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A Social Ecological Framework for addressing Social Issues

Alexis Jaclyn Hickman
University of California, Irvine, hickmana@uci.edu

Lyndsey Christoffersen
University of California, Irvine, LChristo@uci.edu

Mo Sami
University of California, Irvine, msami@uci.edu

Chitvan Trivedi
University of California, Irvine, chitvan@uci.edu

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A Social Ecology Framework For addressing social problems

Alexis Hickman
Lyndsey Christoffersen
Chitvan Trivedi
Mojgan Sami
University of California, Irvine

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...

	Individual Vulnerability	Enabling Exchange Environment	Consumer (Demand)	Post Intervention
Individual (Indian National) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Gender • SES Status 				
Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caste System • SES Conditions • Rural/Urban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Physical Environment 				
Cultural/Religion/Social				
State/Province <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy • Enforcement • Third Sector (NGOs) 				
Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross border policy 				
National <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy • Enforcement • Third Sector (NGOs) 				
International <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies/Treaties • Social Perception • Third Sector (NGOs) • Enforcement by international community • Ethics 				
Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling • Education/Stopping 				

Case study: Human trafficking

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

State/Province

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**.

Technology

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?

Individual

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

National

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