

The Defense Efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations against the Phenomenon of Trafficking in Children

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ABSTRACT:

The research describes the defense efforts of NGOs in the face of the phenomenon of child trafficking in Egypt. These efforts are represented in demanding child rights; coordination with the security agencies and providing NGOs with security education materials for children; improving the level of defense services among NGOs; and the rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking especially after the rise of trafficking in human organs. Thus, the main objective of the research is to describe the defensive efforts of the NGOs against the phenomenon of trafficking in children. The main research question was what are the defensive efforts of the NGOs against the phenomenon of trafficking in children?

The study results indicated the importance of the role of NGOs in combating child trafficking through their defense efforts.

The study results show that: The most active efforts in upholding child rights protection against all forms of violence with children .The most active efforts in coordinating with security authorities for providing NGOs with materials on safety and security education for children Raising awareness on the provisions of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law.The most active efforts of NGOs in improving defense services

Raising awareness on trafficking in children and combating it came in the first place

KEY WORDS:

Defense efforts-Non-governmental organizations –trafficking in children.

INTRODUCTION:

The Egyptian society is undergoing a series of rapid and successive changes that require attention from all its elements, resources and wealth in a manner that ensures it achieves rapid development and growth rates. Therefore, society places a lot of attention to the human element as a wealth and resource that could not be ignored (the Supreme Council of Universities, 2002).

Childhood is the hope of societies in achieving a future renaissance and the aspiration for a brighter, happier, and more prosperous tomorrow on the ladder of civilization (Hoda Mohammed, 1999, p. 5). However, children are exposed to many problems, the most serious of which is the phenomenon of child trafficking. It is the trading in children for sexual purposes, involving the use of force, fraud or coercion for forcing a person to commit a sexual act for commercial purposes, or if that person is under eighteen years of age (Supreme Council for Culture, 2006,p15), It is a process whereby children, whether male or female, are exploited for a variety of purposes including sexual exploitation, forced labor, trafficking in human organs, domestic service, and criminal activities such as theft or other crimes(Taher, Mustafa 2008,p.80).

International reports indicate that child trafficking has expanded in recent years as it became linked with the globalization of economy and trade, the opening of borders and the liberalization of markets. This has had a negative impact on facilitating the concealment of organized crime within legitimate trade.

Key Herth's study (2002) confirmed that children currently form the largest segment of the population. The study identified many negative effects for trafficking and its impact on child health, development, academic success and behavior (p. 1033).

Although there are no accurate statistics on the phenomenon of child trafficking, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports indicate that it has become the third largest illicit trade in the world after smuggling arms and drug trafficking as it is considered one of the organized crime activities around the world (Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2007). The study of Oliveria (1999) reported that these children need help, support and work to build their personalities through social education. The United States Department of State estimates the number of men, women and children exploited worldwide on annual basis through trafficking to be between 600,000 and 800,000. The United Nations considers this estimate as inaccurate because of its remarkably low number of children. The UN estimated the number of children annually exploited exceeds a million children (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Human Trafficking Project Bangkok, 2005).

Many factors lead to the emergence of the phenomenon of trafficking in children as it is interlinked with several problems in the Egyptian society as per the international standards.

The most important factors that lead to trafficking in children are those related to supply and demand. Factors associated with supply are due to poor economic conditions and poverty prevailing in many countries. Factors connected with demand are related to the existence of organized crime networks that deal in sex trade of women and children.

Child trafficking for sexual purposes has spread through using information technology such as satellite channels and the internet (Heather et al, p. 27). Heather's study asserts that causes of trafficking in children are multiple and complex, including poverty, unemployment, and gender discrimination, among others. Another study recommends putting in place an effective strategy combining punitive measures and a human rights balance (Simkhada-Padam-Prasad, 2003).

The study of Cali confirms that gender discrimination is still a factor leading to trafficking in children where the proportion of younger girls being trafficked is larger than boys (Cali, Gina, M 2005). It is thus clear that various factors and causes lead to the phenomenon of trafficking in children. Therefore, the State and many social bodies, especially organizations (governmental and non-governmental), call for the need to develop an integrated general strategy to protect and care appropriately for these children (Ahmed Mohammed, 2009, P.703). Lazaruk's study asserts the importance of using defense mechanisms through adopting measures to support the abolishing the principle of slavery and demanding gender equality as a progressive approach to both problems. The study stressed that the most trafficking in children occurs for the purposes of sexual exploitation (Lazaruk, 2009).

In order to reach the objectives of this strategy for care and protection of children in general and trafficked children in particular, it was necessary for all entities concerned with this issue to cooperate. The National Council for Motherhood and Childhood (NCCM), in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations, has amended the Child Law, therefore, criminalizing trafficking in children (Specialized National Councils, 2007, p.45).

Becker E (2008) in her study emphasizes the importance of the defensive role of governmental and non-governmental organizations as a mechanism to defend child victims of trafficking and provide them with suitable services through local defense organizations. Gonzaivo O (2005) highlights the need to enable NGOs to play their

protective role towards children. The study emphasizes the effective role of organizations in reducing cruel treatment of children and recommends the use of mechanisms to raise public awareness on childhood issues.

In light of the above, it is clear that Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) plays an important and effective role in combating child trafficking through the defensive efforts that they exert to mobilize communities and move forward. Non-governmental organizations, which are not for profit, support others for achieving a better life, and providing resources and services to help people handle hard living conditions (Elmer, J 1997, p.825).

Social work has focused its attention on NGOs based on its nature as an institutional profession practiced through civil society organizations. In addition, community organization is one of the professional approaches for addressing community problems (Rashed Ahmed, 2005, p. 82). This study seeks to describe the defense efforts of NGOs against the phenomenon of child trafficking in order to achieve common society goals.

Theoretical Framework:

Social Work Model of Jack Rothman 1968:

This social work model is one of the most complex models compared to others such as social planning or local development, which are based on "soft strategies" and joint action and cooperation between community members and stakeholders. Social work on the other hand aims to bring about social changes in systems and legislations for the benefit of the vulnerable groups in society.

In light of the increase in human rights movements around the world and the need to change the course of professional practice to cope with the successive societal changes, social work became the prominent trend for promoting social justice and helping the oppressed. The social work model can be applied in any community notwithstanding its type whether urban or rural. Social work involves strategies for defending human rights and pressuring officials and decision makers for the benefit of the vulnerable groups in society.

Assumptions of the Model:

Social work assumes the presence of affected groups that need to be organized in order to demand access to resources and services and the enjoyment of equality and social justice through distribution of power. This will allow them to seek changes in legislation and to

empower the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed through the legislative entities in society while relying on coping tactics (Gack Rothman, 1968, p.34)

The researchers see the advantages of this model in the current study to be as follows:

1- Helping NGOs that are concerned with the phenomenon of trafficking children in issuing new legislations to deal with it.

2- Helping NGOs to develop basic indicators for the defense efforts to face this phenomenon.

3 – Helping social organizers in the NGOs to identify tools and strategies that can be used to face this phenomenon.

Research Goals:

Main Objective: Describing the defensive efforts of NGOs against the phenomenon of trafficking in children through:

1- Identifying the defensive efforts of NGOs against the child trafficking phenomenon.

2- Identifying the obstacles facing NGOs involved in combating child trafficking.

3- Identifying suggestions for activating the defensive role of NGOs against child trafficking

Research Questions:

1- What are the defensive efforts of NGOs for combating the phenomenon of trafficking in children?

2- What are the obstacles that face NGOs in combating child trafficking?

3- What are the suggestions for activating the defensive role of NGOs against trafficking in children?

Concepts:

Defensive Efforts:

Defensive efforts are voluntary efforts that seek to combat internal discrepancies in a specific organization in an informed and forceful manner (Webster, 1993, p.1008)

The operational definition of defensive efforts in this research is:

1- Methods NGOs use for reducing the phenomenon of trafficking in children. These methods aim to create social and economic improvements in society and to address the problems of child victims of trafficking. The defensive efforts are defined in this research through the following activities:

1-Defensive efforts for combating trafficking in children.

- 2-Coordination with security authorities for providing NGOs with Security education materials for Children.
- 3-Strategies for improving defensive services.
- 4-Efforts related to rehabilitation of children victims of Trafficking

Methodology:

Research Methodology:

This research is considered descriptive since it utilizes the use of social survey method. This survey accessed staff and board members of NGOs concerned with trafficking in children, as well as the staff of the Anti-Child Trafficking Unit in the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

Study Tools:

The data collection tool used for the research was:

1. Questionnaire implemented with the staff, board members, and social workers in the social organizations concerned with combating trafficking. The questionnaire focused on the defensive efforts of NGOs against the child trafficking phenomenon.

Validity:

Face Validity:

The tool was presented to five faculty members at the Faculty of Social Work, Helwan University. Faculty members validated the tool with 80%percent agreement. Some of the statements used were omitted while others were reformulated before the questionnaire was formulated in its final form.

Internal Consistency:

The researchers depended on the coefficient of each variable in the tool in relation to the total grade for a sample of 10 individuals from the study community. It proved to be significant on the identifiable significance levels, and that the validity coefficient is acceptable.

Reliability:

The stability of the tool was calculated using the Alpha Kronbach stability coefficient on the estimated stability values of the questionnaires used with the staff and board members of the Anti-Trafficking Unit and the NGOs involved in combating trafficking in children. The sample was 20 individuals from the study community.

Statistical Analysis Methods:

The data was processed on computer using SPSS.V.17.0 software; the statistical package of social sciences. The following statistical methods were applied:

- 1- Repetitions and percentages.
- 2- Arithmetic mean.
- 3- It was calculated for the tripe scale using:
Arithmetic mean = $\frac{K(\text{yes}) \times 3 + K(\text{to some extent}) \times 2 + K(\text{no}) \times 1}{N}$

Population

A comprehensive inventory of the members of the boards of directors and staff of anti-trafficking organizations participating in the study, and the staff of the Unit for Anti-Trafficking of Children in the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood were included in the study. The total number of individuals targeted were 70. Populations were selected from the Unit for Combating Child Trafficking at the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood (NCCM) and NGOs concerned with combating child trafficking in Cairo governorate. The number of available NGO was 11. The research targeted six organizations while the others were excluded after refusing participation in the research.

Limitations:

1- Difficulties related to data collection from board members, staff, and social workers of NGOs on combating trafficking in children. Some targeted respondents were unavailable, occupied, or uncooperative in filling the questionnaire with the researcher. The researcher overcame this difficulty by paying repeated visits to the NGOs, and settling for a specific number of questionnaires after several attempts of reaching them.

2- Difficulties related to the refusal of cooperation on the part of a number of NGOs. The researcher replaced the targeted NGOs with alternate ones active in the field of combating trafficking in children.

Research Results:

Defensive Efforts for Combating Trafficking in Children:

1) Efforts Related to Demanding Child Rights

Table (1) Efforts Related to Demanding and Maintaining Child

Efforts Related to Demanding and Maintaining Child Rights	Responses						WT*	M**	S***	Rank
	Yes		To Some Extent		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
Protection from all forms of violence.	52	74.3	9	12.9	9	12.9	183	2.61	0.71	1
Raising awareness of children to avoid their victimization by traffickers.	39	55.7	23	32.9	8	11.4	171	2.44	0.69	3
Educating children on their rights and access to information.	46	65.7	18	25.7	6	8.6	180	2.57	0.65	2
Encouraging children to express their unmet needs.	39	55.7	14	20	17	24.3	162	2.31	0.84	5
Guiding children exposed to trafficking on sources and access to services.	37	52.9	24	34.3	9	12.9	168	2.4	0.71	4
Providing booklets that suit their age and familiarize them with the legal aspects.	16	22.9	12	17.1	42	60	114	1.63	0.84	8
Organizing seminars to increase awareness on defending the rights of this group of children.	25	35.7	16	22.9	29	41.4	136	1.94	0.88	7
Raising public awareness on the need to protect children from exposure to these risks	35	50	12	17.1	23	32.9	152	2.17	0.9	6
(N=70) Total Variable							2.26	0.46	medium level	

WT = weighted total M = arithmetic mean** S = standard deviation

The table above lists the efforts related to demanding and maintaining child rights as determined by NGOs staff and board members as follows:

Firstly, protection of children from all forms of violence was at an arithmetic mean of 2.61. Secondly, educating children on their rights and access to information with an arithmetic mean of 2.57. Thirdly, raising awareness of children to avoid their victimization by traffickers with an arithmetic mean of 2.44. In the fourth rank, guiding children exposed to trafficking on resources and access to services with a mean of 2.4. In the sixth place came raising public awareness on the need to protect children from exposure to these risks with arithmetic mean of 2.17. The researcher sees this as a reflection of NGOs concern with protecting children from all forms of violence, raising children's awareness on their rights and ways to obtain the

services, and guiding children to resources for access to services that reflect their needs. Children have the right to housing, food, health care, education and welfare. This is consistent with the assumptions of the social work model that these children must have their rights and enjoy equality and social justice. This is confirmed by Adegan's study (2002) on the need to identify organizations that possess the coordination and means of empowerment for that group to seek and obtain their rights.

The results shown in the table indicate the overall average of the efforts to demand and maintain child rights as determined by the staff and board members of NGOs amounted to 2.26, which is considered a medium level average.

2) Coordination efforts with Security Authorities for Providing NGOs with Security Education Materials for Children:

Table (2) Coordination efforts with Security Authorities for Providing NGOs with Security Education Materials for Children

Coordination with Security Authorities	Responses						WT*	M**	S***	Rank
	Yes		To Some Extent		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
Raising awareness for activating national and international conventions on child trafficking	25	35.7	29	41.4	16	22.9	149	2.13	0.76	3
Educating children victims of trafficking on their rights and procedures during investigation and trial	26	37.1	21	30.2	33	32.9	143	2.04	0.84	6
Submitting complaints to the relevant authorities about their role in defending these groups	24	34.3	20	28.6	26	37.1	138	1.97	0.85	8
Developing regulations and issuing decisions benefiting from global experiences in combating trafficking in children	25	35.7	19	27.1	26	37.1	139	1.99	0.86	7
Organizing legal seminars to ensure cooperation between the legal and social aspects related to child trafficking	27	38.6	22	31.4	21	30	146	2.09	0.83	4

Coordination with Security Authorities	Responses						WT	M**	S***	Rank
	Yes		To Some Extent		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
The existence of security mechanisms that will reach and prosecute traffickers	24	34.3	25	35.7	21	30	143	2.04	0.81	5
Giving attention to the reports of the child helpline and providing them with rapid services	29	41.4	23	32.9	18	25.7	151	2.16	0.81	2
Raising awareness on the provisions of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law	36	51.4	25	35.7	9	12.9	167	2.39	0.71	1
(N=70)		Total Variable						2.10	0.51	Medium Level

*WT = weighted total * M = arithmetic mean ** S = standard deviation

The table above describes the efforts for coordination with security authorities for providing NGOs with security education materials for children as determined by NGOs staff and board members as follows: Raising awareness on the provisions of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law had the highest arithmetic mean of 2.39. Secondly, giving attention to the reports of the child helpline and providing them with rapid services came with an arithmetic mean of 2.16. Thirdly, was raising awareness for activating national and international conventions on child trafficking with an arithmetic mean of 2.13. Fourth was organizing legal seminars to ensure cooperation between the legal and social aspects related to child trafficking with an arithmetic mean of 2.09. This may reflect the necessity of coordination between entities concerned with protecting children and educating them on the legal aspects of trafficking in Children. This finding was confirmed by Lazaruk's study (2009) which stressed the importance of using defense mechanisms through adopting measures to support the abolition of the principle of slavery and demanding gender equality as a progressive approach to both problems. The eighth significant finding was submitting complaints to the relevant authorities on their role in defending these groups with an arithmetic mean of 1.97.

Rafferty's study (2008) provided recommendations on laws and general policies to allow for making initiatives to end selling

children and exploiting them, which agrees with this study. This is consistent with the assumptions of the social work model in that it is necessary to pay attention to the development of legislations and laws by NGOs and the government and rely on coping tactics in favor of trafficked children

The results shown in the table indicate the overall average of the efforts or coordination with security authorities for providing NGOs with security education materials for children as determined by NGOs staff and board members amounted to 2.1, which is considered a medium level average.

3) Efforts of NGOs for Improving Defensive Services:

Table (3) – Efforts of NGOs for Improving the Defensive Services

Sr.	Efforts of NGOs for Improving the Level of Defensive Services	Responses						WT*	M**	S***	Rank
		Yes		To Some Extent		No					
		K	%	K	%	K	%				
1	Raising awareness on trafficking in children and ways to combat it	43	61.4	19	27.1	8	11.4	17.5	2.5	0.7	1
2	Making use of data and research on trafficking in children	23	32.9	31	44.3	16	22.9	147	2.1	0.75	6
3	Adopting community initiatives in collaboration with other relevant organizations, including incentives for encouraging families to report on births taking place inside homes	17	24.3	22	31.4	31	44.3	126	1.8	0.81	8
4	Conducting seminars to raise awareness of the dangers of child trafficking	31	44.3	25	35.7	14	20	157	2.24	0.77	5
5	Responding to the Hotline on reports of child abduction child trafficking	35	50	21	30	14	20	161	2.3	0.79	4

Sr.	Efforts of NGOs for Improving the Level of Defensive Services	Responses						WT*	M**	S***	Rank
		Yes		To Some Extent		No					
		K	%	K	%	K	%				
6	Providing safety girls against assault	40	57.1	21	30	9	12.9	171	2.44	0.71	2
7	Social workers in NGOs to provide the latest information thus contributing to sound action to combat child trafficking	38	54.3	20	28.6	12	17.1	166	2.37	0.76	3
8	Conducting training courses for raising the awareness pregnant mothers on how to protect her infant against abduction to prevent trafficking	29	41.4	17	24.3	24	34.4	145	2.07	0.87	7
(N=70)		Total Variable						2.23	0.5	Medium Level	

*WT = weighted total * M = arithmetic mean ** S = standard deviation

The table above describes the efforts of NGOs for improving the level of defensive services as determined by NGOs staff and board members as follows:

Firstly, raising awareness on trafficking in children and ways to combat it had an arithmetic mean of 2.5. This was followed by providing safety for girls against assault with an arithmetic mean of 2.44. Thirdly, were social workers in NGOs to provide the latest information thus contributing to sound action to combat child trafficking with an arithmetic mean of 2.37. The fourth significant finding was conducting seminars to raise awareness of the dangers of child trafficking with an arithmetic mean of 2.3. The above findings reflect the extent of interest of civil associations to the issue of trafficking in children and provide security and safety for them. This is in line with the social work model, which is concerned with providing social justice, helping the oppressed and pressures the officials and decision-makers to benefit the vulnerable groups in society

This was confirmed by the Charle’s study (2001), which recommended addressing child trafficking through developing a database documenting the magnitude of the phenomenon and its causes, and developing effective mechanisms to address it.

The eighth finding was adopting community initiatives in collaboration with other relevant organizations, including incentives for encouraging families to report on births taking place inside homes with an arithmetic mean of 1.8.

The results shown in the table indicate the overall average of the efforts of NGOs for improving the level of defensive services as determined by NGOs staff and board members amounted to 2.23, which is considered a medium level average.

4) Efforts Related to the Rehabilitation of Children Victims of Trafficking:

Table (4) – Efforts Related to Rehabilitation of Children Victims of Trafficking

Sr.	Efforts of NGOs for Improving the Level of Defensive Services	Responses						WT*	M**	S***	Rank
		Yes		To Some Extent		No					
		K	%	K	%	K	%				
1	Reintegrating children victims of trafficking in society	33	47.1	21	30	16	22.9	157	2.24	0.81	3
2	Designing programs to rehabilitate children victims of trafficking physically, psychologically, and socially	28	40	24	34.3	18	25.7	150	2.14	0.8	6
3	Providing protection and assistance to victims or those exposed to trafficking	33	47.1	22	31.4	15	21.4	158	2.26	0.79	2
4	Implementing community rehabilitation programs	35	50	21	30	14	20	161	2.3	0.79	1
5	Implementing educational rehabilitation programs for children victims of trafficking	32	45.7	21	30	17	24.3	155	2.21	0.81	4
6	Providing alternative families for child victims of trafficking	20	28.6	16	22.9	34	48.6	126	1.8	0.86	7
7	Providing adequate health services for children victims of trafficking	30	42.9	24	34.3	16	22.9	154	2.2	0.79	5
8	Providing confidence-building activities (games - competitions with children victims of trafficking)	35	50	21	30	14	20	161	2.3	0.79	1
(N=70) Total Variable								2.18	0.58	Medium Level	

*WT = weighted total * M = arithmetic mean ** S = standard deviation

The table above describes the efforts related to rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking as determined by NGOs staff and board members as follows:

The first significant finding was implementing community rehabilitation programs and providing confidence-building activities (games - competitions with children victims of trafficking), with an arithmetic mean of 2.3. Secondly, providing protection and assistance to victims or those exposed to trafficking, with an arithmetic mean of 2.26. This finding was followed by reintegrating children victims of trafficking in society with an arithmetic mean of 2.24. The fourth finding was implementing educational rehabilitation programs for children victims of trafficking with an arithmetic mean of 2.21; followed by providing adequate health services for children victims of trafficking at an arithmetic mean of 2.2.

The researcher reasons that this is due to the organizations' conviction of the importance of raising the children's awareness on their rights. In evidence, the National Council of Motherhood and Childhood has inaugurated the Center for Rehabilitation of Children Victims of Trafficking in Madinet El Salam in Cairo. The Center is considered the first shelter for children victims of trafficking. The Center provides legal counsel and physical and psychological care in addition to safe shelter and rehabilitation programs.

The least significant finding was providing alternative families for child victims of trafficking, which came in the seventh place with an arithmetic mean of 1.8. This was confirmed by Ray's study (2007) which asserted the importance of designing programs for combating the phenomenon of child trafficking and giving the highest priority to the rehabilitation of victims. The study also emphasized the necessity of coordination and cooperation between organizations in order to limit this phenomenon and ensuring the children's access to protection and rights.

The results in the table show that the overall average of the NGOs' efforts for improving the level of defensive services is 2.18, which is considered medium level.

Fourth: Ranking of Defensive Efforts Exerted towards Combating Trafficking in Children:

Table (5) – Ranking of Defensive Efforts Exerted towards Combating Trafficking in Children

Sr.	Defensive Efforts Exerted towards Combating Trafficking in Children	Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Efforts related to demanding child rights.	2.26	0.46	1
2	Coordination with security authorities to provide NGOs with materials on safety and security education for children.	2.1	0.51	4
3	NGOs efforts towards improving the level of defense services	2.23	0.5	2
4	Efforts for the rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking	2.18	0.58	3
(N=70) Total Variable		2.19	0.44	Medium Level

The table above shows the ranking of defensive efforts exerted towards combating trafficking in children as follows: Firstly efforts related to demanding child rights with an arithmetic mean of 2.26 was the most significant finding. Secondly NGOs efforts towards improving the level of defense services with an arithmetic mean of 2.23. Thirdly, an effort for the rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking with arithmetic mean of 2.18 was found. The results in the table show that the overall average of defense efforts against child trafficking is 2.19. It is considered a medium level, which reflects the extent of NGO's concern towards protecting this group of children, and raising their awareness on their rights and ways for claiming them.

Table (6) - Obstacles Facing Organizations Involved in Combating Trafficking in Children

Sr.	Obstacles facing Organizations Working to Combat Trafficking in Children	Total	%
1	Poor communication between NGOs working in child trafficking	62	88.6
2	Lack of coordination of prevention efforts among organizations concerned with child trafficking	56	80.0
3	Lack of coordination between community organizations and community members in providing rehabilitation services for children victims of trafficking	50	71.4
4	Lack of administrative competencies for projects in organizations concerned with combating child trafficking	43	61.4
5	lack of modern communication methods between individuals and organizations in the community	44	62.9

Sr.	Obstacles facing Organizations Working to Combat Trafficking in Children	Total	%
6	Lack of financial resources, which impedes the implementation of programs and projects for child protection	53	75.7
7	Lack of attention given to the hotline calls seeking protection for children at risk of trafficking	38	54.3
8	Lack of accurate data on the magnitude of the child trafficking issue	55	78.6
9	Administrative neglect in providing rehabilitation services for children victims of trafficking	42	60
10	Low opinion towards marginalized children and children victims of trafficking	44	62.9
(N=70)			

The table above lists the obstacles facing NGOs involved in combating trafficking in children as provided by their board members and staff identified poor communication between NGOs working in child trafficking as the most significant finding (88.6 percent). Secondly, the lack of coordination of prevention efforts among organizations concerned with child trafficking follows at 80 percent. Thirdly, the lack of accurate data on the magnitude of the child trafficking issue (78.6%) was followed by the lack of financial resources, which impedes the implementation of programs and projects for child protection (75.7%). The fifth finding indicated lack of coordination between community organizations and community members in providing rehabilitation services for children victims of trafficking (71.4%). The sixth most important finding was the lack of modern communication methods between individuals and organizations in the community, and the low opinion towards marginalized children and children victims of trafficking (62.9%). The ninth finding was lack of attention given to the hotline calls seeking protection for children at risk of trafficking (54.3%). This may be due to the limited financial support that these organizations receive from the government and minimal donations. This is in addition to shortage of skills needed to obtain grants from the private sector and business persons among organizations. Since the aim of coordination between organizations is improving service performance and preventing conflict between them, the lack of coordination is one of the most important challenges facing their participation. Coordination is a necessity for achieving integration between them.

Table (7) Suggestions for Organizations Involved in Combating Trafficking in Children

Sr.	Suggestions facing Organizations Involved in Combating Trafficking in Children	Total	%
1	Ensuring the presence of specialized professional cadres to provide suitable services for children in organizations involved in combating trafficking in children	61	87.1
2	Qualifying staff of specialized NGOs in the field of microloans in order to obtain funding from international funding sources	59	84.3
3	Providing channels of communication between NGOs working to combat child trafficking	56	80,0
4	Conducting research aimed at obtaining correct statistical indicators on the seriousness and patterns of trafficking in children in Egypt	50	71.4
5	Transparency and decentralization in the circulation of information and data on the harmful effects of trafficking in children.	48	69.6
6	Maintaining a web site on the problem, its magnitude with the size and remedies of the problem	52	74.3
7	Raising awareness on the hotline for children affected.	54	77.1
8	Conducting informational campaigns on the seriousness of the phenomenon of trafficking in children.	62	88.6
9	The existence of security mechanisms that could reach and prosecute traffickers	52	74.3
10	Develop plans and programs to protect children from trafficking as per actual needs	54	77.1
11	Increasing training courses for social workers on the rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking, and providing children with suitable services	54	77.1
N=70)			

The table above lists suggestions for NGOs involved in combating trafficking in children as determined by NGOs staff and board members as follows: Firstly, conducting informational campaigns on the phenomenon of trafficking in children (88.6%). Secondly, ensuring the presence of specialized professional cadres to provide suitable services for children in organizations involved in combating trafficking in children (87.1%). This was followed by qualifying staff of specialized NGOs in the field of microloans in

order to obtain funding from international funding source (84.3%). The fourth finding indicated providing channels of communication between NGOs working to combat child trafficking (80%). Fifth was raising awareness on the hotline for children affected, and increasing training courses for social workers on the rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking, and providing children with suitable services (77.1%). The eighth finding indicated the transparency and decentralization in the circulation of information and data on the harmful effects of trafficking in children (68.6%). This may be due to the important role that the media plays in changing the negative perspective of society. It is necessary to carry out studies to make available database that helps assess the extent of child trafficking crimes. The community should be aware of the need to participate and volunteer to address trafficking in children and reduce it. The role of the State in eradicating child trafficking and preventing it is also of utmost importance.

This is in line with Charle's study (2001) that recommended addressing child trafficking through developing a database documenting the magnitude of the phenomenon and its causes, and developing effective mechanisms to address it.

Discussion:

The study responded to the main research question, which explored the defensive efforts of NGOs against trafficking in children, and what were the obstacles that they face?

The study results asserted that awareness of the anti-trafficking law and developing community rehabilitation programs for raising awareness on the risks of this phenomenon are considered important actions for eliminating it. This is consistent with Olivan Gon Zalvo's study (2005) which stressed the need to enable NGOs to play their protective role towards the child. The study recommended the use community awareness raising mechanisms to raise the public awareness on children's issues.

The study results also pointed to the importance of the efforts promoting the rights and protection of children in combating the trafficking in children phenomenon. These efforts are represented in protecting children against all forms of violence, enlightening children on their rights, and improving children's access to information. This was confirmed by Adegan's study (2002) which stressed the need to enable organizations to coordinate and empower children to realize their rights.

In addition, this is in line with the theoretical principles of the study represented in the social work model. The model aims to introduce social changes in systems and legislations for the benefit of vulnerable groups, promote social justice, and protect them from all forms of violence.

This is consistent with Lazaruk's study (2009) which stressed the importance of using defensive mechanisms through measures supporting the abolition of slavery and working to achieve gender equality. The results of the current study emphasized the importance of the defensive efforts of NGOs against the phenomenon of trafficking in children and the importance of increased public awareness on children's issues. The high contribution of NGOs in this area reflects their role in combating the phenomenon, especially through coordination with security agencies to provide NGOs with child security education, conducting seminars to raise awareness on the dangers of trafficking in children, and providing necessary updated information that contributes to sound action against trafficking in children.

This was confirmed by Charle's study (2001) which emphasized the necessity of combating this phenomenon through establishing a database depicting its magnitude and causes, and leading to the development of effective mechanisms to address it.

The researcher stresses the importance of professional formation and skills improvement of social workers and staff of NGOs active in the field of trafficking in children, as well as providing them with training on the latest defensive efforts for combating the phenomenon.

Despite NGOs' efforts to address the phenomenon of trafficking in children, they still face difficulties in this area, including:

- Weak communication between NGOs concerned with combating trafficking in children.
- Lack of coordination of efforts between anti-trafficking organizations.
- Lack of financial resources among these organizations.
- Decreased attention to hotline calls for protecting children vulnerable to trafficking.
- Lack of accurate statistics on the actual magnitude of the trafficking in children issue.

The researcher highlights the importance of coordination and increased communication between concerned organizations to combat this phenomenon. It is also necessary to develop plans and programs to protect children against trafficking in light of the actual needs. This requires the cooperation of all parties, both governmental and nongovernmental, to eliminate trafficking and to establish an informational base on defensive efforts to promote a culture of preserving child rights.

The authors has found that there are several mechanisms to protect children from trafficking as follows:

1. The implementation of the Human Trafficking Law is the first step towards combating trafficking in children and protecting all its victims. However, in order for it to be effective, the law needs to be accompanied by a comprehensive policy at the local and national levels, and the recruitment of social workers specialized in child trafficking in all units.
2. The importance of activating national legislations and binding international conventions, as well as the Code of Conduct for the protection of children against trafficking and exploitation.
3. Children, who are the primary protection rights holders, must be fully and rationally aware of their rights as a first step towards ensuring the preservation of those indispensable rights.
4. NGOs working against child trafficking should seek to take clear positions in favor of their constituencies and to guide them towards attaining their rights.
5. The need to strengthen international cooperation for combating trafficking in children and to urge all states to accede to the relevant conventions. These crimes would be difficult to combat without active and effective international cooperation.
6. Conferences and scientific symposia on this subject should be held. The audio and visual media should assign sufficient time in their programs to shed light on these criminal activities.

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