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# THE STUDY ON REHABILITATION PROCESS OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED FOR PURPOSE COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AZERBAIJAN

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ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ РЕАБИЛИТАЦИИ ЖЕРТВ ТОРГОВЛИ ЛЮДЬМИ И АНАЛИЗ ФИНАНСОВЫХ РЕСУРСОВ ВЫДЕЛЕННЫХ ДЛЯ ЦЕЛИ БОРЬБЫ С ТОРГОВЛЕЙ ЛЮДЬМИ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНЕ

**Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime specifies that "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs.**

**The most prevalent forms and causes of trafficking in human beings – identification of the gender of a victim, assistance and social rehabilitation measures to and for victims, ensuring confidentiality of victims – has been studied in the article. The survey was conducted between 4 experts and ultimately provide recommendations to combat human trafficking.**

**Статья 3, пункта Протокола о предупреждении и пресечении торговли людьми, особенно женщинами и детьми, и наказании за нее, дополняющий Конвенцию Организации Объединенных Наций против транснациональной организованной преступности "торговля людьми" означает осуществляемые в целях эксплуатации вербовку, перевозку, передачу, укрывательство или получение людей путем угрозы силой или ее применения или других форм принуждения, похищения, мошенничества, обмана, злоупотребления властью или уязвимостью положения, либо путем подкупа, в виде платежей или выгод, для получения согласия лица, контролирующего другое лицо. Эксплуатация включает, как минимум, эксплуатацию проституции других лиц или другие формы сексуальной эксплуатации, принудительный труд или услуги, рабство или обычаи, сходные с рабством, подневольное состояние или извлечение органов.**

**В статье исследованы самые распространенные формы торговли людьми – Определение пола жертв, Применение социальной реабилитации жертвам торговли людьми и соблюдение их конфиденциальности.**

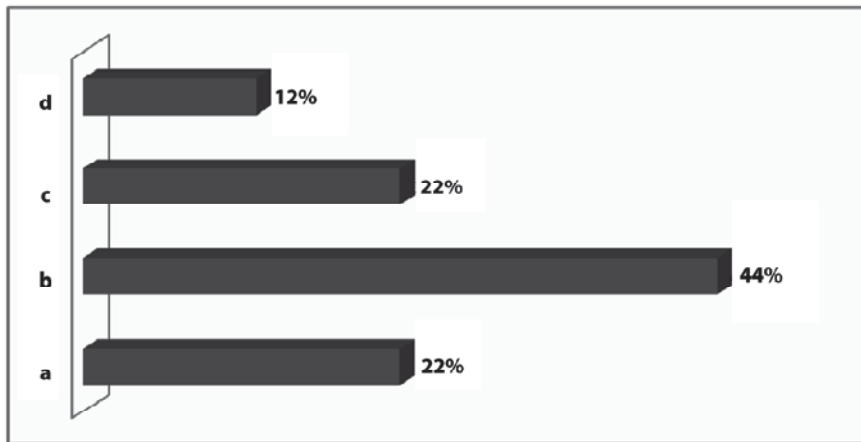
*Key words: Human trafficking, social rehabilitation measures for victims, survey, financial resource, expert.*

*Ключевые слова: торговля людьми, меры социальной реабилитации, исследование, финансовые ресурсы, эксперт.*

## INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a crime that affects the most vulnerable members of society. It is a global issue and

according to the United Nations, is tied with illegal arms, the second largest criminal activity in the world after drugs. Victims of human trafficking suffer a violation of human



**Fig. 1. What are the causes of human trafficking? (in-%)**

a) to make illegal profit; b) avarice; c) financial difficulties; d) unawareness.  
 Source: Own research, own processing.

rights and are to be considered as persons in need of protection. Promoting safety and well-being of victims must be a paramount concern for all law-enforcement bodies.

According to International Labour Organization's (ILO) 2012 global estimate of forced labour, there are at least 20.9 million victims of forced labour, trafficking and slavery in the world at present. Moreover, ILO recently estimated that at least 12.3 million people are victims of forced labour throughout the world. Of these, 9.8 million are exploited by private agents, including more than 2.4 million in forced labour as a result of human trafficking. Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. Department of State (2013) estimates that, based on the information governments have provided, only around 40,000 victims have been identified in the last year, however "many advocacy groups cite figures of more than 27 million people worldwide exploited in contemporary forms of slavery [1].

**BRIEF LITERATURE OVERVIEW**

Azerbaijan is the largest country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. Known for its wealth of crude oil and natural gas reserves; Azerbaijan is bounded with the Caspian Sea in the east, Russia in the north, Georgia in the northwest, Armenia in the west, and Iran in the south. With a territory of 86.6 thousand square kilometres in total and a population of around 9.4 million, Azerbaijan, thanks to its strategic geopolitical location, has been at the crossroads of several civilizations over the centuries [2].

Azerbaijan is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced labour and women and children in forced prostitution. Men and boys from Azerbaijan are subjected to conditions of forced labour in Russia. Women and children from Azerbaijan are subjected to forced prostitution in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Russia and Iran. Men from Azerbaijan are trafficked within Azerbaijan for the purpose of forced labour and women and children are trafficked internally for forced prostitution and forced labour, including forced begging. Azerbaijan serves as a transit country for women from Moldova, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan subjected to forced prostitution in Turkey and the UAE. The Azerbaijani

enclave of Nakhchivan serves as a transit point for women trafficked to Turkey for forced prostitution. Azerbaijan is a destination country for women from Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia subjected to forced prostitution. It is also a destination country for men and women from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, and China subjected to conditions of forced labour, primarily in the construction industry [3].

Addressing the international conference organized by OSCE Office in the capital city of Azerbaijan in 2012, Deputy Interior Minister said that 484 facts of human trafficking have been revealed in Azerbaijan since 2006. 10 of them were related to forced labour, 363 faced charges, 222 groups were rendered harmless, and 8 were organized criminal gangs. 473 people were freed and rehabilitated as a result of the struggle against human trafficking [4].

**PURPOSE**

This study aims at review of the problem of human trafficking and analysis of rehabilitation assistances available to victims in Azerbaijan.

**METHODOLOGY**

Gender structure of respondents involved to the survey is 67% female. Only 33% male experts participated in the survey. Thus, gender equality is not followed within survey. Most of the experts (78%) are highly-educated and some of them (57%) are government officials.

In order to find out counter factors influencing on efficient outcomes of the social rehabilitation process available to victims of human trafficking in Azerbaijan, I developed the following hypotheses:

- The main reason of human trafficking is financial difficulties;
- The most widespread form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation.
- The organizations implementing social rehabilitation assistance do not have financial resources;

**RESULTS**

During the survey, it was determined that majority of victims are female. The most widespread form of human

trafficking is sexual exploitation in Azerbaijan. In particular, financial difficulties (44%) promote human trafficking. This form manifests itself especially among women. The male victims are mostly subjected to forced labor. Experts also noted that, most victims are female, but male victims are more interested in social rehabilitation process. Because, when women get victim status, they are afraid of joining social rehabilitation process. This creates challenges to social rehabilitation and reintegration process of female victims. After judicial procedure contacts of victims are not activated, it causes another challenge to social rehabilitation process. Victimized children are rarely found in practice. NGOs assist to these children within their capabilities. Experts suggested awareness activities, strengthening of law enforcement and improvement of hotline service to fight against human trafficking.

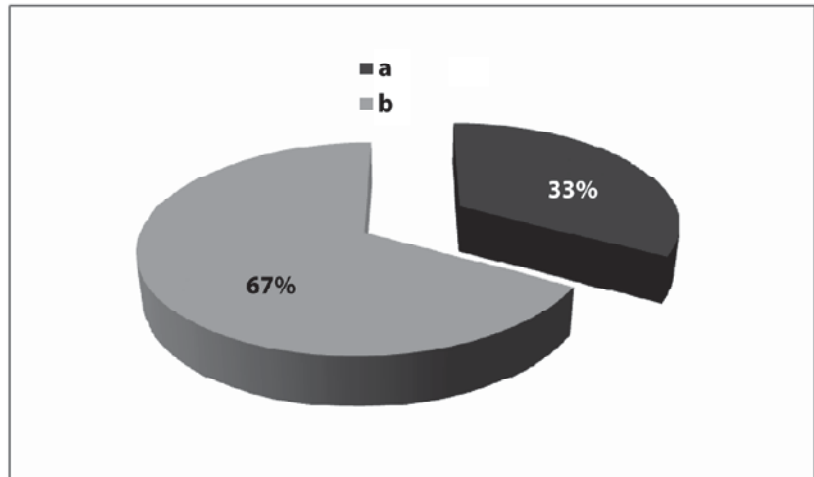
Experts noted that, they direct the victims to vocational trainings and provide them with legal, medical, psychological and social assistance in social rehabilitation process. They also protect the rights of victims in judicial process. Initial assistance is provided by Department on struggle against trafficking in human beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The next stage of the assistance is provided by Assistance Center to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population. Social rehabilitation measures are also provided by NGOs and International Organizations. The assistance provides reintegration into society of victims.

It was determined that, the experts also provide confidentiality during social rehabilitation process. Reasons of unawareness about legislation on confidential information are sometimes dislocated. To prevent these cases, experts implement awareness campaigns among victims and employees of relevant bodies.

"The social rehabilitation plan should be prepared properly in order not to need additional social rehabilitation measures. First of all, the victim's

psychological condition should be considered and psychological assistance should be provided. The victim's individual social rehabilitation plan should be prepared in such a way so that the victim cannot be re-victimized or victimize others. It happens mostly in sexual exploitation. This derives from the fact that the victim faces unemployment, social problems, poverty, and discrimination after the social rehabilitation. Mostly, there is double approach towards the victims in Azerbaijan. If there is discrimination against the victim in the family and in the society, then he or she is more likely to become a victim again. The maintenance of confidentiality of victims should be one of the priorities of the plan. The confidentiality of the victim in the family should be maintained by shelters, state bodies and NGOs".

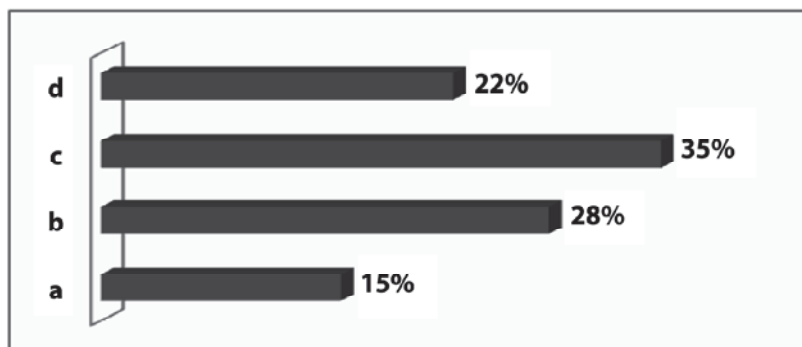
"First of all, victim's needs should be learned at the moment when he or she obtains the status of victim. The assessment should be carried out and an individual plan should be prepared. If there is failure to do so, either a victim rehabilitates himself or herself with own resources. Strengthening of awareness raising measures and provision of victims with employment are one of the issues that will prevent this process."



**Fig. 2. Have you assisted to victims of human trafficking in your experience? (in-%)**

a) Yes; b) No

Source: Own research, own processing.



**Fig. 3. Which additional social rehabilitation measures are needed in order to prevent re-victimization? (in-%)**

a) Victim's Individual Plan should be made properly; b) Need for sustainability of social services; c) Individual needs assessment should be made on the spot; d) There is a need for other additional social rehabilitation measures

Source: Own research, own processing.

"Social services should be sustainable. The support to be rendered by government agencies to the victims has been reflected in relevant laws and National Action Plan (NAP). According to the new decision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, vocational education of child victims will be free of charge".

Financial resources allocated to the elimination of trafficking in human being

Every 30 seconds, the criminal industry of human trafficking makes more than \$30,000 in the World. That statistic, calculated from estimates by the International Labour Organization, reveals the size and international scope of human trafficking, or the exploitation of humans as a commodity. Human trafficking happens in urban metropolises and in remote rural areas, in developing and first world nations. This lucrative and globally pervasive industry is growing rapidly. Behind only drug trafficking and the sale of counterfeit or pirated goods as the most profitable organized crime, human trafficking brings in approximately \$32 billion a year, according to an estimate by the United Nations. That sum is generated through the slavery, abuse and exploitation of an estimated 27 million people [6].

Most part of about AZN 400 thousand funds averagely allocated from the state budget every year for combating human trafficking is spent for social rehabilitation of victims, including their maintenance in the shelter (about AZN 570 for every victim), issuance of one-time allowances (AZN 400), payment of expenses of the Assistance Center to the Victims of Human Trafficking (AZN 30.400) [7].

2010 was one of those years when there was spent vast amount of financial resources on anti-human trafficking activity in Azerbaijan. During the year, the Ministry of Internal Affairs contributed 52,000 AZN grant for operation of Hotline and shelter, the Council of State Support to NGOs under the President of Azerbaijan contributed 46,500 AZN, the European Commission contributed 87 000 AZN, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE contributed 90,000 AZN, OSCE Baku Office contributed 55 000 AZN, International Organization for Migration contributed 100 000AZN, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation (Soros fund) contributed 125 000 US dollars, ILO contributed 120 000 US dollars, Norway embassy (with technical support of Eurasia Foundation) contributed 20 000 US dollars. One of the matters worthy of note is that amount of benefits paid to the victims of trafficking in human beings during reintegration period was increased two fold and reached to AZN 400 by the decision of the government in 2011 [8].

33 projects was funded and more than 230 thousands manat was allocated for these purposes the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan the period of National Action Plan of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Struggle Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2009—2013) [9].

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improvement of assistance process for potential victims of human trafficking;
- Involvement to social rehabilitation process of a victim of human trafficking from identification process;

- Raising a wide range of public awareness on human trafficking;
- Providing training on ethical issues in preventing and combating human trafficking among relevant agencies;
- Increasing the number of Assistance Centers for victims and to make people aware of the Centers;
- Increasing the number of shelters for victims;
- Providing children with assistance by the Assistance Center;
- Increasing and Increasing resources of the Assistance Centers for social rehabilitation process;
- Increasing cooperation among relevant bodies;
- There should be opened a compensation foundation financed on account of confiscation of money or property obtained by human traffickers;
- Financial resources should be allocated to the Assistance Center;
- Identifying the case of labor exploitation as human trafficking.

## CONCLUSION

As a result of the research that I conducted for the article, I came to a conclusion that there are shortcomings in rehabilitation process. The experts proved the hypotheses developed in this article that there is a need for improvement of cooperation among relevant organizations in order to increase efficiency of rehabilitation process of victims. There is a need for monitoring efficiency of the practical work of relevant authorities which are engaged in the rehabilitation process of victims in order not to repeat the same shortcomings in the next National Action Plan which will cover the period of 2014—2018.

The outcomes of the interview with the experts showed that there is an obvious need for the state support to the local NGOs which are rendering rehabilitation assistances to victims. Another shortcoming is that there is only one state-run rehabilitation centre (the Centre for Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings) in Azerbaijan.

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