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Human Trafficking: Snakehead Gang Victims and Trends

NAME

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Introduction

- Human Trafficking has emerged as the modern-day slavery due to its prevalence
- Victims are subjected to exploitative situations such as forced labor, prostitution, and slavery (Liu, 2017)
- The female population holds 71% of victims and boys and men account for 29% (Greenbaum et al., 2017)
- The topic is significant in providing information concerning human trafficking victims together with the trends used by criminals
- The Snakehead gang is a Chinese gang that used to smuggle individuals from China to other wealthy western countries
- The gang has transported more than 200,000 individuals to rich western countries illegal (Kelso, 2001)

Overview

- The research aims to examine the features of trafficked individuals by snakehead gangs and their latest operational strategies in trafficking to inform enhanced investigation strategies for human trafficking
- Human trafficking has continued to prevail in societies and countries through gangs such as snakehead gang due to lack of effective law enforcement initiatives, availability of victims, complex organization structures and factors that support the crime such as poverty
- The literature review has concentrated on the background of the criminal activity, how the snakehead gang are facilitating their operations and the impact on the society
- Factors enhancing human trafficking includes poverty, unemployment rate, availability of vulnerable population and request for low-cost labor in western nations
- Human trafficking comprises the utilization of force, lies, and intimidation to get several forms of labor or profitable sexual activities, hence the victims are influenced and instilled fear to avoid creating chaos in the destination country. The first policy was established in 2000 by U.N and is adopted by other countries slowly
- Individuals transported are suffering in their destination, which can be changed through education, awareness and poverty eradication in the origin country. Cooperation with countries will also enhance the end of the crime as criminals are developing more ways to lure their victims

The Purpose of the Study

- This research aims to examine the characteristics of victims trafficked by snakehead gangs and their latest operational strategies in trafficking to inform enhanced investigation strategies for human trafficking
- The following objectives will be attained:
 - To examine the population targeted by criminals
 - The strategies used by Snakehead gang
 - Impacts of human trafficking
 - To evaluate the measures and practices that will reduce or end human trafficking

Thesis Statement

- Human trafficking has continued to prevail in societies and countries through gangs such as snakehead gang due to lack of effective law enforcement initiatives, availability of victims, complex organization structures and factors that support human trafficking such as poverty
- What characteristics do victims have to make them target the gangs?
- Describing the reason behind ineffective law development to combat the crime
- Explaining the complex structure of the trafficking organization
- Illustrating the factors that lead to human trafficking

Research Questions

- Which populations are a target to snakehead gang and are prone to be human trafficking victims?
- What strategies does snakehead gang use to lure their targets?
- What impacts have the individuals involved in trafficking encountered in the snakehead gang?
- What are the strategies that are in place to combat human trafficking?
- What are the characteristics features of snakehead and their history of operations to understand their current operations?
- Are diplomatic solutions to human trafficking enough to affect change?

Summary of Review of Literature

- Theme 1: Background to human trafficking by organizing crimes groups and Snakeheads and the effect of the crime in the society
- The crime is categorized as global organized crimes had been identified as a priority threat to national crime (L'Hoiry, 2018)
- Most individuals affected in the crime are children and women (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2018)
- Individuals and migrant trafficking are enhancing due to utilizing the same paths and targeting the same population
- The founder of the gang, Sister Ping started the operation by smuggling people to rich western countries (Thompson, 2003)

Summary of Review of Literature

- Theme 2: Factors contributing to human trafficking by human traffickers especially snakehead
- Human trafficking is a profitable activity and is categorized as among the most rewarding criminal actions (Punam, 2018)
- High demand for cheap labor in rich western countries (Rothman et al., 2017)
- Social and cultural practices that devalue women in society (Planitzer & Katona, 2017)
- Political uncertainty in a country-of-origin (British Columbia, n.d)

Summary of Review of Literature

- Theme 3: The characteristics of victims that are targets for snakeheads
- Women are vulnerable and targeted by traffickers because of the increased demand for sex trafficking (Betz, 2009)
- Language barriers in the country of origin (Lewis et al., 2018)
- Victims are not often aware of the location being taken

Summary of Review of Literature

- Theme 4: Snakehead operations in undertaking human trafficking
- The snakehead gang started their operation by smuggling women, children, and men from china to rich western countries including Australia and North America
- The leader of the snakehead gang known as Sister Ping made millions of money through smuggling individuals (Thompson, 2003)
- Snakehead gang operations are complex and organized from the gathering of individuals to transportation (Kelso, 2001)
- The gang uses social media applications such as MoMo and WeChat to enhance their operations (You & Robinson, 2019)

Theoretical Issues-Factors Contributing to the Problem

- Human trafficking is enhanced by both traffickers and victims (Jurek & King, 2020)
- Criminals of human trafficking use methods such as false aptitudes of a better life to apprentice their victims (Punam, 2018)
- Human trafficking is an organized scheme
- Human trafficking facilitates other crimes such as money laundering
- Increased request for low-cost labor in rich western states (Rothman et al., 2017)
- Lack of individuals rights for the vulnerable population in origin country (Planitzer & Katona, 2017)

Findings and Discussions

- Human trafficking comprises the utilization of force, lies, and intimidation to get several forms of labor or profitable sexual activities (Department of Homeland Security, n.d)
- The United States has been dealing with an issue of illegal immigrants and forgets human trafficking until 2000 (Zhang, 2007)
- The perpetrators may utilize violence, false assurance, manipulation to trap victims into trafficking conditions (Lewis et al., 2018)
- The victims at their destination have fear of both law implementers and criminals hence no option but to stay

Existing Policies

- The realization of prevention measures began in the year two thousand when the U.N General Assembly acquired the agreement to fight TO.C (DiRienzo, 2018)
- State legislatures have been involved in developing policies that forbid human trafficking since 2000 (Farrell et al., 2019)
- There are laws enforcement authority and administration challenges regarding deterrence and regulations of the crime and the defence of affected individuals (Dandurand, 2017)
- The United States had developed the initiative of anti-trafficking drive
- G8 nations including US, UK, Canada and Japan uses sophisticated technology to deal with criminals (Farrell et al., 2019)
- The U. N conventions established in 2000 to stop, defeat and discipline criminals of human smuggling

Conclusions

- Human trafficking activities are a multi-billion-dollar activity which includes smuggling individuals both willing and those who are forced to move to other countries
- The snakehead gang operated for more than twenty years before their leader was captured and detained
- Many states are adopting the anti-trafficking strategy and have realized human poses a great threat to human rights
- Human trafficking continues to thrive due to the complex scheme and organization in different countries
- Snakehead gang uses technological tools to lure their victims such as MoMo
- The incorporation of the International Criminal Court will help in the investigation and an end to the crime

Recommendations

- Making the public aware of the dangers of human trafficking
- Improve coordination and cooperation among countries
- Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies and legislatures
- Progress gender equality and edification of individuals on cultural values that ignore human trafficking
- Eradicate poverty and unemployment

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