

# Human Trafficking in South Asia



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## 4

### **Child Trafficking in West Bengal: magnitude and Problems (A study in context of Dooars Tea Garden Areas)**

**Madhusudan Karmakar**

#### **Abstract**

Child trafficking is a form of human trafficking affecting large numbers of little boys and girls throughout the world. Trafficking violates a child's right to grow up in a family environment and exposes him or her to a range of dangers, including violence, sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation. Child trafficking has become a massive organized crime and it is one of the most lucrative criminal trades, next to arms and drug smuggling undertaken by highly organized criminals. India is a source, destination, and transit country for child trafficking.

The northern fringe of West Bengal especially the Dooars Tea garden areas have been one of the important hubs of this trafficking. Due to the strategic geographical location the child trafficking phenomenon has been a serious issue in this part of India. However the present paper provides an overview of the nature of child trafficking in West Bengal with special reference to Dooars Tea garden areas. The main objective of the study is to find out the magnitude of child trafficking in this economically lagged part of India with emphasis on its combating measures. Based on primary and secondary sources of data and analysis the article's findings suggest that child trafficking has become a serious social problem in West Bengal and it has been rampant in Dooars Tea garden areas. Economic deprivation and associated conditions (e.g., poverty), strategic border location, low social status of the girls, lack of education and awareness etc. have stimulated this trafficking problem. The paper reflects that