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The draft trafficking of Persons bill 2018 is good but not good enough. Discuss

The draft trafficking of persons bill 2018 addresses trafficking in its simple as well as aggravated form which include trafficking for the purpose of being forced labour, begging, sex, Surrogacy, etc... It proposes minimum 10 year or even life imprisonment for the culprit. with a time bound trial.

The Bill also proposes to establish Rehabilitation funds as well as designated courts in each district as well as Institutional Mechanism.

It can be observed that the Victims of human trafficking is treated on par with the persons involved in sex work for their livelihood. This will result in forced rehabilitation of sex workers who is earning a livelihood. The bill further criminalize sex work which would lead to increase in violence against sex workers.

The Bill includes a clause that makes the transmission or even exposure to HIV in an instance of trafficking among one

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of the aggravated offence. This will have a grave impact on persons suffering from HIV. And it makes the act of giving chemicals or hormones to another for their sexual maturity as aggravated offence. This provision affects the transgender community.

Issues like these are sensitive and a small loophole would endanger many lives and their pride. It should treat everyone equally and should not hurt the personal feeling of sex workers. So the provision in the final act can only say whether the bill is progressive or regressive.

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