



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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DATE - 30 July 2021

The long road to winning the battle against trafficking (The Hindu, GS-1,2)

Context:- World Day against Trafficking in Persons was celebrated on July 30. It is also a time to reflect on India's human trafficking crisis. According to a child rights non governmental organisation (NGO) an estimated 9,000 children have been rescued after being trafficked for labour between April 2020 and June 2021. So we can say that there are 21 children who have been trafficked every day over nearly 15 months. The Childline of WCD helpline received 44 lakh distress calls over 10 months.

Why Child trafficking:-

- Owners are turning to cheap labour to recoup their losses from the novel coronavirus pandemic because of this children as young as 12 are trafficked across States to work in factories in appalling conditions.
- 4 children, between 12 and 16 years in November 2020, died after being trafficked for labour from Bihar to Rajasthan; some of them had injuries from beatings.

- Child marriages are also rampant, there are over 10,000 cases tracked between April and August 2020.
- About 391 child marriages were stopped in April to May 2021 in M.P.
- while in Odisha, 726 child marriages were prevented between January-May 2021.
- The factors such as coronavirus causing increased vulnerability are identifiable.
- Loss of income and economic crisis
- Corona Virus is causing families reduced capacity to care for children in the long term.
- Loss of parental care due to death, illness or separation of parents from children which is placing children at heightened risk for violence, neglect or exploitation.
- These factors are compounded with child labour and child marriage provided by law, as well as the scrutiny of schools and society.
- Cyber trafficking:- The increase in Internet access in current times makes the young population a sitting duck for cyber crime.
- A report from a child rights group in India noted that popular social media platforms and free messaging apps are often used to contact young people.
- The trafficker or middleman lures the person to a place under the pretext of offering him employment.
- Threats of violence from the trafficker, and, importantly, the absence of any identifiable authority to approach other than the police.
- A recent report by the UN.O.D.C on the effects of the pandemic on trafficking echoes these findings.
- This report said that traffickers are taking advantage of the loss of livelihoods and the increasing amount of time spent online to entrap victims
- There is an increased demand for child sexual exploitation material online due to lockdowns.

The Bill to prevent the Human Trafficking:-

- Where the system is found lacking is in the implementation of the laws.
- A deep discussion is required on the provisions of the Bill, particularly with respect to bringing in the National Investigation Agency and increasing the punishment for offences which also includes the death penalty as an option in some cases.
 - But nowhere in the world we have examples that more stringent laws, particularly the death penalty, have any greater deterrent effect on crime.
- The draft Bill also provides for AHTUs/ committees at all 3 levels i.e. the national, State and district levels.
- Legislating without will to implement and monitor effectiveness is futile.
- Judiciary faces a different challenge: for example, According to government data there were 140 acquittals and only 38 convictions in 2019.
- So we can say that failure of investigation and the cases cannot be solved by the draft Bill's provision
- Trials can drag on for years as we know there is a huge pendency of cases in our judiciary
- Proper case management must be introduced to give meaning to the "fast track" courts which are mentioned in the Bill.
- Other problems include the low number of beneficiaries of monetary compensation and the lack of consistent access to psychological counselling remains a wall in realizing human rights.

Way forward:-

- Importance of rehabilitation and implementation is key.
- Most victims of trafficking are from low income communities for whom the novel coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns have caused long term financial distress so we must take poverty and economic induced vulnerability at the core of the issue.

- School, community awareness programme about the human trafficking.

Swarn Singh

NISHTHA CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

**NISHTHA CAPACITY BUILDING
PROGRAMME**

GS PAPER-2, POLICIES

SOURCE-Pib

Context:

- As many as approx 120 teachers and principals of EMRSs from the state of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh completed a 40 days' NISHTHA program -National initiative for

School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program, a national flagship program of NCERT from 19th June 2021.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NCERT have joined hands for a joint mission for NISHTHA Capacity Building Program for conducting and building such programs across 350 functional EMRS schools across India.
- The participants were capacitated on 18 comprehensive and holistic modules which will cover different aspects of the education sector such as Learning Outcomes, Assessment Practices, learner-centered pedagogy, Art-Integrated Learning, Gender parity, Covid Response of Schools, POCSO Act, Pedagogy of Science, Mathematics, Language, Social Science, and Other Subjects.

NISHTHA

- NISHTHA Teachers Training Programme 2020 – NISHTHA stands for National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement.
- NISHTHA is a capacity building and enhancement program for “Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training”.
- It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the grassroots stage.
- It is expected from this body to fulfill the long-standing vision of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) to achieve academic excellence and brilliance in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- The NISHTHA Training program for EMRS teachers declared the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) recommendation of “Providing In-service affirms uninterrupted professional development as these will be strengthened and substantially enlarged to meet the needs of enriched teaching-learning processes for standard education.”

The objectives of the NISHTHA mega-training program are:

1. To provide all the elementary stage teachers on literacy outcomes, school-based assessment, learner-centered pedagogy, new initiatives in education, and contending diverse needs of children through multiple pedagogies, etc.
2. To surveillance and provide huge support to the teachers using multiple modes up to the classroom level, in view of **better** learning outcomes of the students.
3. To align state functionaries and school principals on learning consequences, national achievement survey, learner-centered pedagogy, and new advantage in school education so that they became competent to monitor schools and extend their support to schools and educational institutions for the implementation of new outcomes.

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