8i1.67866>

- Choi, K. R., Beck, D. C., Khan, M. A., Bell, S. A., Beza, L., & Munro-Kramer, M. (2020). A qualitative needs assessment of human trafficking in Ethiopia: recommendations for a comprehensive, coordinated response. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 19, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-020-1154-4>
- Clemente, M., Sierra-Rodríguez, A., & Cairns, D. (2024). Anti-trafficking professionals and institutionalized violence in Spain: An exploratory study. *Social Sciences*, 13(6), 321. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13060321>
- Dahal, P., Joshi, S. K., & Swahnberg, K. (2015). 'We are looked down upon and rejected socially': a qualitative study on the experiences of trafficking survivors in Nepal. *Global Health Action*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3402/gha.v8.29267>
- Dell, N. A., Maynard, B. R., Born, K. R., Wagner, E., Atkins, B., & House, W. (2017). Helping survivors of human trafficking: A systematic review of exit and postexit interventions. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 20(2), 183-196. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838017692553>
- Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women [GAATW]. (2022). *Sustainable reintegration: What do women migrant workers in the South-Asia-Middle East corridor say?* Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Bangkok.
- Government of Nepal [GoN]. (2015). *The Constitution of Nepal 2015*. Ministry of Law, Justice Parliamentary Affairs, Kathmandu.
- GoN. (2007). *Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007*. Kathmandu: Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
- Gordon, M.; Salami, T.; Coverdale, J. & Nguyen, P.T. (2018). Psychiatry's Role in the Management of Human Trafficking Victims: An Integrated Care Approach. *Journal of Psychiatric Practice*, 24(2), 79-86. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PRA.0000000000000287>.
- Hounmenou, C. (2023). Experiences of faith-based organizations as key stakeholders in policy responses to human trafficking. *Societies*, 13(8), 193. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc13080193/>
- Hurtado, M. (2024). Editorial: Beyond Terrorism and Sexual Slavery: Dynamics of armed conflicts, trafficking, and forced migration. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, 22, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201224221>

- International Organization for Migration [IOM]. (2019). *Reintegration Handbook: Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration.
- Khamzin, A., Buribayev, Y., & Sartayeva, K. (2022). Prevention of Human Trafficking Crime: A View from Kazakhstan and Central Asian Countries. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 17(1), 34-53. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4756088/IJCJS>
- Maloku, A., & Maloku, E. (2020). Protection of Human Trafficking Victims and Functionalization of Institutional Mechanisms in Kosovo. *Acta Universitatis Danubius.Juridica*, 16(1) <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/protection-human-trafficking-victims/docview/2396425860/se-2/> Accessed: 25.08.2024.
- National Human Rights Commission [NHRC]. (2019). *National Report on Trafficking Persons in Nepal 2019*. Kathmandu: National Human Rights Commission.
- National Network for Safe Migration [NNSM]. (2021). *Situation analysis of wage of Nepali migrant workers*. Kathmandu: National Network for Safe Migration.
- Nepali, G., Yadav, R., & Shah, K.R. (2023). Justice to survivors of trafficking in persons: Analysis of legal and institutional barriers in Nepal. Kathmandu: WINROCK International.
- Ochanda, R. M. (2022). Human Trafficking - Poor Rescue and Reintegration for Victims and Survivors in Kenya: Case of Consolation East Africa a Kenyan Counter Human Trafficking NGO. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4167006>
- Okech D, Hansen N, Howard W, Anarfi JK, Burns AC. Social support, dysfunctional coping, and community reintegration as predictors of PTSD among human trafficking survivors. *Behavioral Medicine*, 44(3), 209–218. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2018.1432553>
- Pandey, S., Tewari, H. R., & Bhowmick, P. K. (2018). Reintegration as an end of trafficking ordeal: A qualitative investigation of victims' perceptions. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 13(2), 447-460. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2658088>
- Rai, M.K., Khatriwada, R., Sharma, N., & Sunar, M.S. (2023). Analysis of practices and approaches to reintegrate TIP survivors in Nepal (Shelter Services). Kathmandu: WINROCK International.

- Rocha, M. D. (2016). *Where is the Survivor's Voice? An Examination of the Individual and Structural Challenges to the Reintegration of Immigrant Human Trafficking Survivors* (Order No. 10142373). Available from Publicly Available Content Database. (1808267186). <https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/where-is-survivors-voice-examination-individual/docview/1808267186/se-2>
- Sotelo, H. P. (2024). *Human trafficking prevention education and public-school leadership: An exploratory study* (Order No. 30994858). Available from Publicly Available Content Database. (2973894970). <https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/human-trafficking-prevention-education-public/docview/2973894970/se-2/>
- Surtees, R. and Laura S. Johnson (2021). *Recovery and reintegration of trafficking victims: A practitioner guide*. Bangkok: Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) and Washington, D.C.: NEXUS Institute.
- Surtees, R. (2012). *Re/integration of trafficked persons: Supporting economic empowerment, issue paper No. 4*. Bangkok: NEXUS Institute.
- World Bank [WB]. (2021). *Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in Nepal: From Enhanced Regional Connectivity*. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- Zewude, B., Tadele, G., Engdawork, K. & Assefa, S. (2023). A social-ecological view of the factors affecting the effectiveness of reintegration interventions targeting children out of family-based care situations: A scoping review. . *Cogent Social Sciences*, 9(2) <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2277343>