

Combating Women Trafficking in Pakistan: A Case Study of District Kohat

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Abstract

Pakistan is a major country of transit and destination for human trafficking. A sophisticated national and international criminal industry, human trafficking provides people for a variety of forced labor and commercial sex exploitation schemes. It has terrible consequences for its victims. Human trafficking has been a pressing issue for Pakistan due to the country's enormous influx of migrants looking for a better living and financial situation. According to theories, these migrants are frequently drawn to Pakistan and exploited by traffickers. Due to this circumstance, Pakistan's standing among affluent foreign investors and the world community has recently taken a hit. This article examines human trafficking in Pakistan, with an emphasis on the trafficking of women in Kohat District, as well as the policies and programs put out to combat this scourge. It is because of all of these factors. The regulations that are at the center of this research were a turning point for Pakistan since they were created particularly to deal with trafficking on its own. However, there are issues with how trafficking should be defined and how traffickers and victims of trafficking should be treated in order to successfully eradicate this crime, just as there are with laws created by the international community. In the end, the study emphasizes the significance and advantages of a victim-centered human rights-based strategy over a widespread crime control one, which involves making sure that victims are actually safeguarded and completely rehabilitated to re-enter society. Additionally, the study offers substantial insights from Islamic law and principles that have important ramifications for how human trafficking in women can be understood and addressed in contemporary Muslim cultures like Pakistan. The qualitative research methodology has been applied on following article.

Keywords: Human trafficking, victims of trafficking, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), criminal justice system, District Kohat.

Introduction

In the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report 2021, Pakistan is classified as a source, transit, and destination countries for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. This word also relates to people smuggling, albeit sexual exploitation may not be one of the end effects (van der Vink, G. E., Carlson, K. N., Park, J., Szeto, S. H., Zhang, X., Jackson, M. E., & Phillips, E. 2021). The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 and the Prevention of Migrant Smuggling Act 2018 are two new legislation passed in Pakistan in recent years to combat people smuggling and trafficking. Smuggling of people has recently been separated from the broader idea of human trafficking, resulting in two sets of rules. The real borders, on the other hand, are still a bit fuzzy (Prevention of Migrant Smuggling Act 2018). In 2017, 6,767 illegal Pakistani migrants reached Europe via Iran and Turkey, according to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Several recent media reports have claimed that Pakistani women are being lured into marriage contracts and then used for prostitution in China. There are 600 such Pakistani girls, according to one claim from 2019. According to the study, average per-'bride' revenues varied from USD 25,000 to USD 65,000, with the family receiving only PKR 200,000. Domestic human trafficking can take various forms, but sexual exploitation and bonded labor are the most common in Pakistan's Kohat area. The bulk of trafficking victims are women, girls, young boys, and children, who are among the most vulnerable. They are trafficked and exploited by criminal gangs and respectable enterprises using illicit ways (in the case of bonded labor). Sexual exploitation takes the form of prostitution (women, children and young boys) Poverty and the inherent desire to escape it drive bonded labor (especially in brick kilns and mining). Human trafficking is common in scope and scale in Pakistan, and it goes mostly unchecked. The trend is for people to move from rural to urban areas. Pakistan is one of the fastest-urbanizing countries in South Asia, with a rate of 36.4 percent²⁷ that is constantly increasing. Urbanization is a growth engine because it produces demand for services and goods. When this demand generation meets rural poverty (which in Pakistan ranges from 38 to 49 percent²⁸), an appealing mix of

Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling arises. Human trafficking is a form of exploitation that does not usually entail crossing borders or using any mode of transportation. Smuggling is a movement-based activity that necessitates transportation. Exploitation is at the heart of human trafficking. The primary contrast between people smuggling and human trafficking is the freedom of choice. There are aspects of both push and pull. Many people, particularly the young, find that moving to a city to work is the most cost-effective option. Criminal networks 'appreciate' this element of opportunity, thus they set up job traps for the young and vulnerable. A high phone density and easy access to the Internet have also aided criminal activity. Young and vulnerable people are routinely recruited into employment via the Internet and cell phones.

For sexual exploitation, women and children are trafficked. Domestic human trafficking primarily affects women and children who are being trafficked for sexual exploitation. Adolescent boys, the bulk of whom are runaways, are also included in this vulnerable group. One of the major factors encouraging 'runaway' tendencies in young boys and girls has been sexual abuse in schools. According to a 2003 study, 30% of parents of runaway children reported their children had been sexually abused at school. Small business owners engaged in child abuse in exchange for providing food and boarding, according to a study done by Sahil in 1998 on a group of boys working at bus stops. In 2004, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) collaborated on a similar investigation, which concluded that KOHAT in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was the main center for girl child trafficking. After being married off and trafficked by criminal networks, the underage females were sold into prostitution. The average age of the girls was discovered to be 11 years old. Dance girls, society (call) girls, students or nurses who supplement their income by prostitution, and full-time brothel prostitutes were found in another investigation. The majority of full-time prostitutes (ten from each region) were between the ages of 20 and 35, and their families had sold and married them off to their pimps, according to a quick poll of 40 full-time prostitutes. This was especially common in the country's northern districts, such as KOHAT, Chitral, and Parachinar, where young women would end up in brothels across the country. In the category of dancing girls, as the traditional society in the red light district is known, further hierarchical sub-categories were discovered. Although age breakdowns are not always available, it is likely that adolescent girls fall into one of these sub-categories the majority of the time. Another survey of 100 commercial sex workers in Peshawar found that 47 of them were between the ages of 15 and 25. 31 As a result, the most vulnerable are children and teenagers (Franchino-Olsen, H. 2021).

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking, often known as trafficking in human beings, is a type of modern-day slavery that involves the forced or deceptive transit of individuals for the purposes of labour, sex trafficking, or acts where others profit economically. Trafficking in human beings is an international issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Each year, an approximately 2,000,000 people are trafficked around the world, with 20,000 to 50,000 of those transported into the U. S., which is one of the most popular tourist destinations for captives of the sex-trafficking industry (Todres, J. 2009).

Despite the fact that human trafficking is acknowledged as a global problem, no universal definition has been established. The United Nations (UN) divides sex trafficking into 3 groups: sex trafficking, trafficked, and body part removal. Human trafficking is defined as the induction of a person into the sex trade through force, fraud, or coercion, or the harbouring, mass transit, or receipt of persons for workforce provider or body part removal. However, the US does not recognize organ removal in its definitions, it does recognize sex and modern slavery, and defines human trafficking as the intentional transfer of a person with the intention of victimization.

Transnational channels are widely used by human traffickers to move migrants, many of whom are forced to engage smugglers owing to their unfavorable living situations. Recruitment firms look for immigrants through a variety of channels, including the Internet, job boards, the press, and local ties in source countries including East Asia, East Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where human trafficking is typically first detected. The intermediaries who draw clients from their own country of origin frequently share cultural traits with the migrants. Smuggling services are seen by migrants as a way to leave the impoverished conditions in their home countries and travel to safer, more developed areas (Banu, S., Saunders, J., Conner, C., Blassingame, J., & Shah, A. A. 2021).

Smugglers provide all the equipment's in such situations make it impossible for victims to obtain legitimate travel credentials, and train them on how to obtain fake passports or visas and teach them how to avoid being discovered by border-control officials. Transporters, on the other hand, keep the migratory process going by using a variety of modes of transportation, including land, air, and sea. Despite the fact that many victims leave their target country willingly, the bulk are aware that they have been being targeted for a human trafficking operation. Some people are abducted or forced, but many others are bribed with fake job offers, passports, or visas. Only after transporting victims of human trafficking from the nation of origin to the accountable party inside the destination are transporters rewarded. The traffickers seize all immigration documents, whether legal or counterfeit. Victims are constantly subjected both physical or sexual abuse after this, and many are compelled to work or engage in the prostitution industry in order to repay their migratory debts.

Religious intolerance, political strife, a lack of work prospects, unemployment, conflicts, and natural catastrophes are all factors that contribute to people trafficking in origin nations. Globalization, which has pushed developing nations into the global market, raising living standards and contributed to global economic growth, is another causal component. Regrettably, globalization has altered the world's market for illegal migrant transportation, allowing criminal groups to develop their network and establish international channels that enable the transit of migrants. According to the US Department of State, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has resulted in a huge number of orphanages and child-headed communities, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, creating ideal ground for human trafficking and slavery (Bales, K. 2007).

It has increasingly been acknowledged that trafficking might rank among the most severe offences of international concern overall, or *delicta juris gentium*, according to Tom Obokata. Among the different categories of crimes, the global community has designated sex trafficking as a terrible crime. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) ruled in *Re Prosecutor v. Kunarac* that enslavement was indeed a crime against humanity that encompassed human trafficking. This is a thriving international enterprise in which unscrupulous criminals make billions of dollars at the expense of countless innocent people who are stolen of their rights, dignity, freedom, and so much more (Pocar, F. 2007).

It may be argued that this epidemic affects the vast majority of countries on the planet. These countries may have a role in human trafficking by providing origin, assisting in transit, or possibly being the eventual target of the traffickers. Every year, between 700,000 and 900,000 people are trafficked over international borders, while millions more are imprisoned in their home countries. The annual total money obtained from human trafficking is estimated to be between \$3.2 billion and \$8 billion. Human trafficking has become epidemic in the last decade, with an annual global market of around \$ 41 billion.

At any given moment, about 13.3 million people and children are thought to be kept in forced and forced servitude, as well as 'professional sex slavery'. Around 1.39 million people are victims of 'commercial sexual servitude,' both inside countries and abroad. For their merciless trade, traffickers frequently targeted the most susceptible groups of individuals, as evidenced by the statistics: 56 percent of victims of indentured servitude are girls and women. Global trends are estimated to be between 800,000 to two million people (Lee, M. 2013).

Despite the lack of disaggregated data on earnings from the sex business, country reports reveal substantial trends. According to a study of Thailand's economy, the value of women trafficked from Bangkok to Tokyo, Europe, and Taipei might be worth up to \$3.2 billion. Thailand females engaging in the sex trade in Tokyo could have made over US\$ 5.7 billion in 1993 alone. Based on data obtained from detained traffickers, O'Neill Richard (1999) estimated that traffickers in the United States might earn from 2.5 million and 210,000 dollars per year through their networks. In order to trap people in this vicious circle, they use cunning and devious tactics such as making false promises of work, education, or marriage. As a result, some people became victims of human trafficking in their native countries, while others move in the hopes of bettering their lives by taking jobs with minimal credentials and abilities

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION

Human trafficking in and out of Pakistan is influenced by both internal and foreign factors. Individual risk factors include poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy. A predisposition to take risks in order to reach one's goals, a focus on short-term gains that may emerge from short-term dangers, and a lack of familial support and/or strong social networks are all things to think about.

These push factors, such as the desire to find economic opportunity abroad, which is fueled by television and internet images of wealth in other countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other European countries, have been compounded by 'pull' factors, such as the hope of finding economic opportunity abroad, which is fueled by television and internet images of wealth in other countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other European countries (Laczko, 2007). External factors that contribute to human trafficking include the following: (1) Domestic workers, agricultural laborers, sex workers, and industry workers are in high demand all around the world; (2) Political, social, or economic crises, as well as natural disasters in some countries; (3) The existence of well-established human trafficking networks that use sophisticated recruitment methods; (4) Public-sector corruption, including coordination between law enforcement and border officials, as well as human traffickers and migrant smugglers; (5) The ability of lawful migrant movements to take place has been impeded by restrictive immigration policies in numerous destination nations; (6) Government indifference to the issue of human trafficking; and (7) Economic opportunities are limited in the country of origin. (8) victims of sexual exploitation as a result of human trafficking in Pakistan (Pakistan, U. N. D. P. 2017).

CHALLENGES: INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

The fact that the country's criminal justice system is guarded by the police and public prosecutors is well-known. While legislators establish laws defining new criminal offenses, the police choose which offenses to investigate, offenders to arrest, and cases to send to the prosecutor. The federal investigative agency FIA, the only law

enforcement institution dealing with matters of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (HTMS), has the same investigating personnel and prosecutors (UNODC, 2020).

Based on the facts gathered during the investigation, the dealing officer decides which cases will be prosecuted, the types of criminal charges that suspects will face, and whether or not defendants will be offered a plea bargain. It's worth noting that the case dealing officer has a lot of freedom when it comes to FIA rulings. If he or she believes the suspect is innocent or not deserving of punishment, he or she may decide not to charge them. The officer may decide not to bring criminal charges if the defendant is found guilty and deserving of punishment but there is insufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution. The Research and Analysis Centre has identified two essential layers to better understand how the FIA makes judgments about criminal charges. The two are the legal environment and the institutional structure.

When the prosecutor and the investigator are the same individual, there are two major issues to consider. These are actions of corruption and non-compliance with the law. Both risks can be significantly reduced if a robust supervisory system is in place that encourages transparency (Lusk, M., & Lucas, F. 2009).

PROSECUTION: PROVINCIAL TRENDS OF CASES DEALT

Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, and Islamabad are the five zones that make up the Federal Investigation Agency. To deal with the implementation of the regulations outlined earlier, Anti-Human Trafficking Circles (formerly known as Passport Circles) have been established in the following cities. (US DoS, 2017) The following is a zone-by-zone distribution of Anti Human Trafficking Circles (AHTCs) (53).

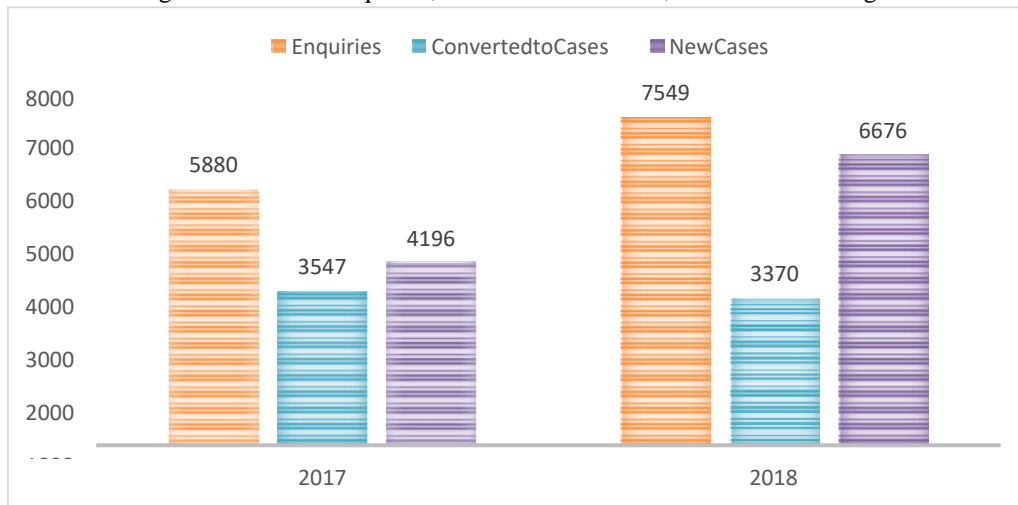
Zone	Anti Human Trafficking Circles
Punjab	Lahore
	Faisalabad
	Gujranwala
	Gujrat
	Multan
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Peshawar
	Kohat
	Dera Ismail Khan
	Abbottabad
Sindh	Karachi
	Hyderabad
	Sukkur
Balochistan	Quetta
	Gwadar
	Turbat
Islamabad	Islamabad
	Rawalpindi
	Gilgit

This section will detail the progress made by each zone in registering inquiries, converting them into court cases, and proceeding to court activity. All of the Circles' investigations, cases, and court proceedings are related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In 2018, several anti-human trafficking circles AHTCs across Pakistan received a total of 7,549 fresh inquiries linked to human trafficking migrant smuggling HTMS, of which 3,370 were converted into cases, representing a 44 percent conversion rate; the rest were disposed of. The proportion is lower than in 2017, when it was 60%. Aside from these, 6,676 new cases were reported during the year. When compared to previous year, when 4,196 new cases were reported, this year's figure is greater. The graph and chart below illustrate year-by-year comparisons for each zone

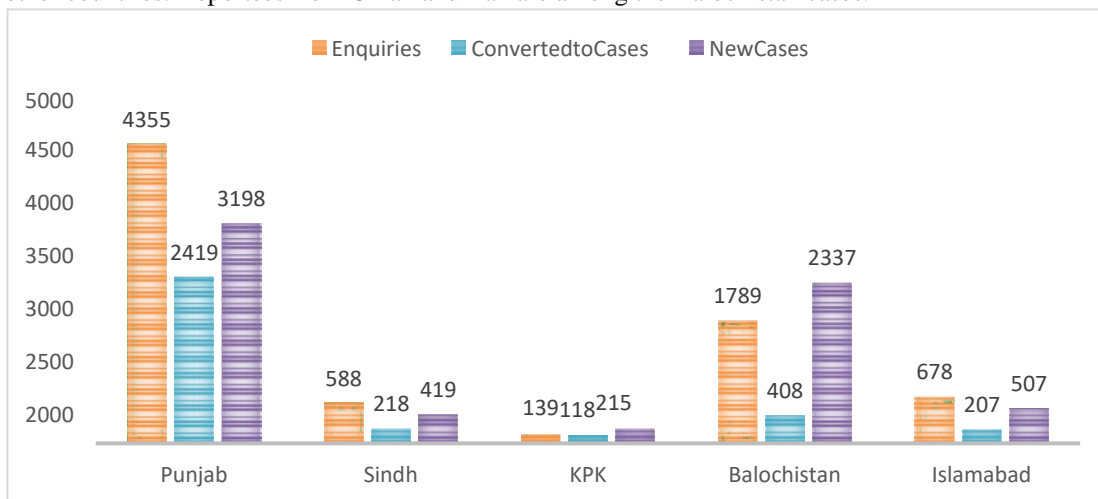
AHTC Zone	Enquiries	Converted to Cases	New Cases
Punjab	4355	2419	3198
Sindh	588	218	419
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	139	118	215
Balochistan	1789	408	2337

Islamabad	678	207	507
Total	7549	3370	6676
2017			
AHTC Zone	Enquiries	Converted to Cases	New Cases
Punjab	3674	2146	2502
Sindh	541	322	335
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	97	81	93
Balochistan	748	733	742
Islamabad	820	265	524
Total	5880	3547	4196

Punjab Zone had the greatest rate of inquiries, conversion to cases, and new case registrations connected to

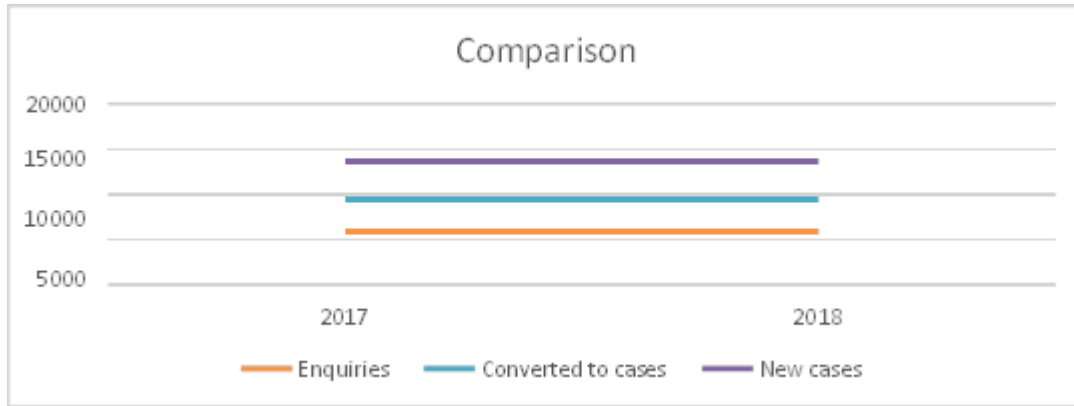


human trafficking migrant smugglings HTMS, followed by Balochistan in second place. The high numbers in Punjab are due to the frequent migration of individuals from source districts such as Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot, MandiBahauddin, and Dera Ghazi Khan to better economic possibilities in other countries. Deportees from Oman and Iran are among the Balochistan cases.



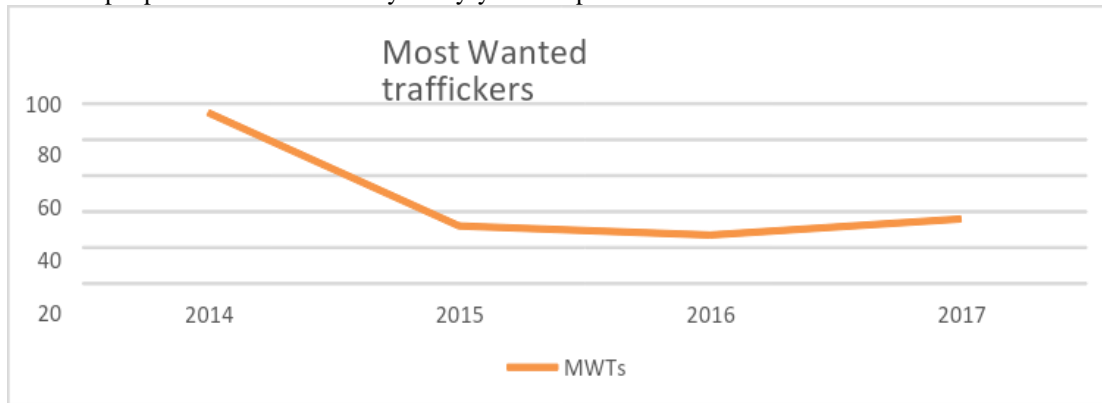
Source districts in Balochistan, like as Gwadar, Taftan, and Quetta, are close to border territories. These are well-known routes, especially from Taftan to Iran. The graph below illustrates the zone-by-zone comparison (Sajid, A. I., Khan, A. N., & Farid, S. 2010).

As In comparison to 2017, there has been a 33 percent rise in the number of inquiries submitted. The conversion of these into cases is 5% lower than the previous year, while the registration of new cases is 37% higher than the previous year. A sharper picture can be seen in the graph below.



ARREST OF HUMAN SMUGGLERS/TRAFFICKERS AND MOST WANTED TRAFFICKERS

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) apprehended 1,789 people smugglers/traffickers in Pakistan in 2018. There has been substantial progress since 2017, when 785 people traffickers were apprehended. The FIA also publishes a Red Book with the names of the most wanted human traffickers. 36 of the most wanted human traffickers and smugglers were apprehended this year. The number of people arrested is higher than in 2017, when 27 people were arrested. The year-by-year comparison is shown below.

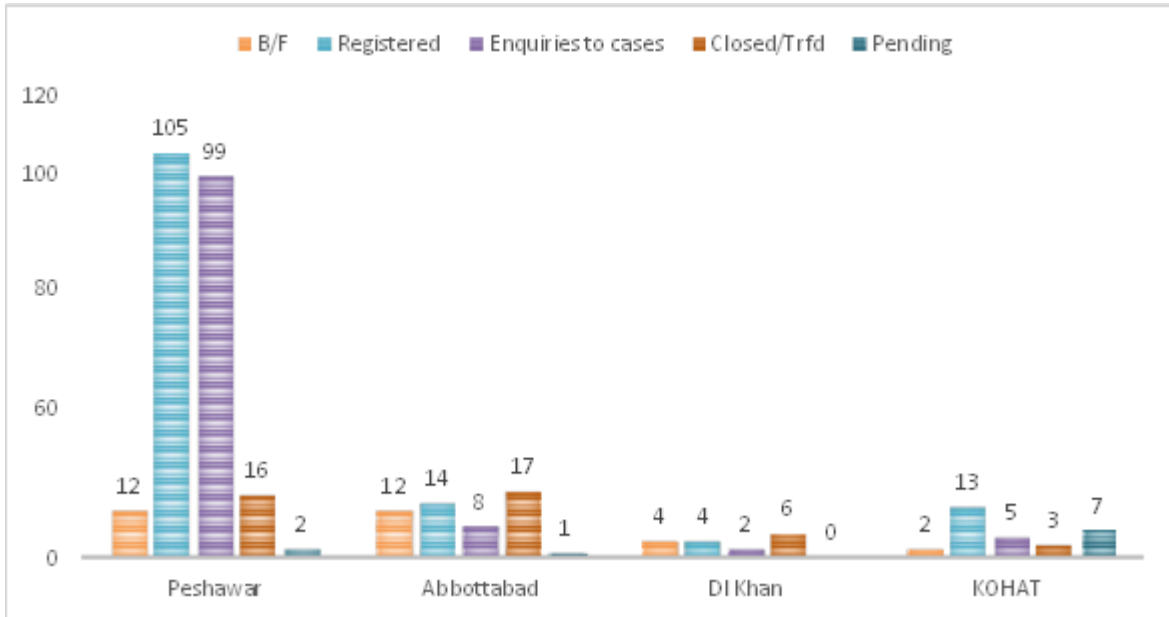


Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zone

Peshawar, DI Khan, Abbottabad, and KOHAT are the four Anti-Human Trafficking Circles in the KP Zone. One immigration checkpoint is located at Bacha Khan International Airport in Peshawar, while another is located at the Torkham Border with Afghanistan. Below is an overview of how many inquiries, cases, and court appearances have been handled, as well as a list and comparison of inquiries, cases, court appearances, and proclaimed offenders for this Zone, as measured by the AHTC.

In total, 166 cases were handled, with 114 of them being converted to cases, 42 being transferred, and 10 pending to be carried forward to the following year. The delinquency rate is 6%, with a 94 percent overall handling ratio.

Enquiries: 94% handled, 6% pending							
AHTC	B/F	Registered	Total	Enquiries to Cases	Closed/ Transferred	Pending	
Peshawar	12	105	117	99	16	2	
Abbottabad	12	14	26	8	17	1	
DI Khan	4	4	8	2	6	0	
Kohat	2	13	15	5	3	7	
Total	30	136	166	114	42	10	

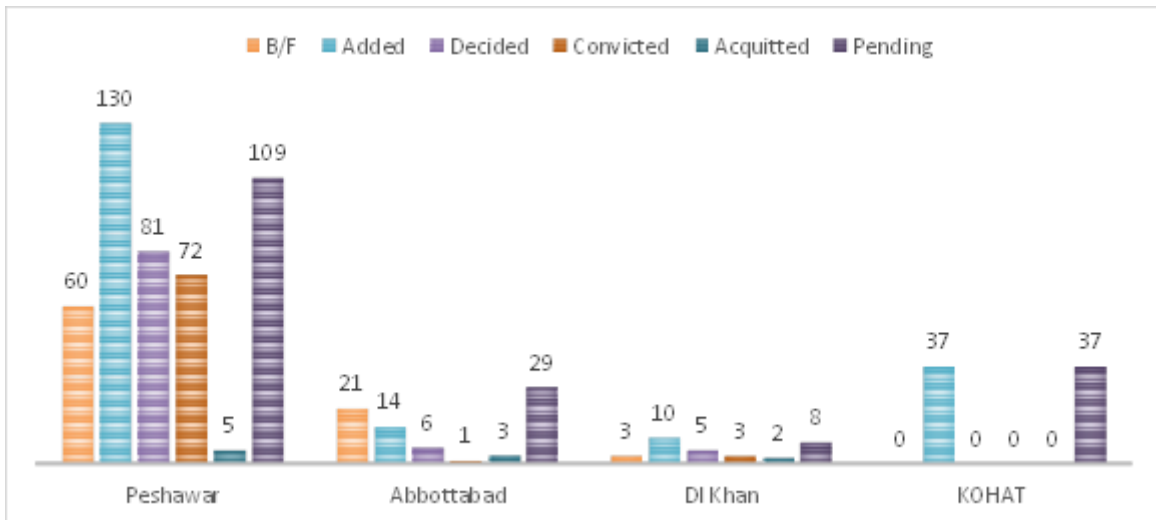


During the year, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zone dealt with a total of 262 cases, of which 227 were sent to court, one was closed, and 34 were pending for the next year. With a 13 percent ratio of pending cases, the case management ratio has been 87 percent.

Cases: 87% handled, 13% pending						
AHTC	B/F	Registered	Total	Challaned	Closed/ Transferred	Pending
Peshawar	28	146	174	166	0	8
Abbottabad	7	13	20	14	0	6
DI Khan	0	16	16	10	0	6
KOHAT	0	52	52	37	1	14
Total	35	227	262	227	1	34

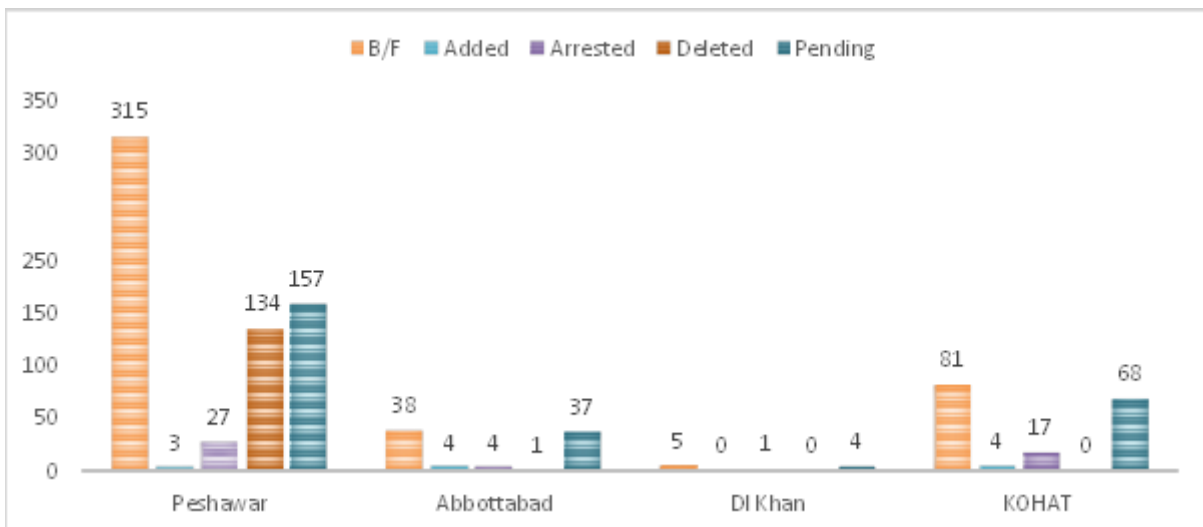
KP Zone handled 275 court proceedings, with 76 of those charged being found guilty, 10 being acquitted, and six being remanded in custody until further notice. It should be highlighted that only those instances are transferred to the record room in which the investigators have no idea how the case should be handled in court. Once clarifications are obtained or referring is required in other situations, these cases are returned to routine. There were 92 situations in which a decision had been reached but the matter was still pending in court. The Zone's overall conviction rate remained at 27%, with 66 percent of cases still pending at the end of the year.

Court Work: 27% Conviction Rate								
AHTC	B/F	Added	Total	Decided	Convicted	Acquitted	C R R	Pending
Peshawar	60	130	190	81	72	5	4	109
Abbottabad	21	14	35	6	1	3	2	29
DI Khan	3	10	13	5	3	2	0	8
KOHAT	0	37	37	0	0	0	0	37
Total	84	191	275	92	76	10	6	183



During the year, 49 proclaimed offenders were arrested, with 11 more being added this year, 135 being removed from the list following clearance, and 266 remaining awaiting judgment. The table below illustrates how ATHC has progressed.

Proclaimed Offenders: 11% arrested, 78% pending						
AHTC	B/F	Added	Total	Arrested	Deleted	Pending
Peshawar	315	3	318	27	134	157
Abbottabad	38	4	42	4	1	37
DI Khan	5	0	5	1	0	4
KOHAT	81	4	85	17	0	68
Total	439	11	450	49	135	266



CONCLUSION

Given the scale of human trafficking in District KOHAT Khyber PakhtoonKhwa Pakistan, the researcher finds that urgent action is required to solve the problem. To begin, the government should conduct extensive surveys to determine the scope of human trafficking in all of its manifestations. It is impossible to design an executable strategy without first understanding its scope. Provincial administrations, in collaboration with the national government, should establish vocational and educational programs to empower underprivileged families by providing them with job skills. Simultaneously, rehabilitation programs for human trafficking victims should be established, as should a national fund to provide an alternative livelihood for such impoverished people who are required to sell their women and kids for cash.

Furthermore, the government should undertake social uplift programmers that partner with NGOs to increase awareness on the issues of human smuggling and aid in the exposure of locally operated gangs. To

combat human trafficking, a checking and balancing on law enforcement agencies such as the policemen is needed to avoid them from cooperating with prostitution networks. Government employees should be educated to distinguish between human smuggling and migrant smuggling, and grand juries should be appointed to hear trafficking cases.

In addition, cash transfer programs, governmental employment programs, preventive care, and microfinance projects must be expanded to the informal sector. Authorities must provide training to police departments and labor authorities at all levels, from national to local, on how to spot people traffickers and how to put laws in place that make such operations illegal in general. The Chinese government to work with Pakistani authorities to capture illegal Chinese immigration gangs that sell local women to China through marriage.

Furthermore, to counter the growing plague of child and women drug dealing, the Pakistani government should work collaboratively with all stakeholders in bonded labour eradication, including all involved government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and civil society, international donors and organizations, as well as UN attached agencies like the ILO. Slavery, a severe issue in principle, remains to pose a danger to the world society as a whole. To address this issue, the worldwide community must work together on a grassroots level with international organizations such as the UN, ILO, and international governments to devise a strategy that every participant of the pact may follow.

The study goes on to say that while the government recognized more victims, it reduced victim protection activities, which remained ineffective, particularly for bonded labour survivors. In 2018, provincial police identified 18,452 victims of human trafficking, compared to 198,7234 in 2019. In Sindh, Punjab and KPK, there were 16,703 female victims and at least 740 worked full - time victims. Due to the absence of judicial, economic, and cultural aid provided to bonded labour prisoners, officials believe that the majority of the 760 were re-enslaved shortly after. The FIA identified 66 victims, up from zero, certain police forces, customs, and social service professionals had SOPs for identifying victims of trafficking, but it was unknown how broadly these SOPs were distributed and used. Some regional government leaders and law enforcement officers stated that they had never acquired or utilized Standard operating procedures, while others claimed to have used Standard operating procedures on an ad hoc basis.

Only one adult male was among the 800 trafficked person's victims made reference to the authorities or non-governmental organizations for care, a marked decline from the 3,797 victims made reference to care in the prior reporting period and still insufficient in comparison to the total number of casualties recognized. Some victims, according to the police, refused to use public services. Many trafficking victims were unable to access victim services due to a shortage of appropriate housing and resources in many areas, especially for male rape victims. The most often offered service was government-run sanctuaries for women enduring a variety of tough conditions, including trafficking. Punjab had a women's shelter for each of its 36 districts, whereas Sindh had five women's shelters in each of its 29 districts, as well as four centers that provided medical and legal assistance as well as refuge for up to 72 hours to women in distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are some recommendations based on the research that may be useful in combating the threat of women trafficking:

The government continues to implement the National Policy Framework against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, which runs from 2015 to 2020. The FIA's research analysis Centre worked with an international organization to produce quarterly publications on human smuggling and labor trafficking, but these findings were not made public. While experts agreed that bonded labour was still a major issue in Pakistan, provincial governments outside of KPK lacked good data on the issue, hindering focused attempts to address key exploiting regions and sectors. Surveyors of compelled and chained labour were the front-line authorities, inspecting and identifying compelled and contracted labour in a variety of industries, including industrial facilities, ranches, and industries. Inspectors, on the other hand, lacked proper training to recognize signs of human traffickers, lacked the resources to perform inspections, and lacked regular processes for reporting probable cases of forced and forced labour to the police.

Furthermore, inspectors lacked the power to remove minors or bound employees from abusive settings. Despite the significant prevalence of underage and coerced labour in irrigation and farming work, most provincial labour regulations prohibited labour regulators from inspecting these workplaces for violations. Despite the fact that there are an estimated 285,000 domestic child employees in Pakistan and widespread complaints of physical violence, sex assault, and compelled work by owners, province labour laws and regulations do not apply to adults or child domestic employees. Bricks ovens are governed by the Workplaces Act, and are subject to the same rules as other factory, particularly clauses concerning employees' rights. The KPK labour department has been directed by the Peshawar High Court to register all brick kilns in the state under the statute by August 2020.

The court ordered the labour department to guarantee that no kilns employed children under the age of 13, that every employee had a signed contract, and that employers kept correct records of advances and paid into

employees' state welfare accounts on a routine basis, as required by federal law. Punjabi labour inspectors kept an eye on industrial facilities for worker abuse, registering FIRs against 23 businesses for child workers and min wage breaches, both of which are indicative of bonded labour. In contrast, the department of labour of the Islamabad Capital Territory halted 38 brickwork kilns from functioning in 2017, citing child and bonded labour as reasons, however no criminal charges were filed against any of the proprietors. The bulk of the approximately 19,000 kilns continued to function without being registered or providing workers with the necessary perks.

Provinces began researching, punish, and punish criminals for underage and unfair labour violations at industrial facilities using labour laws. Accused traffickers, on the other hand, did not receive appropriate and severe punishment. Because such laws only provide for fines, officials did not refer these cases to the authorities for criminal investigation. Punjab investigated 8,179 brickwork kilns for breaking labour rules, notably non-payment of salaries, and fined them a total of 6.29 million Pakistani rupees (\$36,684). This is a considerable rise from the previous year's 3,953 prosecutions, despite a large fall in the number of fines imposed, from 329 million PKR (\$2.46 million) to 329 million PKR (\$2.45 million). Under KP's dept of labour, a specialist inspection team on child and compulsory labour performed 8,512 inspections, filed 317 charges, and 226 instances resulted in court-ordered fines. Punjab continued to issue identity cards and birth registration for brick kiln employees' kids. KP, Punjab, and Sindh continued to fund and implement multi-year initiatives aimed at reducing child labour and other types of labour abuse. The provincial and federal governments have continued their countrywide child labour study, which will reach around 350,000 families and is the first since 1997. The survey was funded by governments, and international organisations aided in its execution.

Private job promoters were awarded licenses by the BEOE, and employees who relocated through approved agencies were regulated. The job of uncontrolled and unlicensed sub-agents was forbidden by the Emigration Ordinance of 1979, although sub-agents continued to function with impunity. The government enabled licensed labor promoters to charge migrants a service charge of 7,000 PKR (\$40) for a welfare trust that would reimburse employees' relatives in the event of their death while working overseas. Employees are responsible for all costs associated with working abroad. The government required employers to provide workers with proof of these costs, but did not set price caps or regularly check migrant workers' bills. BEOE revoked the licences of 26 registered job marketers and delayed the licences of 42 others, compared to 54 licences revoked in the preceding fiscal quarter and BEOE did not disclose specifics on the infractions committed by the agencies. In contrast, BEOE reported that 34 charges against unlawful recruiters were filed, with nine instances receiving judgments and an undetermined amount of penalties and jail terms issued during the fiscal quarter.

BEOE could not specify what charges these cases were lodged under. The government maintained to prohibit female migrant workers under the age of Thirty from moving for domestic work, while females between the ages of 30-35 were needed to acquire special permission from the OPHRD. Any limitation on female migration, according to the UN and civil society, increases the possibility of such women migrating illegally, increasing their exposure to human trafficking. BEOE required foreign workers to participate a pre-departure brief discussion at one of its eight office buildings, which also included data about what to do if the foreign worker experienced difficulties; even so, watchers claimed that these institutes did not provide enough information about the risks of human trafficking, as well as assistance in combating it.

The military declared in April 2018 that it will take control of over 31,000 religious schools, including Islamic schools, which were used by non-state armed organisations to forcefully recruit soldiers. The government also accepted 943,000 Afghans with the Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC), which provides temporary constitutional immunity from deportation under Pakistan's Alien Law, and 1.5 million previously registered Afghans. accepted Afghan refugees with a Confirmation of Registration Card (POR). The government continues to gradually extend the legality of the ACC and POR, specifically extending the ACC until May 31, 2020 and the POR until June 30, 2020. For both sets of Afghans, the brief expansions produced an atmosphere of dread. The authorities did little to curb the desire for commercial sex. The administration offered its foreign and military forces anti-trafficking education. Pakistan is not a signatory to the UN TIP Protocol of 2000.

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