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Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Studies

The Doctoral School

Sociology Speciality

THE DESACRALIZATION OF THE HUMAN BODY AND THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

-thesis summary -

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Motivational reason

In the last decade, human trafficking in Romania has developed and has grown to become a phenomenon. The opening of the Romanian borders after 1989, meant not only the free movement of citizens, the growth of the economical, cultural and political relations with other countries, but also that the country's pathways connecting with the international crime branches.

Political and economical crises, regional military conflicts of ethnic, racial and religious nature, the deepening of the cultural differences as well as the fluctuation of governments, lacking continuity, are causes of many social phenomena that affect today an important segment of the population in South-East European countries. Against this background of change and social cleavages, human trafficking remains a form of, „ modern slavery". The new forms of manifestation, that are in step with the new technological and informational developments are creating the peculiarities of this phenomenon. Trafficking vulnerability is subdued by the social vulnerability as well as personal factors like occupation, age and health. Subject traffickers are developing real organized networks on the same principle of operation of multinational companies as a result of easily obtained colossal profits.

The complexity and the maintenance of human trafficking at a high level , requires that the prevention measures , protection and social reintegration of victims, to be revised with new strategies of action.

Research theme's contemporaneity and the level of the domain's study

Preventing and combating human trafficking is subject to periodic sociological research by particular governmental and nongovernmental organizations, both from Romania and other countries. The research theme is particularly prompt and opportunistic due to the complexity and the dynamics of the human trafficking phenomenon.

Our doctoral thesis is especially important as it refers to the spiritual causes that promote human trafficking. The modern phenomenon of "body desacralization" led, among other things, to an enhancement in human trafficking. They are found in Europe's early past, more or less, especially in the central and western part.

In the context of post modernity marked by secularization, the desecration of the human body is a cause of concern shown by people in the contemporary hedonism image, which is

"woven in the eyes of others". What we want to capture from this world of modernity are the positive/negative effects of social devaluation. Negotiating the body, the social and professional condition, as well as the secularization into positive purposes are aspects that fully describe human trafficking. The fluidity of migration's flows for a better life is a characteristic of today's society. Morality, as nonexistent, free expression and movement of people, has produced major changes in human behavior.

Media, the Internet and the mobile phones have plenty of posts showing the new aspects of the body as an object or as a commodity. Erotic depictions include almost exclusively all public media. This very special social dynamic that leads, in A.Giddens opinion to a "new rational organization of life", explains the new cosmopolitan relationship between groups, communities and societies; the need to rediscover the community spirit.

The purpose, research objectives and working hypothesis

Purpose: establishing social dimensions of trafficking in human beings in Iași County in the period 2001-2010, our thesis involves the fact that human trafficking is a consequence of body desecration. The research contains forms of manifestation, causes, prevention strategies, applied reintegration policies, human trafficking trends in Iasi and proposals for action strategies necessary to prevent this phenomenon and to avoid the victimization of vulnerable people.

Objectives:

- Knowledge of institutional systems (governmental and nongovernmental) to prevent trafficking in persons;
- Analysis of forms of trafficking in Iasi, between 2001 - 2010 (begging, prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor);
- Analysis of the phenomenon of trafficking cases and incidence;
- Research sociological categories of trafficked persons by gender, age, residence, education, family condition, religion;
- Propose a set of measures, from a sociological perspective, to improve prevention policies and social reintegration for victims of trafficking.

General hypothesis: human trafficking in Iasi County during 2001 - 2010, manifested on a social vulnerability basis, as a consequence of poverty, frustration, poor religious life and lack of education.

Our thesis provides an overview of the evolution of human trafficking especially in Iasi and can be a source of documentation, based on dynamics, size and specific forms of human trafficking. In addition, a number of 11 multiple, novel case studies provides a rich documentation on the trafficking process, organization networks, causes, forms and consequences of exploitation of trafficking victims.

Methodological aspects of sociological research

Developing an effective thesis assumed proceeding sequentially through the stages required to achieve scientific papers:

- documenting, clarifying and linking theoretical notions of literature on secularism, hedonism, desecration of the body and human trafficking;
- studying the correlation statistics and data on trafficking in persons;
- documenting and centralizing data on E.U. and other states legislation that were surveyed
- highlighting all the causes and factors that encourage trafficking in persons;
- Action planning strategy to reduce and control human trafficking from a sociological perspective, in Iasi.

In order to achieve these stages, there were used several working tools: bibliographic investigation, legal documentation, analysis of statistical indicators, content analysis, comparative analysis, semi-structured interview and numerous case studies.

Thesis content

Of theoretical and practical reasons our thesis is divided into seven chapters, separated conceptually and linked to the detailed presentation of sociological research, the understanding of theoretical concepts, emphasizing the dynamics of trafficking in some European countries and Romania.

Chapter I. Body desecration. An interpretation of socio-anthropological perspective of religions - includes theories and concepts of body desecration. Our references submit to the body as a component of basic human being and spiritual life. The connection between faith and flesh is explained by the deified body theory. Finally, we present the effects of postmodernism and contemporary hedonism as causes of body desecration and social secularization. Religious practices diminution on a science basis, dematerialization of the world, polisenzualist extended

eroticism and aesthetic development, hungry for quality entertainment, are some of the arguments described in detail in this chapter.

Chapter II. Human trafficking in Europe, pursued policies adopted by some European countries in preventing human trafficking. There are presented legal issues in Romania and three case studies on the evolution of trafficking in the UK, Netherlands and Germany. Furthermore, it incorporates features of EU legislation and imposes new rules to strengthen prevention of trafficking.

Chapter III. Human trafficking in Romania after 1989, contains the history of trafficking in Romania since 1989, causes and factors that generate and maintain this phenomenon, manifestation forms, networks and traffic routes, traffic profile actors (victim / author) and the human trafficking trends. Sociological studies on people being trafficked from Romania after 1990, revealed a number of causes and factors that have been the subject of careful analysis and were grouped into levels of organization and influence, being presented in this chapter. In addition, we presented the victim's profile and the profile traffickers.

Human trafficking in Romania appeared in the first phase in the form of prostitution and pimping, focusing primarily on sexual exploitation, later on, child trafficking being developed for commercial purposes. As one of the most profitable organized crime activities, excluding drugs and weapons trafficking, human trafficking maintains a top position in the traffic networks. The dynamics of human trafficking during 2001 - 2010, shows fluctuations increase and decrease with a peak in 2005.

Growth trends are caused largely by socio-economic conditions, low level of education and training of specific groups, secularization, military conflicts, economic, social and politic globalization as well as the tactical performance of the traffic networks.

Chapter IV. Theoretical and methodological framework of sociological research has been devoted to the major sociological theories and methodologies considered in sociological research of human trafficking:

- *The mapping school, the sociological school and the ecological school of Chicago* highlighted terms and conditions for the development of delinquency;
- The complex set of variations, delinquent subcultures, social anomie and social control theories explains the development of delinquent behavior.

All these theories represented sociological documentary support in our research. In specialty literature regarding human trafficking there are references to the offenses, manifestations and causes of the phenomenon. Analyzing the causes, we observe that the profile of the victim and the perpetrator are common features largely related to education, deviance as individual factors as well as socio-economic factors, affecting both categories. S. Hurwitz shows that criminology is the subject of individual and social factors underlying criminal behavior. Hans von Hentig, in one of his developed theories, said that, in many cases the victim acts as a "precipitator to the crime ". According to this theory, the body sale is often the result of victims attitudes in relation with third parties subjects, in which the exhibition of the body, the uncovered body with shades of exaggerated excitation, creates the impression, moreover, the intention of a commercial desires of the flesh and not a serious relationship. In addition to goals, objectives and general hypothesis presented above, in this chapter we presented work hypotheses.

Applied research methods: documentation, statistical analysis, semi-structured interview and multiple case study.

Chapter V. is intended strictly for **sociological research of trafficked population in Iasi, in the period 2001-2010.** I opted, in the first instance, for a quantitative analysis, using indicators and statistics obtained from ANITP, IPJ Iasi and DIICOT - S.T.A. Iasi and continued with multiple case studies on human trafficking networks in Iasi (details, pp 197-263), having constant attention to the goals, objectives and research hypotheses.

Research result confirms the working assumptions. The findings indicate that, to prevent human trafficking, an intervention at the community level of multidisciplinary teams is considered necessary, involving all social actors in combating this phenomenon.

Chapter VI. Human trafficking in Iasi. Features, operating methods, cases and forms, includes qualitative research field. For sociological research objectives, as stated in Chapter. IV. pct.2.2, we appeal to the achievement of 26 semi-structured interviews with specialists from the institutional system of intervention in human trafficking in Iasi. Reflecting on the causes and relevant factors specific to post modernity, we conclude that the removal of the church, and Christian values, produce deviant behavior at individual, family and societal level. In our case regarding sociological research on human trafficking, the causes of spiritual nature are manifested by the development of anti-Christian conceptions inside the family. At the

community level, these moral deviations against the norms of religious beliefs are manifested through the emergence of drugs consumption, alcoholism, human trafficking, pedophilia, homosexuality, lesbianism, transsexualism, and other extreme sexual practices. Thus, "virtue and sin are related to human beings, calling them a subject of conscious and free ... they related to the human condition in space and time, in its' life on earth, but with direct effects on the eschatological dimension of man: eternal happiness or eternal damnation." To reduce these phenomena of sexual deviance, it requires that religious organizations have to create a program of global spiritual revival." The qualitative analysis of the research in this chapter confirms the **general hypothesis** that *„Trafficking in Iasi County during 2001 - 2010 manifests itself due to social vulnerability and is specifically a consequence of poverty, frustration and lack of education. Traffic manifests on a social fund of desacralization and hedonization of the body."*

Chapter VII. Action strategies and how to reduce and control human trafficking in Iasi. A sociological perspective. A strategy to prevent and combat human trafficking in Iasi will be held under the National Action Plan 2008-2010.

In developing policy proposals to improve the action of human trafficking in Iasi county, we have in our attention the result of a qualitative research (Cap.VI section 1.8.) and direct findings within multiple event analysis. Our proposals to improve the intervention Plan, make the subject of personal contribution, based on an EU joint anti-trafficking program created on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing human trafficking, published in the Official Journal of the European Union no. C311 on the 9th of December 2001.

Detailed proposals in Chapter VII, paragraphs 2.1-2.9. are the result of qualitative sociological field research by conducting semi-structured interviews. Synthetically presented the new proposals:

1. Organize a working group (organization) as an authority;
2. Reintegration system type, "Safety House" (Dutch model);
3. Developed strategy for action in Iasi county, determined by the dynamics and the complexity of human trafficking;
4. The adoption of legal measures utilizing ANTIP unitary databases, as a "*golden rule*" by all institutions with responsibilities in the field of trafficking;

5. Creating a network of local interdisciplinary trainers to ensure the continuous specialization and training of staff in all institutions involved in preventing human trafficking;
6. Group of experts to monitor child pornography in Iasi;
7. Prevention programs coordinated by an authority (ANITP), focusing on the involvement of civil society, media, church and educational institutions;
8. Strengthening the role of the church in preventing trafficking in persons;
9. Social reintegration of the trafficker subject vs. restorative justice;

We also established measures of social reintegration of victims of trafficking with an emphasis on networking social protection of victims under the coordination ANITP. Moreover, we presented the role of the specialists in counseling and victim recovery and the need to involve a priest in the multidisciplinary intervention team in an emergency or post-traffic situations.

As a final point, we can say that sociological research efforts have achieved its goals and objectives, the results providing an overview of the dynamics of human trafficking nationally and especially for Iasi. Our thesis provides a detailed documentation of the causes, forms of expression and prevention measures of human trafficking in the county of Iasi.

The aim is to implement new proposals in the new legislation and to continue qualified actions to reduce the risk of victimization of vulnerable people. This present paper is the result of the approaches acquired through completion of academic studies, postgraduate training stages, the national and international professional experience, and especially, the great support offered by the scientific coordinator.

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Note: The conditions imposed on electronic publishing (max.25.000 characters) led us to a selection of literature.