

Hills Scholar Exposes Indo-Nepal Human Trafficking



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Darjeeling — "Human trafficking is one of the biggest [criminal](#) enterprises in the world along with [drugs](#) and arms [trade](#)," says a scholar from Darjeeling.

The International Labour Organization's recent report identifies three kinds of human trafficking, including forced labour, forced sexual exploitation, and [state](#) imposed forced labour.

The report further explains, "Human trafficking involves the exploitation of a person typically through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labour, involuntary servitude or commercial sex."

"Human trafficking can take a number of forms," says the author.

"Desperate people might go into debt to [smugglers](#) who place them in jobs. Their only option is to work off that debt on terms dictated by their employer. They might be sold by their parents and have no money to get back home. Or they might be tricked into prostitution and find themselves living in the shadows of an illicit enterprise," states the author.

The 252 page [New Delhi](#) based Mittal [Publication](#) book Cross Border Human [Trafficking](#) is by Dr Romana Lepcha, Head of the Department of [Political](#) Science at Salesian College Sonada, Darjeeling.

The author tries to explore major socio-legal aspects of human trafficking in [India](#) and Nepal. She also critically examines the nature and role of existing (outdated) laws of both the countries and looks into the reasons behind the [failure](#) of legal institutions and mechanisms to prevent human trafficking in the region.

The author does not hesitate to point out the problems which are hindering the implementation of the existing laws against human trafficking, at the same time suggests some new measures to strengthen legal frameworks and institutions to address trafficking between source country Nepal and transit and destination region [India](#). The author insists that both countries should implement international laws related to human [trafficking](#), especially The [UN Trafficking](#) Protocol, in its legislation.

The book has four core chapters besides introduction and conclusion.

The introductory chapter gives a brief overview of legal framework along with [trends](#) and patterns of human trafficking in [India](#) and neighbouring Nepal.

The second chapter discusses the concepts and definitions of human trafficking by analyzing important international existing legal regimes and institutions of human trafficking and its related crimes.

The third chapter presents the overview of important laws, acts and legal regimes and institutions and its impact to control human trafficking in the region.

The fourth chapter provides critical examination of the legal issues of human trafficking between the countries by finding various gaps and limitations of existing laws and legal framework.

The fifth chapter focuses on the issues of restructuring institutions and reforming legal frameworks of both [India](#) and Nepal that deals with human trafficking and other related crimes.

In the concluding section, the author laments the fact that the region still does not comply with international standards of protocol and legislation in preventing human trafficking.

The author also provides some 30 page appendix on Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish [Trafficking](#) in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and 22 page Bibliography, and 10 pages of subject index.

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BY CM PAUL

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