Parenting Classes to Prevent Sex Trafficking

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Purpose

- Trafficking of minors is a significant problem that needs to be prevented.
- This literature review aimed to identify whether parenting classes could help reduce sex trafficking of minors.

Obtainment Methods

- Promises of employment (Rafferty, 2013; Tade, 2014)
- Immigration documents (Rafferty, 2013)
- Promises of food
- Child abduction from festivals and other events (Tade, 2014)
- Payment to families for children (Tade, 2014)
- Bonded labor (Tade, 2014)
- Payment in time or money for ‘gifted items’ (Tade, 2014)

Retainment of Victims

- Trafficked individuals are subject to a combination of the following abusive tactics.
  - Isolation - victims without a support system are less likely to attempt to leave (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Control of environment - victims’ environments are entirely manipulated to disorient them (Baldwin et al., 2014)
  - Exhaustion - trafficked individuals can be starved or sleep deprived to exhaustion, limiting their energy to escape (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Threats - vary based on the individual and their personal connections (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Helplessness (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Degradation (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Subject to trivial demands (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)
  - Physical abuse (Baldwin et al., 2014; Tade, 2014)

Risk Factors

- Maltreated (Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2018)
- Parental neglect (Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2018)
- Running away, specifically chronic runaways (Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2018)
- Entering foster care (Gragg, Petta, Bernstein, Eisen, & Quinn, 2007)
- Desire to escape their current environment, then coerced through promises of employment and a better life (Rafferty, 2018)

Recommendations for Prevention

- Strengthening community (Rafferty, 2018)
- Supportive, involved, and functional family environments (Brotman et al., 2011)
- Increasing children’s rights (Gouty, 2015)
- More research on reasons for demand of trafficked victims as well as how they are selected (Bach et al., 2015)

Conclusions

- Previous research identified vulnerabilities that are present amongst juveniles who are sexually exploited (Gragg, Petta, Bernstein, Eisen, & Quinn, 2007; Rafferty, 2018; Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2018)
- Dysfunctional families are a large portion of why juveniles are convinced or forced into sex trafficking (Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2018)
- Parenting classes have the potential to create supportive, functional family environments thereby reducing the dysfunction that allows traffickers a greater opportunity to exploit juveniles (Brotman, 2011)
- Improved parenting increases likelihood of completing educational requirements for most employment opportunities (Rafferty, 2018)

REFERENCES


