

Spring 3-14-2014

Impacts of Gender Inequality and Poverty on Trafficking in Women

Jihye Park
Illinois State University

Cara Rabe-Hemp
Illinois State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/grcj>

 Part of the [Human Rights Law Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Park, Jihye and Rabe-Hemp, Cara, "Impacts of Gender Inequality and Poverty on Trafficking in Women" (2014). *Graduate Research - Criminal Justice*. 4.
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/grcj/4>

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Criminal Justice at ISU ReD: Research and eData. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Research - Criminal Justice by an authorized administrator of ISU ReD: Research and eData. For more information, please contact ISUReD@ilstu.edu.

Impacts of Gender Inequality and Poverty on Trafficking in Women

JiHye (JJ) Park & Cara Rabe-Hemp (Ph.D.)

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, Illinois State University

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (HT)

- **Definition** of HT by *United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*:
 - Recruitment of people by force or deception in order to exploit them
- HT as **gendered crime**:
 - “The crime of particularly targeting women for sexual exploitation.”
 - **Female victims (75%)**
 - Purpose of trafficking: **Sexual exploitation (79%)**, forced labor (18%), and organ removals (.3%)
- **Current Trends**:
 - “Globalization & Cross border Trafficking”: 800,000 women are trafficked across national borders
 - Europe and Central Asia (62%), Americas (51%), South/East Asia and Pacific (44%), and Africa/Middle East (36%)
 - Low conviction rates for traffickers
- **Human Rights Concerns**
 - Violations of human rights : Victims are physically tortured, raped, abused and murdered
 - Reinvestment of profits by HT to other criminal ventures

What we know about HT

- **Lack of empirical approaches**:
 - Describing characteristics of HT (Salt & Stein, 1997) or government’s combating efforts (Tamura, 2010).
- **Themes**:
 - Most women are from poor families or countries that have low levels of education (Di Tommaso et al., 2009)

What we know Cont’d

- Traffickers offer false-promises such as arrangement of jobs and marriages for wealthier places/countries (Kim et al., 2009; Reddy, 2013)
- Income inequality leads to HT (Rao & Presenti, 2012)
- U shaped relationship between economic development and HT (Rao & Presenti, 2012)

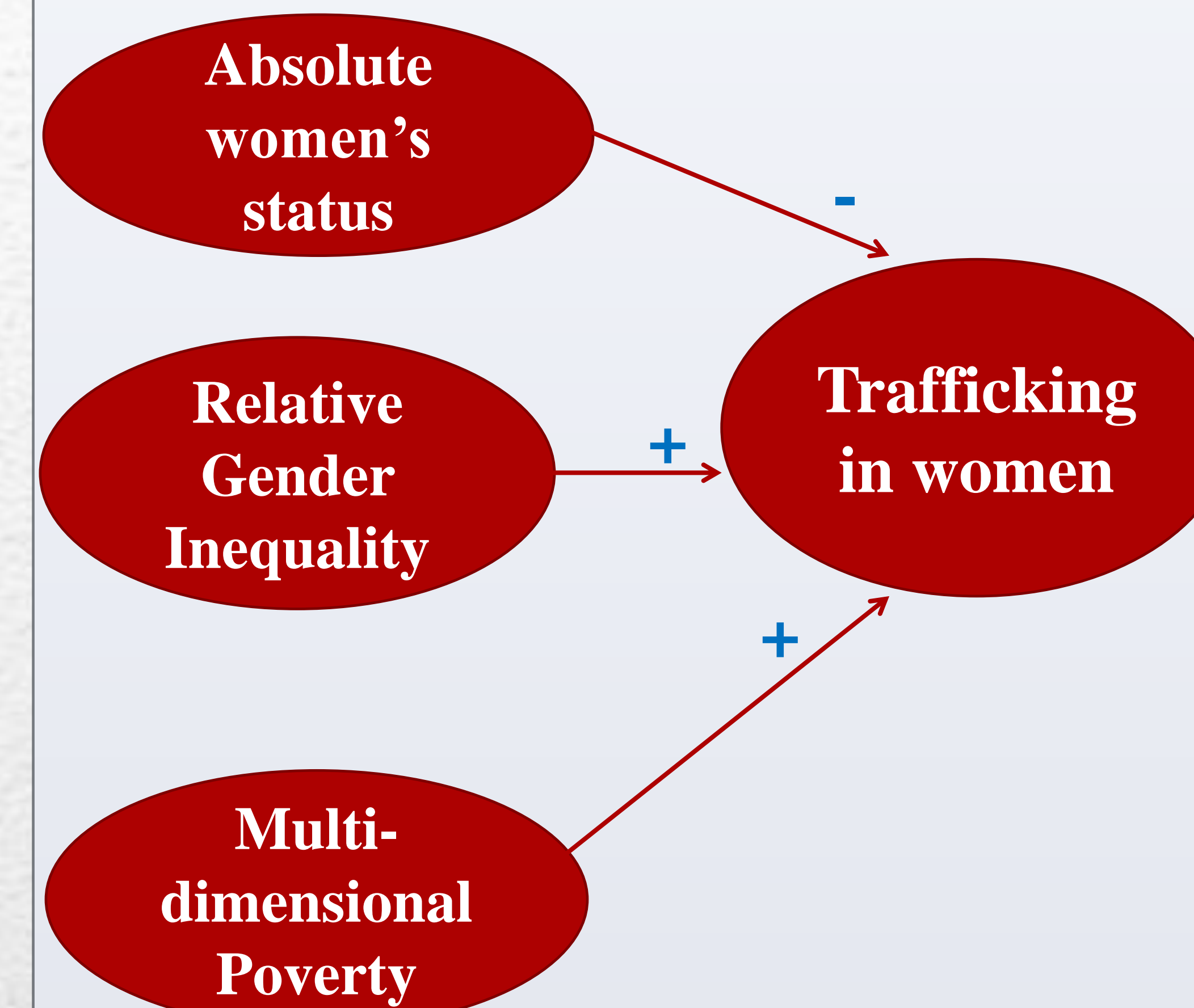
Gaps and What we don’t know

- Lack of empirical studies
- Focused HT issue in certain geographic areas
- Measurement Issues with Rao & Presenti’s study:
 - Gender Inequality: Only include relative indicators → failed to use absolute indicators
 - Economic Development: Only considered income poverty

Current Study

- Cross national empirical study
- Examines forms of gender inequality: absolute & relative indicators
- Examines effects of multi-dimensional poverty on HT

Research Hypotheses



Methods

- Data– Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns (UNODC 2006)
 - The number of times a country was cited as: ‘origin’, ‘transit’, and ‘destination’ country
 - A 5-scale of severity: (Very low – Very high)
 - Reporting 127 countries in the world

Measurements

- Dependent variable: Countries ranked by incidence of trafficking ‘origin.’
 - **The current study**: 113 countries out of 127 countries (Excluding countries where HT mostly involves men in forced labor).

Measurements Cont’d

- Independent variables:
 - Absolute women’s status (% of females) : Education, income, and economic activity (World Bank, 2009-2013)
 - Relative Gender Inequality (Ratio of females to males): Education, income, and economic activity (WB 2009-2013)
 - Poverty: Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index by UNDP (2010)
- Analytic Strategy: The OLS (Ordinal Least Squares) Regression

Preliminary Results

Table 1. Descriptive Variables

	N	Mean	SD
Countries	113	3.01	1.13
Labor Participation of female (%) (<i>Absolute</i>)	109	53.97	17.71
Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%) (<i>Relative</i>)	97	97.29	5.74
Multi-dimensional poverty (%)	82	0.17	0.19

Table 2. Regression analysis predicting trafficking

	1		2		3	
	B	β	B	β	B	β
Labor Participation of female (%)	.00	.06				
Ratio of female to male primary Enrollment (%)			.07	.34*		
Multi-dimensional poverty (%)					-1.41	-.26*

1: Absolute Women’s Status 2: Relative Gender (in) equality 3: Poverty
p < .05*

Contact to Authors

For further questions, please contact to:
JJ Park: jpark3@ilstu.edu
Dr. Rabe-Hemp: cerabe@ilstu.edu