

WOMEN TRAFFICKING: YOUNG WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES IN WEST JAVA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

West Java province is the most contributors of women trafficking cases in Indonesia. Women trafficking threaten women in all age group, including young women. However, little is known young women's perspectives of women trafficking especially in West Java region. The aim of this study was to determine young women's perspectives of the impact of trafficking, and their actions to prevent it. This was a descriptive quantitative study. This study involved 361 young women ages 15-17 who chosen using the stratified random sampling technique. Respondents filled up questionnaire. Data were analysed using distribution of frequency. The study revealed that 65% of young women perceived that trafficking had negative impact to their health, and 71 % of them were also of the view that individual prevention was necessary. However, only 30 % of them perceived the importance of social support actions to prevent women trafficking. This study conclude that young women had different perceptions about impact of trafficking and actions to prevent it. There is a need of effective strategies to improve social support for preventing women's trafficking. Enhancing women's awareness, perceptions, and knowledge of human trafficking especially in West Java is also necessary.

Keywords: perceptions, women's trafficking, young women

ABSTRAK

Provinsi Jawa Barat memiliki penduduk terbanyak di Indonesia, merupakan penyumbang terbesar perdagangan perempuan. Perdagangan perempuan menjadi ancaman pada semua tingkatan usia terutama remaja perempuan. Namun terbatas informasi tentang persepsi remaja perempuan di Jawa barat khususnya di daerah rural tentang perdagangan perempuan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi persepsi remaja perempuan tentang efek dan pencegahan perdagangan perempuan di provinsi Jawa Barat. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif deskriptif. Jumlah responden sebanyak 361 remaja perempuan usia 15-17 tahun yang dipilih menggunakan stratified random sampling. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan kuesioner, data dianalisis dengan distribusi frekuensi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa 65% remaja perempuan berpersepsi perdagangan perempuan dapat berdampak negatif bagi kesehatan perempuan, 71 % responden berpersepsi bahwa individu perlu melakukan pencegahan. Namun persepsi berkaitan dengan dukungan sosial untuk pencegahan perdagangan perempuan menunjukkan 30% responden berpersepsi tidak perlu. Kesimpulan penelitian ini, remaja perempuan memiliki persepsi yang berbeda-beda, dimana sebagian besar berpersepsi adanya dampak negatif dari perdagangan perempuan pada kesehatan perempuan

sehingga perlu melakukan pencegahan, namun sebagian besar berpersepsi keterlibatan dukungan sosial terhadap pencegahan perdagangan perempuan tidak diperlukan. Diperlukan strategi dan metode yang tepat untuk meningkatkan peran dukungan sosial dalam pencegahan perdagangan perempuan, dan peningkatan pengetahuan serta kesadaran masyarakat terhadap ancaman perdagangan perempuan di Jawa Barat.

Kata kunci: persepsi, perdagangan perempuan, remaja perempuan

BACKGROUND

Human trafficking threaten individual in all age group. The report from The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) showed that 71% of human trafficking victims were adult women, young women, and children (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). The report also described that the aims of human trafficking were sex exploitations, temporary marriage contract, slavery, beggar, and porn industry (UNODC, 2017). The victims could be men and women, but there is a difference in the trafficking's motive between genders. The men victims are associated with work exploitations, while women victims are associated with sex exploitations, and temporary marriage contract.

Women's trafficking is an international issue; however the incidence number is difficult to be identified. The United Nation (2016) predicted that the number of victims in developing countries reaches approximately hundred thousand to millions. The USA reports showed that every year around 50,000-100,000 women and children come to America by themselves, in which a half of them being hard labourers and housekeepers. The International Organization for Migration reported the human trafficking cases around the world including South East Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, South America, Central America, and North America (United Nations, 2016).

In Indonesia, the trafficking issues were addressed by the USA embassy (Kedutaan AS di Indonesia, 2016). In 2016 they released a report of human trafficking in Indonesia. The report concluded that Indonesian government does not meet the minimum standard of human trafficking elimination programmes. Even though the government has sentenced 199 traffickers, repatriated 5668 Indonesian who identified as human trafficking victims overseas, provided shelters and services for 441 victims, and also convicted 8 perpetrators of forced labours; the government has not provided support to help 1500 yacht crews that identified as human trafficking victims. The Indonesian government built eight new shelters for the victims, but the shelters were very low in quality and the facilities were unstandardized. In addition, the government officers' show limited knowledge related to regulation and indicator of human trafficking. As a result they were often incapable to negotiate, help, and identify the victims. The officers also have limited capability to work across sector. Lack of institutional collaboration in Indonesia resulted in the lack of implementation of national strategies to eliminate human trafficking. At international level, the mandate to eliminate slavery in the world was declared in 1926 when the United Nation adopted Anti-Slavery Convention. The convention obligated the members to prevent and combat the practice of

slavery in their territory including Indonesia (Supardjaja, 2003).

Developing countries, including Indonesia, considered as the main provider of the human trafficking in the world. Thousands of Indonesian rural women are interested in working overseas. They are persuaded by work agents to work as domestic servant or prostitutes in some countries such as Middle East, South East Asia, Japan, Australia, and USA. There is no report of the exact number of human trafficking cases in Indonesia, but the number is estimated high. In 2002, approximately 500.000 of 1.563.334 Indonesian illegal workers were deported from Malaysia. The Indonesian government has a lot of work to do to solve human trafficking issues. Furthermore, prevention actions are also needed to decrease the number of human trafficking in Indonesia in the future (Agustina, 2006).

West Java, a province with the largest population in Indonesia, is the most contributors of women trafficking in Indonesia. Even though there is no official report from the government related to the exact number of women trafficking in West Java, the high number of women trafficking in West Java was written by many national electronic media in Indonesia (Perdana, 2013; Tempo, 2014). According to the report, some district with high risk of women trafficking were Indramayu, Karawang, Kabupaten Bandung, Cianjur, dan Cirebon. Institut Perempuan (2015) reported some problems that often experienced by migrant labours are trafficking, lost contact, sexual violence, limited access to family in Indonesia, no work leave, sentence in court, neglected, and passport hold by employer. Institut Perempuan also reported 89 cases of

trafficking that involve women and children as victims.

A study of human trafficking was conducted in three areas of West Java including Indramayu, Cianjur, and Karawang (Supardjaja, 2003). The study found that the characteristic of trafficking victims were low in economy, women, having low formal education, ages 16-32 years, and family background were farmer or labour. The common physical appearances of women's victims are young and attractive. Woman is the most victim of human trafficking, and young woman is the most trafficker target. However there is limited information about young women's views of trafficking especially in West Java. This study aimed to identify young women's perceptions of human trafficking to provide a new insight of women's trafficking issue.

METHODS

This was a descriptive quantitative study. The study was conducted in 12 different sub districts in Bandung. Bandung was one of districts in West Java that have high incidence of human trafficking in West Java. Samples were selected using the stratified random sampling method. A total of 361 young women ages 15-17 years were involved in this study. Researchers were aided by health cadres to access respondents. Researcher provided an information sheet and asked for informed consent to respondents. After signing informed consent, respondents filled out a questionnaire which assesses their perception regarding impact of trafficking to young women, and needs of trafficking prevention actions. Data were analysed using univariate analysis. The study result presented into two different tables of frequency distribution. The ethical

roles applied in this study including the researcher explained verbally related to the study processes, and respondents' voluntary participated (Autonomy). This research also do not harm to the respondent physically or mentally (Beneficence). To keep the respondent anonymous, researchers would not list names of the respondent on the questionnaire but instead using respondent number (Confidentially).

RESULTS

This study identified young women's perceptions of human trafficking. The majority respondents in this study attended senior high school (94%), and only few of them attended 9 years compulsory education programme (6%). The majority of respondents were student (94%), and the rest were housewives and employee.

Young women's perspectives related to the impact of trafficking to women's health presents in Table 1.

Table 1. Young women's perceptions of the trafficking impact to health (n=361)

Variable	Negative	No Impact
Physical health	227 (63%)	134 (37%)
Mental health	217 (60%)	144 (40%)

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents perceived that human trafficking have negative impact to physical or mental health, 63% and 60 % respectively. However, more than one third respondent perceived that women trafficking would not have negative impact to health.

Table 2. Young women's perceptions of the importance of trafficking prevention (n=361)

Variable	Important	Not important
Individual action	256 (71%)	105 (29%)
Social supports	108 (30%)	253 (70%)

Table 2 shows that the majority of respondents (71%) perceived that prevention actions to prevent human trafficking at individual level are necessary. The respondents identified some preventive actions such as saving emergency contact via cell phone, and understanding the modus and risk of trafficking. In opposite, the study found that the majority of respondents (70%) have perception that preventive actions by social support (family, government) were not needed.

DISCUSSION

The study revealed that majority of respondent perceived that human trafficking would have negative impact to physical or mental health. This findings are in line with previous studies that found human trafficking affected women's physical and mental health (Huang, 2017; Muftic & Finn, 2013; Peled & Parker, 2013; Stockl, Kiss, Koehler, Dong, & Zimmerman, 2017). A study conducted in the post-trafficking services to 51 Vietnamese women and girls ages 14 years and up who had trafficking experience in China found that the majority of them experienced sexual violence (86%) (Stockl et al., 2017). They also prisoned before travel back to Vietnam (59%, n=30). The study also identified several mental issues including 52.9% of them (n=27) reported probable depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) when arrived in Vietnam, two of them did suicided, and 75% experienced trauma and fear. Stockl et al's (2017) study also found that 10 of the victims were pregnant in China, and other seven women pregnant when in Vietnam. Human trafficking threatens not only women, but also men physically and mentally. A study of 33 men trafficking victims in the UK found that

40% of them experienced physical violence, 81% of them faced illness problems, and 57 % of them challenged with post-traumatic stress symptoms (Turner-Moss, Zimmerman, Howard, & Oram, 2014). Those studies informed that trafficking absolutely affected to physical and mental health of the victims. Even though the majority young women in this study perceived that trafficking have effects to physical and emotional health, there were women who had different perceptions of trafficking. Their views might be driven by economic factor. Their need to earn money is greater than their safety. Their views also could be influenced by low sense of awareness. They didn't aware about the impact of human trafficking because they have low knowledge about it. Thus, it is important to improve their knowledge and attitude. Nurses as health educators could develop health education program to prevent trafficking.

This study provides a new insight related to young women's views of the trafficking impact to women's health in West Java. Previous studies in Indonesia mostly focused on the government regulation and policy related to trafficking, causal factors, and law protection to trafficking victims in Indonesia (Ardianto, 2013; Harahap, 2010; Lubis, 2012). However, few studies are assessed and explored victims' opinions or risk groups' opinions. It might have influence on women's information about the trafficking victims. There are needs to develop a specific intervention for young women that could improve their awareness of trafficking, and help them to prevent it in the future.

This study found that majority of young women perceived the importance of individual actions to prevent trafficking. This finding is in line with previous

studies from different countries about women's awareness of trafficking and prevention actions (Fraley, Aronowitz, & Jones, 2017; Shrestha, Karki, Suwal, & Copenhaver, 2015; Titchen et al., 2017). Shrestha et al's (2015) study assessed awareness and attitude of anti-trafficking campaign. The study involved 292 students from three different schools in Nepal. The study found that majority student obtained information about trafficking from radio and television (94%). They also showed positive attitude of anti-trafficking campaign. The campaign improved their understanding of trafficking and its prevention actions. Even though the majority of respondents in this study aware of the trafficking prevention actions, there were few of young women who had opposite perception. There is a need of further study to assess perception of young women related to trafficking prevention; especially of those who had different perception.

This study found that majority of respondents believed that social support including from health facilities, health care providers, government, community and family was not necessary to prevent human trafficking. This perception might be influenced by how respondents observed roles of those parties in preventing human trafficking. The human trafficking campaign in Indonesian by electronic media or radio was not regularly held. It also happened in health services. Flyer or posters which inform human trafficking are limited. Lack of government, health services, and community in providing programmes and information to prevent trafficking may influence young women's perceptions of the importance of social support in trafficking prevention. Besides, trafficking victims would feel traumatic with the

trafficking experience. As a result, they might withdraw from social life or hesitate to share the experience with others. In addition, roles of parents could influence victims' behaviour, as they are the closest person to the victims. If victims share any experience about human trafficking or other sexual harassment, parents need to listen and provide full support to the victim so they can get their life back. Social support is very important to victim whether they willing to share their experience or not. Social support would have influence on community awareness and their knowledge of trafficking in West Java.

In Indonesia, women welfare and equality are still considered as gender issue. Women's emancipation, roles, and independency have increased in all aspect of country development in Indonesia. However, still there are women who lives in vulnerability and obtain limited support from the society. They become object of sex and target of trafficking. In this study, there were women who perceived that social support, for example from health providers, were not important in preventing trafficking. In contrast, a study in the USA that involved 1648 medical student found that the majority of them perceived the need of knowledge (80.6%) and capability (40.4%) to help and prevent trafficking in community (Titchen et al., 2017). The government needs to increase the quality and quantity of the trafficking services, campaign and programmes in community. When it could be achieved, there would be an improvement in the community understanding and awareness of human trafficking.

Nursing Implications

This study has implication to role of nurses in health care services especially their roles as health care providers, health educators, and researcher. Nurses are expected to develop different method or strategy of health education across age groups to improve their knowledge and attitude regarding trafficking and its prevention actions. Nurses could also strengthen social support by involving government, parents, health services, health care providers, and community members in their care plans. Findings of this study also provide information about the need of further research in women trafficking using qualitative or quantitative approaches, for example exploring women's trafficking experience and their expectation of the social support roles, exploring parents' views of trafficking, and doing community survey about the roles of government to help trafficking victims.

CONCLUSION

There are different perceptions among young women related to the impact of women trafficking and actions to prevent it. Negative impact of trafficking to physical and mental health was perceived by the majority young women in this study. However, there were few young women who had not aware of either negative impact or prevention action of women's trafficking. There is a need of active campaign using various media which accessible by young generation. Improving social support including from the government, parents, health services, health care providers, and community members and also enhancing women's awareness, perceptions, and knowledge are crucial to prevent women's trafficking in Indonesia.

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