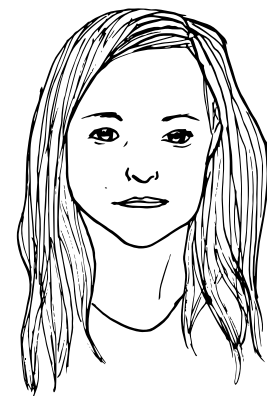


GENDER DISCRIMINATION

GIRLS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- 40% of rural Mexican girls spend 20 hours a week on household chores, in addition to school.
- 1 in 7 girls in developing countries are married by the age of 15.
- 50% are married by 20.
- In developing countries 14 million girls between 15 and 19 give birth every year - and are five times more likely to die from complications.
- 46% women in Kenya experienced sexual abuse as a child.

Source: Girls Count <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15154>



HOW DOES GENDER DISCRIMINATION MAKE WOMEN AND GIRLS MORE VULNERABLE TO BEING TRAFFICKED?

In many countries, culture determines that women are treated as less than equal. In South Asia, girls being bought and sold is widespread. Parents are often expected to pay a dowry to their daughter's future husband.

By putting a price on her, this tradition sets the girl up as saleable goods in her own eyes, and everybody else's. Girls are often seen as being 'on loan' to their own families until they are married, when they 'belong' to their husband and his family. In either situation they are expected to work for their family. The effect of these practices on a woman's self esteem – and on the path she takes in life – is enormous and a trafficker will exploit these traditions. He may offer to marry a girl – especially if her parents are poor and stand to benefit from her marriage. Traffickers will often remove the need for parents to pay a dowry – money they are desperately keen to save. But once married, the trafficker has control over the girl, to do with as he pleases.



The way women are depicted in a society also contributes to discrimination and so makes women vulnerable to being trafficked. If a culture accepts that products can be sold by connecting them to pictures of women as sex objects, then the likelihood of women being trafficked increases.

HOW DOES LACK OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT MAKE WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE TO BEING TRAFFICKED?

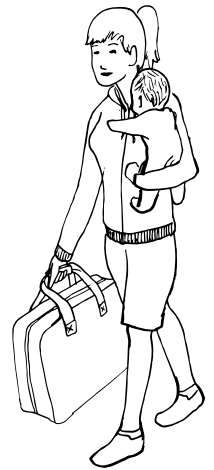
- Unequal access to education limits women's opportunities to increase their earnings in more skilled occupations
- Lack of legitimate and fulfilling employment opportunities particularly in rural communities can lead to risky migration decisions.



LESSON #4

Handout 4

- Sex-selective migration policies and restrictive emigration policies/laws, instituted often as a “protective” measure, limit women’s legitimate migration.
- Women have less access to information on migration/job opportunities, recruitment channels, and lack of awareness of the risks of migration compared to men.
- If traditional community attitudes and practices tolerate violence against women, this will facilitate trafficking.



All of the above leads women to take risky migration decisions, trusting traffickers who sell them into exploitation. It also leads women to choose jobs which are on the margins and are unregulated, again increasing the possibility of exploitation.

EDUCATION AND TRAFFICKING - FACTS

- In Nepal “districts that have the highest rates of female illiteracy, such as Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk, with illiteracy 90% and 92% respectively, are also among worst districts for girl trafficking”

Source: World education - Nepal

- In 2001, 21.7% of adult population were literate in Nepal.

Source: Asian development bank. Country Profile Nepal
http://www.adb.org/gender/final_nepal.pdf

- 68% of young sub Saharan African girls describe themselves as illiterate.

Source: New York Times, 25th Jan 2005

- Education “offers the child an improved opportunity to be less dependent on men in later life. It increases her prospect of obtaining work outside the home”.

Source: UN factsheet 23

“Nearly half of women in Uganda and more than half in Tanzania reported having been physically abused by a male teacher”

Source: Girls Count
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15154>

