A Social Ecological Framework for addressing Social Issues

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A Social Ecology Framework
For addressing social problems

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Introduction (Mo)

What is a social problem?
Process
Framework for Analysis
Case Study: Human Trafficking
What is a “social” problem?

Poverty
Inequality
Injustice
Human trafficking
...other?

Where do we begin?
Process

Effective context
› Finding the most appropriate/effective “lens” to address an issue
› Understanding the multiple levels of impact (individual, community, nation, global) and sectors to address (economic, political, etc)

Understanding “who we are,” in the process.
› Are we an NGO? Are we a public entity? Private entity? Social entrepreneur? Member of community? Victim?

Developing a conceptual framework (“logframe”) for analysis
› Helps multi-sector (or multi-disciplinary) teams develop common vocabulary and understanding of the effective context.
Social Ecological Framework

... a work in progress...
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<th>Individual Vulnerability</th>
<th>Enabling Exchange Environment</th>
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<td>Technology</td>
<td>Enabling</td>
<td>Education/Stopping</td>
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We are all from different backgrounds with different interests

- Chitvan – social entrepreneurship (social ecology)
- Lyndsey – human trafficking (PPD)
- Alexis – urban planning in SE Asia (PPD)
- Mo – social determinants of health in urban slums (PPD)

So, we decided to select human trafficking to see whether we could develop a conceptual framework to address a social problem through a social ecological “lens.”

We decided to focus on India since “place” is an important consideration for policy/intervention.
Individual vulnerability (Chitvan)

What makes an individual vulnerable to trafficking?
Individual level

80% women and 50% minor
Poverty
Education
Caste System (Ethnicity)
Violence and Neglect
Domestic Abuse
Materialism
Armed conflicts and Ethnic clashes
Community Level
Caste, SES, Physical environment

Superstition (lower caste, rural, uneducated)
Economically marginalized
No opportunities for education
Lack of basic amenities (electricity, sewage system, poor hygiene)
Diseases
Cultural/Religion/Social

- # of children
- Culture of poverty
- No jobs
- Armed conflicts and ethnic clashes
- Natural disaster
- Rigid social structure
- Difficulties in getting married to person you love
- Cultural attitude - girl child
- False expectation and Influence of media
- Seasonal movement for labor
- Inadequate laws - covers 6% (domestic & agriculture is not counted)
- Materialism for grooms in form of dowry
Lack of Recognition
Unaware of laws
Corruption and lack of will to enforce law
Low Human right standard
Migrant – no law
Any thing for “development”
Reluctant to come forward (witnesses) - fear of reprisals
Lack of labor laws
Lack of capital
Fear of stigmatization – no complain
Region - Cross border policy

Better life elsewhere
Migrant has no rights
Jurisdiction problems
National – Policy enforcement

- Adult age 18 – not enforced
- Lack of “public interest”
- NGOs are not part of the policy making
- Contradictory Laws
  - Parliament amending the constitution to making **free and compulsory primary education** a Constitutional Right for children below age of 14 years (93rd Amend. 2001), at the same time we have **labor laws which allow the children of minor age to be employed** in the non-hazardous sections of industrial activities
Technology

- Victims bought and sold online
- Lack of strict cyber laws
- Technology is yet to benefit the victims
- Microplace: financial support to emerging SEVs
  - Investors can choose among 29 different countries by the financial return offered, length of loan offered, geographical area, or social indicators such as whether or not the loan focuses on women, rural areas, and extreme poverty.
Bhartiya Kisan Sangh - Total Rescued 2000 children

- Annual budget: $162.00
- Annual revenue: $23.00

Staff

- Full time: 18
- Part time: 43
- Volunteers: over 100

179 rehabilitated children since 2003

600 children form child labor (2006-2008)

1000 children form sexual exploitation

800 migrating children by serving education and homes a residential schools (2007 -2008)
Enabling Environment (Alexis)

What are the conditions in the physical, social, policy… environment that enable trafficking?
Existing Policies

Penal Code and the Immoral Traffic Act
Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution
United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
Palermo Protocol
Complex Network of actors: NGOs, bi-laterals, global, etc.

Intra-state, inter-state, national, regional, international actors working on trafficking
NATSEC (National Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children)
ATSEC (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children)
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
UN– ILO, UNIFEM, UNICEF, etc.
Multiple Levels of Enabling Environment

Multiple risk factors including poverty, low SES status, lack of education, social and cultural divides, dowry, debt bonds, stigmatization
Police corruption, jurisdictional conflict, slow court proceedings
Relatively open borders with Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
Problems of enforcement at all levels; at the international policy level, lack of commitment by India
Lack of Effectiveness & Coordination with Policies and Interventions

Proliferation of policy without effective enforcement at all levels; little national or international commitment to policies

Limited resources and the complex network and resource-intensive crime of trafficking

Little multilateral enforcement or legal ramifications

The lack inter-sector and cross-sector collaboration, competition for funding, methods of prevention and recovery, lack of understanding the problem, little contextual understanding
Demand (Lindsey)

Who are the consumers of trafficked human beings?
Landlords

Sex Tourists

Brothel owners / Former Prostitutes
Community

Caste System: higher caste position
SES Conditions: debt bondage
Environment: Taken from rural communities and brought to highly urbanized cities
Culture, Religion, and Social Factors

Devadasi
Sex Ratio
Expensive Dowries
State/Province/Region

Corrupt Police
NGO response
Immoral Traffic Prevention Act of 1996
Indians are trafficked within India
› prostitution
› labor
International

Nepal
Adoption Agencies
United Arab Emirates and Gulf countries
UNGIFT
United States ranking system
Technology

Internet has increased sex tourism
World Vision billboard campaign
UNGIFT Public Service Announcements
What happens when a slave is freed? (Mo)

It’s only the beginning…
Post-slavery “trauma” syndrome

Stigma
Fear of going back home (retaliation, violence)
Trauma
Deteriorating health (HIV?)
Legal repercussions (“illegal” immigrants)
Risk of “voluntary” trafficking oneself
Unemployment (socio-economic vulnerability)
Reintegration
Children experience a shocking loss of childhood
Access to services
Literacy
Interventions

What actions or policies can be taken – and at what level – to combat trafficking?
Debt Bondage (Lindsey)

Sankalp Organization
Self – help groups
Support, education, empowerment
Backing by international NGOs
Grassroots level (Chitvan)

- Acknowledge the problem
- Increase awareness (endorsement)
- Educate yourself

Government level
- Support NGOs
- Include them in policy decisions
- Develop a collaborative network for enforcement
- Tackle the problem holistically
Policy and Sector Intervention (Alexis)

Understanding the full problem, contextual factors, and complete network before and during the creation of protocols, laws, and NGO missions

Cross-sector collaboration at all levels international down to the individual

Specification of legal ramifications of trafficking and multilateral enforcement

Productive use of funding to address the core problem
Conclusion (Mo)

Addressing social problems is not easy 😊
Our process demonstrated the importance of effective context and validity of using a social ecological “lens” to analyze a social problem for the purpose of designing effective, sustainable and socially valid interventions and policies.

Where do we go from here?
› Thoughts on the Framework?
› Questions?
Thank you