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%)
- **Purposes 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 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

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

Research Hypotheses

- Absolute women’s status
- Relative Gender Inequality
- Trafficking in women
- Multi-dimensional Poverty

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)

Contact to Authors

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

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 Lease Squares) Regression

Preliminary Results

**Table 1. Descriptive Variables**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Participation of female (%)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-dimensional poverty (%)</td>
<td>-1.41</td>
<td>-2.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Absolute Women’s Status 2: Relative Gender Inequality & Poverty

© 2013 PosterPresentations.com