Human Mobility and Emerging Threats to Human Security in South Asia

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Abstract

Studies on South Asian security focus on traditional threats such as military aggression, nuclear proliferation, proxy wars and terrorism. This paper examines changing notions of the term security in international relations and the scope and dimensions of a broadened regional security agenda that focuses upon human security which is under strain because of human mobility within the South Asian region. It focuses on two specific issues affecting human security that can be attributed to human mobility: trafficking and illegal population movements across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh borders. The paper conceptualizes changing notions of security right from the emergence of world order in 1945 through cold war period to the present globalized world. With changing paradigms in security related debates, from state to people, the paper analyses the recent trends in the understanding and the importance of 'human security'. The paper addresses the new insecurities like trafficking in persons and illegal population movements introduced or worsened by globalization from a human security perspective by identifying factors that heighten the insecurity of persons within countries of origin, transit and destination. It analyzes various challenges and prospects of cooperation among SAARC nations who have several bilateral outstanding problems, which require much efforts and resources on part of scholars and policy makers for finding solutions to problems and realizing the goal of peace and human security in the region. Finally, the paper examines responses to the problem in countries of origin, transit, and destination, and concludes with recommendations for future policy intervention and necessary preparedness of countries under international and regional frameworks for overcoming challenges confronting them.

Keywords: Human Mobility, Human Trafficking, Illegal Migration and Human Security.

Introduction

Most studies on South Asian security focus on traditional threats such as military aggression, nuclear proliferation, proxy wars and terrorism. This paper examines changing notions of the term security in international relations and the scope and dimensions of a broadened regional security agenda that focuses upon human security which is under strain because of human mobility within the South Asian region. It focuses on two specific issues affecting human security that can be attributed to human mobility: trafficking and illegal population movements across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh borders. The paper conceptualizes changing notions of security right from the emergence of world order in 1945 through cold war period to the present globalized world. With changing paradigms in security related debates, from state to people, the paper analyses the recent trends in the understanding and the importance of 'human security'. The paper addresses the new insecurities like trafficking in persons and illegal population movements introduced or worsened by globalization from a human security perspective by identifying factors that heighten the insecurity of persons within countries of origin, transit and destination.

It analyzes various challenges and prospects of cooperation among SAARC nations who have several bilateral outstanding problems, which require much efforts and resources on part of scholars and policy makers for finding solutions to problems and realizing the goal of peace and human security in the region. Finally, the paper examines responses to the problem in countries of origin, transit, and destination, and concludes with recommendations for future policy intervention and necessary preparedness of countries under international and regional frameworks for overcoming challenges confronting them.

Challenges Faced by South Asian Countries

In last few decades, SAARC countries have witnessed rise in human mobility and they all have been affected by human security challenges, and such issues continue to remain relevant for these South Asian countries in many respects. First, they represent a subset of the transnational issues as a growing threat to national and regional stability (such as transnational human trafficking and illegal migration). Second, they have, in varying degrees, undermined and distorted institutional state capacity, trade and (legitimate) economic growth in a region that is of geostrategic importance to India. Third, all carry significant implications for the lives, welfare and safety of ordinary citizens of South Asia. Fourth, they have often raised political tension and increased inter-state hostility and rivalry. Finally, because these challenges have not been addressed by established international and regional frameworks, they necessarily require innovative and novel counter measures—something that none of the South Asian governments including Indian Government is not so well placed to facilitate, both by virtue of its resources and leadership role.

India's neighborhood has serious ethnic or provincial fault lines, which results in their blaming "foreign hand" (read India) for their internal problems. Violence in Karachi, suicide terrorism in Lanka; failure of nation building processes, due to faulty policies adopted by successive governments and regimes, are routinely blamed on India. Ironically, both the Maoists and non-Maoist political groups in Nepal blame New Delhi for the domestic instability. In Sri Lanka, both the Sinhalese and Tamils are apprehensive regarding the role played by New Delhi; while the Sri Lankan Tamils feel, that they have been "backstabbed" in not being supported by New Delhi, the Sinhalese fear that New Delhi is secretly supporting the Tamils. Bangladesh is a classic example of how anti-Indian sentiments have become a national pastime, with Bangladeshi believing that India cannot and will never do anything positive vis-a-vis Dhaka. Worse, even if the regimes take any decisions on merits, they will be suspected of being either pro-Indian or worse, an Indian stooge. This hardening of public sentiment, prevents governments in Dhaka from pursuing any policy that is even remotely perceived as being pro - Indian. In short, this is the regional problematique which India is facing today and is likely to face in the foreseeable future.[1]

India's bilateral relations with neighboring countries remain strained over the issue of illegal movements of people across its borders. The problems in North-East India has been simmering on for past several years. Census Reports of Government of India substantiate this fact that substantive changes in the demographic profile of north-eastern states have taken place which has led to precipitation of the illegal migrants' crisis. The recent ethnic conflicts in Assam is attributed to the long pending problem of illegal migrants (having entered Assam after 31-03-1971) staying in the state. India's neighboring country; Bhutan is accused of having uprooted several thousand people of Nepalese origin from their country and forcibly evicted them back to Nepal. A very large influx of Indians within Nepal has always been bone of contention between India-Nepal bilateral relations. Influx of large number of people from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir has complicated the Kashmir problem and made it very difficult for the return of 'Hindu Kashmiris' back to their homes in Kashmir in last few decades. Presence of Tamilians of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and the demand for a separate Tamil Elam and the victory of Sri Lankan forces against LTTE continue to remain a very contentious issue between India and Sri Lanka. The problem continues even as on today over the issue of rehabilitation of remaining Tamils on Sri Lankan soil guaranteeing human security to them. Undoubtedly, South Asian countries continue to have strained relationship with each other because of the movement of people across each other's borders in search of better livelihood. Except Sri Lanka, all other South Asian countries have very poor records in terms of human development index report prepared by UNDP annually. They continue to struggle very hard in meeting the targets of Millennium Developments Goal (MDGs) as envisaged under UN Millennium Development Goals Declaration in year 2000.

Changing Paradigms of Security: National Security to Human Security

From the 1980s onwards, and especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, scholars of international relations increasingly began to emphasize the need for a broader understanding of security. They argued that these traditional threats have not disappeared, but that other, non-military sources of threat now seemed more pressing. One of the most prominent attempts to widen the security agenda has been provided by Barry Buzan[2] and his colleagues. They stress that the security of human collectivities is affected by factors in five major sectors: military, political, economic, societal and environmental. Generally speaking, military security concerns the two-level interplay of the armed offensive and defensive capabilities of states, and states' perceptions of each other's intentions. Political security concerns the organizational stability of states, systems of government and the ideologies that give them legitimacy. Economic security concerns access to the resources, finance and markets necessary to sustain acceptable levels of welfare and state power. Societal security concerns the sustainability, within acceptable conditions for evolution, of traditional patterns of language, culture and religious and national identity and custom. Environmental security concerns the maintenance of the local and the planetary biosphere as the essential support system on which all other human enterprises depend. To Buzan, these five sectors do not, stresses, operate in isolation from one another. Buzan's concept of security, even with the formulation in terms of five sectors, has the state (and state sovereignty) as the core referent object of security.[3]

The 1990s witnessed a proliferation of works that focused on the individual and societal dimensions of security (for example, Buzan 1991; Sorensen 1996;

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Bilgin, Booth, and Jones 1998; Buzan, Waever, and Wilde 1998; Krause and Williams 1998). Academics who were critical of established ways of thinking about security called for dropping the traditional assumption that security could be understood and practiced within an interstate framework. Post-Cold War approaches turned toward frameworks that looked at the threats faced by non-state actors (individuals, social groups, and the global society) as well as states. Arguments were made that "International Security" might no longer be the best label for a field reconstructed as such. Because the word "international" suggests an interstate framework that is no longer the locus of the security problems faced by many actors around the globe, the phrases "global security" and "world security" were proposed as alternative formulations. In the post-Cold War era, the academic debate on security was accompanied by practitioners' increasing interest in "human security," which in turn was warranted by a series of developments that were visible during the Cold War but became more apparent in its aftermath. These developments included (a) growing disparities in economic opportunities both within and between states; (b) increasing hardships faced by peoples in the developing world who found themselves on the margins of a globalizing world economy; (c) diminishing nonrenewable resources leading families and groups to become refugees; (d) rising anti-foreigner feelings and violence in reaction to migration pressures from the developing to the developed world; and (e) proliferating intrastate conflicts increasing public interest in, and pressure for, humanitarian intervention. Furthermore, it was not only an increase in public awareness of the aforementioned developments but also growing consciousness of the costs incurred as a result of the kinds of security practices produced by the established ways of thinking that provided the impetus for an alternative approach. In the post-Cold War era, a range of actors including academics, the United Nations, and nongovernmental organizations explored individual and societal dimensions of security. [4]

In 1990s United Nations Development Program (UNDP) further developed this concept of human security. The UNDP report pointed out two ways in which the concept of security should be changed: (1) the stress put on territorial security should be shifted toward people's security, and (2) security should be sought not through armaments but through sustainable development. The report made four points concerning the need to move away from a national security approach toward an approach that emphasizes human security. First, the authors of the UNDP report presented human security as a universal concern that is relevant to people across the world regardless of geographical location. The process of globalization has created a third world within the first world as well as a first world within the third world. Second, the report maintained that the components of security are interdependent; distress in one part of the world is likely to affect other parts of the world. Third, human security is best ensured through prevention rather than intervention after the crisis takes its toll.

Fourth, the report argued that the referent for security (that is, the focus for security thinking and practices) should be the people rather than states. [5]

The UN Human Development Report 1994 defined human security as to include "safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression as well as protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the pattern of daily life." [6] Later the concept was expanded to include economic, health and environmental concerns as well as physical security of the individual. Advocates of human security tend to be dismissive of old concepts of "geo-politics" and "nation-state" and stress on the need to confront and resolve challenges created by the changing nature of state system rather than on armed conflict, power balancing etc. Human security, however addresses 'world system' is based on the key human security postulate that peace and security need to be refocused away from the state toward human rights and equality in resources , health and environment, among other things. [7]

It is also very much present in the report drawn up by Koffi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, in preparation for the September 2000 Millennium Summit.[8] Human security takes the individual and his community as point of reference, rather than the State, by addressing both military and non- military threats to the latter's security. The security of the State is not an end in itself, but a means of – and necessary precondition for – providing security for people. Indeed, the State itself can be the source of the insecurity of its citizens. Territorial integrity, traditionally the cornerstone of security policy, is less important. Human life and dignity are the keywords. The UNDP lists seven dimensions of security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political. This very broad and therefore unwieldy definition, with 'vulnerability' as its defining feature, is supported by Japan, one of the proponents of human security.[9] Nowadays governments are giving more stress on issues such as drugs, health and global warming, which fall under the 'comprehensive security'.[10]

In recent years a variety of scholars have argued for a widening of the security agenda to cover a variety of economic, social, ecological and demographic issues. They also identified seven issues that are commonly associated with contemporary sources of transnational instability: internal war and conflict; terrorism; heroin and cocaine trade; piracy; the transnational diffusion of infectious disease; environmental degradation; and unregulated mass population movements. [11]

Politically, globalization has changed the concept of security from all dimensions, making the world to remain a dangerous and highly uncertain to live in. By and large, all nations within the region including India will continue to face a number of significant challenges to its security. For example, if one or more governments in the region lose their ability to contain internal political conflict and humanitarian crisis, the maintenance of public order or simply failed to provide for the immediate need of their people it will create conditions for a catastrophic

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civil unrest. Thus in recent times with fast pace of globalization and complicated issues being faced by states, the understanding of security have become crucial for betterment of humanity. New and complex concerns have replaced traditional issues. The same goes for security which is undergoing changes, new concept of security is becoming more acceptable to that of traditional military security, which only stresses on military and defence aspects. But now states so as to secure security need to pay more attention to the present day problems being faced. These contemporary concerns in SAARC region include human trafficking, illegal movement of people (migration), terrorism, 'naxalism-maoism', poverty, population growth, health, environment, cultural, religious and ethnic.

The security approach which is dependent on military is inadequate to deal with the nature of threats to the security of South Asia. Therefore it is now imperative to consider the non military threats.[12] The policy makers of both the countries have been paying more attention to enhance the defensive and offensive capabilities against each other, which have undermined the socio-economic development of both countries.

Human Trafficking and Illegal Movement of People (Migration) as Threats to Human Security in South Asia

South Asian countries do feel the necessity of dealing effectively with the increasingly wide-spread phenomenon of human trafficking. There is also a greater realization of having effective partnerships involving all stakeholders–governments, lawmakers, media, NGOs, regional and international organizations for getting this menace ended. This form of contemporary slavery violates the notion of universal human rights as well as social work ethics. Support for these values is well articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 8, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Article 7. The SAARC Convention on Prevention of Trafficking in Children and Women[13] defines severe forms of trafficking to include sex trafficking, peonage, debt bondage, and involuntary servitude and slavery, all of which are based upon violent and abusive criminal means of control. All of these declarations have been well supported in the social work literature and codes of ethics, thus compelling social workers to strive to uphold and protect the rights of this vulnerable population. India is a major destination country for sex-trafficked girls (Human Rights Watch, 1996; USDOS, 2008) with large numbers of Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and rural Indian females trafficked to Indian cities, particularly Mumbai (Bombay; India Department of Census, 2007). There is no accurate figure of the numbers trafficked. Many of the girls are compelled by a combination of economic hardships, obligations to family and, at the same time, inability to break out of a narrow gender-based role.[14] It is necessary to mention here that numbers mentioned above must have increased substantially as they are taken from previous year reports and census.

Trafficking in persons is a particularly egregious criminal activity in which perpetrators intentionally seeks out the weakest and most vulnerable members of a society in order to exploit them for personal gain, frequently by exploiting conditions of poverty or forced migration due to civil unrest or the collapse of economic systems. It is important to include trafficking in persons as a distinct manifestation of globalization in a discussion of human security for several reasons. First, the growth of trafficking in humans has reached such proportions as to present a significant human rights crisis in countries of origin, transit and destination. The second is the degree to which certain populations are specifically at risk for being exploited because of their particular vulnerabilities. Economic, political and social factors can all contribute to creating a heightened status of insecurity among certain segments of a population. Traffickers identify and target individuals who are characteristically vulnerable, thereby ensuring greater success for themselves. And finally, although a crime against individuals, trafficking in persons relies heavily upon the complicity of government institutions and their employees.[15] A human security framework will therefore provide a basis for specific policy and institutional changes necessary to protect vulnerable populations from the risk of being trafficked in their countries of origin as well as in countries of transit and destination.[16]

Recent Trends in Human Trafficking

Over the last decade, the issue of human trafficking has moved from the margins to the mainstream of international legal and political discourse. Globalization has complicated and added potency to internal conflict and terrorism. While creating wealth and better opportunities for many people, it has often negatively influenced the vulnerable members of society. The diffusion of information technology, the advancement in transportation and communication, and the free flow of financial capital, have all accelerated the movement of people. However, those who have been marginalized or deprived by poverty and inequity have up to now found it difficult to even voice their protest, except with extreme acts of terror like suicide bombings.

In this paper, trafficking is under stood to be the movement of people, through coercion or deception, for the purpose of putting them into exploitative or slavery-like conditions (such as forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and domestic work, to name a few examples). The U.N. Report of Year 2000, estimates that 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, with 60,000 to 70,000 people trafficked into the South Asia alone. As for the number of people trafficked within national borders, current estimates place that number between two to four million people per year. More and more migrants who choose to migrate for basic survival will become increasingly susceptible to the trafficker's deceptive promises of a better life abroad. Despite universal condemnation of this practice, concerns regarding the tension between, on the one hand, state

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obligations under international law to protect and promote trafficked persons' human rights and, on the other hand, state desires to restrict irregular migration and combat transnational organized crime are playing out in a rapidly evolving legal environment.

The first international agreement on trafficking in over fifty years the Palermo Protocol (a protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) was concluded in 2000 and entered into force in 2003. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court recognizes trafficking and related exploitation as war crimes and crimes against humanity. A number of regional instruments have also developed over the past few years, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention (covering South Asia) and the EU Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.[17] The UN Protocol covers three types of human trafficking: sex, labor, and organ trafficking. Henceforth, the following abbreviations are used here: HT for human trafficking, LT for labor trafficking and ST for sex trafficking. Despite the existence of a legal framework, world over concerns are getting expressed about the worsening of the problem and it is expected that UN Member States to become party to the relevant treaties, to speed up implementation, and to put into place a regular review mechanism to hold member States and the UN system to account, especially the South Asian countries who have one of the worst records on this account.

Illegal Movement of Population (Migration)

Migration is a form of human movement through space, its initial definition is within the context of all human developments. These movements are defined as migration and involves residential shift.[18] The last two decades saw India embarking on a major move towards industrialization. For past one decade, the Indian economy grew by an average of 8 percent a year. This was largely attributed to the stable political situation and sound government economic and industrial policies. The continuous economic development of the country has generated immense employment opportunities in all important sectors of the economy. This has placed a high demand on the local labour market, which could not cope with the requirements especially in the construction and infrastructure sectors. India has always been attractive to workers from nearby neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. With Nepal India has open borders hence inflow of wrong kind of persons specially of criminal backgrounds takes place through this border. However, due to various reasons such as the geographical proximity of India and adaptability to the culture, a significant number of Bangldeshi workers have resorted to illegal entry. As per one of the estimates more than 3 million people travelled to India on valid documents and did not go back to their country. Smaller countries like Bhutan and Bangladesh also face similar problems like Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, Sri Lanka always had the influx of Tamil refugees in their country, however after the end of war with LTTE India has been receiving refugees from Sri Lanka in very large number. Nepal also has a floating population of

Bhutanese refugees on their soil of Napalese origin. Thus, it is necessary for all the governments to embark upon on a major exercise to eradicate this problem. All South Asian countries need to learn a lot from the European Union countries regarding managing the illegal movement of people across each other's borders as well as the menace of human trafficking.

The Role of the United Nations

The United Nations General Assembly held a thematic debate on human trafficking at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on 3 June 2008. The focus of the debate was on the prevention, protection and prosecution as defined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The debate consisted of an opening session and two interactive panels, one entitled "Enhancing multilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking in persons" and another "Protecting victims of trafficking and cross-border cooperation in prosecuting traffickers in persons". Non-governmental representatives from regional organizations, the private sector, media, and civil society were active participants at the thematic debate.[19] In order to combat human trafficking, the Vice President of UNGA called for the universal ratification of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and the inclusion of an additional "P" – partnership – to the three "P" agenda of prevention, protection and prosecution and also referred to the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and the Vienna Forum held in 2008.[20] Thus human trafficking includes the connections of human trafficking to economic globalization and transnational crime. As discussed, the UN General Assembly adopted two international treaties (protocols) to fight international trafficking, which supplemented the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime; the one protocol cited above dealt with trafficking and the other with smuggling. They are part of a package designed to address transnational organized crime. The trafficking protocol attempts to create a global language as the basis for subsequent legislation to define trafficking, assist victims of trafficking, and prevent trafficking in persons. The protocol also attempts to establish judicial cooperation and information exchange among countries.

SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking In Women and Children for Prostitution

The SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in Women and Children[21] for Prostitution entered on 05 January 2002 at Kathmandu, Nepal has been very historic document that offers concrete proposals for tackling this menace affecting not only the human security goals of people living in the region, rather also have affecting the bilateral relations of SAARC member countries. Under Article VIII suggests, Measures to Prevent and Interdict Trafficking in Women and Children: 1. The State Parties to the Convention shall provide sufficient

means, training and assistance to their respective authorities to enable them to effectively conduct inquiries, investigations and prosecution of offences under this Convention. 2. The State Parties to the Convention shall sensitize their law enforcement agencies and the judiciary in respect of the offences under this Convention and other related factors that encourage trafficking in women and children. 3. The State Parties to the Convention shall establish a Regional Task Force consisting of officials of the Member States to facilitate implementation of the provisions of this Convention and to undertake periodic reviews. 4. The State Parties to the Convention may also, by mutual agreement, set up bilateral mechanisms to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention, including appropriate mechanisms for cooperation to interdict trafficking in women and children for prostitution. 5. The State Parties to the Convention shall exchange, on a regular basis, information in respect of agencies, institutions and individuals who are involved in trafficking in the region and also identify methods and routes used by the traffickers through land, water or air. The information so furnished shall include information of the offenders, their fingerprints, photographs, methods of operation, police records and records of conviction. 6. The State Parties to the Convention may consider taking necessary measures for the supervision of employment agencies in order to prevent trafficking in women and children under the guise of recruitment. 7. The State Parties to the Convention shall Endeavour to focus preventive and development efforts on areas which are known to be source areas for trafficking. 8. The State Parties to the Convention shall promote awareness, *inter-alia*, through the use of the media, of the problem of trafficking in women and children and its underlying causes including the projection of negative images of women.[22]

The Article IX- Care, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Repatriation of the Victims-imposes important obligations on part of member nations and it says; 1. The State Parties to the Convention shall work out modalities for repatriation of the victims to the country of origin. 2. Pending the completion of arrangements for the repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking, the State Parties to the Convention shall make suitable provisions for their care and maintenance. The provision of legal advice and health care facilities shall also be made available to such victims. 3. The State Parties to the Convention shall establish protective homes or shelters for rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. Suitable provisions shall also be made for granting legal advice, counseling, job training and health care facilities for the victims. 4. The State Parties to the Convention may also authorize the recognized non-governmental organizations to establish such protective homes or shelters for providing suitable care and maintenance for the victims of trafficking. 5. The State Parties to the Convention shall encourage recognized non-governmental organizations in efforts aimed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation, including through the establishment of such protective

homes or shelters for providing suitable care and maintenance for the victims of trafficking. [23]

Finally under Article X it has been stated that the State Parties to the Convention shall adopt, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the legislative and other measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the Convention.[24] However, going by the past records of SAARC's functioning a deep suspicion gets cast over the willingness of member countries to address these issues within the sub-continent. The strained relationship between India and Pakistan often overshadows the smooth functioning of SAARC that raises serious doubts about the implementation of provisions under SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

Conclusion

Globalization has resulted into bringing countries and people closer to each other. At the same time it has raised the aspirations of people for better living standards world over, especially, in Third World countries. As a result of procedural lapses and absence of human face in the implementation of norms of globalization, a huge schism has been created within the society. It has led to prosperity of few and misery of masses and created a sort of first world and third world like situation with in the respective countries itself. If the world has witnessed an astonishing technological revolution that has expedited the process of globalization, it has also resulted in giving rise to transnational organized crimes exponentially. Those who are involved in committing of organized crimes are making use of those very technologies for perpetrating such crimes like human trafficking and enticing people for migration and making fullest use of the potential vulnerabilities of poor people in regions like South Asia which continues to be faced with socio-economic challenges of monstrous nature. Though, economic disenfranchisement and the violation of human rights in particular are areas that must be addressed by states' governance and integrated into comprehensive prevention and protection programs. Another area of concern is the extent to which anti-trafficking programs in countries of origin and transit are supported by the influx of outside funds and get paralyzed once these funds are spent, there is a danger that anti-trafficking programs will cease. South Asian countries, which have been facing severe economic challenges, and have less than satisfactory records in human rights protection, one remains skeptical those SAARC countries, will assume an aggressive role in protecting potential victims of trafficking or illegal migration. Fostering an international climate where trafficking in persons is universally perceived as a form of slavery and a violation of human rights, in countries of origin, transit and destination, is vital to any enduring progress in the eradication of human trafficking.

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