



Social Determinants of Child Trafficking addressed by Government and Non-Government Strategies in South and Southeast Asia: An Integrative Review

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**Social Determinants of Child Trafficking addressed by Government and Non-Government
Strategies in South and Southeast Asia: An Integrative Review**

Pragya Gautam Poudel, MPH, MSc; Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee;
Knoxville, TN 37996, U.S.A.

Cristina S. Barroso¹, DrPH; Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee; Knoxville,
TN 37996, U.S.A.

¹Corresponding author: 1914 Andy Holt Ave., Suite 390; University of Tennessee; Knoxville,
TN 37996, U.S.A.

Abstract

Aims: Child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia is widespread and deeply troubling. While several agencies have initiated anti-child trafficking interventions, it is unknown if they address the 21 social determinants of child trafficking identified by Perry and McEwing (2013). The aim of this integrative review was to explore the anti-child trafficking strategies employed by governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) that target the social determinants of child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia, and identify which levels of the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) they address.

Methods: The authors performed a literature search for journal articles and reports by researchers, local or national governments, and international organizations on the prevention of child trafficking in eight South Asian and eight Southeast Asian nations. Identified manuscripts were analyzed to determine which social determinants and socio-ecological levels were addressed by the programs described.

Results: 16 journal articles and 31 reports from the grey literature were identified. The government and NGO anti-child trafficking strategies in 16 South and Southeast Asian nations addressed 15 and 12 of the 21 social determinants, respectively. Social determinants at the intrapersonal, interpersonal, community, and policy levels of SEM were addressed, but failed to address the organizational level.

Conclusion: The gravity of child trafficking necessitates that interventions address all of the 21 social determinants of child trafficking at all levels of the SEM. The authors found no account on any anti-child trafficking intervention from four South Asian and five Southeast Asian nations. Dissemination and continuous evaluation of anti-trafficking interventions are warranted.

Keywords: child-trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child sexual servitude, prevention, intervention, anti-trafficking, government, non-government organizations, social determinants, Southeast Asia, South Asia

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Background

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry that benefits from the enslavement of approximately 20.9 million people worldwide.¹ Every year, 1.8 million children are trafficked globally, two-thirds of which are female.¹ The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) defines a child as "a person below the age of 18 years unless the laws of a particular nation set the legal age for adulthood younger."^{1,2} The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) uses three elements to define child trafficking: *action*, *means*, and *purpose*. The *action* of trafficking involves recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of persons; the *means* of trafficking includes threats, coercion, abuse of power, or victim vulnerability; and, the *purpose* of trafficking is sexual exploitation and non-sexual exploitation such as forced labor, slavery, and organ removal.^{3,4}

Almost every nation in the world is affected by child trafficking, either as a country of origin, transit, or destination.⁵ Many children are illegally transported from underdeveloped or developing nations to industrialized or developed nations.⁶ Trafficked children are forced to engage in dangerous activities such as sexual exploitation, cheap labor work, military conscription, begging, and organ supply.⁷ Commercial sexual exploitation of children is the most common form of child trafficking, which accounts for up to 58% of all trafficking cases. This business includes child pornography, prostitution of children, use of children in live sex shows, and exchange of sex with children as a gift.¹

According to a 2012 United Nations (UN) report, approximately 40% of all trafficked victims in South and Southeast Asia are children.⁸ South Asia includes eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Southeast Asia also includes eight countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos,

Myanmar (Burma), and the Yunnan province of China.^{7,9} In South and Southeast Asia, children are trafficked mostly from under-developed and/or developing nations to the industrialized nations.⁶ For example, in South Asia, children from Nepal and Bangladesh are trafficked to the larger, more industrialized nation of India.¹⁰ Similarly, in Southeast Asia, children are trafficked to Thailand from other Southeast Asian countries.⁷ However, in the last ten years, these destination countries also have become source countries.⁷

Social Determinants

Social determinants are individual, social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health status.¹¹ Perry and McEwing conducted a systematic review to identify the social determinants that influence (lessen or aid) the exploitation of children in Southeast Asia.¹¹ These 21 social determinants are age, border insecurity, caste status, citizenship and documentation, conflict and displacement, culture, demand, domestic violence, ethnicity, family dysfunction, formal education, gender, globalization, poverty, lack of policy and enforcement, marital status, maternal education, migration, trafficking ignorance, virginity, and other (emotional fragility, gang participation, lack of water access, and inclination for risk-taking).¹¹ Perry and McEwing recommended several social and political intervention strategies based on the social determinants. The social intervention strategies include increasing anti-child trafficking awareness campaigns, empowering females by providing quality education, developing sustainable income-generating activities especially for females from low-income families, and involving females in family decision making. Similarly, the recommended political intervention strategies are implementing effective policies to combat the exploitation of women and children such as timely birth and marriage registration, the development of safe migration policies, the involvement of females and survivors of trafficking in the formulation of anti-

trafficking laws and policies, and the inclusion of women's studies and trafficking concerns in school curricula.¹¹

Aims

While several national and international agencies (e.g., governments, the United Nations, and non-government organizations [NGOs]) have initiated anti-child trafficking interventions in South and Southeast Asia, effective coordination among these organizations remains a challenge. Furthermore, it is unknown if any of these efforts address the 21 social determinants of child trafficking. Therefore, the aim of this integrative review was to explore the government and NGOs anti-child trafficking strategies that target the social determinants of child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia, and identify which levels of the socio-ecological model (SEM) are addressed by these anti-child trafficking strategies. An integrative review systematically synthesizes and critiques literature representative of a topic or issue, and potentially generates new approaches to practice on the issue.¹²

Socio-Ecological Framework

The Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) is a theory-based framework that embeds an individual within larger multi-level social systems and emphasizes the interactive influences between individuals and their environments within and across the various levels of this system.^{13,14} The SEM consists of five nested hierarchical levels: intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, community, and policy. The intrapersonal level includes factors related to an individual's knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and biology that influence behaviors. The interpersonal level involves factors such as a person's closest social circle such as family members, friends, and salient others whose interactions may influence the individual's behaviors. At the organizational level, social groups, religious groups, schools, workplaces, and work

groups influence behavior. The community level refers to relationships between organizations, and the policy level includes policies at local, state, and national levels that impact health behavior.^{14, 15} The SEM provides a broader framework to identify the social determinants addressed by governmental and NGOs in South and Southeast Asia, as shown in Figure 1. Alleviation of child trafficking, a complex societal problem, requires an integrated multisector evidence-based prevention approach. Based on the recommendations provided by Perry and McEwing (2013) to use the social determinants of child trafficking to combat child trafficking¹¹, we have classified the 21 social determinants within the five different levels of influence of the socio-ecological model (Figure 1).

[Insert Figure 1 here.]

Methods

From February 2017 to June 2018, the authors performed a systematic literature search in several life and biomedical sciences search engines: PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Academic Search Complete, Google, and Google Scholar. Each search engine was searched using a combination of following keywords/MeSH terms: child trafficking, sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, child sexual exploitation, child sexual servitude, prevention, intervention, anti-trafficking, strategy, programs, third congress, world congress III, government, non-government organizations, social determinants, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. As an example, the search string used in PubMed was: (((("child-trafficking" OR "sex-trafficking" OR "child sexual exploitation" OR "child sexual servitude") AND ("intervention" OR "prevention" OR "anti-trafficking" OR "intervention" OR "strategy" OR "program") AND ("Government" OR "non-government" OR "organization"))("Southeast Asia" OR "South Asia")))).

The *a priori* inclusion criteria for this review were journal articles and/or reports authored by researchers, local or national governments, and/or international organizations on the prevention/intervention of child trafficking in South and/or Southeast Asia; published from January 2005 to June 2017; and written in English, Nepali, or Hindi languages. The authors selected the 2005 to 2017 timeframe as these regions experienced massive migration of women and children because of natural disasters and war, and many of the nations in these regions became source, transit, and destination sites for child trafficking.^{7,16} Articles and/or reports about child trafficking outside of South and/or Southeast Asia, those on adult human trafficking, those only on risk factors of child trafficking, or those published before January 2005 or after July 2017 were excluded.

The authors used a three-step selection process to identify relevant manuscripts. In step 1, the research team conducted general searches using the aforementioned keywords/MeSH terms and search engines, which yielded 27 articles and 49 reports. For step 2, the research team reviewed manuscript titles and abstracts to determine if they met the inclusion criteria, which left 21 articles and 38 reports. In step 3, the research team performed a full review of the articles and reports for relevancy to the research aim, which provided 18 journal articles and 32 reports. The final review of articles and reports for relevancy to the research aim resulted in 16 journal articles and 31 reports (Figure 2). The authors conducted the final analysis on 16 journal articles and 31 reports.

[Insert Figure 2 here.]

For the final analysis, the authors extracted data from the eligible manuscripts: authors, publication date, setting (country), objective, type (scientific article or report), description of action strategies, and social determinants and socio-ecological levels addressed (available as a

supplemental file online). Next, the authors reviewed and summarized the action strategies, social determinants, and levels of influence from the SEM. The authors adapted the 21 social determinants of child trafficking identified by Perry and McEwing and extrapolated them to the SEM.

Results

The authors examined 16 journal articles and 31 reports on anti-child trafficking strategies in South and Southeast Asia for this integrative review. These articles and reports addressed at least one of the 21 social determinants of child trafficking identified by Perry and McEwing.¹¹ In South and Southeast Asia, the governments and NGOs addressed 15 and 12 of 21 social determinants, respectively. Interventions in both regions addressed individual, interpersonal, community, and policy levels of the SEM (Figures 3 and 4). No intervention addressed the organizational level of the SEM. Child trafficking is not associated with a single social determinant, but results from the interaction of the 21 social determinants at different levels of the SEM, as shown in Table 1. The results of this integrative review are presented below by region.

[Insert Table 1 here.]

South Asia

Anti-child trafficking strategies (both governments and NGOs) in four of the eight South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan) addressed 15 of the 21 social determinants of child trafficking (age, border insecurity, caste status, citizenship and documentation, culture, domestic violence, family dysfunction, formal education, gender, poverty, lack of policy and enforcement, marital status, maternal education, migration, and trafficking ignorance) (Table 1). The social determinants of age, formal education, gender,

marital status, migration, and trafficking ignorance were addressed at the intrapersonal level of the SEM. At the interpersonal level, domestic violence, family dysfunction, maternal education, poverty, and trafficking ignorance and were addressed. At the community level, caste status, culture, and trafficking ignorance were addressed. At the policy level, border insecurity, citizenship and documentation, lack of policy and law enforcement, marital status, and migration were addressed. The intrapersonal, interpersonal, community and policy levels of SEM were frequently targeted. Organizational-level interventions were not implemented by government and NGOs in South Asia, as shown in Figure 3. Moreover, the reviewed literature failed to address six social determinants: conflict and displacement, demand, ethnicity, globalization, virginity, and other. The authors were unable to find any published interventions from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and the Maldives.

[Insert Figure 3 here.]

Southeast Asia

The government and NGO action strategies to alleviate child trafficking in three of the eight Southeast Asian countries (Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam) addressed 12 of the 21 social determinants (age, border insecurity, citizenship and documentation, culture, domestic violence, formal education, gender, poverty, lack of policy and enforcement, maternal education, migration, and trafficking ignorance) (Table 1). The social determinants of age, citizenship and documentation, formal education, gender, migration, and trafficking ignorance were addressed at the intrapersonal level of the SEM. At the interpersonal level, domestic violence, maternal education, poverty, and trafficking ignorance were addressed. Culture and trafficking ignorance were addressed at the community level. At the policy level, border insecurity, citizenship and documentation, lack of policy and law enforcement, and migration were addressed. The social

determinants at the intrapersonal, interpersonal, community, and policy levels were addressed. However, the social determinants at the organizational level of the SEM were not targeted, as shown in Figure 2. The literature had no reports of Southeast Asian governments or NGOs addressing the nine social determinants of caste status, conflict and displacement, demand, ethnicity, family dysfunction, globalization, marital status, virginity, and other. No information was found on the nations of Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and the Yunnan province of China. The overall results from Southeast Asia are shown in Figure 4.

[Insert Figure 4 here.]

Discussion

Perry and McEwing identified 21 social determinants that can make children vulnerable to trafficking in Southeast Asia.¹¹ Further, they asserted that these determinants must be addressed by interventions designed to reduce child trafficking. Several South and Southeast Asian governments and NGOs are working to improve the living conditions of poor and vulnerable people in an effort to mitigate child trafficking. Despite these efforts, only few of these intervention strategies have addressed the social determinants of child trafficking. The authors aimed to explore the anti-child trafficking strategies used in South and Southeast Asia that target the social determinants of child trafficking by the level of influence in the SEM. The web-like connection of the social determinants can influence child trafficking directly or indirectly. Therefore, awareness regarding the social determinants of child trafficking at all the levels of the SEM is essential to protect children from trafficking and to abide by international laws.

To protect children from all forms of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation, 194 countries—including every nation in South and Southeast Asia—signed the 1989 UN

Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). International law binds the signing nations to this Convention, which states that the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children deserve protection, regardless of their race/ethnicity, religion, or abilities.¹⁷ Articles 34 and 35 of the Convention state that governments should protect their children and take all the possible measures to prevent child abductions, prostitution, and trafficking.¹⁸

Levels of the Socio-Ecological Model and Public Health Recommendations

At the individual level of the SEM, interventions addressed the social determinants of age, citizenship/documentation, formal education, gender, marital status, migration, and trafficking ignorance. Nepal, India, and Pakistan provide free primary education and several NGOs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal distribute school stationery and uniforms at no cost. However, low school enrollment remains a problem. Children may not attend school because of distantly located schools and the lack of transportation, the inability to buy school supplies, and the need to contribute to the family's income.¹⁹ Young girls are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking due to forced marriage.^{10,20,21} Governments and NGOs may consider coordinating efforts to fully provide school-related funding, school supplies and transportation services to help children living in poverty to attend school. Furthermore, a solid primary education may help children to develop personal safety-related decision-making skills, which may help to reduce their vulnerabilities,²² and may increase their overall skillsets and potential for future employment. For female children, gender discrimination can contribute to limited or denied education, and employment opportunities.²³ Additionally, governments in collaboration with NGOs could focus on gender equality by promoting female empowerment through skills-development and micro-credit loans to initiate small businesses—especially for those in rural areas—could help women to generate income and support their families, and, ultimately prevent

child trafficking. Further, children are at increased risk of being trafficked and exploited because many lack proof of citizenship and legal documentation. For example, in Thailand, article 7 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child mandates that every child be registered immediately after birth to achieve the right to a nationality. The law on Thai citizenship, amended in 2008, provides Thai Citizenship to ethnic minorities who previously lacked citizenship, however, some of these ethnic minority children in Thailand still lack their legal documents because of language and cultural barriers.⁸ To help mitigate child trafficking, governments and NGOs could support these children and their families by offering legal aide to obtain citizenship documentation in their preferred languages.

Interventions at the interpersonal level addressed domestic violence, family dysfunction, poverty, maternal education, and trafficking ignorance. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, also known as the National Women’s Credit Fund under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in India provides microfinance service for livelihood activities to families that require support for socioeconomic development.²⁴ Similarly, the Government of Nepal is working to reduce poverty, promote the empowerment of women, and prevent child exploitation and trafficking, however, frequent political insurgencies result in the loss of resources.²⁵ In Cambodia, the Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWCC) (2007) provides anger management training for men.²⁶ In India, Swadhar Greh (a shelter for women in difficult circumstances) under MWCD provides temporary accommodation to females experiencing severe family conflicts and mediation to resolve the issues.²⁴ However, the effectiveness of these interventions in mitigating child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia is unclear. Routine evaluation of these interventions are needed. People living in poverty, especially families with many children, often consider sending children to work in industrialized areas to increase family income.²⁷ The

promise of a better life, no matter how unrealistic, to people living in poverty is viewed as a financial opportunity, but places their children at increased risk for exploitation.²⁸ Female children are generally valued less than male children. When a family receives a marriage proposal for a daughter without a request for a dowry, many parents find it difficult to refuse the offer. However, after the wedding the girl may be sold.²¹ In such conditions, young children become victims of their parents' decisions. Therefore, interpersonal-level intervention by governments and NGOs could focus on educating parents on child trafficking and the importance of gender equality to avert child trafficking.

The anti-trafficking interventions at the organizational level of the SEM—including the social determinants of culture, ethnicity, and trafficking ignorance—were not reported in the literature from both South and Southeast Asia. Anti-trafficking strategies need to be implemented at schools and workplaces. Since school-aged children spend the majority of their time at school, governments and NGOs should safeguard them at school. Children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation at school because of the absence of mechanisms to protect them. For example, foreigners can easily find employment at language schools without background checks.⁸ Often these individuals visit countries such as Thailand with the intention of exploiting children.⁸ Although Thailand has child protection laws and policies, enforcement is lacking. Anti-trafficking interventions through school based-initiatives are crucial. Programs that increase children and school personnel's awareness of the risks associated with foreign employment, especially for female children, are essential. Since girls are more likely than boys to be exploited at school, gender sensitivity training in primary and secondary school curricula could help alter social norms regarding women's value in society.

Interventions at the community levels addressed the social determinants of caste status, culture, and trafficking ignorance. ZOE International in Thailand conducts awareness campaigns in communities and empowers people to work together to fight human trafficking.²⁹ Similarly, in Nepal, the 2015 Constitution of Nepal addressed the caste system. The law states that all citizens should be treated equally regardless of their caste.³⁰ The CWCC in Cambodia is working to change social norms and eliminate biases. Men are encouraged to change their behavior toward women and women receive educational opportunities to increase their value in society.²⁶ In India, Ujjawala (launched by MWCD in 2007) distributes food and provides shelter to vulnerable people. Ujjawala also advises governmental officials on community security.³¹ These interventions should include frequent evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the programs in preventing child trafficking. Individuals and families are embedded within the community. Lack of educational opportunities, high poverty conditions, and few employment opportunities within the home community can increase the risk of trafficking.³² Community level interventions through social media, television, newspapers, and radio play a critical role in preventing child trafficking. Anti-trafficking advocacy and awareness programs in the community are also essential. However, some anti-trafficking brochures often are delivered in regions where people are illiterate or speak a different language than the country's dominant language. Televised anti-trafficking programs can be difficult to access in rural areas because many of these families often do not own televisions, and those that do often have spotty reception at best. Therefore, prior to organizing anti-trafficking programs, governments and NGOs could ensure that all communication materials are easily accessible to and written in the language of the local people receiving them. Governments in collaboration with NGOs could also connect with the community to inform and empower people to protect children from traffickers. This would help

to build trust with government officials (e.g., police officers). The officials could share information with the community on how to inform them about perpetrators and to file trafficking cases. Further, police and border security could be better trained to identify perpetrators, and judicial authorities could be more familiar with laws and regulations to appropriately punish perpetrators.

At the policy level, interventions addressed the social determinants of border security, citizenship and documentation, laws and law enforcement, marital status, and migration. All South and Southeast Asian nations have laws that criminalize the practice of child trafficking. In Nepal, the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007 prohibits trafficking of children and women, slavery, and labor work.³³ In Cambodia, the National Plan of Action on Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labor, and Sexual Exploitation (2014) was designed to help eliminate all forms of child abuse and exploitation.³⁴ In Bangladesh, the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act (2012) requires routine investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of human trafficking crimes.³⁵ The governments of Bangladesh, Nepal, and India have implemented laws to prevent child marriage. People living in Thailand's Northern Hill Tribes often lack birth certificates that prove citizenship, making them vulnerable to trafficking. In 2008, the government of Thailand passed a law to provide citizenship to all Thai citizens.⁸ Still missing are coordinated efforts between all key stakeholders involved in the implementation of these policies and evaluation of these efforts. Hence, government officials and/or policy makers are unable to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-trafficking policies and laws. There is a need for proper coordination within and between the national and international efforts to fight against child trafficking. Governments (individual and intergovernmental alliances) and NGOs working cooperatively would benefit from understanding the social

determinants associated with child trafficking and how these relate to the SEM. This would help them to design and implement interventions that are comprehensive and will help to impact the social determinants that are currently not addressed in South and Southeast Asia.

Several NGOs mentioned that they receive less support from victim service providers and community-based organizations to protect victims.³⁶ Some NGOs face difficulties due to inadequate and irregular funding, corruption, limited trafficking data, language barriers, and threats from traffickers.³⁶ Coordination between national-, provincial-, and district-level child protection efforts is weak, and compliance with child protection policies is rarely incorporated into community development plans.³⁴ To address these issues, it is vital that governmental officials be given a clear and coordinated role in anti-child trafficking efforts. Government officials need to be trained to provide legal services to community members. Before policies are formed, policymakers should involve young people and survivors of child abuse and trafficking in the decision making to gauge the proposed responses' level of relevancy and appropriateness for addressing child abuse and exploitation. Awareness-raising campaigns provided in local languages and dialects and promoted on various social media outlets are essential to informing people about the prevalence and devastating effects of child trafficking. While Southeast Asian countries offer child-friendly assistance such as child helplines and mobile phone services, these services are limited and sometimes malfunction. Therefore, maintaining cross-border relationships with neighboring nations to develop concrete action plans that address the social determinants at all levels of the SEM with measurable goals can play an important role in minimizing child trafficking.

A huge barrier to our recommendations of increased coordination and funding for social services (such as education, healthcare, and other infrastructure) by governments of developing

and underdeveloped nations is the combined influence of the world market and the profit-bearing element of sex tourism. The world market, also known as the global economy, global dynamics, and globalization, is the interconnectedness between various countries and how one country's economy affects the economies of others and vice versa. Even though, trafficking flux is mostly recorded within South and Southeast Asia, globalized neoliberalism has strengthened the economic interconnectedness between all nations and has influenced societal's tolerance of child trafficking.³⁷ Neoliberalism ideology promotes globalization, facilitates cross-border transactions, increases mobility of capital and technology, and focuses mostly on private enterprise; all of which is conducive to the underground sex industry.^{16,38}

For developing and underdeveloped nations, the international proliferation of *capitalism* often occurs with minimal government restrictions³⁹ because it provides revenue otherwise not available to them. Sex tourism is one of the industries often unregulated by the governments of developing and underdeveloped nations because of its positive influence (large revenues) on regional economies. According to The Sex Sector, prostitution in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand is estimated to account for 2-14% of their gross domestic products.⁴⁰ Prostitution in South and Southeast Asia, including child sexual exploitation, has contributed to the growth of capitalism in these nations and the expansion of the world market.⁴¹ Hence, to combat the acceptance or the normalization of prostitution,³⁷ those who force others, including children, into prostitution, pay for services, imprison, or traffic children need to be swiftly penalized for the violation of human rights of their victims as recommended by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the United Nations Economic Social Council.⁴² Child trafficking needs to be seen as a violation of human rights and not viewed as tolerable because of its economic contribution to local economies.³⁷

Most importantly, the value of the common good and regard for social welfare programs are diminishing. This disregard directly affects economically vulnerable individuals, especially poor females, and contributes to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Furthermore, sexually exploited women and children eventually suffer from extensive health conditions, including mental health repercussions⁴³ and have an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections.^{16,43} These poor health outcomes associated with the sexual exploitation of children with time (unhealthy children become unhealthy adults) will hinder the market value of goods and services produced by nations. Therefore, child trafficking is a serious threat to the health and financial well-being of any nation.¹⁶

Limitations

The results of this review are necessarily limited by the parameters of the search. The PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Google, and Google Scholar databases were used, while other database such as Web of Science and EBSCO were not. Reports and articles published before 2005 were excluded. Further, only articles and reports written in English, Nepali, and Hindi languages were included. Manuscripts written in other languages such as Thai, Bengali, Urdu, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada were excluded. Although the authors wanted to include all South and Southeast Asian nations, some were excluded because no information could be found about them (Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos, Myanmar [Burma], the Yunnan province of China, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and the Maldives). This limitation resulted in a small sample size of 16 journal articles and 31 reports. Initially, authors planned to use only peer-reviewed journal articles, but due to the small number, this review included three non-peer reviewed articles.

Conclusions

This integrative review explored the anti-child-trafficking strategies employed by governments and NGOs in South and Southeast Asia. Out of 21 social determinants of child trafficking, South Asian nations addressed 15 with six unaddressed, while Southeast Asian nations addressed 12 with nine unaddressed. Intervention strategies in both South Asia and Southeast Asia targeted the intrapersonal, interpersonal, community, and policy levels of the SEM, but failed to address the organizational level. The gravity of child trafficking and exploitation necessitates that interventions address all of the 21 social determinants of child trafficking at all levels of the SEM. In addition, the authors found no account on any anti-child trafficking intervention from four South Asian and five Southeast Asian nations. Timely reporting, dissemination, and continuous evaluation of anti-trafficking interventions would help to identify progress and gaps in strategies, programs, and policies as well as increase transparency and coordinate resources (i.e., economic support, people, etc.) and efforts between nations.

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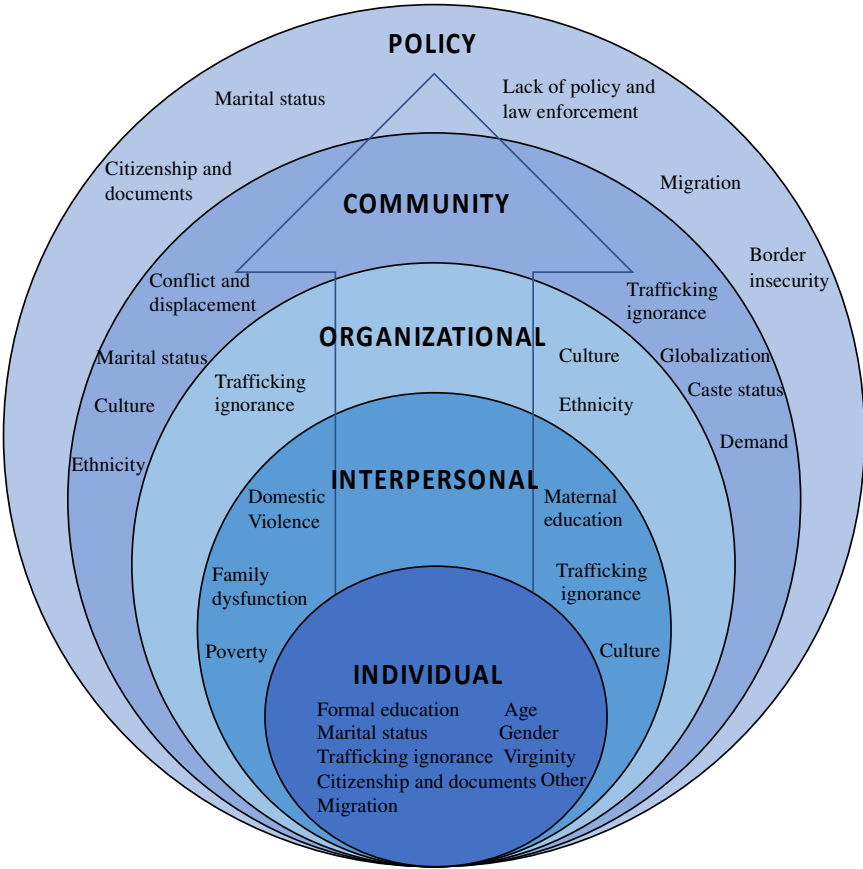


Figure 1: Social determinants associated with child trafficking by the levels of the socio-ecological model.

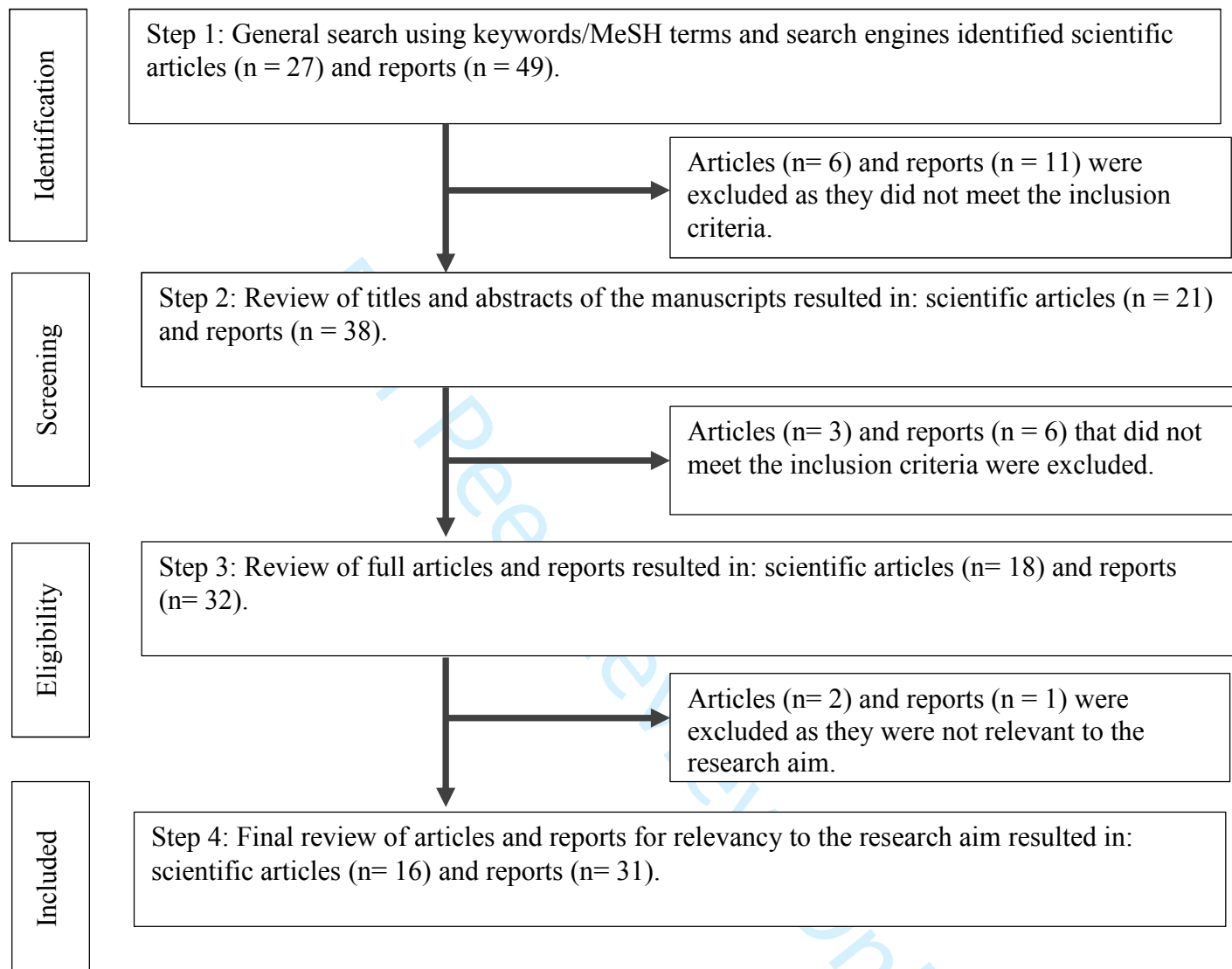


Figure 2: Flow chart of review process of journal articles and reports.

Table 1. Social determinants of child trafficking and potential program and policy intervention targets by socio-ecological model levels.

Social Ecological Model Level	Social Determinant of Child Trafficking	Influence on child trafficking	Interventions Identified	
			South Asia	Southeast Asia
Intra-personal	Formal education: Education level of victim	High education level: mitigates Low education level: facilitates	® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® ® • • • •	® ® ® ® ® ® •
	Marital status: Marriage of female children to strangers	Facilitates	® ® • •	
	Trafficking ignorance: Trafficking ignorance of the victim	Facilitates	®	®
	Citizenship and documentation: Lack of legal documents	Facilitates		® •
	Migration: Migration of the individual in search of employment	Unsafe migration: facilitates Safe migration: mitigates	® •	®
	Age: Vulnerability of young children	Facilitates	• • •	® •
	Gender: Vulnerability of female children	Facilitates	® ® ® ® ® ® • • • • • • •	® ® •
	Virginity: Sale of virgin children	Facilitates		
	Other: Emotional fragility, gang participation, lack of water access, and inclination for risk-taking	Facilitates		

Inter-personal	Domestic violence: Domestic violence within the family	Facilitates	® ® ® ® ® • •	®
	Family dysfunction: Familial dysfunction	Facilitates	®	
	Poverty: Family living below poverty line	Facilitates	® ® ® ® ® ® ® • • • •	® ® ® •
	Maternal education: Low maternal educational attainment	Facilitates	®	®
	Trafficking ignorance: Trafficking ignorance of family members	Facilitates	® ® ® ® ® •	® ®
	Culture: Female children not valued by the family	Facilitates		
Organizational	Trafficking ignorance: Trafficking ignorance of school faculty, staff, and administrators	Facilitates		
	Culture: Female children not valued where children play and learn (e.g., school)	Facilitates		
	Ethnicity: Ethnic minorities not valued where	Facilitates		

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	children play and learn (e.g., school)			
Community	Conflict and displacement: Conflict with community members	Facilitates		
	Marital status: Community preference for marriage of young female children	Facilitates		
	Culture: Female children not valued where children live society	Facilitates	® •	®
	Ethnicity: Ethnic minorities not valued where children live	Facilitates		
	Trafficking ignorance: Trafficking ignorance of community	Facilitates	® ® ® ® ® ® • • •	® ® ® ® ® ® ® •
	Globalization: Open borders and unregulated labor and migration activities as well as displaced communities that promotes poverty	Facilitates		
	Caste status: Lower castes not valued by society	Facilitates	®	
	Demand: Demand of cheap and free labor	Facilitates		

Policy	Marital status: Policies and laws regarding marriage of young female children	Mitigates	® ® ® ® ® ® • •	
	Citizenship and documentation: Policies to provide citizens and legal documents	Mitigates	® ® ® ®	® ® ® •
	Lack of policy and law enforcement: Policies and laws on child exploitation	Mitigates	® ® ® ® • • • •	® ® ® ® ® ® ® • •
	Migration: Policies regarding legal migration	Mitigates	® ® ® ® ® • • •	® ® ® ® ® ®
	Border insecurity: Policies regarding border security	Mitigates	® ® ® ® ® ® ® • •	® ® ® ®

• Intervention described in a journal article.

® Intervention described in a report.

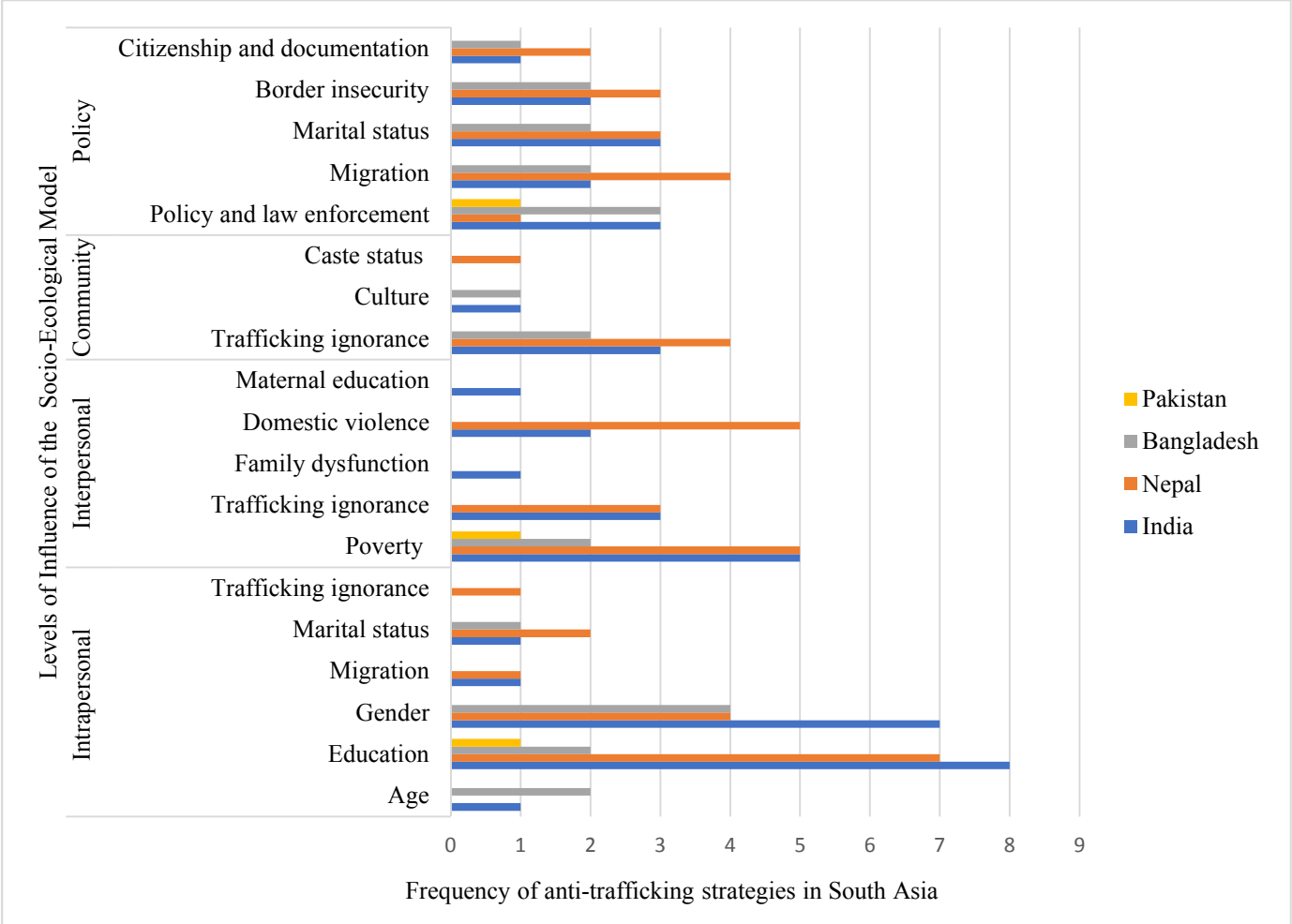


Figure 3: Frequency of anti-child trafficking strategies by social determinants of child trafficking and level of the socio-ecological model in South Asia.

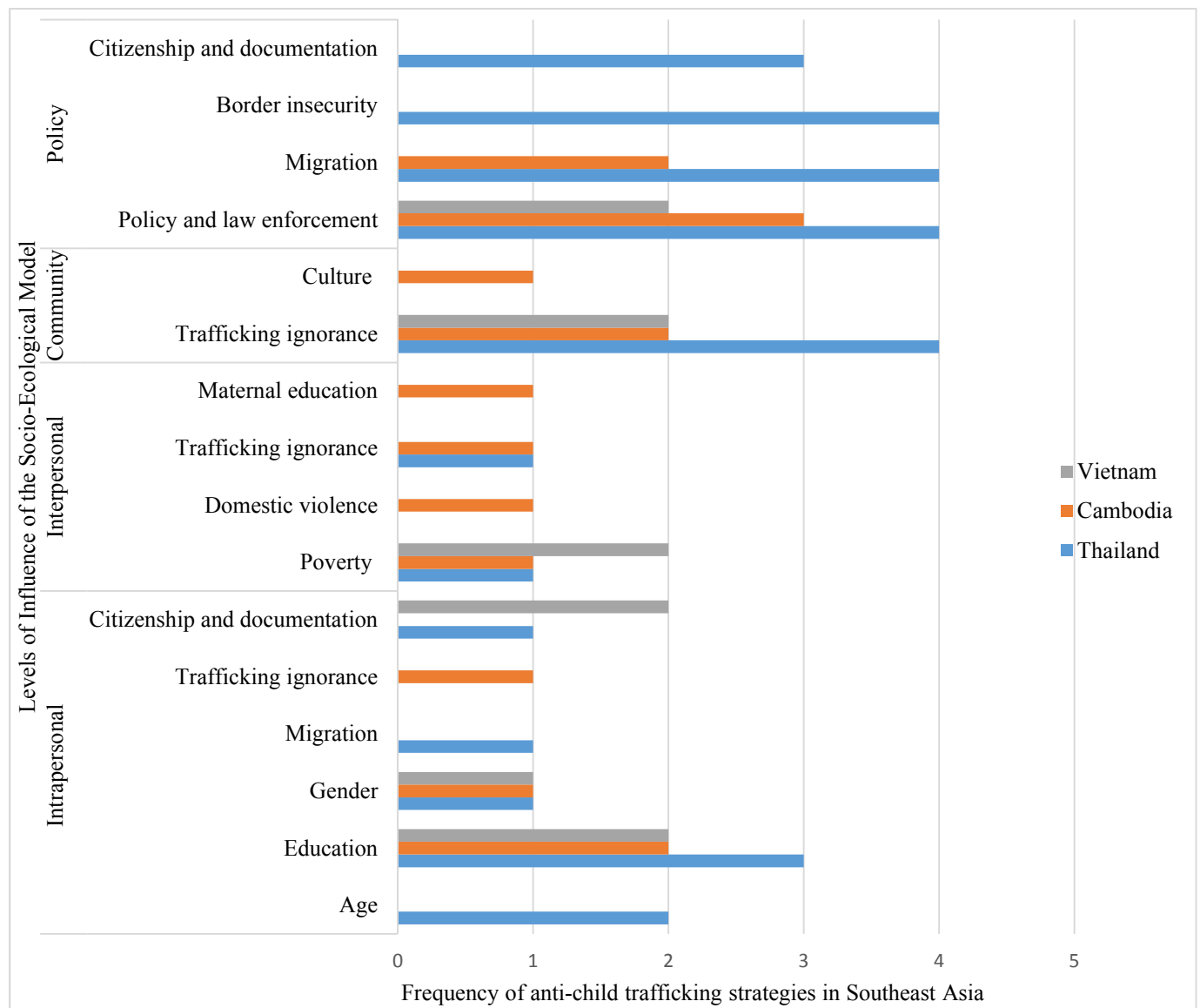


Figure 4: Frequency of anti-child trafficking strategies by social determinants of child trafficking and level of the socio-ecological model in Southeast Asia.

Systematic Review Protocol

Title		
Identification	1a	Social Determinants of Child Trafficking addressed by Government and Non-Government Strategies in South and Southeast Asia: A Scoping Review
Update	1b	Not applicable (N/A)
Registration	2	N/A
Authors		
Contacts	3a	Pragya Gautam Poudel, MPH, MSc; Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee; Knoxville, TN 37996, U.S.A. Cristina S. Barroso ¹ , DrPH; Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee; Knoxville, TN 37996, U.S.A. ¹ Corresponding author: 1914 Andy Holt Ave., Suite 390; University of Tennessee; Knoxville, TN 37996, U.S.A.
Contributions	3b	The main author and the corresponding author will contribute to the development of the research question, methodology (including protocol, selection criteria, search strategy, data extraction, management strategy, and results synthesis). The main author will draft the manuscript. The corresponding author will edit the manuscript. Both

		authors will read and approve the final manuscript.
Amendments	4	If we need to amend the protocol, the date of each amendment will be accompanied by a description of the change and its corresponding rationale.
Support		
Sources	5a	N/A
Sponsor	5b	N/A
Role of sponsor/funder	5c	N/A
INTRODUCTION		
Rationale	6	
Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry that benefits from the enslavement of approximately 20.9 million people worldwide.¹ Every year, 1.8 million children are trafficked globally, two-thirds of which are female.¹ The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) defines a child as "a person below the age of 18 years unless the laws of a particular nation set the legal age for adulthood younger."^{1,2} The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) uses three elements to define child trafficking: <i>action</i>, <i>means</i>, and <i>purpose</i>. The <i>action</i> of trafficking involves recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of persons; the <i>means</i> of trafficking includes threats, coercion, abuse of power, or victim vulnerability; and, the <i>purpose</i> of trafficking is sexual exploitation and non-sexual exploitation such as forced labor, slavery, and organ removal.^{3,4} Almost every nation in the world is affected by child trafficking, either as a country of origin, transit, or destination.⁵ Many children are illegally transported from underdeveloped or developing nations to industrialized or developed nations.⁶ Trafficked children are forced to engage in dangerous activities such as sexual exploitation, cheap labor work, military conscription, begging, and organ supply.⁷ Commercial sexual exploitation of children is the most common form of child trafficking, which accounts for up to 58% of all trafficking cases.		

This business includes child pornography, prostitution of children, use of children in live sex shows, and exchange of sex with children as a gift.¹

According to a 2012 United Nations (UN) report, approximately 40% of all trafficked victims in South and Southeast Asia are children.⁸ South Asia includes eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Southeast Asia also includes eight countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and the Yunnan province of China.^{7,9} In South and Southeast Asia, children are trafficked mostly from under-developed and/or developing nations to the industrialized nations.⁶ For example, in South Asia, children from Nepal and Bangladesh are trafficked to the larger, more industrialized nation of India.¹⁰ Similarly, in Southeast Asia, children are trafficked to Thailand from other Southeast Asian countries.⁷ However, in the last ten years, these destination countries also have become source countries.⁷

Perry and McEwing conducted a systematic review to identify the social determinants that influence (lessen or aid) the exploitation of children in Southeast Asia.¹¹ These 21 social determinants are age, border insecurity, caste status, citizenship and documentation, conflict and displacement, culture, demand, domestic violence, ethnicity, family dysfunction, formal education, gender, globalization, poverty, lack of policy and enforcement, marital status, maternal education, migration, trafficking ignorance, virginity, and other (emotional fragility, gang participation, lack of water access, and inclination for risk-taking).¹¹ Perry and McEwing recommended several social and political intervention strategies based on the social determinants. The social intervention strategies include increasing anti-child trafficking awareness campaigns, empowering females by providing quality education, developing sustainable income-generating activities especially for females from low-income families, and

involving females in family decision making. Similarly, the recommended political intervention strategies are implementing effective policies to combat the exploitation of women and children such as timely birth and marriage registration, the development of safe migration policies, the involvement of females and survivors of trafficking in the formulation of anti-trafficking laws and policies, and the inclusion of women's studies and trafficking concerns in school curricula.¹¹

While several national and international agencies (e.g., governments, the United Nations, and non-government organizations [NGOs]) have initiated anti-child trafficking interventions in South and Southeast Asia, effective coordination among these organizations remains a challenge. Furthermore, it is unknown if any of these efforts address the 21 social determinants of child trafficking.

Objectives

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To quantify the macro-level (government and NGOs) anti-child trafficking strategies that target the social determinants of child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia, and identify which levels of the socio-ecological model (SEM) are addressed by these anti-child trafficking strategies.

METHODS

Eligibility criteria

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The inclusion criteria for this review will be journal articles and/or reports authored by researchers, local or national governments, and/or international organizations on the prevention/intervention of child trafficking in South and/or Southeast Asia; published from January 2005 to June 2017; and written in English, Nepali, or Hindi languages. The timeframe of 2005 to 2017 will be selected as these regions experienced massive migration of women and children because of natural disasters and war, and many of the nations in these regions

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became source, transit, and destination sites for child trafficking. ^{7,12} Articles and/or reports about child trafficking outside of South and/or Southeast Asia, those on adult human trafficking, those only on risk factors of child trafficking, or those published before January 2005 will be excluded.		
Information sources	9	Electronic databases: PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Academic Search Complete, Google, and Google Scholar
Search strategy	10	Combination of following keywords/MeSH terms: child-trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child sexual servitude, prevention, intervention, anti-trafficking, government, non-government organizations, social determinants, Southeast Asia, South Asia. The search string used in PubMed is: ((((("child-trafficking" OR "sex-trafficking" OR "child sexual exploitation" OR "child sexual servitude") AND ("intervention" OR "prevention" OR "anti-trafficking" OR "intervention" OR "strategy" OR "program") AND ("Government" OR "non-government" OR "organization"))("Southeast Asia" OR "South Asia"))))
STUDY RECORDS		
Data management	11a	The primary author will be responsible for data management. All the identified full-length journal

		articles and reports will be downloaded and saved in a folder on a laptop by first author. Both authors will perform the review.
Selection process	11b	The research team independently will screen the titles and abstracts obtained by the search against the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The full-length journal articles and reports that met the title and abstract review will be downloaded and saved in a folder on a laptop.
Data collection process	11c	The research team will independently review all of the collected journal articles and reports. Data extraction will be ensued. The primary author will collate the extracted data.
Data items	12	The research team will extract the information and enter the data in the table as: source (name of the journal article/report), title, country/region where the study/program/project was conducted, objectives of the study/program/project, governmental and non-governmental strategies, and the social determinants addressed by the study/program/project.
Outcomes and prioritization	13	The outcomes of this study will focus on identification and numeration of the action strategies

		conducted by government and NGOs that addressed the social determinants of child trafficking in South and Southeast Asia according to the different levels of the socio-ecological model.
Risk of bias in individual studies	14	This study will identify and quantify the number of anti-trafficking strategies in South and Southeast Asia, therefore, the risk of bias will not be assessed in this study.
DATA		
Synthesis	15a	The government and NGOs anti-trafficking action strategies from South and Southeast Asia will be identified. Then, the primary author will create tables and figures depicting the frequency of anti-trafficking strategies addressing the social determinants for both regions.

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Supplemental Table 1. Summary of the 16 journal articles and 31 reports included in the review.

Journal Articles – South and Southeast Asian Countries				
Author(s); Journal; Publication Year	Title	Country/ Region	Objectives	Social Determinants / Total number of Social determinants
Blackburn AG, Taylor RW, Davis JE; <i>Women & Criminal Justice</i> ; 2010	Understanding the complexities of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation: The case of Southeast Asia	Southeast Asia	To provide a better understanding of the complex problems of child trafficking focusing on sexual exploitation based on first-hand accounts of those living and working within Cambodia and Thailand.	Border insecurity; Lack of policy and enforcement Social determinants: 2
Samarasinghe V, Burton B; <i>Development in Practice</i> ; 2007	Strategizing prevention: a critical review of local initiatives to prevent female sex trafficking	South Asia	To provide a review of various prevention strategies initiated and implemented by non-government organizations (NGOs) to address female sex trafficking.	Formal education; poverty; Gender; Maternal education; Social determinants: 4
Ghosh B; <i>The International Journal of Human Rights</i> ; 2009	Trafficking in women and children in India: nature, dimensions and strategies for prevention	India	To analyze the nature, causes, modes, and volume of trafficking in a country that has become a target for in person trafficking in South Asia. Further, the paper highlights the need to establish a multidimensional approach and recommends meaningful strategies to counter the social evil.	Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Marital status; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 4
Jana S, Dey B, Reza-Paul S, Steen R; <i>Journal of Public Health</i> ; 2013	Combating human trafficking in the sex trade: can sex workers do it better?	India	To explore on alternative response to combating human sex-trafficking and child prostitution.	Domestic violence; Formal education; Gender; Poverty Social determinants: 4
Joffres C et al. <i>International Journal for Equity in Health</i> ; 2008	Sexual slavery without borders: trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in India	India	To provide an overview of commercial sexual exploitation of (CSE) women and girls in India. Further, the identifies health impacts of CSE and suggests strategies to respond to trafficking and related issues.	Marital status, Gender Social determinants: 2

Jana S et al; <i>Journal of Public Health</i> ; 2013	Combating human trafficking in the sex trade: can sex workers do it better?	India	The Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), an organization composed of former sex workers, make recommendations on provide alternative responses to under aged trafficking and forced sex labor.	Age; Formal education Social determinants: 2
Kaufman MR, Crawford M; <i>Violence Against Women</i> ; 2011	Sex trafficking in Nepal: a review of intervention and prevention programs	Nepal	To provide information on Nepal-to-India sex trafficking with current anti-trafficking interventions and prevention programs.	Border insecurity; Domestic violence; Formal education; Gender; Migration; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 7
Joshi SK; <i>Kathmandu University Medical Journal</i> ; 2010	Human trafficking in Nepal: a rising concern for all	Nepal	Provides information regarding initiatives made by the Government of Nepal at the legislative and policy level towards anti-trafficking.	Lack of policy and enforcement; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 3
Rijal A; Adhikari TB; Aro AR; <i>Dove Press Journal : Medicolegal and Bioethics</i> ; 2016	Ethical perspectives on combating sex trafficking in Nepal	Nepal	Focuses on sex trafficking in Nepal and its associated public health issues. Presents different ethical approaches to combat these issues.	Gender; Migration Social determinants 2
Mohajan KH; <i>Journal of Social Welfare and Human Rights</i> ; 2014	Child rights in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	To discuss the aspects of child rights and create child-friendly environment in Bangladesh.	Border insecurity; Formal education; Gender; Culture; Marital status; Migration; Poverty Social determinants: 7
Sarker PC, Panday PK; <i>Asian Journal of Social Policy</i> ; 2006	Trafficking in Women and Children in Bangladesh: A National Issue in Global Perspective	Bangladesh	To analyze current state of trafficking and the methods used to combat it. Paper explains that women in Bangladesh suffer from all sorts of marital problems.	Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Marital status; Trafficking ignorance; Age

				Social determinants: 5	
Rahman MA; <i>ASA University Review</i> ,; 2014	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Bangladesh: Its Social and Legal Aspects	Bangladesh	To explain the prevalence and determinants of child abuse in Bangladesh. Mentions the commercial sexual exploitation of children and describes the existing national legal framework to reduce child abuse.	Gender; Age; Policy and law enforcement; Poverty; Social determinants: 4	
Thuy HTN, Gan C, Kao B; <i>Vietnam National University Journal of Science, Economics, and Business</i> ; 2011	An assessment of non-governmental organizations' roles in combatting women/children trafficking in Vietnam	Vietnam	Highlights the roles of NGOs in combating women/children trafficking in Vietnam.	Citizenship and documentation; Formal education; Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 6	
Pink RM; <i>Asian Affairs: An American Review</i> ; 2013	Child trafficking in Thailand: prevention and prosecution challenges	Thailand	Provides information regarding Thailand's anti-child trafficking laws and efforts to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking.	Lack of policy and enforcement; age; citizenship and documentation Social determinants: 3	
Kumar C; <i>Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities</i> ; 2015	Human trafficking in the South Asian region: SAARC's response and initiatives	South Asia	Provides information regarding causes, trends, and initiative action strategies to prevent trafficking in South Asia.	Border insecurity; Formal education; Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 5	
Huda S; <i>International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics</i> ; 2006	Sex trafficking in South Asia	South Asia	Focuses on the forms of women and children trafficking as well as anti-trafficking strategies.	Citizenship and documentation; Formal education; Lack of policy and enforcement Social determinants: 3	
Reports – South Asian Countries					
Author(s); Year of Publication	Title (Government)	Title (NGO)	Country / Region	Objectives	Social Determinants/

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UNICEF; 2008		South Asia in action: preventing and responding to child trafficking	South Asia	Explores the trafficking patterns in South Asian countries; a regional analysis of legal frameworks relevant in addressing child trafficking; a regional analysis of policy responses and implementation; and provides recommendations.	Border insecurity; Domestic violence; Formal education; Marital status Social determinants: 4
Save the Children Sweden; 2008		Trafficking in children in South Asia	South Asia	To make child-friendly report on trafficking, keeping the information regarding child trafficking easy to understand by children and developing their knowledge regarding child trafficking.	Formal education; Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Marital status Social determinants: 4
Ministry of Law and Justice; 2007	Prohibition of child marriage act of 2006		India	Information regarding child marriage in India.	Formal education; Marital status; Trafficking ignorance

					Social determinants: 3
OP Jindal Global University; Jindal Global Law School, The University of Chicago Law School, Cornell Law School; 2015		India's human trafficking laws and policies and the UN trafficking protocol: achieving clarity	India	Recognize and proscribe all forms of labor trafficking as required by UN protocol; uniform and accessible procedures for safety, recovery, and compensation of victims of trafficking; effective human trafficking prevention services, decriminalize cross-border trafficking victims' illegal immigrant status.	Lack of policy and enforcement; Migration; Culture; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 4
International Development Law Organization; 2011		Preventing and combating the trafficking of girls in India using legal empowerment strategies	India	Provides information regarding the problem of child trafficking in India and anti-trafficking policies and programs.	Formal education; Citizenship and documentation; Domestic violence; Border insecurity; Gender; Migration; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 8
Ministry of	Beti Bachao		India	Reflects on	Formal education;

Women and Child Development (MWCD); 2017	Beti Padhao			pre-birth gender discrimination by sex selection as well as spreads knowledge about elimination of gender discrimination.	Gender; Maternal education; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance; Family dysfunction Social determinants: 6
Prerana ; 2016		Organizational Policy on Child Protection Educational Support Program	India	Provides overview on Prerana's child protection commitment.	Formal education; Border insecurity; Trafficking ignorance; Marital status Social determinants: 4
SANLAAP; 2015		Child protection program	India	Provides information about the child protection program.	Formal education; Gender; Poverty; Lack of policy and enforcement; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 6
Human Rights-Bangladesh; 2011		Report on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Bangladesh	General report on Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh	Citizenship and documentation; Formal education; Marital status Social determinants: 3
Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies; 2011		Human trafficking – a security concern for Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Provide information regarding trafficking, causes of trafficking in Bangladesh, governmental initiatives, and the role of NGOs.	Border insecurity; Gender; Lack of policy and enforcement; Migration; Trafficking-ignorance Social determinants: 5

Government of Nepal Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, Central Child Welfare Board; 2006	National progress report		Nepal	National progress report along with review of 2002 special session on children and a world fit for children plan of action.	Border insecurity; Formal education; Gender; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 5
National Human Rights Commission, Office of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in women and children; 2016	Trafficking in Persons (especially on women and children in Nepal)		Nepal	To assess the status and emerging trends of trafficking in Nepal including the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of April 25, 2015; To study the condition of foreign labor migration and vulnerabilities including child trafficking; To address the governmental and NGO programs and activities in combating trafficking; To assess the implementation status of human	Caste status; Citizenship and documentation; Domestic violence; Formal education; Marital status; Migration; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 8

				trafficking and transportation (control) Act of 2007 and judicial responses to trafficking cases; To recommend policies and programs to combat trafficking and secure foreign labor migration.	
Human Rights-Nepal; 2017	Sambahak		Nepal	General report on human rights including right of children, governmental effort to protect the right of children, and challenges.	Citizenship and documentation; Formal education; Marital status; Poverty Social determinants: 4
Childreach Nepal; 2013		Child trafficking in Nepal: causes, consequences and education as prevention.	Nepal	Report on over view of child trafficking in Nepal—its causes, consequences, and education as an important way to prevent child trafficking.	Formal education; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 2
Plan Nepal, Save the Children, World Vision International		Child marriage in Nepal	Nepal	To identify trends in child marriage as	Domestic violence; Gender; Marital status;

Nepal; 2012				well as its causes and consequences to designs policy and programs for combating child marriage in Nepal.	Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 4
Justice and Rights Institute Nepal, United Nations Population Fund; 2016		Ending impunity for child marriage in Nepal (a review of normative and implementation gaps)	Nepal	To identify and inform policy makers, law enforcement officials, and human right defenders of key legal gaps and inconsistencies that have undermined efforts to address child marriage in Nepal, by highlighting multiple challenges faced while implementation of existing laws.	Domestic violence; Marital status Social determinants: 2
Maiti Nepal; 2014		Annual report	Nepal	Annual report on prevention of women and children trafficking.	Border insecurity; Domestic violence; Formal education; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 5
Practical Help Achieving Self-		Annual progress report	Nepal	Annual progress	Formal education; Marital status;

Empowerment (PHASE–Nepal; 2015				report.	Trafficking ignorance Social determinant: 3
Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education; 2010	Reforming the child protection and welfare systems in Pakistan		Pakistan	General report on child protection and welfare systems in Pakistan.	Formal education; Lack of Policy and enforcement; Poverty Social determinants: 3
Reports – Southeast Asian Countries					
Author(s); Year of Publication	Title (Government)	Title (NGO)	Country / Region	Objectives	Social Determinants/ Total number of Social determinants
Strategic Information Response Network; 2010	Thailand Human Trafficking Datasheet		Thailand	Provide current trends and data on trafficking as well as law in Thailand to prevent trafficking of women and children.	Citizenship and documentation; Border insecurity; Gender; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 5
Robinson C, Thame C, Branchini C, (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health); 2016		Anti-human trafficking in Thailand	Thailand	To assess Thailand’s initiatives to prevent human trafficking within last five years, through a review of documents and interviewing key informants (including experts, Royal Thai Government	Border insecurity; Citizenship and documentation; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 4

				officials, international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions).	
ECPAT International; 2011		Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children (Thailand)	Thailand	Report on child trafficking and protection laws in Thailand.	Border insecurity; Citizenship and documentation; Formal education; Lack of policy and enforcement; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 6
Thailand Government; 2015	Thailand's Progress Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts	Report	Thailand	Provides information regarding the progress made by Thai government to prevent child trafficking.	Formal education; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinant: 3
U.S. Department of State; 2015		Trafficking in Persons report—Thailand	Thailand	General report on trafficking in persons (Thailand).	Border insecurity; Lack of policy and enforcement; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 4
ZOE international Thailand; 2015		Annual report	Thailand	Annual report.	Formal education; Lack of policy and enforcement; Poverty Social determinants: 3
UNICEF; 2014		Protect our children Cambodia	Cambodia	General report on child protection.	Formal education; Lack of policy and enforcement; Poverty; Trafficking ignorance Social

					determinants: 4
ECPAT; 2008		Law on suppression of human trafficking and sexual exploitation	Cambodia	Provide information regarding laws on prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.	Lack of policy and enforcement; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 2
World Vision; 2015		Child protection- Policy Brief 2015	Cambodia	Provide information on legal and policy frameworks that create protective environments for children. This also demonstrates the gap in law enforcement in Cambodia.	Policy and law enforcement Social determinant: 1
U.S. Department of State; 2016		Trafficking in Persons Report– Cambodia	Cambodia	General report.	Trafficking ignorance, Migration Social determinants: 2
Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center; 2011		Annual Report	Cambodia	Annual report on Cambodian woman’s crisis.	Culture; Domestic violence; Formal education; Gender; Maternal education; Migration; Trafficking ignorance Social determinants: 7
The Asia Foundation; 2008		Combating Human Trafficking in Vietnam:	Vietnam	Report on women and children trafficking	Formal education; Citizenship and documentation; Poverty;

		lessons learned and practical experiences for future program design and implementation		in Vietnam.	Trafficking ignorance; Policy and law enforcement Social determinants: 5
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For Peer Review Only

Supplemental Table 2: Anti-child trafficking strategies in South Asia by social determinant and country.

South Asia		
India		
Social Determinant	Governmental	Non-governmental
Citizenship and documentation	<i>The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005</i> ensures the rights of every child (ages 0–18) are protected.	
Family dysfunction	<i>Swadhar Greh</i> (a scheme for women in difficult circumstances) provides temporary accommodation, maintenance, and rehabilitation services to women and girls who have severe family conflicts and survivors of violence.	
Formal education	The 86 th Amendment to the Constitution of India provides for free, compulsory education for children age 6–14 years.	Educational Support Program (ESP) (under Prerana) ensures right to education for every child living in red light (trafficking-vulnerable) areas. Also, provides school admissions, life skills education, and vocational training programs for careers in the fields of driving, computer programming, para-professional social worker, para-medical worker, and catering. Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) promotes and facilitates educational programmes. Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd. (USHA constructed a boarding school where sex workers can send their children for education, which has increased school attendance and literacy among these disenfranchised children. The Mahila Sikshana Kendraya (Women’s Learning Centres) provides secondary schooling for disadvantaged girls, aged 9–15 years.
Gender	National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). The goal of this policy is to empower women through skills development; equal access to participation and decision making in social, political, and economic development of the nation;	<i>Prerana</i> strives for the protection of every child regardless of gender, and periodically monitors child protection policies and procedures. <i>SANLAAP</i> focuses on eliminating any form of gender discrimination by providing education and empowerment to females.

	equal access to healthcare; quality education at all levels; employment; and elimination of all forms of violence against women and female children. Also prevents and combats human trafficking with special focus on children and women.	Since the late 1980s, the Mahila Samakhya Programme (Education for Women's Equality) has helped to build community capacity by empowering and integrating young females into the workforce.
Marital Status	<i>Indian Penal Code (IPC, 1860)</i> contains various provisions related to child trafficking including criminal penalties for kidnapping, abduction, forced marriage, and forced child labor <i>The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)</i> prevents child marriage, forced marriage, kidnapping, and abduction.	
Border insecurity	UJJAWALA focuses on maintain cross-border security and supports victims for their safe return to their countries of origin.	Prerana is working to provide border security.
Poverty	<i>Self Help Groups (SHGs)</i> provides women and poor people with skills for employability by building their confidence, self-esteem, and decision-making ability. <i>The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh</i> , also known as the <i>National Women's Credit Fund</i> (under MWCD) provides micro-finance service for livelihood activities and family needs which helps with the socioeconomic development of poor women living in vulnerable areas.	<i>SANLAAP</i> focuses on education, empowerment, elimination of all forms of discrimination, and skill development among vulnerable women and children. The Mahila Sikshana Kendraya (Women's Learning Centres) provides skills training for disadvantaged females to improve their economic condition.
Trafficking ignorance	<i>Ujjawala</i> (launched by MWCD in 2007) provides for the prevention of trafficking as well as the rescue, rehabilitation, and re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Also allows for the formation of community vigilance groups and conducting workshops, seminars, counseling, legal aid, and guidance and vocational training.	<i>Ujjawala</i> along with other NGOs provide food, shelter, and counselling to vulnerable people. Also, counsels police to increase community security. <i>SANLAAP</i> helps to prevent child trafficking by conducting awareness campaigns, and stakeholder sensitization including training of police and prosecutors, rescue, and socioeconomic development.

Migration	The government of India has implemented safe migration policies to prevent cross-national human trafficking.	International Development Law Organization work in an area where there is high migration of people in order to protect individuals migrating without legal documents and child trafficking.
Maternal education	MWCD provides educational and vocational training for women to promote their living status.	The Mahila Sikshana Kendraya (Women's Learning Centres) provides literacy and life-skills training to females.
Lack of policy and enforcement	The constitution of India prohibits all sorts of trafficking under Article 23. Indian Penal Code prohibits kidnapping, abduction, and slavery of children.	
Bangladesh		
Border insecurity	The GoB through the Ministry of Home Affairs established call monitoring at police headquarters, screening of persons at port of entry/exit to/from the nation, training of officials like prosecutors, immigration officials, and border security officials.	
Poverty	Government of Bangladesh is focusing on long-term economic growth by implementing social safety net programs to support people living below the poverty line. In addition, the government is encouraging women to participate in microcredit programs to develop their self-employment.	
Migration	Government of Bangladesh passed protective legislation (in 1982) to protect migration of female workers. GoB provides frequent training to the immigration officials and border security officials.	
Citizenship and documentation		Ain o Salish Kendro of Dhaka along with UNICEF Bangladesh advocates for human rights and birth registration.
Gender	GoB finalized National Women Development Policy (2008) Emphasizes the protection of women's rights, empowerment, gender	Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) is an awareness campaign to promote empowerment of women, and prevent

	sensitization, as well as abolition of discrimination against women. Section 8 of The Women and Children Oppression Act (1995) specifies that trafficking a woman for prostitution or unlawful or immoral purposes, or the import or export, buying, selling, or renting, or engaging in any other form of transportation of women is subjected to life imprisonment and a fine. Section 9 of The Women and Children Oppression Act of 1995 specifies that kidnapping a woman for prostitution, non-consensual marriage, or forced or falsely enticed coitus is an offence punishable by life punishment, 10 years rigorous punishment, and a fine. The Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act, 1993, mandates stringent penalties for forcing a girl into prostitution. The Penal Code 1860 lays down many provisions that criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.	gender discrimination within the country. Many international NGOs, such as Save the Children Alliance, the Asia Foundation, Plan International, and Action Aid, have incorporated women and child specific programmes that address issues of trafficking.
Lack of policy and enforcement	<i>The Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act, 2012</i> provides for regular investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators that commit human trafficking crimes. Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has introduced the National Action Plan in consultation with NGOs, which identifies priority areas in 14 ministries and divisions under the initiative of The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.	
Marital status	The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) prohibits child marriage.	
Trafficking ignorance	<i>The Ministries of Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, and Primary and Mass Education</i> are raising awareness through social media, peer counseling, and conducting campaigns to prevent trafficking of women and children. The	<i>Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC)</i> conducts mass awareness, mobilization, and sensitization by conducting meetings with the community members as well as organizing different cultural programs.

	Home Secretary provides trafficking awareness and training to Bangladeshi soldiers to increase the security.	
Age	Section 12 of The Women and Children Oppression Act states that if a child is illegally imported, exported, bought or sold, possessed or transferred that all parties involved are subjected to the death penalty or life imprisonment. The Children Act of 1974 and 1993 aims to protect children from being exploited. Bangladesh signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and made provisions in the National Plan of Action for Children to tackle these problems.	
Nepal		
Citizenship and documentation	GoN is a compulsory birth registration system.	Maiti Nepal provides counseling and awareness regarding safe delivery and timely birth registration.
Border insecurity	Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act of 2007 (HTTCA) and the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Rules of 2008 (HTTCR) prohibits both internal and transnational human trafficking of both genders.	Maiti Nepal (22 offices across the nation) prevents trafficking of girls and women by intercepting trafficking attempts especially at international borders. In addition, residents are encouraged to serve on surveillance teams to assist police in identifying the perpetrators.
Domestic violence	<i>Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009</i> Controls violence within families and provides protection to the survivors.	Caritas Nepal prevents domestic violence and provides shelter to young girls and women who are at risk of domestic violence to protect them from traffickers.
Formal education	The Government of Nepal (GoN) provides free primary school education and has established the policy of education for all.	Educate the Children provides educational materials (books, copies, and pencils), lunches, and uniforms so that students are more likely to attend school and reduces the financial burden on families. PHASE Nepal provides free education to the children especially those living in remote areas and mountain regions.
Gender	The Ministry of Social Welfare (1995) works to prevent gender discrimination The constitution of Nepal condemns any act of trafficking and talks about gender equality.	The Foreign Employment Act (FEA) 2007 and Foreign Employment Regulations (FER) 2007 are acts designed to eliminate gender discrimination
Marital Status	Since 1963, child marriage has been	Caritas Nepal raising awareness, and

	illegal in Nepal.	provides social and economic support to poor families, so that they would not consider their daughters burdens.
Migration	<i>The Foreign Employment Act 2007</i> ensures the safe migration of workers. Section 7 specifies that individuals under age 18 should not be sent abroad for employment. In 2012, the Government of Nepal introduced a ban on women below the age of 30 to travel to Gulf countries for domestic work, but this act was not successful due to corrupt governments.	<i>Maiti Nepal</i> assists with safe migration and prevents trafficking of women and children. According to Maiti Nepal, a total of 134,718 migrants were informed about trafficking events, 183 victims were rescued, and 2,904 were intercepted in 2014. <i>Children at Risk Nepal</i> provides community mobilization on combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
Poverty	The Government of Nepal (GoN) Allocates budget funds to diminish the poverty level and promote the empowerment of women and prevent child trafficking.	<i>Samrakshak Samuha Nepal</i> prevents trafficking of girls and women as well as empowering women and providing vocational training. Maiti Nepal provides girls with non-formal education and vocational training and economically supports them with micro-credit loans to enable them to become self-employed.
Trafficking ignorance		<i>Maiti Nepal</i> also conducts peer counseling and sponsors awareness campaigns for girls and women in districts where the prevalence of trafficking is high. Caritas Nepal produces a radio program called <i>Sachetana</i> (meaning awareness) that provides information and raises awareness about trafficking. <i>Gramin Mahila, Srijanshil Pariwar, Sindhupalchok</i> provides anti-trafficking advocacy and awareness.
Caste status	The constitution of Nepal 2015 focusing on eliminating discrimination practices in society due to caste status. In addition, it focuses on providing equal opportunities to education and employment.	

Lack of policy and law enforcement	The government of Nepal has enforced laws and policies to prevent child trafficking: • National Legal Code (Muluki Ain), 1963 – prevents separating of children below 16 from guardian. • Human Trafficking Control Act of 1986- prevents transporting a person to a foreign country • The constitution of Nepal, in 1990 prohibits sexual exploitation, slavery, forced labor and trafficking of children. • Nepal government has signed SAARC convention (in 2002) on preventing and combating trafficking of women and children.	
Pakistan		
Formal education	The government provides free and compulsory basic education	
Poverty	The government allocates resources and strengthens functional structures and systems.	
Lack of Policy and enforcement	<i>National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children</i> ensures protection of children from all forms of child abuse and exploitation. The National Child Protection Policy protects children from abuse and enhances administrative and institutional capacities at national, provincial, and district levels.	

Supplemental Table 3. Anti-child trafficking strategies in Southeast Asia by social determinant and country.

Southeast Asia		
Thailand		
Social determinants	Government	Non-governmental and international organizations
Age	Under the Anti-trafficking in Persons Act: If the victim is under 15 years of age, the penalty is 8-15 years of imprisonment and a fine of 160,000–300,000 Baht (approximately \$5,000–9,400). If the victim is between 16–18 years of age, the penalty is 6-12 years of imprisonment and a fine of 120,000–240,000 Baht (approximately \$3,800–7,500). In 1992, Thailand agreed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC 1989). Article 34 of the Convention addresses sexual exploitation and abuse in children. Article 35 aims to prevent the abduction and sale of children in any form. Thai government implemented the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (B.E. 2551).	
Citizenship and documentation	The law on Thai citizenship (2008) was amended to return Thai citizenship to ethnic minority groups who did not have citizenship. Under article 7 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to be registered immediately after birth and the right to acquire a nationality. This includes children in the Northern Hill Tribe, an ethnic minority.	The International Humanity Foundation provides education and economical support to the families living in the hill tribes in Northern Thailand. Also, provides education regarding child trafficking and importance of citizenship.
Formal education	In January 2009, Cabinet resolution increased the The Ministry of Education provides free education for all children as well as support for course books, school uniforms, and other educational and developmental activities. Provides free basic education for twelve years	ECPAT provides training and leadership to the marginalized children to become advocates for their own rights. ZOE International educates communities about child trafficking and empowers them to participate in child protection. Also, provides educational and practical

	and requires students to maintain minimum of nine years of school attendance.	training programs to government agencies, local law enforcements, schools, and village leaders. International Humanity Foundation's (IHF) The Education Program (TEP) provide education and skills to empower children living in the hill tribes of Northern Thailand. It also supports children by providing school essentials such as books and copies. IHF's Continuing Education Program provides opportunities—such as vocational training, career and technical education, or high school—to teenagers after they graduate from high school.
Gender	The Royal Thai Government raises awareness to fight trafficking by promoting the core objectives of human rights, gender equality, and safe migration.	
Lack of policy and enforcement	Thai government amended the national law in 2015 to impose penalties on human traffickers, such as life imprisonment and a maximum fine of 400,000 baht (\$13,333), and protect whistleblowers. The Anti-trafficking in Persons Act (2008) prevents buying, selling, vending of any person. The Royal Ordinance of Fisheries 2015 provides punishments for those employing migrants without valid work permits and for factory owners who violate labor protection law. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2015 empowers authorities to shut down suspected workplaces and suspends operating licenses of factories with evidence of trafficking in persons. In 2008, the government of Thailand implemented the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act. This anti-trafficking law implemented prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes penalties from four to ten years of imprisonment.	ECPAT's Youth Partnership Project (YPP) establishes institutional mechanisms to empower children and youth to participate on policymaking process. ZOE International creates a safe environment for child trafficking survivors to participate in the child protection policymaking process.

Migration	The Royal Thai Government raises awareness to fight trafficking with the core objectives of human rights, gender equality, and safe migration.	ZOE international consists of trafficking prevention hotline alert services that community members can use to inform others of any potential human trafficking threats.
Other	The Royal Ordinance of Fisheries 2015 monitors living and working conditions of seamen both at port and at sea.	
Poverty	Proper allocation of budget, since 2015, to address trafficking and child labor issues especially in the fishery sector, constituting an increase of 45.5% in 2015 compared to 2014.	ZOE International provides food staples—such as, rice, cooking oil, and canned meat or fish—to families struggling with poverty that are unable to feed their children.
Trafficking ignorance	The Royal Thai Government launched several media campaigns to raise awareness and call for public cooperation to fight human trafficking. The Royal Thai Police's Anti-Trafficking Division established the International Cooperation Centre (ICC) to work with international agencies to collect and share the trafficking evidence.	ZOE International reaches out the communities to inform and empower people to work together to fight human trafficking.
Cambodia		
Age	The Cambodia labor law states that the minimum age for employment is 15 years, and the minimum age for hazardous work is 18. Children age 12 to 14 can be involved in light work that is not hazardous (example, deep-sea and offshore fishing; handling, and spraying pesticides), however, they also should attend school. The law also states the maximum working hours for children, when they are not allowed to work, and appropriate amount of time required to rest. In 2015, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT), established the interdepartmental inspection teams for child labor inspection.	
Conflict and displacement	Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation prohibits forced labor and child trafficking.	
Culture		The Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) is working to eliminate all forms of violence against

		women and provide services to victims and their children. It educates males to change their behavior towards females and promotes female education including provision to stay in school for vulnerable groups.
Demand		The CWCC Saving group project forms teams within the community to save money each month to provide loans to those in need (for example, to set up women's businesses).
Domestic violence		The CWCC's Anger Management for Men (2007) program analyzes and addresses the root causes of domestic violence and conducts anger management classes for men to help prevent domestic violence, rape, and trafficking of women.
Formal education	Education through grade nine is free in Cambodia, but not compulsory. The Education Strategic Plan (2014–2018) aims to provide equitable access to educational services; ensures effective leadership and management of educational staff (teachers, administrative personnel) at all levels; and includes a multilingual education initiative to allow non-native speakers of the Khmer language to learn primarily in their native language until fourth grade. The Commune Communities for Women and Children trains committees at the commune and village levels to raise awareness regarding child labor, and educates them about the importance of education to promote school attendance among children.	The Somaly Mam foundation educates children and trafficking and helps to erase the stigma of being a victim of trafficking. AFESIP educates young girls and women about child trafficking. The CWCC's Girls' Access to Education Project provides scholarship packages to vulnerable girls and conducts workshops with teachers, parents, and girl scholars. The CWCC's Skills Training Employment and Education Matching (STREAM) project provides educational opportunities to young girls living in poverty to help reduce their risk for exploitation and trafficking.
Gender		The CWCC educates males in the community to change their behavior toward females. It also promotes female education including provisions to help vulnerable groups stay in school.
Lack of policy and enforcement	The Village/Commune Safety Policy (2010) works to maintain safety by protecting the community from drug dealing, prostitution, child trafficking, domestic violence, gangsters, and illegal use of weapons.	

	National Plan of Action on the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labor, and Sexual Exploitation (2014–2018) strives to eliminate all forms of human trafficking by strengthening law and policy enforcement, improving prevention efforts, augmenting criminal justice responses, providing age and gender appropriate support services, strengthening the labor law enforcement to protect children from exploitation, establishing standard operating procedures to promote child safety in the tourism industry, and integrating anti-human trafficking and child safety issues into public school curricula.	
Maternal education		The CWCC's Literacy and Vocational Skills training and employment project provides education to women and girls as well as practical skills to generate income in constructive ways.
Migration	Cambodian National Police's Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department (Anti-Trafficking Police) enforces law against child sexual exploitation and trafficking, and provides anti-human trafficking hotline services.	The CWCC's Safe Migration and Reduction of Trafficking (SMART) project focuses on safe migration by conducting awareness-raising training on trafficking, safe-migration, and domestic violence. The program also provides mobile outreach along the Thai border to disseminate information on safe migration, develops peer education, collaborate with networks with other NGOs and government agencies in destination countries, and continuously updates the situation of Cambodian women and children at the border on both sides.
Poverty	The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth (MOSAVY) provides economic and social support to street children directly, accompanies the police on investigations to find child victims and subsequently refer them to NGO services. The National Youth Policy aims to provide young adults from age 15 to 30 with the skills to enhance economic participation.	Acting for Women in Distressing Situations (AFESIP Cambodia) assists society by promoting financial independence in a sustainable and innovative manner especially by teaching women how to achieve financial independence through sustainable careers.
Trafficking ignorance	The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) produces billboards,	AFESIP's Outreach Prevention Program (OPP) helps

	handouts, and provides awareness to reduce commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sex tourism.	women and young girls by raising awareness regarding trafficking. ECPAT- Cambodia increases the awareness and effective action against child sex tourism and helps Protect children from child pornography.
Vietnam		
Border insecurity	The Government of Vietnam promotes security in land and sea borders. The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) maintains security at international airports.	The Asia Foundation's cross-border cooperation program allows representatives from relevant agencies, organizations, and associations in Vietnam, Cambodia, and China to attend the workshops and exchange ideas, opinions, and information regarding trafficking. Agreements are established to ensure the effective cross-border interventions to prevent trafficking.
Formal education	Primary education in public school is free. The Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) raises awareness of trafficking at a local level through education programs such as safe migration program and Alliance Anti-Traffic's (AAT) teacher education program.	The Asia Foundation's Safe migration program has provided safe migration education for school curriculum since 2007. It also provides education about life and work in industrialized/big cities, common work for migrating rural people, the difficulties and challenges of migrating, and information regarding women and child trafficking. The Asia Foundation's scholarship program for disadvantaged girls provides long-term scholarships for girls living under poverty and who have limited school attainment.
Gender		The Asia Foundation's Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment program provides opportunity for women to be involved in the community programs, and offers micro-credits for women to start businesses.
Migration		The Asia Foundation's safe migration program provides information, vocational skills, and support services for potential migrants.
Trafficking ignorance	The government is conducting anti-trafficking awareness campaigns through a variety of media,	

community based anti-trafficking posters, government-sponsored radio and television programs, as well as school programs.

The Ministry of Public Services (MPS) and Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), in partnership with NGOs and foreign aid organizations, are providing counselling and vocational training to women and girls.