

PERSPECTIVES OF SERVICE PROFESSIONALS ON THE CONTRIBUTING
FACTORS TO SEX TRAFFICKING AND ON THE SERVICE UTILIZATION
PATTERNS OF THE VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

A Project

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by

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Division of Social Work

Abstract
of
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This study examined the perspectives of service providers on the contributing factors to sex trafficking and on the utilization of services by the victims/survivors. A non-probability sample of 21 professionals responded to a questionnaire on their knowledge of contributing factors to human trafficking, barriers to service utilization by the victims, and awareness of the services and provisions of the Human Trafficking Victims Awareness Act of 2000. Study findings suggest that majority of the participants rated their level of expertise in working with the human trafficking population as advanced. Majority of the respondents viewed poverty, child sexual abuse, and low self-esteem as major contributing factors to human trafficking. Study findings indicated a strong positive correlation ($r = .755$) between the scores on the professionals' rating of the importance of applying an universal definition of human trafficking and the importance of harsher penalties for the perpetrators as key factors in the human trafficking work domains; this correlation was

statistically significant at $p < .001$ level. The need to develop distinction between the investigative function and the service delivery function of the law enforcement officers emerged as one of the primary themes in the qualitative data analysis along with mechanisms to reduce/eliminate the fear of the victims in their interactions with the law enforcement. Additionally, ensuring the safety of the victims from the perpetrators/organized trafficking gang; training for law enforcement on the management mechanisms in dealing with the victims; language proficiency/interpretation services; and economic choices for the victims emerged as paramount to meeting the challenges of human trafficking prevention. The findings of this study indicate the essential need for more education and training on the comprehensive dynamics of human trafficking; and the need for extensive recuperative services for human trafficking survivors.

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Chapter 1

Statement of the Problem

Human trafficking is a global illegal phenomenon that affects vulnerable populations everywhere in the world, particularly women and children. The internationally recognized definition of trafficking as set forth in the Palermo Protocol is listed as the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power” (Human Trafficking: A Brief Overview, 2009, p. 1).

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, also known as Public Law 106–386 or TVPA is the first comprehensive federal law to deal with the problem of human trafficking. Implemented in the United States on October 28, 2000, the act was developed to combat human trafficking, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers and to protect their victims (Public Law 106-386, 2000). This act was created to ensure the penalization of the perpetrators of the vast range of human trafficking offenses and to protect the victims of human trafficking. The act promotes a “Three-P” policy of prevention, protection, and prosecution. Trafficking victims who are not United States citizens or lawful residents may be able to receive government-funded benefits and services under this federal law. TVPA authorizes the allocation of funding for housing, health care, education, employment training and other social services for assisting victims of trafficking. With the passage of TVPA, Congress developed the “T” and “U” nonimmigrant status, also recognized as the T Visa and the U Visa. The T Visa

administers immigrant protection for victims of trafficking and the U Visa administers protection to victims who have also experienced substantiated mental or physical abuse because of a sufficed trafficking crime (Leblanc, Wallace, Green, Matson, O'Ran, Cotulla, Dyle, & Malik, 2012).

There are several risks and contributing factors to making individuals vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking. Some of those factors are age, gender, poverty, social and cultural structures, and lack of rule of law (Human Trafficking: A Brief Overview, 2009). Victims are usually secluded from their families and social supports. In some cases of trafficking, victims are removed and disconnected from their country of origin. Trafficked persons who are undocumented immigrants typically do not report occurrences of abuse to law enforcement due to the mistrust of authorities, fear of arrest, danger to family members, deportation or other serious retaliations. Many victims of domestic sex trafficking are youth runaways who have histories of physical abuse, sexual abuse and incest, and/or poverty and substance abuse (Leblanc, et al., 2012).

Although empirical studies on the perpetrators of human trafficking have been limited, several research studies have suggested that trafficking in some parts of the global community are organized by criminal organizations (Breuil, Siegel, van Reenen, Beijer, & Roos, 2011). Nonetheless, knowledge is scarce to corroborate the notion that trafficking is organized in large, intricate crime networks as ethnographical research and development in some countries suggest that trafficking networks can be small and local with a lack of continuously active lines of communication. Empirical research further suggests that perpetrators of human trafficking are not automatically adversaries; victims

can become perpetrators or orchestrators of trafficking by playing a vital role in the trafficking process. In some circumstances, women who were initially victims of trafficking later became recruiters as a method of paying certain debts, thereby victimizing others (Breuil, Siegel, van Reenen, Beijer, & Roos, 2011). Traffickers operate out of both legal and illegal forms of businesses. They can be labor traders, agricultural farmers, hotel managers, construction site supervisors, manufactory owners and employers of domestic services. Perpetrators of human trafficking can also be associated with brothels, child pornography, pimping, gangs and other organized crimes. They are men and women of all racial ethnicities and nationalities. Similar to perpetrators of sexual abuse and assault, they may be familiar with their victims, who are often their romantic partners, family members or acquaintances. In many cases, traffickers can share the same culture and nationality of victims of trafficking and utilize this as a means of exploiting victims (Leblanc, et al., 2012).

Human trafficking is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that requires a variety of global and domestic partnerships in efforts to thwart the use of products and services of trafficking attained by force, fraud and coercion. This study explored the perspectives of service providers, in the greater Sacramento Region, concerning the contributing factors of human trafficking to offer increased knowledge of the crime of the extensiveness of human trafficking.

Background of the Problem

Human trafficking is an emergent form of slavery in the world and is an issue that continues to worsen within the global community; recently, it has been recognized as

a universal problem and priority for human rights organizations (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). Modern-day slavery and slavery 200 years ago share the same concept that the life of a person, freedom and prosperity can be under the complete domination and exploitation by another individual or group (Californian against Sexual Exploitation, 2012). Human trafficking is an extensive social problem that violates human rights, and its constant occurrence is viewed as an organized crime. There are several forms of trafficking; they are described as “the act of forcing, coercing, or transporting a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act (sex trafficking); the act of forcing a person to work for little or no money (labor trafficking); and the act of forcing a person to live and work in the homes of employers who confiscate their legal documents and prevent them from leaving (domestic servitude)” (Leblanc, et al., 2012, p.16). Due to the secretive nature of this phenomenon and the insufficient awareness, accurate statistics are scarce and available statistics vary. It is estimated that 14,500 to 17,000 victims are trafficked into the United States on an annual basis (Leblanc, et al., 2012). The International Labor Organization (2008) estimated that the minimum number of persons in forced labor, including sexual exploitation, as a result of trafficking at any given time is 2.5 million (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008). Obtaining accurate statistics is difficult because of the lack of consistency of the definition of human trafficking, the methodology of gathering statistics, and the number of victims that are undocumented.

Human trafficking is an intricate social problem that is considered a high-profit and relatively low-risk business that contributes to the expansion of this phenomenon in the United States and worldwide. Human trafficking is the third most profitable criminal

activity, following drugs and arms trafficking (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, n.d.). Leblanc et al. (2012) noted that “The underlying economic and social conditions in 'source' and 'destination' countries serve to create both the supply and demand for the global trade in persons” (Leblanc, et al., 2012, p. 18). A source country is defined as a country that is impacted by poverty and has an unstable political structure which results in the creation of a ready supply of human trafficking victims.. A destination country is defined as a country that has a high demand for cheap labor due to competing economic industries (Leblanc, et al., 2012, p.18).

The increasing supply and demand of trafficking persons motivates offenders to engage in this illegal activity. Most traffickers take advantage of the demand for cheap and vulnerable workers as well as the sex tourism promotion in countries who perceive migrants as highly profitable and low-risk commodities (Law Teacher, 2012). Traffickers can be male or female, and they are involved in human trafficking through various means. Offenders can operate as recruiters, transporters or exploiters, or they can be involved in trafficking through forgery of documents, corruption, money-laundering or other criminal activity (Law Teacher, 2012). Another motivating force for offenders is the high profits. Annually, an estimated 9.5 billion dollars is generated through all trafficking activities (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, n.d.). The International Labor Organization estimates that the U.S. makes over \$31 million annually in profits from the exploitation of all trafficked forced labor (Law Teacher, 2012). These high profits are a result of the numerous individuals subjected to becoming victims of human trafficking.

Victims pay a high price for being subsumed in human trafficking. The duration of how long one is a victim is unknown due to the unawareness of a victim until he or she becomes documented. Once an individual is identified as a victim, he or she is subjected to negative impacts on their physical, mental and psychological health and often times are stigmatized and isolated from their communities. The physical impacts of human trafficking are not limited to these concerns, however, and also include malnutrition, infectious diseases due to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, lack of access to clean water and occupational health risks. The psychological effects of human trafficking have been identified as common reactions to trauma such as shock and fear, disorientation, nightmares, flashbacks, difficulty in trusting, feelings of betrayal, a tendency to isolate oneself, suicidal ideation and attempts of suicide (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008). The fear associated with reporting trafficking abuse also impacts victims' ability to utilize services. In the United States, identified victims encounter barriers such as lack of knowledge of available services, the inability of available services to meet victims' needs, lack of knowledge of the American legal system, language barriers, decreased availability of support networks, and the inability to identify perpetrators (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, n.d.).

TVPA (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) (2000) noted that according to United States law sex trafficking defined as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act,” (p. 8). To be considered punishable by law, the crime must consist of a “severe form” of trafficking that involves a person under the age of eighteen who has been persuaded to engage in a

commercial sex act or an adult who has been recruited to engage in commercial sex acts by the utilization of “force, fraud, or coercion” (TVPA, 2000, p. 8). The sex trafficking industries deemed as most prominent are pimp-operated prostitution, commercial-front brothels and escort or delivery services (Polaris Project, 2014). Women were identified as victims in 85% of reported sex trafficking cases. On a global continuum, 4.5 million people are coerced into sexual exploitation (Polaris Project, 2014). International sex trafficking is a growing social issue and human service providers are in more demand to deliver after care services to sex trafficking victims (Macy & Johns, 2011).

Study Purpose

Sacramento is recognized as the second leading city in the United States for human trafficking. This study focuses on the perspectives of service providers on the contributing factors of sex trafficking and the utilization of services by the victims. Additionally, reasons for the discomfort that victims feel in accessing non-profit organizations, law enforcement and other resources that accommodate and help treat victims are explored from the perspectives of professionals working with victims and survivors of sex trafficking.

Theoretical Framework

The victimological framework, conflict theory, constitutive criminology, routine activity theory, and rational choice theory are combined to develop an integrated theoretical framework to guide the study. It is important to use multiple lenses to describe an extensive phenomenon.

Conflict theory. Hutchison (2008) stated that the conflict perspective demonstrates how power is unequally divided within a group. The conflict perspective focuses on conflict and causes of dominance and oppression in economic and political areas and has also extended into cultural areas (Hutchinson). In human trafficking, order is based on manipulation and control over a non-dominant group, trafficked persons, by a dominant group, the traffickers. It is further suggested that if the conflict is not open, then it leads to the occurrence of exploitation (Hutchinson). Members of the non-dominant group become alienated from society. The conflict perspective can explain human trafficking because there is conflict between the recruiters and victims that generate economic and human inequality (Hutchinson). Human trafficking is the result of excessive ambition that creates a market for trafficking with men, women and children who are engaged in all forms of forced labor, including agriculture, domestic service, construction work and sweatshops, as well as sexual exploitation. The groups in conflict are the traffickers, the illegal sex industry, trafficking victims and all parties who use them for their own benefit creating a demand.

Routine activity theory. Routine activities theory suggests that since opportunities are the immediate sources of crime and delinquency, they also are the most imperative causes. This theoretical perspective positions routine activities theory as a significant contribution to the prevention of crime and delinquent behavior. However, routine activities theory does not explain the reason why some individuals are more likely than others to commit crimes and acts of delinquency (Levesque, 2012). Routine activities theory proposes that crime generates from three central components: a suitable

target, a motivated offender and the absence of capable guardianship; these fundamental elements are strongly correlated with the nature of human trafficking (Dietzler, 2013). In the market of sex trafficking, a motivated offender can be an individual or group whose choice is to be involved in criminal activity with an incentive to facilitate the crime or offense based on a rational choice. The absence of capable guardianship is the indication that at any stage in the process of trafficking, the transgression can be successfully implemented by a motivated perpetrator who has identified the suitable target, a potential trafficking victim, in surroundings that lacks protection and surveillance (Dietzler, 2013). Consistent with routine activities theory, trafficking victims with more precarious daily activities have an increased risk of being victimized. Therefore, changes in routine activities can alter changes in victimization risks. Potential victims of trafficking who lower their precarious daily activities, then, are expected to have reduced risks of victimization (Averdijk, 2011).

Rational choice theory. Rational choice theory is a theory about the nature of human decision making. This theoretical model predicts human behavior by suggesting that individuals' choices are motivated by an anticipated usefulness, most often identified as profits and fiscal gains; rational choice theory is standard theory that has the perspective of "what we ought to do in order to achieve our aims as well as possible," (Arsovska & Kostakos, 2008, p. 356). Rational choice theory is exercised to examine criminal behavior and the parameters of criminality; hence, this module has become the foundation for the criminal justice system. There is a micro-level decision-making process based on the rational choice theoretical framework that includes: individual

needs, established goals, opportunities and decisions with subsystems of goals based on needs and alternate methods to capitalize on returns (Arsovska & Kostakos, 2008). The increased demand for sexual acts, amplified supply of trafficked persons, high profits and material gains generated from the offense make it difficult to prevent the problem.

Constitutive criminology. Constitutive criminology holds the belief that power and equality build socially constructed differences through which the most vulnerable individual is subjected to harm (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). In relation to human trafficking, perpetrators are viewed as extreme investors who use any means necessary to achieve the desired outcomes such as increased income, whereas a victim is often the disabled party who experiences pain, loss and denied humanity (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). Constitutive criminology “examines the discursive coproduction of crime by human agents in their interrelation with cultural products, social institutions, and the wider societal structure (Henry & Milovanovic, 2000, p. 270). This framework views the crime of human trafficking as an open ended approach that proposes that humans shape their own identities through social interaction. Social interaction “ involving language and symbolic representations, people identify and evaluate differences, construct categories, organize their activities to reflect those categories, and share a belief in the reality of that which is constructed...By investing energy in socially constructed realities, human subjects are not only shaped, but they also help shape the world around them” (Henry & Milovanovic, 2000, p. 276) . When describing human trafficking it is important to be aware of the social constructed realities in which potential victims derive.

Victimology. Victimology is the study of victims and their patterns of victimization (Zaykowski & Campagna, 2014). There are a variety of theories to describe victimology; the victim precipitation theory in particular correlates to victims of sex trafficking due to its focus on explaining the actions or features of victims that increase their risk of being trafficked. Victim precipitation theory analyzes the level of culpability of victims, their engagement in criminal acts, their direct instigation of conflict with others and their facilitation, also known as negligent behavior. Hence, the victims are deemed to have a functioning role in producing their own harm.

Definition of Terms

Vulnerable. Individuals who are more susceptible to being discriminated against or encounter different forms of oppression.

Exploitation. The act in which a perpetrator uses an individual in an unjust or cruel manner to financially benefit from their work.

Victim. A person who is exploited by an individual through force, coercion, or transportation.

Perpetrator. An individual who forces, coerces, or transports a person for the purpose of exploitation.

Survivor. A person who once was a victim of trafficking and has escaped the industry.

Industry. Group of individuals/ organizations that are associated with the economic activity of trafficking persons.

Sex trafficking. The act of forcing, coercing, or transporting a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act (Leblanc, et al., 2012).

External barrier. Barriers outside of an agency that affect services offered to human trafficking victims.

Internal barrier. Barriers within an agency that affect services offered to human trafficking victims.

Primary barrier. Highest ranking barriers within an agency that affect services offered to human trafficking victims.

Collaborative barrier. Barriers agencies face when collaborating with other agencies that affect services offered to human trafficking victims.

T-visa. A specific type of visa that permits a victim of trafficking to have immigration protection (Leblanc, et al., 2012).

Tier placements. Categories placed by the U.S. Department of state that are based on the amount of government action to combat trafficking.

Micro level. Work with the individual, family, and small groups.

Mezzo level. Work with organizations and formal groups.

Gender stereotyping. The act of overgeneralizing about the feature or characteristics of a specific group or population based on gender.

Supply/demand theory. The theoretical framework for comprehending the determination of a price of a product or good sold in a market and is based on the participation of buyers and sellers.

Sexual gratification. Pleasure an individual gains by participating in sexual desires.

Non-dominant group. A group that less power or influence due to socioeconomic status, race, gender, legal status or religious views.

Dominant group. A group that has power, governance and control to exercise authority due to socioeconomic status, race, gender, legal status or religious views.

Comprehensive services. Services that address majority of human trafficking victims identified needs.

Assumptions

The authors assume that relying on the perspectives of professionals who work with victims and survivors of trafficking is a sufficient source of information in comparison to first-hand accounts from victims and survivors due to limited accessibility. The steady supply of sexual acts by vulnerable individuals increasingly fuels the demand of the sex trafficking industry caused by men and women who purchase these sexual acts, the entertainment industry that tolerates and advertises sexual exploitation, and affluent countries that harbor sex industries. The authors postulate comprehensive services are necessary to address trafficking victims' immediate, ongoing and long-term needs because victims experience a vast array of effects from being in the human trafficking industry that impair their functioning. A victim's ability to seek recuperative services may also be impaired as they experience fear and trauma once identified as a victim of trafficking. The legal protection of sex trafficking victims is not adequate to meet victims' specific needs as trafficking laws primarily focus on the prosecution of

traffickers instead of the well-being of victims. Victims are subjected to participate in the prosecution process, and they are not guaranteed safety during trials and investigations.

Social Work Rationale

The authors hope to benefit the profession of social work by providing additional knowledge of human trafficking to the social work community. The presented study will increase the awareness of the needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking, as well as shed light on the types of services provided to this population. This study will add interface between trafficking victims and the sex industry. Although the current anti-trafficking movement has progressed successfully, the actual social problem of human trafficking needs to be continually clarified to generate improved and enhanced services for victims and survivors. This study advocates for improvements in current policies aimed to combat human trafficking by highlighting the need to move towards increasing focus on protection instead of prosecution. The authors intend to encourage the global community to be an active participant in stopping human rights violations.

Limitations

The lack of time to retrieve informed consents from nonprofit organizations that serve victims and survivors of trafficking and the use of non-probability sampling presented limitations for the study as it had limited validity. Random sampling could not be utilized as surveying professionals who work with trafficking victims and survivors. The authors were unable to obtain first-hand perspectives of survivors of trafficking due to extreme confidentiality laws and limited availability of literature. Retrieving

perpetrators' viewpoints on factors contributing to trafficking crimes was difficult due to the lack of identified offenders.

Statement of Collaboration

The research study titled "Perspectives of human service professionals on the contributing factors to Sex Trafficking and the Impact on the service utilization patterns of the victims/survivors" was completed by Chenee Robinson and Rhonda Okonkwo. Both researchers contributed equally to the different components of the project including the literature review, completion of the human subject's protocol to secure the exempt status for the research, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

This literature review discusses the utilization of services, legal protection provided by anti-trafficking policies and the contributing factors of sex trafficking, difficulty in accessing services trafficking victims experience, how legal protection is limited by the interpretation of law, and examining the factors that make sex trafficking vulnerable to the sex slave industry. These themes were chosen due to a significant amount of information available in relation to these topics. From these themes, several subthemes emerged, such as organizational barriers and different types of contributing factors to sex trafficking. These elements are important to examine as they are related to the barriers victims endure as they seek services and recovery.

Utilization of Services

In an exploratory and descriptive study, retrospective data was collected from Safe Horizon, a trafficking program in New York, and was analyzed (Dewan, 2014). Dewan (2014) stated that the purpose of the study was to examine social service utilization among pre-certified victims of human trafficked persons who were receiving services from Safe Horizon. The sample size of the population (n=136) was composed of 69 individuals who were trafficked for sex purposes and 67 individuals who were trafficked for labor purposes. Six types of services were included in the study, and they are listed as follows: social services, legal services, health services, mental health services, information and referral services, and employment related services. The study

exemplified that victims referred to services by different institutions would less likely use certain types of services. In the findings, Dewan (2014) stated that:

The odds ratios indicated that compared with those referred to the service provider by individuals, those referred by government agencies were less likely to use social services; and compared with those who were trafficked for labor purposes, those who were trafficked for sexual purposes were less likely to use mental health services and also less likely to use information and referral services (Dewan, 2014, p.70).

This study supports the notion that, although there are a variety of services available for victims of sex trafficking, they do not utilize all the services that they qualify for. Victims of sex trafficking do not take advantage of all the services available to them, and they also have difficulty accessing services as they reintegrate back into their families. Brunovskis and Surtess (2013) employed qualitative interviews lasting between 60-90 minutes to investigate the impact of sex trafficking on victim familial relationships. The interviews consisted of 19 victims of human trafficking (sexual exploitation) and 31 service providers (2013). When victims return to their home environment, they face the task of interacting and sustaining new relationships with their family members. There are barriers that arise when integrating back into the family that prevent the victims from sustaining relationships with their families and prevent them from seeking services. The interviews from the study mention that not having a supportive environment when returning home prevents victims from seeking services.

The aspects of a unsupportive home can include: 1) victims being more focused on going home instead of seeking services; 2) the victims feeling that their family will not understand them unless they were a victim of trafficking themselves; 3) the stigma and rejection associated with being viewed as a prostitute; 4) and the financial predicament victims have to face once they return home (Brunovskis & Surtess). Overall, the study suggests that the conditions that victims face when they return home are a prominent barrier for victims accessing and utilizing services.

The current aftercare services for identified sex trafficking victims do not address the effects victims face before and after they have been identified as a sex trafficking victim. According to Macy and Johns (2011), sex trafficking victims are more likely to sustain physical injuries, abuse substances, suffer long-term psychological consequences and are susceptible to increased mental health effects. Some of the mental health effects include depression, anxiety, panic attacks, posttraumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, and suicide. Sex trafficking victims are also vulnerable to acquiring health problems due to poor nutrition, poor working conditions, and high exposure to infectious disease. The substantial effects that sex trafficking victims might experience support the notion that services available for sex trafficking victims need to address these issues. In a literature review, twenty documents were gathered and reviewed using four key methods to examine the needs of and aftercare services for international sex trafficking survivors into the United States. The methods utilized were: 1) a systematic review of computerized journal databases (i.e. EBSCO host); 2) the use of search engines (i.e. Google); 3) contacting state-level sexual assault coalitions across the United States/U.S.-based human

rights organization and requesting copies of documentation of their work with sex trafficking survivors; 4) and contacting key researchers in the domain of sex trafficking inquiring which publications they would consider relevant for the literature review (Macy & Johns, 2011).

The review concluded that the effects sex trafficking victims face are best addressed through comprehensive services. Macy and Johns (2011) stated that survivors needs differ as survivor's reintegrate back into the community. Three categories of needs were identified and they are immediate needs, ongoing needs, and long term needs. Macy and Johns (2011) explained:

The immediate needs are immediate safety; emergency shelter; basic necessities; language interpretation; emergency medical care; and crisis legal advocacy. The ongoing needs physical health; mental health; substance abuse problems; safety; transitional housing; immigration; legal issues; and language needs (e.g., interpretation and translation). The long term needs are life skills; language skills; education and job training; permanent housing; and depending on their decisions whether to remain in the United States family reunification or repatriation (Macy & Johns, 2011, p. 90).

The complexity of these ongoing needs exemplify a barrier for victims utilizing services. Johnson (2012) held that the specific needs of victims of sex trafficking are represented in the conjunction of various social service agencies. These organizations focus on social problems related to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, pregnancy, foster youth, human rights, and gender and racial inequality. Many of these

services also provide legal assistance. Mental health services can provide individual therapy, group counseling, anxiety management and psychoeducational classes. Victims and survivors of trafficking can be assisted with safety planning and learn how to uphold physical and emotional safety. Johnson (2012) further noted that the assortment of traumatic events is followed by a trafficking victim experiencing a complete sense of uncertainty and inability to cope with the effects. Without assistance and help for healing, victims are at risk for re-victimization and lack of connection to services that prevent such events from recurring (Johnson, 2012).

Organizational Barriers

Walker (2012) emphasized that there are organizational barriers that prevent sex trafficking victims for obtaining and utilizing services. Among these barriers are “lack of effective leadership, funding, qualified staff to treat medical conditions, administrative staff, training to maintain facility certification, office equipment, and facility space to treat the growing numbers of victims” (p. 17). In a study, Walker (2012) implemented an online questionnaire to explore the operational barriers experienced by service providers in Florida who provide crisis services to sex tracking victims. Ten social service providers participated in the study. The study’s online questionnaire revealed themes of barriers that prevent victims from utilizing services. One barrier is internal agency barriers. Some of the internal agency barriers included staffing, compensation, training, and employee burnout. Another barrier is external agency barriers, such as the legal system, transportation, and funding. Primary organization barriers and agency collaboration barriers were also listed and entailed items such as funding, limited

resources, language translation, ability to stay open, communication, time consumption, and perception of care differences. The final set of barriers fall on the micro and mezzo level. On the micro level, victims do not seek services because of trust issues, language barriers, lack of transportation and the fear and shame associated with being identified as a sex trafficking victim. On the mezzo level, the shame, fear, and blame associated with being identified as a sex trafficking victim prevented the utilization of services by victims (Walker, 2012).

Legal Protection of Victims

Wooditch, DuPont-Morales and Hummer (2009) aimed to explore the differences among anti-trafficking policies in the United States and the European Union. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000) was described as legislative means to examine trafficking crimes, prosecute traffickers and offer recuperative services to victims of trafficking in the United States (Wooditch, DuPont-Morales & Hummer). TVPA was developed based on preexistent laws and provides intelligibility and clear definitions of modern slavery produced by trafficking (Wooditch, DuPont-Morales & Hummer). Individuals forcefully involved in labor trafficking and sex trafficking were interpreted as victims by TVPA as traffickers were viewed as criminals. The protection of traffickers became secondary to prosecutors as victims were requested to remain in the United States to assist with trial and investigation, victims' federally subsidized benefits were limited based on their level of participation with law enforcement, and T-Visas provided to victims were only temporary (Wooditch, DuPont-Morales & Hummer). This piece

advocates that anti-trafficking efforts may cause victims to remain fearful of deportation, revenge and imprisonment.

Peters (2013) examined how the values of anti-trafficking policies impact the enactment and drafting of these laws. The purpose of this study was to highlight that the social and political perspectives of women, sexuality, prostitution, and victimization are reflected in the TVPA (Peters, 2013). It was proposed that sex trafficking had been placed into another category of trafficking versus labor trafficking. This caused enforcers of TVPA to overlook trafficking as a concern of forced labor and to instead view it as a sexual violence and illegality (Peters). Morality and socially constructed views of sex trafficking interacted with the drafting of the TVPA, and, consequently, women were viewed more as victims of sex trafficking than men (Peters). Peters argued that this excludes all victims of sex trafficking and victims of labor trafficking that were subjected to other form of harm and hardship. The TVPA defined “severe forms of trafficking” as forced labor and forced prostitution and termed these criminalities as “operational” as the intent of the traffickers is to gain benefits through the services from victims (Peters, p. 232). To prevent all forms of prostitution to be considered under the branch of trafficking, creators of anti-trafficking policy defined non-severe sex trafficking as “non-operative”; this caused this method of trafficking to be immune to legal recourse under the TVPA (Peters, p. 232). This supported the credence that protection was not granted to all victims from every form of trafficking.

Smith (2011) elaborated in *Human Rights Review* on the effectiveness of anti-trafficking laws on an international continuum. Although there is a global movement to

combat sex trafficking with efforts to monitor the prosecution of traffickers and provide assistance to victims, challenges and political obstacles persist. International governments attempt to collect data with the limitation of victims unwilling to report crimes due to cultural pressure and expectations. With the passage of TVPA to prevent sex trafficking, countries that receive aid from the United States have the critical need to demonstrate that they are proactive in combating the trafficking. Smith (2011) stressed that, from this pressure, governments have more incentive to underreport occurrences of sex trafficking with prospectively limited sources to gather information and strong motivations to overstate their efforts to combat the issue. Governments abroad may feel obliged to underreport the national magnitude of sex trafficking due to the inability to have accurate statistics and victims' reluctance to report. Additionally, prevailing cultural norms and attitudes are complicit in victim blaming, implying that trafficked persons are responsible for their enslavement. An additional motivation to underreport trafficking is due to the sex industry contribution to the national income. Smith (2011) reported the share of global domestic products (GDPs) earned from sex trafficking among countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia (which ranged from 2% to 14%). With the U.S. government demanding for governments to fight sex trafficking and conditioning aid on consistent annual improvement, international regions will continue to experience these challenges.

Contributing Victim Factors

The routine activity theory states that there are three components that are needed in order for crime to occur. One of these components is the availability of suitable targets

(Department of Attorney and General Justice, 2011). With reference to sex trafficking, victims can be viewed as suitable targets. Victims typically become suitable targets due to their immense and various vulnerabilities. Research by Montgomery-Devlin described the different risk factors that increase the likelihood of children and adolescents becoming trafficked persons. Some of these risk factors were poverty, unemployment, family disruption, physical and/or sexual abuse and domestic violence (2008). Drug misuse and coercion are utilized as means to control sex trafficking victims and can be used by victims to cope with the trauma of being a victim of abuse. When young boys and girls had low self-esteem, they became more vulnerable to being recruited into the sex trafficking industry. The abuse through exploitation fulfills the victims' current wants and needs and provides a sense of false belonging to a harmful environment (Montgomery-Devlin). This supplements the idea that victims recruited for sex trafficking are in vulnerable positions in life, and this ranges across various cultures and societies.

Clawson, Dutch, Soloman and Grace (2009) suggested that there are micro-level factors that make individuals vulnerable to sex trafficking on an international scale. The micro-level factors include young age, unemployment, prior victimization, physical and mental health issues. The authors further suggested that although the majority of sex trafficking victims are stereotyped as young girls and women, men and boys are also prone to becoming victims of sex trafficking (Clawson et al., 2009). Major vulnerabilities for American children and youth sex trafficking victims have been found to be "age, poverty, sexual abuse, family substance/physical abuse, learning disabilities,

loss of parent or caregiver, runaway, sexual identity issues and lack of support systems” (2009, p. 8). On a national scale, the average age at which a girl becomes sexually exploited is 12 to 14 years of age. The average age of boys and transgendered youth is 11 to 13 years of age. Adolescents from all ethnicities and races are at risk for sex trafficking. One shared characteristic or contributing factor among sex trafficked girls is a history of childhood sexual abuse. According to the authors, 20 recent studies explored adult women who had been trafficked. The studies concluded that between 33 and 84 percent of these women had been sexually abused as children (Clawson et al., 2009). The trafficking of boys is not as apparent as that of female counterparts. Young boys mainly exploit their bodies to “survive financially, explore their sexuality and/or make contact with gay men” (Clawson et al., 2009, p. 10). The majority of sexually exploited boys come from dysfunctional homes, and a vast number of them have been victimized in the past.

The victimological framework examines why women may be at greater risk of being victimized than other groups. Lutyia and Lanier (2012) stated that victim-offender interaction, recurring victimization and lifestyle are the prime factors describing the occurrence of victimization of human trafficking. Victim proneness and victim-trafficker interaction are two elements that explain the vulnerability of young women and girls to sex trafficking for involuntary prostitution; this is maintained by a relationship with the perpetrator (Lutyia & Lanier, 2012). Victims are prone to victimization by being exposed to situations that precipitate their victimization or from engaging with traffickers innocently by no fault of the victim. The trafficking victims and the recruiters could have

interacted with each other before the recruitment occurred. Recurring victimization is characterized by victims of crimes having the possibility of being victimized by either different assailants or by the same perpetrator during a limited period of time (Lutya & Lanier, 2012).

Lutya and Lanier (2012) highlighted that recurring victimization is apt to manifest into a cycle of violence. Sequentially, victims are likely to become traffickers by repeating and modeling behavior and crimes committed against them by sex traffickers. They recruit other women and girls into involuntary prostitution. With traumatic experiences untreated and future opportunities limited, it is probable for previous victims to replicate the criminal act of recruiting victims for their own benefit. The replication of sex trafficking is known as second-wave trafficking (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). The lifestyle risk of trafficking victims is impacted by the personality of the victim, absence of adequate guardianship, environment in which the victim resides and the daily routine that occupies the victim (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). The lifestyle of the victim can predispose the type of victimization one could experience. For example, substance use may ignite the occurrence of interpersonal violence or the use of the Internet may exploit children to inappropriate social websites or participation in certain activities favored by deviant groups that are a danger to unsuspecting victims. Such victims are less likely to report their offenders to law enforcement, thus becoming rendered as less challenging individuals to recruit into sex trafficking (Lutya & Lanier, 2012).

Contributing Societal Factors

A second component needed for crime to occur in relation to the routine activity theory is the absence of capable guardians (Department of Attorney and General Justice, 2011). The absence of capable guardians can be acknowledged as a societal contributing factor to sex trafficking. In the realm of sex trafficking, incapable guardians consist of the societies that allow for sex trafficking to occur, police officers, other individuals who are supposed to assist with the prevention of trafficking, and the businesses that enhance the demand for the sex industry. Factors that make individuals prone to becoming victims of sex trafficking include poverty, gender inequality, police and political corruption, high levels of crime and/or war and conflict (Clawson, Dutch, Solomon & Grace, 2009).

Gender stereotyping is a prominent societal factor that causes individuals to become vulnerable to trafficking. In many societies, feminine gender roles are viewed as inferior in comparison to masculine gender roles. In the past, the responsibility of the woman was to be a wife, bare children, and maintain the home, while the man was perceived as responsible for providing financial stability to support for the family. The responsibility of staying in the home and taking care of the children deprived females of the equal rights of their male counterparts. Women were denied property rights, economic rights, access to education, and if they were employed outside of the home, they were paid significantly less than men (Shelley, 2010). This resulted in women depending on men to provide financial stability, which made them vulnerable to the trafficking industry. In countries stricken with poverty, females are trafficked to improve

their socioeconomic status of the family. The ways in which females or trafficking victims can improve the socioeconomic status are to be sold to reimburse the absence of revenue, to pay family debt, or to have accessible cash for medical emergencies (Shelley, 2010).

The daily promotion of sexualization of women and interactions in modern societies increases the acceptance of sex trafficking. The entertainment industry fuels the demand and the purchasing of sex acts through advertisements, commercials, billboards, and pornography. In the media, women are presented as sex objects and as victims. Presenting women in this way influences the support of sexual violence (Rosselli & Stankikewicz, 2009). The different methods the media utilizes to send out messages increase the chances of individuals being exposed to the advertisement of sexual violence. Rosselli and Stankikewicz (2009) suggested that there is proof that “exposure to sexually objectifying advertisements produces anti-woman attitudes” (p. 581). The portrayal of women as cherished objects of desire for men, the stereotype that women like to be submissive, and the misunderstanding that violence is erogenous invigorates the continuation of the sex trafficking industry. In print advertising, sexual victimization is glamorized through manipulation of the females’ body position, facial expressions, and eroticized relationships between men and women (Rosselli & Stankikewicz, 2009). The advertisements insinuate that women are inferior to men, less sexually controlling than men and are their objects of yearning.

A project conducted by Donna M. Hughes (2005) suggested that the demand of sex trafficking is associated with affluent countries that harbor sex industries. The author

defined the demand of sex trafficking through four segments: men who buy commercial sex acts, exploiters, the destination countries, and the culture that accepts sexual exploitation. Hughes (2005) stated that individuals who purchase sex acts usually want to fulfill sexual gratification, entertainment and fantasies of violent acts. The author continued to note how research implied that there are myths associated with the reasoning of purchasing sex acts. Among these myths are men are lonely or have sexually dissatisfying relationships. In fact, these men reported they were content with their relationships with their wives or partners and were seeking sex acts that their partners will not engage in. It was concluded that they were seeking control in order to disrespect, hurt or humiliate the woman or child if they were permitted to (Hughes, 2005).

Hughes (2005) indicated that the state contributes to the high demand for trafficking victims. Destination countries have implemented strategies to maintain the profitable revenue that generates millions of dollars annually for the economy. In Japan, where prostitution is not legal but highly tolerated, annual revenue from the sex industry is estimated to be \$83 billion. In Soho, London the sex trafficking industry generated approximately £12 million. Additionally, prostitution and brothels are legal in Germany and, on average, produce \$18 million per year. In this country, 400,000 prostitutes serve 1.2 million customers daily (Hughes, 2005, p. 13). These examples demonstrate how profitable exploiting women, men and children are to the exploiters. By normalizing prostitution, exploiters use power to influence laws and policies that sustain the influx of women to sex markets (Hughes, 2005). Consistent with the study, culture and mass

media enhance the normalization of sex markets by illustrating prostitution as appealing, empowering and a quick way to make income.

Hutchison (2008) declared that the conflict perspective demonstrates how power is unequally divided within a group. The conflict perspective focuses the causes of dominance and oppression in economic and political areas and demonstrates how they have extended into cultural areas (Hutchinson, 2008). In human trafficking, order is based on manipulation and control by a dominant group (traffickers) over a non-dominant group (trafficked persons). It is further suggested that if the conflict is not open, then it leads to the occurrence of exploitation (Hutchinson, 2008). Members of the non-dominant group become alienated from society. In societies, there is conflict between the recruiters and victims that generate economic and human inequality (Hutchinson, 2008). Human trafficking is the result of excessive ambition that creates a market for trafficking men, women and children who are engaged in all forms of forced labor, including agriculture, domestic service, construction work and sweatshops, as well as sexual exploitation. The groups in conflict are the traffickers, the illegal sex industry, trafficking victims and all parties who use them for their own benefit creating a demand.

Constitutive criminology has the main idea that power and equality construct social differences by which harm and detriment are inflicted upon the inferior group. Crime is determined by the interdependence of communities that cannot be seen outside of structured cultural contexts (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). Theorists of this ideology perceive traffickers as exorbitant investors who will do anything necessary to accomplish desired outcomes as the victim is the injured party who suffers from pain, loss and

deprivation of humanity (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). Constitutive criminology is a helpful approach for observing the nature of sex trafficking and victim vulnerability.

There is no discrimination in the recruitment of sex trafficking victims as there are different types of sex markets with different ways to exploit victims. Although all types of victims are recruited, certain industries only want specific ethnicities, races and language proficiencies. Progressively, the varieties of markets for commercial sex acts are blatantly advertised with the utilization of euphemisms and coded language. This concurrently strengthens the normalizations of these acts and increases the demand. For instance, there are advertisements for sexual services in Las Vegas, Nevada that are listed under code “entertainment services” in the yellow pages; this has evolved from the code “escort services.” Other code words include “massage parlors” and “spas” (Hughes, 2005, p. 21).

Contributing Perpetrator Factors

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2008) reported that recruiters who traffic victims are usually employed because of their ability to easily build rapport with the victims they are recruiting. Female recruiters that have the capability to establish trust and present themselves as reliable and respected are often utilized to recruit other victims. Some of the recruiters are former victims (United Nations, 2008). Former victims become recruiters for various reasons. For example, these types of recruiters view their status as a promotion of their role within the trafficking enterprise. Furthermore, victims partake in recruitment of new victims due to the fear of threatened or actual violence, and intimidation provoked by their traffickers. Strong and similar

cultural ties between the trafficker and victim enhance the occurrence of recruitment of sex trafficking victims. A study of 160 traffickers in the Indian commercial sex industry indicated that they before becoming recruiters, the recruiters had a strong connection to the industry in which they currently recruit victims (United Nations, 2008).

In reference to the routine activity theory, the presence or motivated offenders is needed in order for the crime of sex trafficking to occur (Department of Attorney and General Justice, 2011). Traffickers are motivated to engage in the criminal acts of sex trafficking because of the low risk and high profit associated with the industry. Sex traffickers select individuals from countries that offer few economic opportunities. Traffickers exploit victims from countries in Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America as they are identified as regions with high rates of organized crime, sexual violence, political instability and armed conflict. Exploiters include traffickers, pimps, organized crime groups and other persons who assist in the operation of the sex industry. Secondary participants include hotels, restaurants, taxi service and other businesses that enhance the production of the sex industry. All of these parties participate in the sex industry with the intent of making profits from the sale of sex as a product or commodity (Hughes, 2005).

Hughes (2005) discussed the business aspect of the sex trafficking industry where it is considered a low risk, high profit industry. To maintain the flow of business, pimps and traffickers are in need of an ongoing supply of trafficking victims. In some countries, sex trafficking victims' quality decreases after one year and they have to be replaced. Russian police reported that sending trafficking victims to the U.S. is not

considered profitable by traffickers due to the high costs of visas and travel documentation. This results in victims being sent to other markets where the costs and risks are significantly lower (Hughes, 2005).

With the application of rational choice theory, traffickers make decisions to commit these crimes based on the costs and benefits included in the process of trafficking victims (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). Rational choice theory stresses that criminal decision making is based on free will, which requires examination of opportunities, situations and events that could impact the outcome of the planned crime (Lutya & Lanier, 2012). For traffickers to have fewer risks and more benefits, they recruit victims from their country of origin and place them in a foreign country. This is difficult for victims as it is challenging to seek help in a place that is foreign to them. Traffickers exercise examination of opportunities by recruiting victims who are desperate for financial stability, escape from intolerable situations and a sense of belonging. These criminal decisions and behaviors are based on the vulnerability of trafficking victims (Lutya & Lanier, 2012).

A case study by George Antonopoulos and John Winterdyk (2005) suggested that human traffickers commit these crimes based on the rational choice of generating quick money. The study entailed interviews with traffickers from Greece who perceived trafficking as another integral component of the nocturnal industry. There is a denial of responsibility, injury and victimization as participating traffickers suggested that trafficked women had financial and sexual advantages from the trafficking business; this included women who were recruited and coerced into the sex industry. Antonopoulos

and Winterdyk (2005) proposed that although women in the sex trade industry were abused, battered or killed by their traffickers, the traffickers would normalize the implication of their actions as a tactical component of the business. Individuals who commit deviant acts and criminal behavior, and provide rationales for their actions are modules of the neutralization theory that involves the illegal sex trafficking of women, men and children.

Summary

There are a number of services available to sex trafficking victims, however, barriers arise when victims attempt to reintegrate into society and reunite with families. Specialized services available to victims of sex trafficking are not being utilized due to victims being fearful of governmental assistance and involvement with the law. The existing literature in reference to the utilization of services for trafficking victims and survivors suggests that the current services available do not meet the extensive needs of individuals reintegrated into society after rescue. It is difficult to implement adequate services for trafficking victims because there is a scarce information on how to properly address their intensive needs.

The service providers who serve the trafficking population do not have enough resources to support programs that assist victims in transitioning back into society. Organizational barriers limit victims' accessibility through internal and external factors that arise on the micro and mezzo levels. The most prominent barriers were items such funding, space to treat the increasing number of victims and qualified staff to treat the extensive needs of trafficking victims. The types of services victims of trafficking need

are individual therapy, group counseling, housing assistance, financial assistance, dental and medical services, safety planning, future planning and legal assistance. The review of literature underlined the significance of receiving these services as they assist survivors of sex trafficking to acquire coping strategies for trauma and other related effects of victimization. This is helpful in explaining the challenges that victims face while seeking services as these programs are provided by a range of different social service organizations. The ability to seek this variety of resources can be a demanding responsibility and overwhelming for a victim of sex trafficking. This study aims to increase the awareness of barriers and obstacles that victims of trafficking and organizations providing assistance experience while incorporating services.

Anti-trafficking laws created to protect victims are interpreted differently among drafters and implementers. It was found that the law focuses more on the prosecution of traffickers rather than the protection of victims, which ultimately affects their ability to seek restorative services. Most victims of human trafficking are vulnerable members of society that face oppression and poverty. The vulnerability of these victims makes them more accessible to trafficking recruiters. The literature suggested that victims are challenged with participating in the prosecution of their traffickers due to the questionability of their safety. There is a gap in knowledge of how to improve the protection for trafficking victims and the prosecution process of traffickers. In the international community, the underreporting of trafficking activity in other countries is an outcome of foreign aid being dependent on the tier-placement by U.S. anti-trafficking laws. This creates a need for more accurate statistical data of trafficking activity. The

review of the literature provides insight that anti-trafficking laws simultaneously provide solutions and generates other issues.

The purpose of exploring the victim, societal and perpetrator contributing factors of sex trafficking is to enhance an understanding of the key components that maintain the occurrence of modern-day slavery. Young age, unemployment, a history of victimization and mental health issues were identified as some of the vulnerabilities that increased the likelihood of individuals becoming victims to the sex industry. The similarities and differences among international and domestic sex trafficking victims were discussed to portray the extensiveness of sex trafficking patterns and its contributing factors. More information was available on female statistics, however, it was noted that male sex trafficking victims are at times overlooked in addressing the issue.

The literature indicated that victims are prone to victimization and recruitment of trafficking due to other extenuating reasons. When viewing human trafficking from a victimological perspective, women are at greater risk of becoming trafficked if there is a history victim-offender interaction, repeated victimization and a lifestyle that is connected to the sex industry. It is likely for victims to become traffickers as a result of being threatened or fearful, or the perception of it being a promotion or graduation. Perpetrator factors include motivation for making easy money, the low risks, and the high profitability nature of the organized business. Thus, perpetrators analyze the costs and benefits of participating in the sex trafficking industry at free will and fiscally benefiting from individuals who are desperate for promised financial gain. The objective of exploring the victim and perpetrator factors are to examine the dynamics of parties

involved in sex trafficking. There is limited literature available to represent the personal experiences of trafficking victims. This study intends to emphasize the absence of victim first-hand accounts and its importance for literature concerning sex trafficking.

Societal factors that contribute to sex trafficking are economic hardship, law enforcement corruption, socially constructed gender expectations and the absence of capable guardianship. The literature suggested that society perceives women as economically, physically, and socially inferior to their male counterparts. The normalization of commercial sex leads to women becoming highly profitable entities. Women are sold to pay off debts, increase socioeconomic status, and to provide financial stability. By reviewing the contributing societal factors of trafficking, the research proposes that conflict arises between the oppressed group (i.e. victims) and the oppressor (i.e. traffickers), which perpetuates the ongoing existence of human inequality. Gender stereotyping and the sexualization of women are influential societal elements that contribute to the prevalence of sex trafficking. The literature insists that the media plays a prominent role in the normalization of purchasing of sex acts and glamorization of women as a hot commodity. In society, women are viewed as submissive objects that are inferior to males. The expectation of this study is to increase the knowledge of socially learned factors that contribute to the continued expansion of the sex industry.

The high demands associated with the sex industry fuels the normalization of purchasing sex acts. Since the sex industry is a low risk market with high profitability, exploiters are attracted to this organized crime. The demand of sex acts include various types of businesses and markets, and are even protected by destination countries to

maintain the flow of revenue made from this industry. It was revealed that the affluent countries benefit from this form of sex slavery as they have profited millions of dollars annually. Commercial sex trade is deliberately advertised in certain cities with coding to minimize the criminality of the sex acts. The literature provided quantitative and qualitative data to support these notions.

Chapter 3

Methods

This chapter presents the methods used to conduct the study; including the study design, sampling procedures, data collection procedures, instruments, data analysis, and protection of human subjects. This study utilized quantitative and qualitative primary data obtained from the perspectives of professionals who serve victims of human trafficking.

Study Objectives

The study examined the perspectives of professionals who work with victims of human trafficking and the barriers that impacted victim/survivor service utilization patterns, contributing risk factors, and issues of legal protection for trafficking victim/survivors. Due to the inability to access first-hand perspectives of actual human trafficking victims, the accounts of professionals were utilized to gain awareness of contributing factors of human trafficking. The professional perspectives were deemed useful as they had direct contact with human trafficking survivors that provided insight on the challenges survivors encounter in seeking treatment for trauma, substance use, sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional abuse.

The perspectives of service providers on the contributing factors of human trafficking may enhance the understanding of the types of services needed to address specific issues endured by the human trafficking victims and survivors. The shortcomings of legal protection for survivors were also examined to highlight the need for more work on the protection of victims, instead of the prosecution of traffickers.

Study Design

The study design used was an exploratory research design with few components of descriptive research. Rubin and Babbie (2013) state that exploratory research is often used to explore topics when the scholar knows very little pertaining to the topic of study. This design was effective and appropriate for this study because it examined the organizational barriers that prevent trafficking victims from utilizing services, contributing risk factors of sex trafficking and the impact of legal protection on victims' lives before and after rescue.

Sampling Procedures

The population of this study constituted of all professionals who work with victims of human trafficking. The sampling frame consisted of professionals who work with survivors of human trafficking in the Sacramento region; the sample consisted of those who volunteered to participate in the study in the response to the call for participants. This sample was selected by nonprobability snowball sampling. According to Rubin and Babbie (2013), snowball sampling is appropriate when the members of a specific population are difficult to locate. Human trafficking survivors were difficult to contact and there was a limited number of service providers for this particular population. Snowball sampling is predominately used for “exploratory purposes, qualitative research and in research on minority and oppressed populations (Rubin and Babbie, 2013, p. 174). The subject groups were recruited by emailing organizations listed in the Sacramento Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalition resource directory and asking for their participation in the study. In order to be selected for the study, participants

must have identified themselves as individuals who work with the human trafficking population and expressed willingness to participate in the study after having read the consent form. Individuals who did not work with the human trafficking population were excluded from the study. Participants were given an informed consent form to sign either in person or via email before completing the questionnaire. If the participant did not sign the consent form and completed the questionnaire implied consent was applied. Implied consent was applied based on the fact that the participant had read the consent form and was willing to complete the questionnaire. Participation was complete once consent was given and the questionnaire was completed by the participant. Real and perceived conflicts of interests were nonexistent and such conflicts of interests were avoided by maintaining professional relationships and communication with human subjects; upholding confidentiality; clear definitions and explanations of roles were provided on the consent form.

Data Collection Procedures

The data for this research study was collected by distributing questionnaires to professionals who work with trafficking victims and survivors. The sample size was **21**. The data was collected over a five month span. Respondents who were willing to participate were granted the option to either participate via email or in person. During the five month span, the researchers corresponded with the participants to schedule a time to retrieve completed questionnaires. Survey research is an effective way to efficiently collect information about many individuals in a particular population and is self administered. Survey research through a questionnaire is the right method for this study

because it allowed the researchers to conduct a needs assessment on the human trafficking population.

Instruments

The questionnaire used for this study is divided into different sections that include multiple choice response categories, Likert scaling questions, ranking questions, and questions for short answer responses. The respondents of the questionnaire were professional workers from non-profit organizations and governmental agencies aiming to reduce sex trafficking. The first section contained information related to the demographic details such as gender, age, and profession. Participant demographics were sought to describe and collect the characteristics of the research participants and aide the interpretation of the study's findings. Additionally, the first section included questions that sought information on how long the participant worked with the human trafficking population, how frequently the participant interacted with the human trafficking population, and the level of expertise the participant placed themselves in relation to working with the human trafficking population to explore how extensive their experience is with the human trafficking population.

The second portion of the questionnaire included statements pertaining to the participants' opinion about identified contributing factors of human trafficking. This section measured how strongly the participants disagreed or agreed to the statements related to the prior history of abuse (i.e. sexual, emotional, and physical) as a prominent contributing factor to individuals becoming vulnerable to human trafficking; poverty as a high indicator that an individual will become vulnerable to becoming a victim of human

trafficking; substance abuse leading to an individual become a human trafficking victim; the high profits generated by the human trafficking industry as a motivating factor for perpetrators to participate in the industry; the services availability for human trafficking victims in adequately meeting their needs; current anti-trafficking laws creating barriers for survivors of human trafficking to seek assistance from organizations and community services; trafficking victims are sufficiently informed about the recuperative services available within the community; legal protection is granted to all victims from every form of human trafficking; and whether the entertainment industry fuels the demand and the purchasing of sex acts.

The third section of the questionnaire focused on how important participants considered the legal protection of human trafficking victims. The questions in this section explored the prosecution of identified perpetrators of human trafficking, the importance of having a universal definition of human trafficking, and the importance of tier placement categories on other countries created by The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA 2000).

The final section of the questionnaire employed qualitative methods to obtain the challenges human trafficking professionals face when working with human trafficking victims/survivors. The questions included in this section were as follows: What are some of the challenges you face in working with human trafficking victims?; How does sexual objectification of women contribute to the high demand of human trafficking?; What are some of your recommendations to improve: a) Quality of the services, b) Accessibility of the services; c) Prevention services, d) Services for educating the public. The final

section also sought professional perspectives on the major contributing factors to human trafficking.

Data Analysis

The researchers used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), for data entry and analysis. The methods of analysis included both the descriptive and inferential statistics. The researchers analyzed the qualitative responses using thematic analysis of recurring patterns listed by the professionals working with trafficking victims.

Protection of Human Subjects

The application for the protection of human subjects for the study titled, “Perspectives of human service professionals on the contributing factors to Sex Trafficking and the Impact on the service utilization patterns of the victims/survivors,” was prepared with the advise from the faculty advisor, Dr. Jude Antonyappan, and submitted to the Division of Social Work Human Subjects Review Committee for approval on October 3, 2014. The researchers were granted approval and exempt status on October 14, 2014. The approval number is 14-15-013. Exemption 45 CRF 46.101(b) (2) (for tests, surveys) applied to this study as the study is anonymous and confidential. The survey subjects were professionals who are accustomed to the type of questions asked in this survey as the questions were on topics that they encounter in their line of work.

Chapter 4

Study Findings and Discussion

This study examined the perspectives of professionals who work with human trafficking survivors on the barriers that impacted survivors' service utilization patterns, contributing risk factors, and issues regarding legal protection for trafficking survivors. The goal of the study was to enhance awareness of the human trafficking phenomenon in the global community with a particular focus on educating service providers with regard to the organizational barriers victims encounter while seeking recuperative services.

The study design was exploratory with a few elements of descriptive research. The study population consisted of individuals who identified themselves as professionals who work with human trafficking survivors. Data collection occurred over a five-month timespan through the distribution of a questionnaire to obtain qualitative and quantitative data.

The researchers' method of analysis included both descriptive and inferential statistics. The researchers analyzed qualitative responses on the questionnaire to determine the presence of recurring themes among professionals who work with human trafficking survivors. The study findings presented in this chapter demonstrate the need for ongoing awareness of barriers that prevent human trafficking survivors from utilizing services.

Demographics

The researchers distributed 52 questionnaires to various organizations listed in the Sacramento Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalition Resource

Directory. Of these, 21 were received and considered to be valid for this study. The majority of the study participants were female. Table 1 demonstrates that out of the 21 individuals who completed the questionnaires, two identified themselves as men and 19 identified themselves as women. The most represented age range among study participants was 45 to 54. Nearly 24 percent of study participants reported they have worked with the human trafficking population for five years or longer. Study participants identified “every week” as the most frequent occurrence of interaction with human trafficking survivors. Most study participants rated their level of expertise in working with human trafficking survivors as advanced.

Table 1

Gender of the Respondents

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Males | 2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 |
| Female | 19 | 90.5 | 90.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 1 demonstrates the frequency distribution of gender with the majority of the respondents identifying themselves as women (90.5%).

Table 2

Age Group of the Respondents

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid 18-24 | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| 25-34 | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 23.8 |
| 35-44 | 5 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 47.6 |
| 45-54 | 8 | 38.1 | 38.1 | 85.7 |
| 55-64 | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 90.5 |
| 65 or older | 2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

As shown in Table 2, out of 21 participants, the largest number of the study participants' age fell within the age range of 45-54 years of age (38.1%). The second largest number of the study participants' age fell within the age range of 35-44 years of age (23.8%). However, the smallest numbers of the study participants' age were within the age ranges 18-24 (4.8%) and 55-64 (4.8%).

Table 3

Professional Category of the Respondents

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Social Worker | 6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 |
| Law Enforcement | 2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 38.1 |
| Volunteer | 5 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 61.9 |
| Other | 8 | 38.1 | 38.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 3 illustrates the most identified profession by participants in this study was “other” professional (38.1%). The second most identified profession to participate in this study was social worker (28.6%). The least identified professions were volunteer (23.8%) and law enforcement (9.5%).

Table 4

Duration of Work with Human Trafficking Population

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid less than 6 months | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| 6 months to less than 1 year | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 38.1 |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 57.1 |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 76.2 |
| 5 years or more | 5 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4 demonstrates that 23.8% (n=5) of study participants reported they have worked with the human trafficking population for five years or longer. The remaining four categories of durations of work with trafficking victims were equally identified numerically by study participants.

Table 5

Frequency of Interaction with Survivors of Human Trafficking

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Everyday | 4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| Every week | 10 | 47.6 | 47.6 | 66.7 |
| Every 2-3 Weeks | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 71.4 |
| Every Month | 3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 85.7 |
| Every 2-3 Months | 2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 95.2 |
| Once or Twice a Year | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 5 reveals that the largest number of study participants (47.6%, n=10) identified “every week” as the most frequent occurrence of their interaction with human trafficking survivors. The second largest number of study participants (19%, n=4) identified every day as the most frequent occurrence of their interaction with human trafficking survivors. A much smaller percentage of study participants (4.8%,) each, identified every two to three weeks and once or twice a year as the most frequent occurrence of their interaction with human trafficking survivors.

Table 6

Level of Expertise Working With Survivors of Human Trafficking

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Very Advanced | 2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 |
| Advanced | 10 | 47.6 | 47.6 | 57.1 |
| Average | 7 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 90.5 |
| Basic | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 95.2 |
| Very Basic | 1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 21 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 6 shows that almost half of the respondents (47.6%, n=10) rated their level of expertise in working with human trafficking survivors as advanced. Only 9.6% (n=2) of respondents rated their level of expertise in working with human trafficking survivors as basic and very basic.

Table 7

Independent Samples T-test

| | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | | t-test for Equality of Means | | | | | | |
|---|---|------|------------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|---------|
| | F | Sig. | t | df | Sig. (2- tailed) | Mean Difference | Std. Error Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| Equal variances assumed | .196 | .664 | .460 | 17 | .651 | .92857 | 2.01750 | -3.32797 | 5.18511 |
| Score Equal variances not assumed | | | .581 | 12.022 | .572 | .92857 | 1.59933 | -2.55535 | 4.41249 |

In table 7 an independent samples t-test was utilized to examine if there was a significant difference between younger study participants and older study participants on the overall scores for their knowledge on the major contributing factors of human trafficking. The mean difference of .92857 between the two groups was not statistically significant.

Table 8

Mean Score Difference among Generations

| | age | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-------|------|----|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| Score | 1.00 | 5 | 31.0000 | 2.54951 | 1.14018 |
| | 2.00 | 14 | 30.0714 | 4.19641 | 1.12154 |

Although human trafficking has been occurring for generations, a younger generation of service providers are slightly more knowledgeable of the major contributing factors to human trafficking (mean = 31).

A frequency distribution on the multiple response set analysis was utilized to explore how participants responded to a set of questions regarding the major contributing factors of human trafficking. The results are listed in Table 9.

Table 9

Major Contributing Factors Frequencies (Multiple Responses)

| Major Contributing Factors to Human Trafficking | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|---|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | N | Percent | |
| Poverty | 19 | 5.9% | 90.5% |
| Child Sexual Abuse | 19 | 5.9% | 90.5% |
| Low Self Esteem | 19 | 5.9% | 90.5% |

| Major Contributing Factors to Human Trafficking | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|---|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | N | Percent | |
| Lack of Support System | 18 | 5.6% | 85.7% |
| Past Victimization | 18 | 5.6% | 85.7% |
| Sexualization of women | 18 | 5.6% | 85.7% |
| Demand for Sexual Acts | 18 | 5.6% | 85.7% |
| High Revenue Associated with the Industry | 17 | 5.3% | 81.0% |
| Low Risk for Exploiters | 17 | 5.3% | 81.0% |

| Major Contributing Factors to Human Trafficking | Responses | | Percent of Cases |
|---|-----------|---------|------------------|
| | N | Percent | |
| High Level of Crime and/or War | 12 | 3.7% | 57.1% |
| Police and Political Corruption | 12 | 3.7% | 57.1% |
| Gender Stereotyping | 12 | 3.7% | 57.1% |
| Personality Type | 7 | 2.2% | 33.3% |

Nineteen of the 21 study participants viewed poverty, child sexual abuse and low self-esteem as major contributing factors to human trafficking; 18 out of 21 study participants identified lack of support system, past victimization, sexualization of women and demand for sexual acts as major contributing factors to human trafficking; 17 out of

21 study participants viewed high revenue associated with the industry and the low risk for exploiters as major contributing factors to human trafficking. The fewest number of participants viewed high level of crime and/or war, police and political corruption, gender stereotyping, and personality type as major contributing factors to human trafficking.

Table 10

TVPA Awareness Correlations

| | | Importance of Harsher Penalties | Importance of Universal Definition of Human Trafficking | Awareness of TVPA | Importance of Tier Placements |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Importance of Harsher Penalties | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .755** | -.111 | .689* |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 | .660 | .028 |
| | N | 19 | 18 | 18 | 10 |
| Importance of Universal Definition of Human Trafficking | Pearson Correlation | .755** | 1 | -.133 | .370 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | | .610 | .328 |
| | N | 18 | 18 | 17 | 9 |
| Awareness of TVPA | Pearson Correlation | -.111 | -.133 | 1 | .040 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .660 | .610 | | .919 |
| | N | 18 | 17 | 19 | 9 |
| Importance of Tier Placements | Pearson Correlation | .689* | .370 | .040 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .028 | .328 | .919 | |
| | N | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

A correlation test was administered to examine if positive or negative relationships existed among identified variables while also determining the strength of the correlation and the statistical significance of the correlations. There was a strong,

positive correlation (.755) between the scores on the importance of universal definition of human trafficking and the importance of harsher penalties and this was statistically significant at the .001 level, There was also a moderate positive correlation between the scores on the importance of tier placements and the importance of harsher penalties (.689); and this was statistically significant at the .05 level $r(21) = .689$ $p < .05$. There was a weak negative correlation (-.111) between the scores on the awareness of TVPA and the importance of harsher penalties. There was a moderate positive correlation (.370) between the scores on the importance of tier placements and the importance of universal definition of human trafficking.

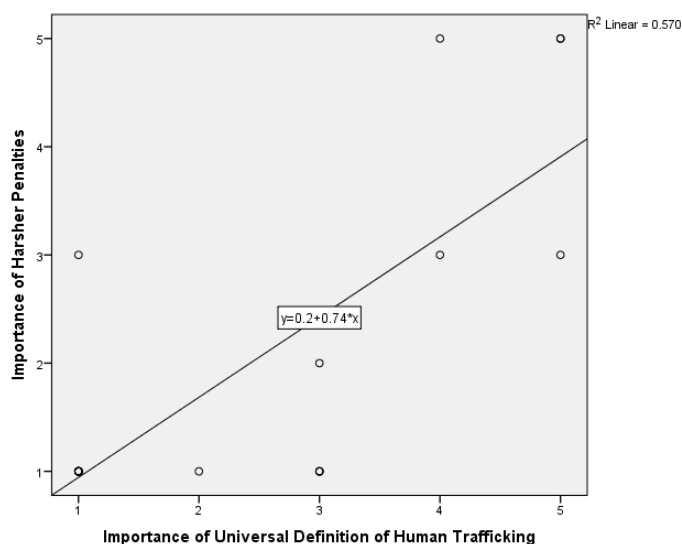


Figure 1. TVPA Propositions.

Table 10 and Figure 1 illustrate positive correlation between the importance of harsher penalties and the importance of the universal definition of human trafficking. Professionals who considered penalties to be harsher also considered that the universal

definition of human trafficking should be stronger and the later could be a predictor variable for the former with 57 % frequency.

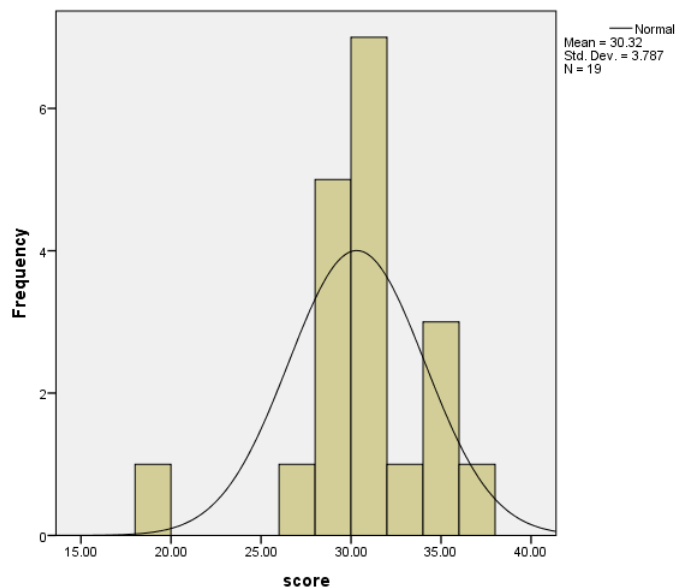


Figure 2. Knowledge of Human Trafficking Contributing Factors Histogram.

Figure 2 demonstrates the skewed distribution of the knowledge of contributing factors score with a longer left tail. Out of a possible score of 45, the mean of respondents' score was 30.32.

Qualitative Data

Inferences were drawn from qualitative data obtained from the questionnaire. The qualitative data examined the challenges human trafficking professionals face when working with human trafficking victims/survivors.

The qualitative section of the questionnaire included the following questions:
 What are some of the challenges you face in working with human trafficking victims?;
 How does sexual objectification of women contribute to the high demand of human trafficking?; What are some of your recommendations to improve: a) Quality of the

services, b) Accessibility of the services, c) Prevention services, d) Services for educating the public. Based on the respondents' answers to these questions several prominent themes were apparent: distinction between the investigative function and the service delivery function of the law enforcement and the social service professionals in working with the trafficking victims, mechanisms to reduce/eliminate the fear of the victims in their interactions with law enforcement, ensuring the safety of the victims from the perpetrators/organized trafficking gang, training for law enforcement on the management mechanisms in dealing with the victims, language proficiency/interpretation services, and economic choices for the victims.

Interpretations to the Findings

The study found that the majority of the respondents are women and they were within the age range of 45-54 years old. Based on this finding the researchers are able to infer that middle-aged women are predominantly involved in the survivorship of human trafficking victims/survivors. The most identified profession to participate in the study was a profession outside of social work, law enforcement, and volunteering and the most common duration of work within the human trafficking population was five years or more. The duration of work within the human trafficking population and the most identified age range of 45- 54 years old could be due to these individuals having more time to dedicate to the human trafficking victims' rehabilitation. The low numbers of social workers, law enforcement professionals, and volunteers may be due to the high demand of their respective fields limiting their availability to participate in the study. The study showed that 47.6 % of the respondents frequently interact with survivors of

human trafficking survivors on a weekly basis. The frequent interaction illustrates their dedication to the human trafficking population and the extensive amount of needs of the human trafficking survivors. The most identified level of expertise in working with human trafficking survivors among respondents was advanced. This can be due to the majority of the participants reporting five or more years as their duration of working with the human trafficking population.

The majority of the study participants viewed poverty, child sexual abuse, and low self-esteem as major contributing factors to human trafficking. Child sexual abuse is a human trafficking risk factor and when young boys and girls had low self-esteem, they became more vulnerable to recruitment into the human trafficking industry. The abuse through the exploitation fulfills the victims' current wants and needs and provides a sense of false belonging to a harmful environment (Montgomery-Devlin, 2008). In countries stricken with poverty, individuals are trafficked to improve their socioeconomic status of the family. The ways in which individuals or trafficking victims can improve the socioeconomic status are: they can be sold to reimburse the absence of revenue; sold to pay family debt; and sold to have accessible cash for medical emergencies (Shelley, 2010). Study participants also identified lack of support systems, past victimization, sexualization of women, and demand for sexual acts as major contributing factors to human trafficking. Vulnerabilities for American children and youth sex trafficking victims include loss of parent or caregiver, runaway, sexual identity issues and lack of support systems (Clawson et al., 2009, p. 8). Luty and Lanier (2012) highlighted that recurring victimization is apt to manifest into a cycle of violence. Sequentially, victims

are likely to become traffickers by repeating and modeling behavior and crimes committed against them by sex traffickers; they recruit other women and girls into involuntary prostitution. The daily promotion of sexualization of women and interactions in modern societies increases the acceptance of sex trafficking. Gender stereotyping and the sexualization of women are influential societal elements that contribute to the prevalence of sex trafficking. The entertainment industry fuels the demand and the purchasing of sex acts through advertisements, commercials, billboards, and pornography. In the media, women are presented as sex objects and as victims. Presenting women in this way influences the support of sexual violence (Rosselli & Stankikewicz, 2009). The supply and demand aspect of human trafficking was identified among respondents as an important contributing factor of human trafficking.

The researchers analyzed the qualitative data gathered from the questionnaire and six emergent themes were prevalent. The first theme was distinction between the investigative function and the service delivery function of the law enforcement and the social service professionals in working with the trafficking victims. Professionals who serve the trafficking population do not have enough resources to support programs that assist victims and meet their needs. The ability to seek this variety of resources can be a demanding responsibility and overwhelming for a victim of sex trafficking due to the different functions of law enforcement and service delivery, as a respondent shared:

Our community citizens and law enforcement must have mind and heart changes to understand what trafficking is, to see victims as victims and what to look for and be willing to support them.

Another respondent shared:

There is a lack of services to women not involved with the criminal justice system. For women that leave a trafficking situation but are not pressing charges or pursuing legal remedies, there is a lack of cohesive strategy to meet victims' needs.

The second theme was mechanisms to reduce/eliminate the fear of the victims in their interactions with the law enforcement. Specialized services available to victims of sex trafficking are not being utilized due to victims being fearful of governmental assistance and involvement with the law as anti-trafficking efforts may cause victims to remain fearful of deportation, revenge, and imprisonment. Respondents stated that law enforcement must develop a more humanistic perspective of victims of sex trafficking. A respondent who identified their profession as law enforcement stated:

As law enforcement we are often the first to come into contact with the victims, but handing them off to a victim service provider is typically neither smooth nor quick...law enforcement should view the victims as victims (I'm in law enforcement so this is doubly frustrating). ssss

Another respondent stated:

Law enforcement may not be trained in asking the correct questions and there is often low sensitivity and empathy given to the girls/women... There definitely needs to be a non-judgmental attitude when working with victims as well as not using shame or shaming terms (prostitute/ho).

The third theme was ensuring the safety of the victims from the perpetrators/organized trafficking gang. Respondents specified that safety is a problem and stressed the importance of victims being able to contact service providers outside of business hours. Respondents also identified the low availability of emergency shelters and safe houses as a barrier to ensuring the safety of victims from perpetrators. The assortment of traumatic events is followed by a trafficking victim experiencing a complete sense of uncertainty and inability to cope with the effects. Without assistance and help for healing, victims are at risk for re-victimization and lack of connection to services that prevent such events from recurring (Johnson, 2012).

Another theme identified from the qualitative data was training for law enforcement on the management mechanisms in dealing with the victims. A wide range of entities are responsible for delivering services to the human trafficking population. There is a drastic need for service providers to understand the comprehensive elements of human trafficking. Majority of the respondents agreed that training is needed for law enforcement and all service providers to better understand and assist the human trafficking population. One respondent shared:

Those providing the services need to be fully educated on what human trafficking is, how it happens, and they need to understand how trauma shapes the brain to have a realistic understanding of a victim's mindset and better skills for appropriately interacting with and serving each individual victim.

Another respondent shared:

Ongoing training to all service providers including law enforcement is needed regarding trafficking and how to identify/report victims. There also needs to be competency in trauma and the effects of trauma on the brain and behavior. There needs to be a very clear mission that there be no judgment or shame put on victims. Providers should be aware of resources in the community and refer accordingly.

Another theme generated from the qualitative data is language proficiency and interpretation services available to human trafficking victims seeking comprehensive services. Victims do not seek services due to trust issues, language barriers, lack of transportation and the fear and shame associated with being identified as a sex trafficking victim (Walker, 2012). Respondents identified that language barriers and social stigmatization are associated with the history of human trafficking and its origin, and that information pertaining to the prevalence of this phenomenon should be more accessible in different languages to survivors of human trafficking.

The final theme is the economic choices for the victims/survivors of human trafficking. Respondents indicated that victims of sex trafficking view money as an emblem of survival in the sex industry and are empowered by witnessing the transaction of money for their services. The literature review suggested that society perceives women as economically, physically, and socially inferior to their male counterparts. The normalization of commercial sex leads to women becoming highly profitable entities. Among perpetrators, there is a denial of responsibility, injury and victimization there is

the credence that trafficked women had financial and sexual advantages from the trafficking business (Antonopoulos & Winterdyk, 2005).

Summary

This chapter presented findings in the context of 21 respondents' knowledge and perspectives about contributing factors to sex trafficking and the impact on the service utilization patterns of the victims/survivors. After completing the compilation of qualitative and quantitative data it became apparent that the professionals' perspectives of barriers to seeking services for victims of sex trafficking are unique. The quantitative aspect of the study shows that professionals working with human trafficking survivors have a high level of expertise and numerous years of experience working with the human trafficking population. There is a reoccurring stressed need for improved development of service delivery function. The quantitative study also revealed that major contributing factors of human trafficking are poverty, low self-esteem, history of child sexual abuse, lack of support system, past victimization, sexualization of women, and the demand for sexual acts. The qualitative data demonstrated that professionals acknowledged the necessity to further ensure the safety of victims of trafficking through increased communication with other service providers and increased availability of emergency shelter. In evaluating the qualitative data, it appeared that there was an overall need for extensive training for professionals who work with human trafficking survivors and the need for comprehensive recuperative services.

Chapter 5

Conclusion, Summary, and Recommendations

This study examined the perspectives of professionals working with the human trafficking population on the major contributing factors of human trafficking and their impact on victims seeking services within the service utilization domains. In analyzing the responses of the study participants, the major contributing factors identified by the respondents were poverty, low self-esteem, history of child sexual abuse, lack of support system, past victimization, sexualization of women, and the demand for sexual acts. These contributing factors correlate with some of contributing factors identified in the review of the literature. Although human trafficking is a growing phenomenon, there are limited comprehensive recuperative services available to victims and survivors. However, professionals are attempting to utilize available resources to assist victims of human trafficking with meeting their extensive needs for food, financial support, shelter, protection and legal assistance.

Of the total study participants, 23.8% reported they had worked with the human trafficking population for five years or longer, and only 47.6% of participants felt they had an advanced level of expertise working with survivors of human trafficking. The study showed that 90.5% of participants identified themselves as women, while 9.5% identified themselves as male. The majority of study participants described their profession to be independent of social work, law enforcement, or volunteering.

The study findings indicate that training for professionals who work with the human trafficking population needs to be more centered on the victims' needs and

vulnerabilities, rather than the prosecution of traffickers. The study findings also suggest that service delivery needs to be coordinated among various service providers to establish appropriate services in a way that is more transparent and accessible.

An independent samples t-test was employed to observe if there was a significant difference between younger study participants and older study participants in their knowledge of the major contributing factors to human trafficking. The results demonstrated there was not a statistically significant difference (mean difference = 0.92857) between the two groups, however, the younger study participants were somewhat more knowledgeable (mean = 31). The younger participants' slightly higher level of knowledge could be attributed to the recently increased societal efforts to enhance awareness of human trafficking.

A correlation test was utilized to explore if positive or negative relationships were present among identified variable while correspondingly examining the statistical significance of the correlation among the identified variables. The correlation test demonstrated there was a strong positive correlation (0.755) between the scores on the importance of the universal definition of human trafficking and the importance of harsher penalties. This combined with the limited amount of information available about perpetrators suggests that a clear universal definition of human trafficking is needed to adequately prosecute perpetrators based on the human trafficking crimes they commit. A clear universal definition of human trafficking may lead to improved documentation of human trafficking victims. Harsher penalties may decrease motivation and defer perpetrators from engaging in human trafficking activity.

Furthermore, there was a moderate positive correlation (.689) between the scores on the importance of tier placements and the importance of harsher penalties. This correlation was statistically significant at .05 level, $r(21) = .689$ $p < .05$. This may indicate that harsher penalties in other countries will improve governmental action to combat human trafficking, thus improving tier category placements within the international community.

Implications for Social Work

Social workers are faced with the demand to combat social issues through an array of professional, organizational, and institutional challenges in a broad social and economic context. Human trafficking is a global issue in which professionals in social work must continually educate each other to increase collaborative efforts to prevent and alleviate its contributing risk factors, as well as the barriers encountered by survivors in seeking services for recovery. Education on a social problem such as human trafficking is fundamental in the field of social work as there is an increased awareness of the environmental factors that form and contribute to this issue. Social workers must avoid endorsing the myths of human trafficking and nourish the humanistic approach of understanding the various components of human trafficking.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics

Consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics (1996), social workers should demonstrate the competency to enhance well-being and help meet the basic needs of a people. With the special attention to the needs and empowerment of human trafficking survivors, social workers need to be attentive and be able to reach out to them on the

micro level. Through this, social workers can demonstrate cultural humility and social diversity. The versatility of the social work profession and its values make this the ideal profession to help in combatting human trafficking.

Recommendations

The recommendations that emerged from this study are presented under the different practice domains of social work which include direct practice, diversity, policy and research.

Micro Level Practice

In order to initiate direct practice at the micro level, it is essential to recognize human trafficking victims as victims, not as criminals. It is also important for service providers to obtain intensive training that prepares them to work with survivors of abuse, issues pertinent to the human trafficking population, and the special needs and challenges of human trafficking survivors. To increase diversity in micro level practice, services, programs and educational curriculum should be made available in a variety of different languages within diverse communities. Professionals working with the human trafficking population should demonstrate cultural humility with service delivery meeting the needs of diverse communities. Moreover, professionals working with human trafficking survivors and their families should collaborate to create safety plans to prevent survivors

from reentering the industry; these safety plans will highlight safety goals, action plans, and safety networks to prevent the risk of re-victimization.

Mezzo Level Practice

On the mezzo level, community organizations that serve the human trafficking population should implement strategies to increase screening and identification of trafficking victims. Efforts should be made to increase education and awareness by utilizing consistent language when discussing the topic of human trafficking. The researchers propose the development of a victim-centered agency that connects identified victims and survivors to comprehensive recuperative services. The proposed agency should assist identified survivors of human trafficking and their families by locating recuperative services for identified survivors, connecting identified survivors to recuperative services in their community, and funding recuperative services for identified survivors as needed.

At the mezzo level, educating families and networks of survivors is vital as they need to know about the effects of trauma. Once these groups of support networks for survivors have an understanding of the effects of a trauma, they are better prepared to provide emotional support and intervene. The intended outcome of securing recuperative services and supports necessary is to stabilize the well-being of survivors, and provide them with the verbal, mental, or physical skills needed to transition back into society. The proposed agency should also coordinate innovative outreach efforts to inform survivors and communities about resources available and their accessibility; the

expectation is that more victims will access resources when deemed necessary and communities will be more knowledgeable.

Macro Level Practice

The recommendation for direct practice is for a national and statewide standard human trafficking educational curriculum to be developed to promote early prevention and intervention at the macro level. This educational module should be a culturally appropriate prevention curriculum that is presented to at-risk youth at various levels of educational and for school-wide initiatives in which teachers, counselors and other school staff are trained on the topic of human trafficking. For example, school staff could wear a blue ribbon for a particular amount of time and throughout that period, schools would facilitate activities to educate and promote awareness of human trafficking.

For macro policy recommendations, the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (2000) and its reauthorizations need a reformed and clear definition of "severe forms of trafficking" in order to assess who is eligible for benefits and assistance. In addition, the language of this policy aimed to combat human trafficking could be more inclusive as morality and socially constructed views of human trafficking have impacted its implementation. These shortcomings in the creation and modification of anti-trafficking policy do not grant protection to all victims from every form of trafficking. The researchers also recommend that permanent safe housing become an supplementary service under the reauthorized TVPA Act of 2013, and this needs to be offered to whether the victims are both U.S. citizens or non-citizens.

Victims are protected under federal protective custody; nevertheless, independent of this protection, there is not an abundance of protection for victims especially with the low availability of homes and shelters for victims. Shelters and housing needs to be specific to the needs of human trafficking victims – domestic violence shelters are ill-equipped to meet the unique safety needs of trafficking victims because human trafficking offenders work in groups and organize their crime. Another policy recommendation is the innovation of a public registry for trafficking offenders. On the macro level, creating a public registry for trafficking offender under the TPVA will raise awareness within communities that human trafficking is a growing problem. Furthermore, this would make the crime less appealing to perpetrators because the registry would provide a list of identified trafficking offenders and neighborhoods in which the crimes have been prevalent. Also if a public registry was implemented, it could encourage more victims to testify against their offenders.

Future Research

Regarding research recommendations, future studies should be conducted to identify victims of human trafficking to explore firsthand accounts of this social issue. Firsthand accounts will educate professionals on what victims identify as barriers to seeking comprehensive recuperative services. More research needs to be conducted to explore the most effective treatment mechanisms for trafficking victims, particularly treatment mechanisms for traumatic events. The researchers recommend that more research be conducted to examine perpetrator risk factors and their association with the organized crime of human trafficking. Future research needs to inform with specific

models that have proven to work to improve policies for survivors of human trafficking to help rehabilitate them economically and socially.

Additionally, future research should provide recommendations on a timeframe to collect data that is more directly correlated to sex trafficking. Currently data regarding the recruitment and trafficking of victims are estimated annually since every incident is not reported.

Future research should include data concerning the entire process of trafficking from the beginning to end. Studies with survivors must follow their process of reintegration into communities, psychological and physical effects after survival and coping mechanisms. Researchers should investigate more reports from countries other than the United States to gain a better understanding of how a particular community or region implemented requirements by TPVA. Another suggestion for research is to use more surveys and questionnaires of victims and perpetrators to gain better insight of their own reactions, thoughts, and feelings about their experiences.

Conclusion

This study assessed human services professionals' perspectives on the contributing factors to sex trafficking and the impact on the service utilization patterns of survivors. The main contributing factors of sex trafficking identified by professionals included mainly victim and societal risk factors. Human services professionals highlighted the need for improved training for law enforcement and service providers. Six relevant themes were identified in the study through the compilation of quantitative and qualitative derived from a probability sample, which focused on improving the

service delivery to survivors of human trafficking. To reduce barriers to comprehensive recuperative services, professionals should empower and advocate for trafficking survivors to help diminish the challenges survivors encounter while reintegrating into society. The study demonstrates there is a need for survivors to not be treated as defiant individuals and as resilient individuals.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Human Subjects Approval Letter



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

To: Rhonda Okonkwo & Chenee Robinson

Date: October 14, 2014

From: Research Review Committee

RE: HUMAN SUBJECTS APPLICATION

Your Human Subjects application for your proposed study, "Perspectives of human service professionals on the contributing factors to sex trafficking and the impact on the service utilization patterns of the victims/survivors", is **Approved as Exempt**. Discuss your next steps with your thesis/project Advisor.

Your human subjects Protocol # is: **14-15-013**. Please use this number in all official correspondence and written materials relative to your study. Your approval expires one year from this date. Approval carries with it that you will inform the Committee promptly should an adverse reaction occur, and that you will make no modification in the protocol without prior approval of the Committee.

The committee wishes you the best in your research.

Appendix B

Informed Consent Form

Informed Consent

I hereby agree to participate in a study entitled, Perspectives of human service professionals on the contributing factors to Sex Trafficking and the Impact on the service utilization patterns of the victims/survivors and I understand that the participation in the study involves the following:

Why is this study being conducted?

This study will be conducted by Chenee Robinson and Rhonda Okonkwo, MSW II students at California State University, Sacramento to examine the perspectives of human trafficking professionals on sex trafficking contributing factors and its impact on victims utilizing services. I have been requested to take part in this study because of my extensive involvement with the human trafficking industry.

What am I being asked to do?

I will be one of about 50 respondents in the area who will be asked to sign a consent form and complete a questionnaire that will generally take about 25 minutes to complete.

I will be asked what some people consider to be sensitive questions about my work with the human trafficking population.

Is this voluntary?

Yes. I am under no obligation to participate. I am also free to discontinue my participation at any time.

What are the advantages of participating?

Participating in this study will contribute to generalizable knowledge about the human trafficking industry.

Is this confidential?

Yes. Nothing learned about me by the researcher will be told to anyone else. The study will remove identifying information from my questionnaire. All records will be identified only by a number, and the link between that number and my name will be kept

in a locked file that is available only to the principal researchers. At the completion of the study set for June 2015, all identifying information will be destroyed and only the compiled content of the questionnaires will be kept. Everything I say will be strictly confidential and any reports or other published data based on this study will appear only in the form of summary statistics or condensed account without the names of or other identifying information about the participants.

What risks do I face if I participate?

There are no risks expected in this study due to the content of the questions the participants will be answering. The participants will be answering questions that relate to items that they normally encounter in their respected work professions.

Who do I contact if I have questions about this research?

If I have any questions about the study, I can ask the researchers.

**My signature below indicates that I consent to complete the questionnaire, that I can receive a copy of this consent form, and that I read and understood it.

Appendix C

Questionnaire

Perspectives of human service professionals on the contributing factors to sex trafficking and the impact of service utilization patterns of victims/survivors

Questionnaire

(Please complete the following to the best of your ability)

Section I

1. Please indicate your gender

| | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Male | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Female | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Which range includes your age?

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Younger than 18 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18-24 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25-34 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35-44 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45-54 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 55-64 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 65 years or older | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. What Profession best describes you?

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Social Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. How long have you worked with the victims/survivors of human trafficking?

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Less than 6 months | |
| 6 months to less than 1 year | |
| 1 year to less than 3 years | |
| 3 years to less than 5 years | |
| 5 years or more | |

5. How frequently do you interact with the victims/survivors of human trafficking?

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Every day | |
| Every week | |
| Every 2 -3 weeks | |
| Every month | |
| Every 2-3 months | |
| Every 4-6 months | |
| Once or twice a year | |

6. What level of expertise would you place yourself in relation to working with the victims/survivors of human trafficking?

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Very advanced | |
| Advanced | |
| Average | |
| Basic | |
| Very basic | |

Section II

| Please check the option that most closely reflects your opinion to the following statements. (1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Having a prior history of abuse (i.e. sexual, emotional, and physical) is a prominent contributing factor to individuals becoming vulnerable to human trafficking. | | | | | |
| Poverty is a high indicator that an individual will become vulnerable to becoming a victim of human trafficking. | | | | | |
| Substance abuse can lead to an individual become a part of the human trafficking industry as a victim. | | | | | |
| The high profits generated with the human trafficking industry motivates perpetrators to participate in the industry. | | | | | |
| The amount of services available for human trafficking victims adequately meet their needs. | | | | | |
| Current anti-trafficking laws create barriers for survivors of human trafficking to seek assistance from organizations and community services. | | | | | |
| Trafficking victims are sufficiently informed about the recuperative services available within the community. | | | | | |
| Legal protection is granted to all victims from every form of human trafficking. | | | | | |
| The entertainment industry fuels the demand and the purchasing of sex acts. | | | | | |

Section III

7. On a scale from 1 – 5, with 1 being extremely important and 5 being extremely unimportant, how important is implementing harsher penalties and convictions of identified perpetrators of human trafficking?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | |

8. On a scale from 1 – 5 with 1 being extremely important and 5 being extremely unimportant, how do you rate the importance of having a universal definition of human trafficking?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | |

9. Are you aware of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA 2000) and its reauthorizations? (If no skip to question 11)

| | |
|-----|--|
| Yes | |
| No | |

10. If yes, on a scale from 1 – 5, with 1 being extremely important and 5 being extremely unimportant, how important are the tier placement categories on other countries? (Tier placements are categories placed by the U.S. Department of State. They are based on the amount of government action to combat trafficking).

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | |

Section IV

11. What are some of the challenges you face in working with human trafficking victims?
12. How does sexual objectification of women contribute to the high demand of human trafficking?

**13. In your view what are the major contributing factors to human trafficking?
(check all that apply)**

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited access to education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child physical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family disruption | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Low self esteem | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of support systems | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gender stereotyping | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Past victimization | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personality Type (i.e. passive) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inadequate guardianship | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sexualization of women | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Demand for sexual acts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercialization of sexual acts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High revenue associated with the industry | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Low risk for exploiters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High levels of crime and/or war | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Police and political corruption | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please answer items a-d on the next page.

14. What are some of your recommendations to improve:

- a) Quality of the services
- b) Accessibility of the services
- c) Prevention services
- d) Services for educating the public

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