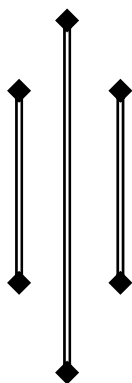


An Analysis of the Situation of Trafficking in Nepal



A Report of
Baseline Survey

Submitted To:
SARI/Q,
Basanta Vihar, New Delhi, India

Under Project:
Prevention of Human Trafficking through Strengthening the
Community Surveillance System

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1. BACKGROUND

The trafficking in girls and women for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution and labor in domestic service, hotel, construction and carpet factory and circus is the kind of crime which has stood as a matter of serious concern for many people and government which value human dignity and justice as being of utmost importance and are fighting for the kind of society of their conviction. It is social problems as it impedes the reasonable aspiration of a great many people and has been defined by international covenant as crime against humanity. It is a global phenomenon of increasing severity and intensity, no longer restricted to certain borders or social groups. In South Asia, the problem is particularly acute. The South Asia Strategy against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse stated that such crimes against children were widespread.¹ In 1998, Nepal's Chief Justice expressed concern at the proportions of exploitation of children, describing them as "alarming".² The trends of this crime have shown no sign of declining.

However, despite widespread consensus on the scale of the problem, there has been little quantitative information for its substantiation. This was a shortcoming recognized in the South Asia Strategy, which admitted that current data on the magnitude and extent of sexual exploitation of children are inadequate.³ One UNICEF report has argued that what figures do exist are often recycled and regularly quoted without any reference to the original source or application. In Nepal, it is frequently stated that between 5,000 and 7,000 girls are trafficked to India every year for sexual trade purpose. INGOs, NGOs and the government alike have estimated that there are 150,000 to 200,000 Nepali girls in Indian brothels. However,

¹ UNICEF ROSA, 2001, *South Asia Strategy against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse*, Adopted at the South Asia Consultation for the 2nd World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Dhaka, 4-6 November 2001, p.1. UNICEF ROSA: Kathmandu.

² ILO-IPEC, 1998, *Combating Trafficking in Children for Labour Exploitation in the South Asia: Report on South Asia Consultation*, Kathmandu, Nepal, 12-14 October 1998, p.78, ILO-IPEC: Switzerland.

³ Op cit., UNICEF ROSA, p.1.

these are figures that have remained unaltered since 1989.⁴ Over the past years research has been undertaken as a crucial component of anti-trafficking measures, but data of trafficked victims remains widely varied. Figures range from an ILO report (Bal Kumar K.C. et.al. 2001) showing that it might be as high as 12000 per annum (for the propose of sexual exploitation) to a commonly recycled and out-dated figure-although not validated-of between 5000 to 7000 annually)

Amongst the multiplicity of initiatives against trafficking worldwide, there are few that focus on systematic data collection. Information that is available is collected from disparate sources such as official migration figures, small scale surveys among children in situations of exploitation, or from the media.⁵ Such methodologies suffer from limitations of generalizability. They often focus on the most visible groups or accessible information sources, and thus neglect thousands of girls and women who have slipped through the "formal" evaluation net.

This situation is no different in Nepal. There are a number of ways in which data on trafficking is gathered, however, there is still no accurate picture of the problem. Furthermore, to date, there has been no mechanism to look at trafficking at its root – at community level.

Bridging this information gap has been one of CeLRRd's key aims. Since 1998, it has been working for the prevention of trafficking in communities throughout Nepal, facilitating the establishment of "Community Surveillance Systems against Trafficking" (CSSAT) in 14 districts. This system is an innovative approach formulated by CeLRRd, emphasizing the involvement of community as the owner of all the activities. During the course of this work, it developed a "Baseline survey" to be carried out in those areas which are at risk and vulnerable.

⁴ Kane, J. and Sanghera, J. (eds.), 2001, *Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes: An Analytical Review*, p.7, UNICEF ROSA: Kathmandu.

⁵ Op cit., Kane and Sanghera, p.7.

Trafficking in women is a serious social problem as it impedes the important and reasonable aspirations of the women trafficked and make the entire family experience a trauma. The trafficked women get a degraded and extremely low-paying job and usually suffer from poverty and want. They feel alienated and see no prospect in life. They become pessimistic and cognate the entire world as selfish and nasty. Life becomes burden for them.

Many push and pull factors have been identified by the researcher and activist. The success of our fight against trafficking in women for prostitution and other purposes depends, *inter alia*, on our understanding of scale, intensity, distribution and causes of the problems and various factors that add to the vulnerability of woman/girl to trafficking. Therefore, this research was designed to obtain information on some of the major factors that make female population of the region vulnerable and to identify the sectors in which women are trafficked.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- a. estimate the female population vulnerable to trafficking and identify the factors that contribute to vulnerability of woman/girl to trafficking;
- b. identify the sector in which trafficking in women have taken place; and
- c. estimate the number of female population trafficked.

3. METHOD OF STUDY

3.1 Sample

The research was designed to study the situation of tarai and inner tarai with regards to the above mentioned objectives. Purposive sampling method was used to select the districts. Eight districts were selected as sample; six of them were those bordering India and two were from inner tarai. Majority of districts were selected from bordering area keeping in view the high degree of vulnerability of girls therein to

trafficking to India owing to open and unregulated boarder. Other thing remaining constant, their being in open boarder with India adds to their vulnerability. The districts selected were Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Udayapur, Nawalparasi, Banke, Makawanpur and Kanchanpur

From these eight districts, ninety six villages were identified for field work through simple random sampling method. All households in these villages were covered.

3.2 Data Collection Technique and Field Work

In order to collect data as required by objectives of the study, structured interview schedule was developed. The interview schedule was designed to collect information, *inter alia*, on economic condition of household, literacy status of women under 25, marital status of women under 25, cases of child marriage, school going and non-going girl children, cases of polygamy, number of girls who have left home and sector in which they are involved as worker.

The data was collected from the field by trained enumerators in one month. Informal meetings and gathering were frequently held with the members of community, local authority, and key-informants which contributed to building rapport and eased our job. The chiefs of the words also extended their full cooperation. Supervision of the field work was carried out by program officer and sociologist accompanied and assisted by students of Katmandu School of Law.

3.3 Analysis and Presentation

The raw data was summarized with the help of computer software. The findings have been presented in statistical, diagrammatic and descriptive form. The findings related to objectives have been presented first district-wise. Attempts to show the picture of the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai) have also been made wherever necessary and possible.

4. VULNERABILITY TO TRAFFICKING:

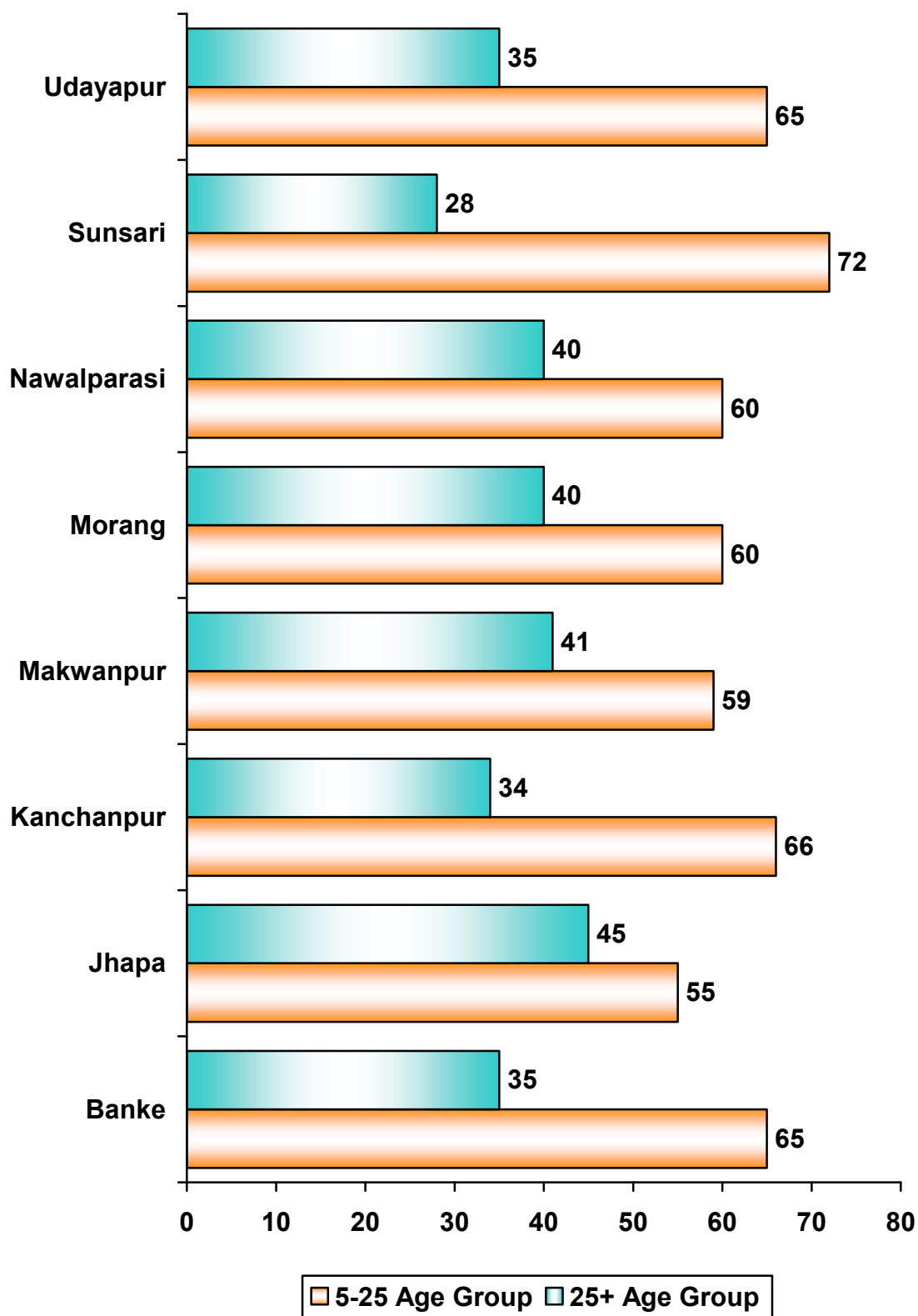
In our study, four variables; age, economic status, literacy and marital status, were identified as forming the basis of vulnerability to trafficking. It should, however be recognized that vulnerability to trafficking is the function of multiple factors at work. Here attempts have been made to present the size of vulnerable girls population on these four bases.

4.1 Age and Vulnerability

Age, in itself, does not constitute the basis of vulnerability to trafficking. But the female population of 5-25 is fairly susceptible to trafficking for various reasons. *Firstly*, a large portion of this age group lives in poverty and is illiterate. *Secondly*, the grown-up population in this age group has new aspirations and dreams. As the opportunities in villages are limited and further shrinking, they may easily fall victim of trafficker's tricks of temptation. *Thirdly*, the girl-children of early age (above 5) are susceptible to trafficking as there is high demand of domestic servants, and hotel workers, circus girls and prostitute in Nepal and India. In rural, semi urban and urban areas of the country, minors of age 5-10 are most preferred as domestic servants for the reasons like: they are less demanding; they can be kept in low pay; they can be easily controlled etc. *Fourthly*, the problem is further compounded by open boarder with India which has long been an unlimited market in the sectors such as prostitution and circus.

The diagram I gives us a proportion of 5-25 to 25+ age group female population in the various districts. The significant majority of female population in all districts belongs to 5-25 age category. These figures provide us the basis to estimate, though not with much precision, a great number of is possibly vulnerable to trafficking all these districts. In the circumstance of poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance, the problem is compounded.

Diagram I : Proportion of 5-25 to 25+ Age Group Female Population (in %)



4.2 Marital Status and Vulnerability

The unmarried portion of the female population of 13-25 age group is more susceptible to trafficking for various reasons.

Firstly, social values are rapidly changing as a result of which, the old values are degenerating and new values and aspirations are making home in the mind of adolescent and youth making them more impatient. But conditions of opportunities are too limited for them to materialize their dreams their localities. Some of them, if not all, can be enticed by the traffickers into leaving for city life where more and better opportunities, they believe, are available.

Secondly, an unmarried girl of this age group can be more easily enticed by the traffickers into false marriage and finally fall into a trap set to traffic her.

Thirdly, the prostitution market demands the girls of younger age and traffickers try their best to get them by hook or by crook.

Fourthly, carpet industry, massage parlor, hotel and restaurant and bar also demand preferably the girls of this age group, therefore, they are the prey which traffickers are looking for. Moreover, the unmarried girls of this age are also preferred as domestic servants. What makes unmarried girls more vulnerable than married women is that the former are relatively freer than the latter and are not bound up with husband and children.

The diagram II and III show the proportion of married to unmarried in the total female population (of the age 5+) and of married to unmarried in the female population of age 13-25. The portion of unmarried females is remarkably high in all districts and hint that many girls are at danger of falling prey at the hand of traffickers or may take themselves to traffickers hand knowingly or unknowingly.

Diagram II: Proportion of Married to Unmarried Total Female Population of 5+ Age

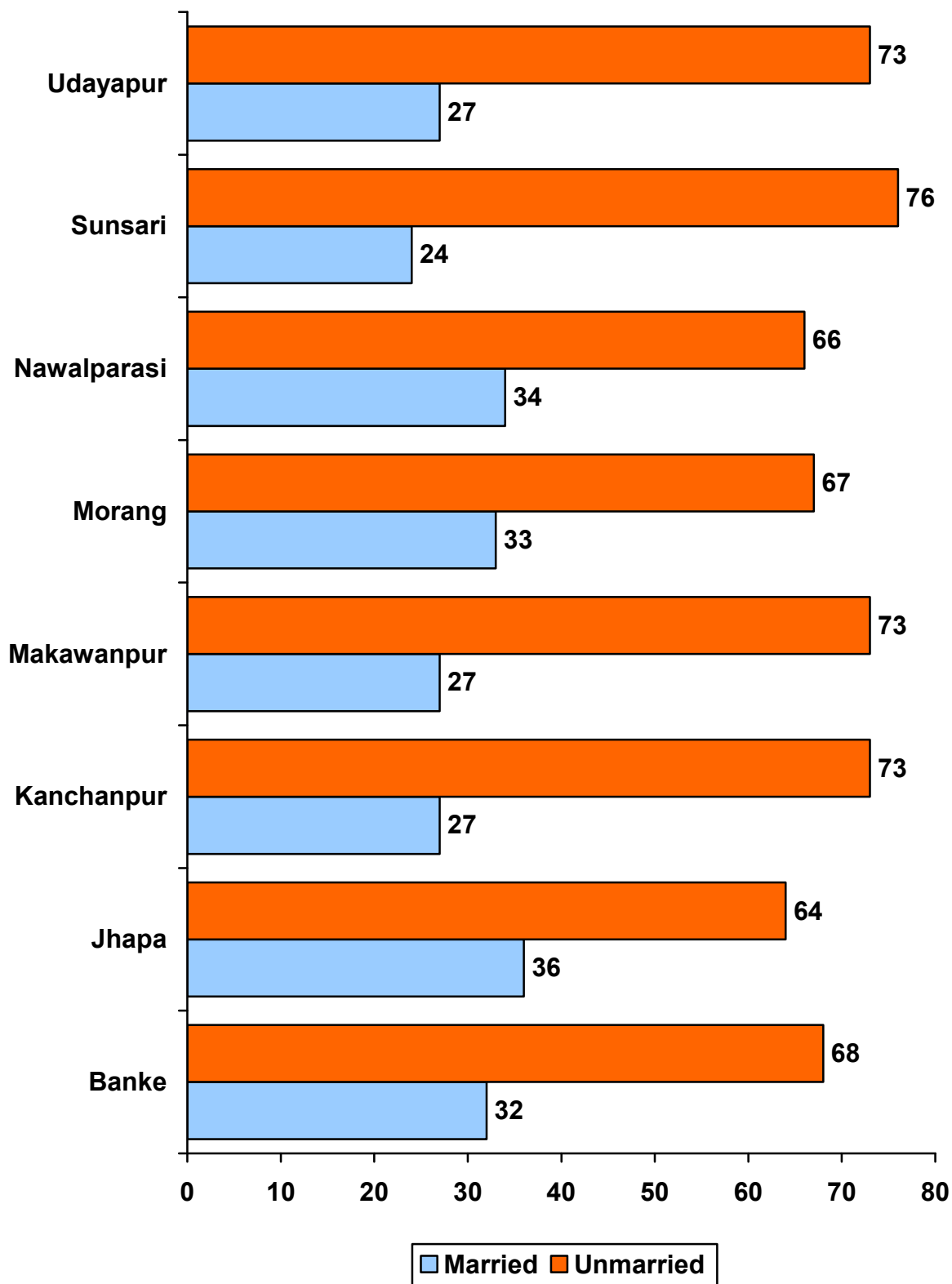
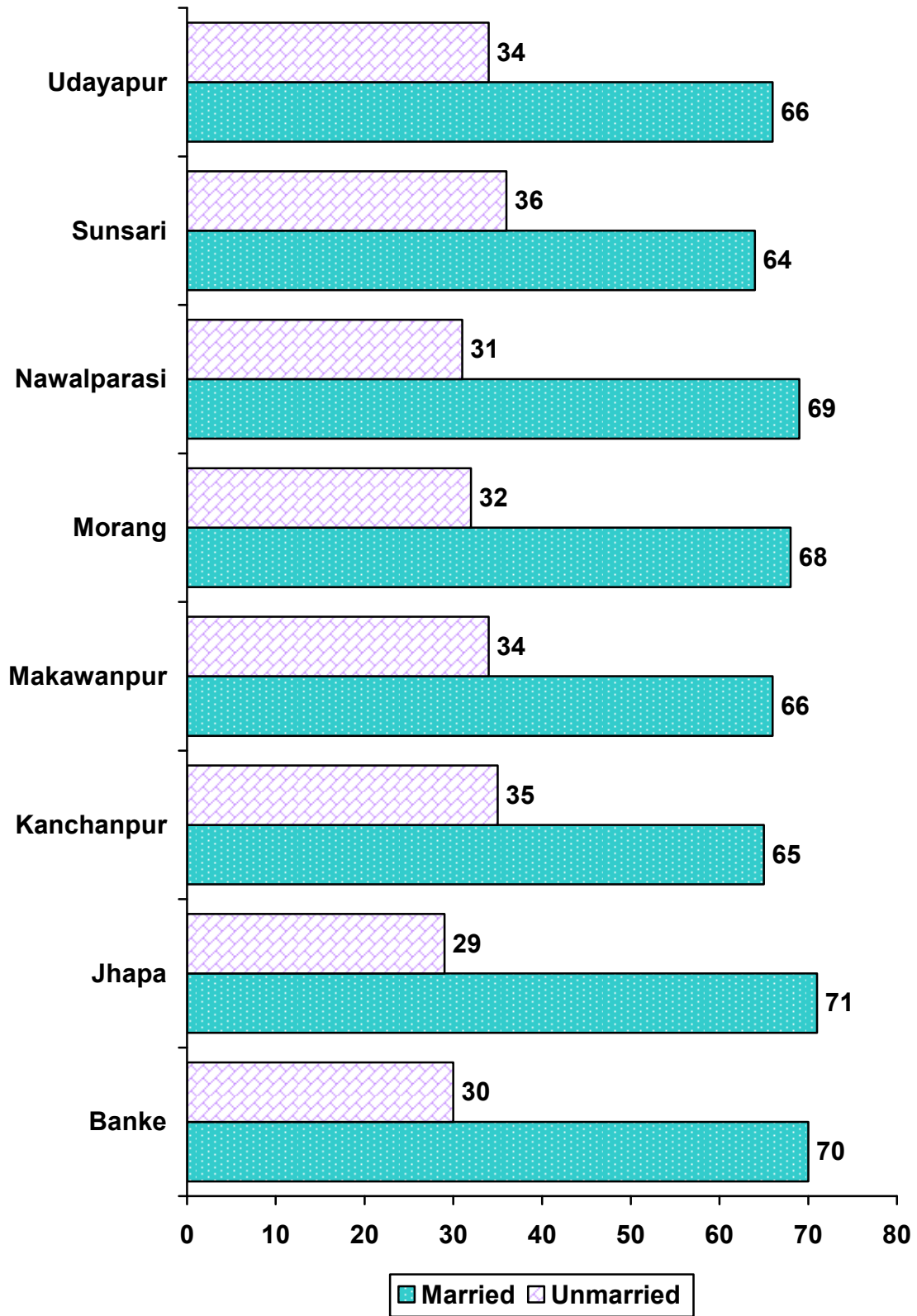
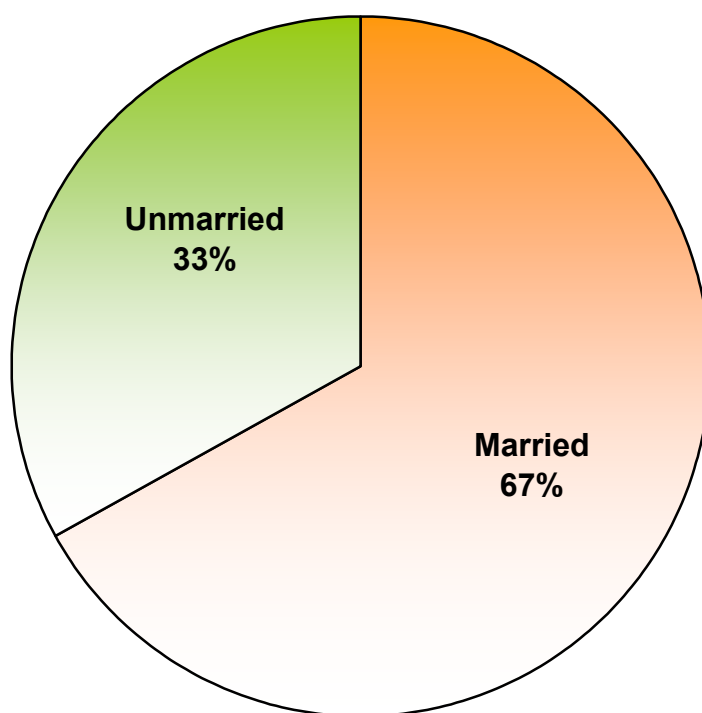


Diagram III: Proportion of Married to Unmarried Female Population of 13-25 Age Group (in %)



The diagram IV shows the proportion of married to unmarried in the female population (of the 5+ age)of the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai). Out of the total female population (of the 5+ age), 33% are unmarried. This section of the population is more vulnerable to trafficking for the various reasons we have discussed above.

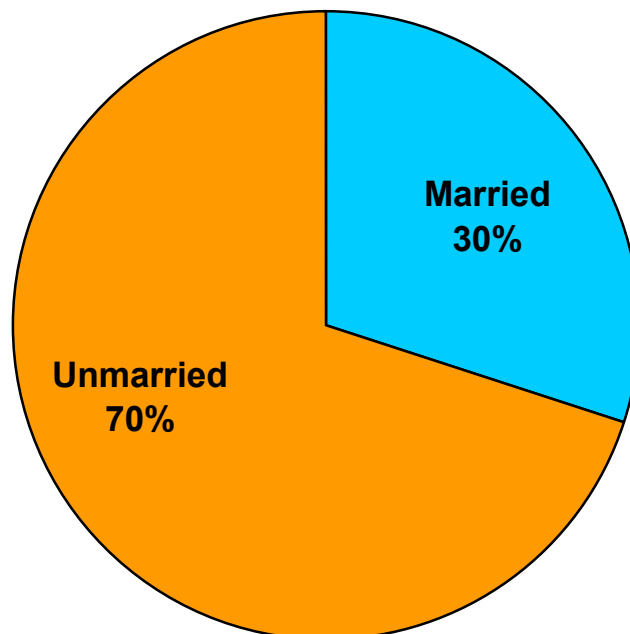
Diagram IV: Proportion of Married to Unmarried of the total Female Population



Likewise, the diagram V gives us the proportion of married to unmarried in the female population of the age group 13-25 in the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai). The diagram shows that 70% girls of the said age group are unmarried.

The findings that unmarried status also adds to the vulnerability and that a large chunk of girl population is vulnerable tot trafficking, by no means, form the basis for recommendation that girls should be married off in their early age for protection from trafficking. It, rather, demands society must take concerted efforts to drastically reduce or nullify the vulnerability of these girls to trafficking for any purpose.

Diagram IV: Proportion of Married and Unmarried Female of 13-25 Age Category in the Region



4.3. Economic Status and Vulnerability

Economic status constitutes the major basis of opportunity an individual is likely to get in life. Poor economic status is one of the major factors which make girls most vulnerable to trafficking and other social evils. This research shows economic status of households in different districts from which an estimation of vulnerability can be made. For the purpose of this research, three major categories of economic status were made; very poor/poor, satisfactory and middle/rich. In order to identify the economic status, i) size of land-holding and total annual production; ii) production and income from livestock and other farm activities iii) wage income; iv) supplementary income; and v) income from business, industry or other activities.

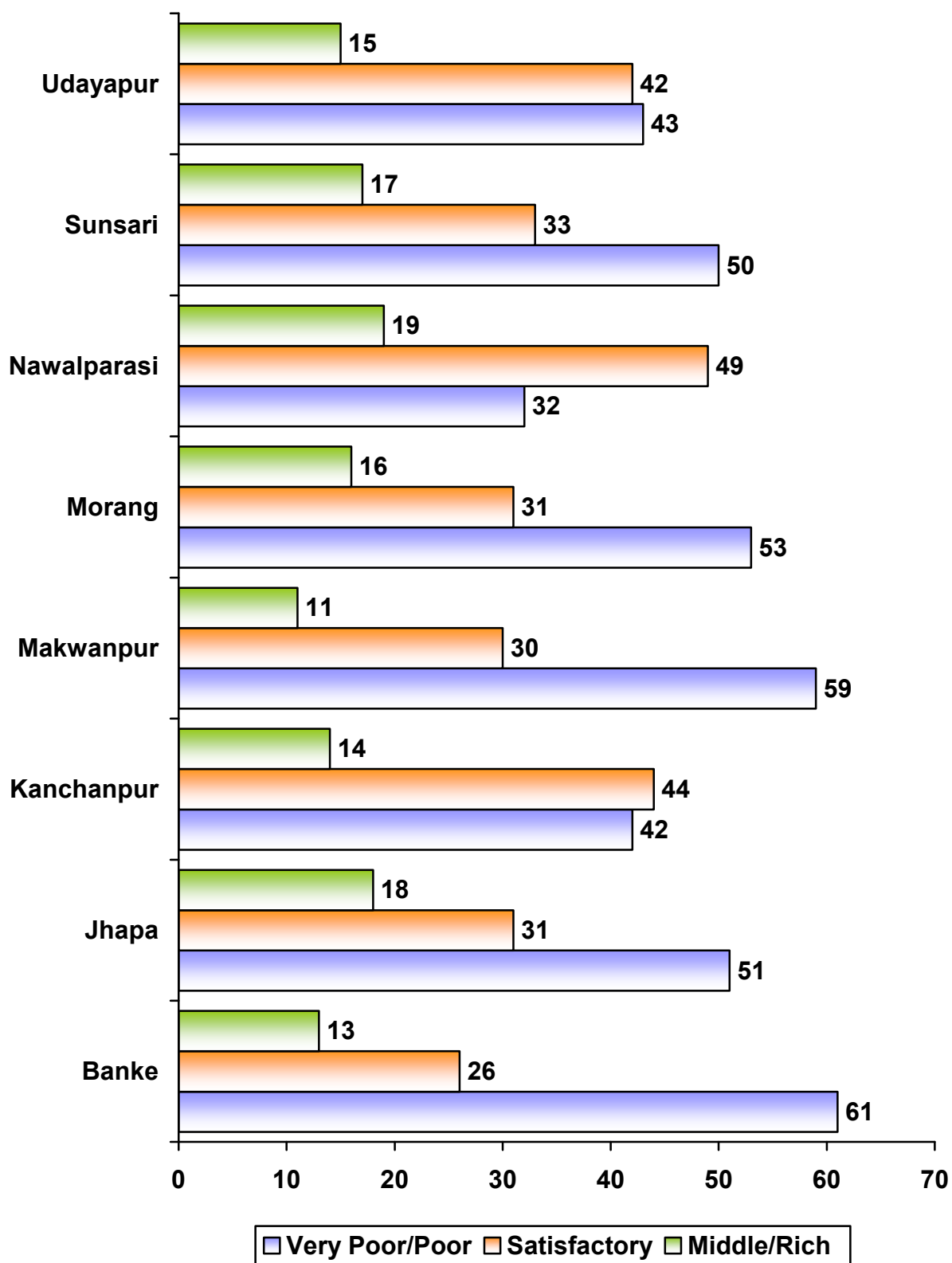
The "*very poor/poor*" category includes households i) with no or very small land holding; ii) with wage earning too little to fulfill the basic needs of life. Some of them have land holding too inadequate for livelihood. Members of such family are underemployed or employed in jobs which are extremely low-paying and temporary.

The "*satisfactory*" category includes households i) with land holding and production enough for livelihood; ii) with earning through jobs or small business to supplement their farm income.

The "*middle/rich*" category includes households i) with medium sized or large land holdings which gives produce adequate for livelihood and also creates surplus; ii) with substantial income from business or industry or other high- paying jobs.

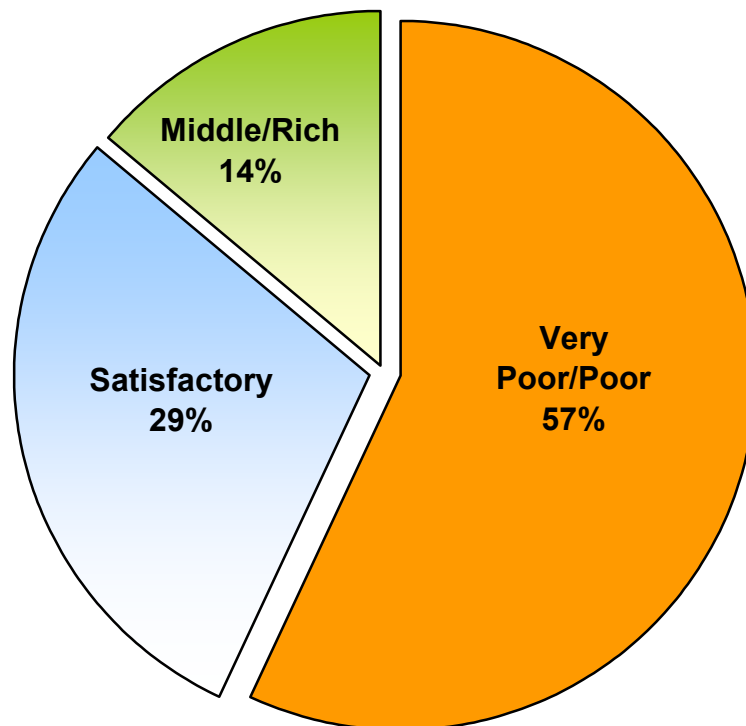
The following diagram shows that in five districts more than 50% households fall in "very poor/poor" category. All districts have majority of very poor/poor households. It does not take much effort to understand poor economic condition of these households act as a very powerful "push factor". The vulnerability is compounded if poor economic status is combined with illiteracy. The traffickers can have easy access to these families and find it easier to tempt them with a job in city or elsewhere.

Diagram VI: Economic Status of Household (in %)



The economic status of households in the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai) has been summarized in the following pie chart. The diagram shows that 57%, 29% and 14% of households fall in very poor/poor, satisfactory and middle/rich category. This is a clear evidence of the fact that a great portion of female population in this region is an easy prey for traffickers. When economic poverty works in combination with high scale of illiteracy and shrinking opportunities in the locality, it adds to the vulnerability many folds.

Diagram VII : Economic Status of Household in the Region



4.4 Literacy and Vulnerability

The literacy status of society, in general, and of female population in particular affects all aspects of life in a community. Literacy is a technical basis of awareness and education about social situation and problems of various kinds. The less literate society is handicapped in significant ways in its effort to fight social problems, whereas literate society has several advantages. Therefore, we have made attempts to find out the literacy ration of female population and thereby to estimate vulnerability in the various districts and in the entire region (Tarai and Inner Tarai).

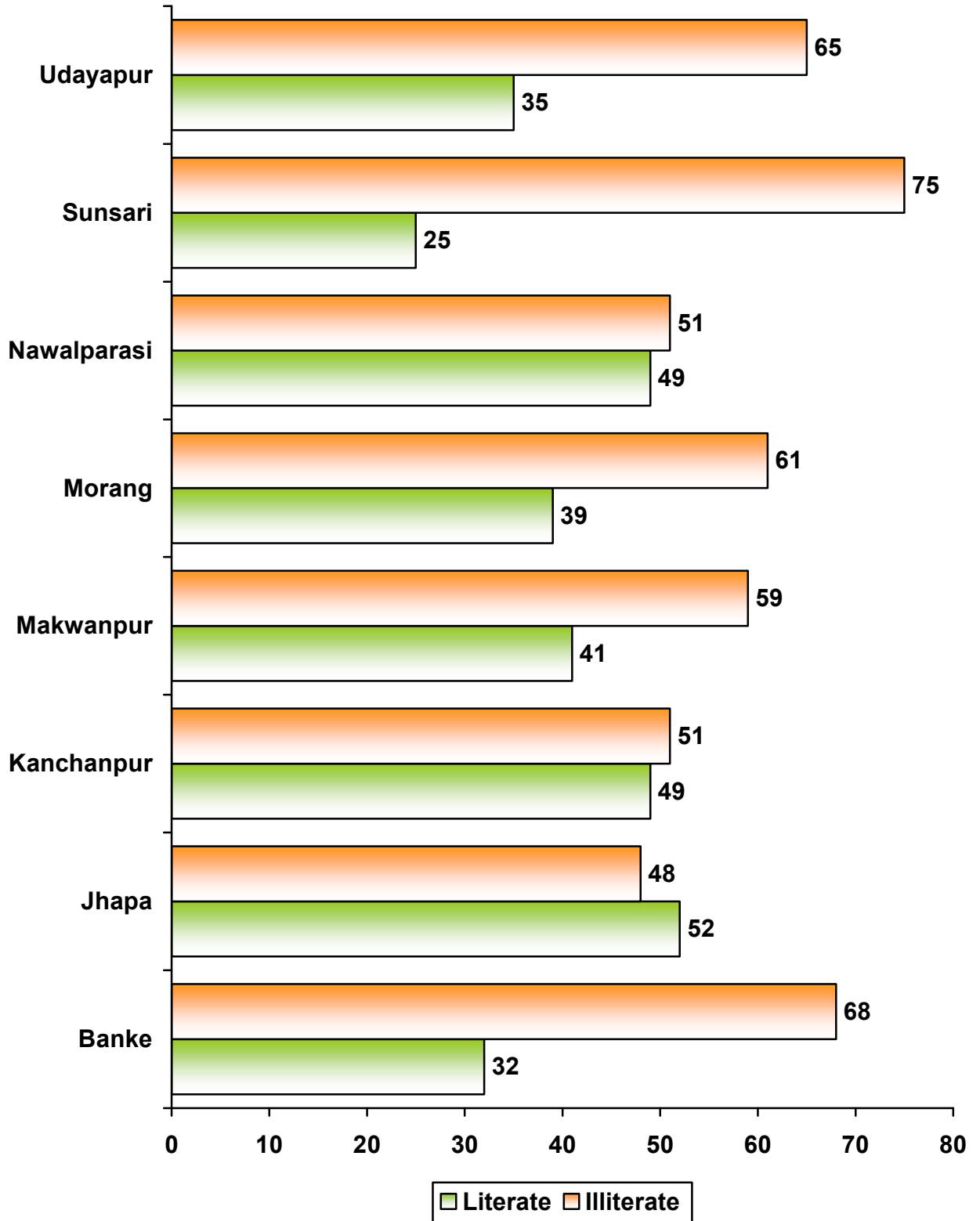
4.4.1 Literacy Status of Female Population (of +5 age) and Vulnerability

The proportion of literate to illiterate in the total female population of +5 age in the various districts is presented in the diagram VII. The total illiterate female population is not vulnerable to trafficking; however, the literacy status of total female population has direct bearing on vulnerability of adolescent and young girls. *One* reason is that illiterate elderly female members of society or community have very little ability to inform and educate the younger girls about trafficking and other potential danger of victimization.

Secondly, they are less aware of trafficking and the tricks traffickers play to entice the girls, therefore, are less likely to be cautious enough and adopt measure to protect the girls of family and locality from falling prey at the hand of traffickers.

Thirdly, vast majority of female population in the districts where educational facility has long been provided by the state logically points to deep-rooted discriminatory social values and practices. This, in turn, adds to the vulnerability to trafficking because discrimination and suppressive treatment in family and community tends to induce the girls to leave for better life elsewhere.

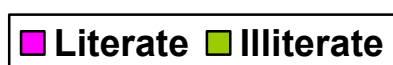
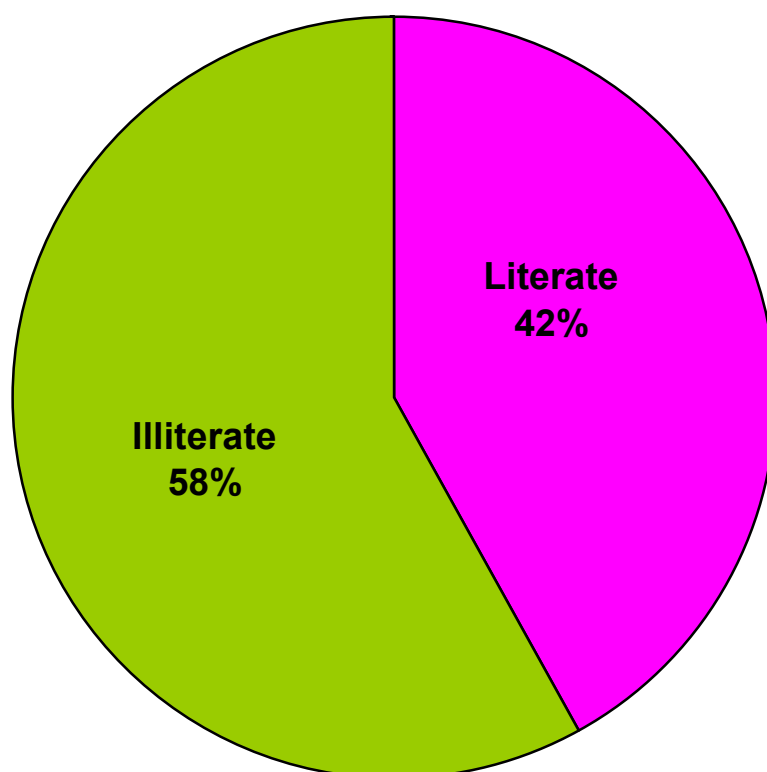
Diagram VIII: Proportion of Literate to Illiterate Female Population of +5 Age(in %) in Various Districts



The status of literacy and illiteracy of female of +5 age in the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai) has been summed up in the diagram IX, which is a pie chart. As the diagram shows 58% females are illiterate despite our age long effort to eliminate illiteracy and provision of formal educational facilities in the region.

Existence of such a big chunk of illiterate female population makes the girl population in the region much vulnerable.

Diagram IX: Literacy Status of Total Female Population of +5 Age in the Region



4.4.2 Literacy Status of Female Population of Age 5-25 and Vulnerability to Trafficking:

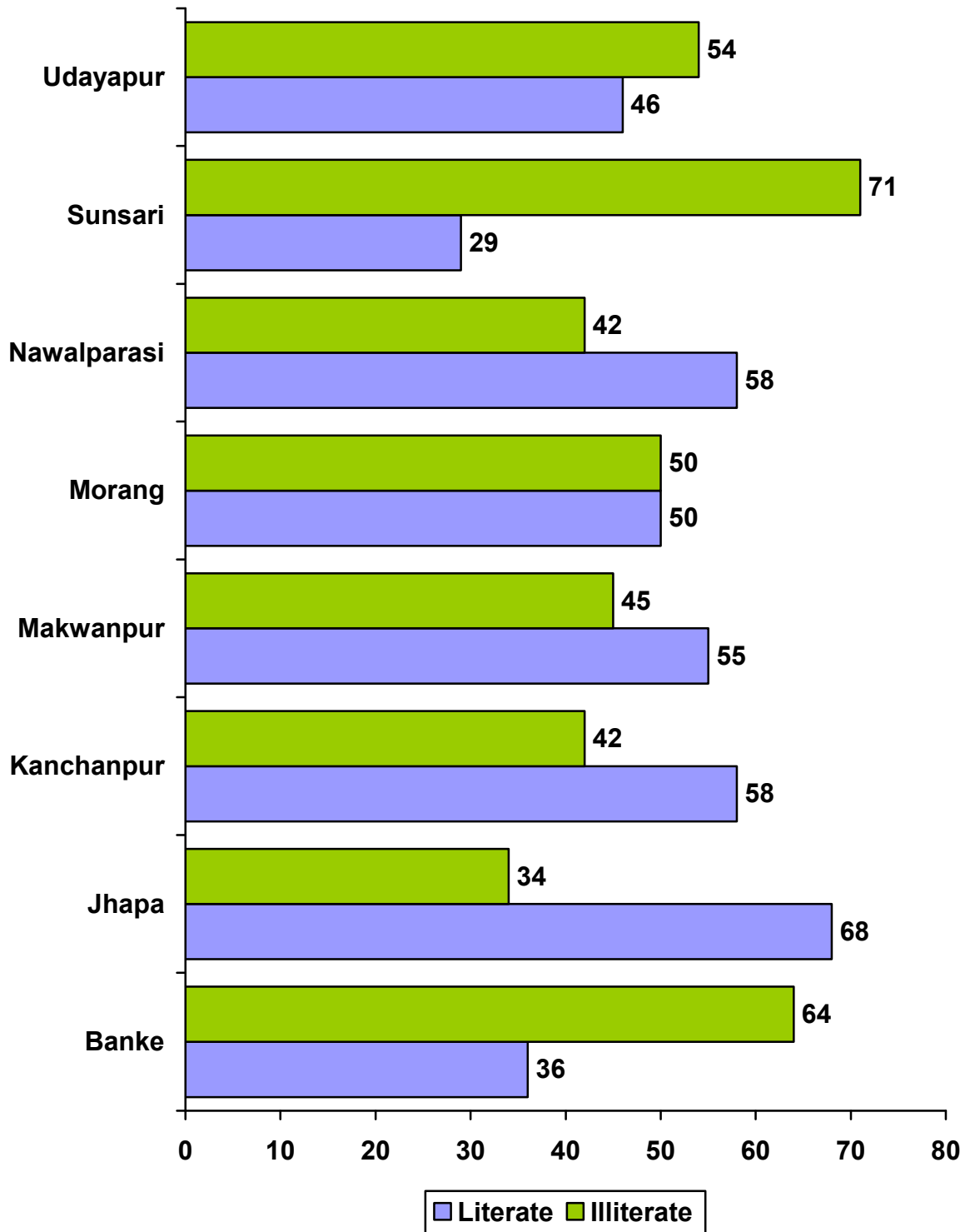
The illiteracy of female population of this age group renders them highly vulnerable to trafficking for several reasons. *Firstly*, they are less aware of trafficking and the tricks of traffickers and have very little ability and knowledge to protect themselves from falling victims at the hand of traffickers.

Secondly, the illiterate girls who leave village in search of better employment and life in city get degraded and low-paying jobs, much likely in small hotel and garment and carpet factory. Such type of employment can largely be called trafficking. Moreover, traffickers have easier and unmonitored access to these worksites and can more easily entice the girls by tempting better life in Indian cities.

Thirdly, surprisingly bigger portion of the population of this age group, despite an easy and affordable access to school, hints that discriminatory and defective social values and practices are still prevalent. The suppressive and discriminatory condition and practice in family and locality tends to induce the girls to leave for better life elsewhere precipitating them susceptible. The alarmingly high portion of illiterate female population of age 5-25 of districts like Sunsari and Banke their adjoining open Indian boarder makes greater number of girls vulnerable.

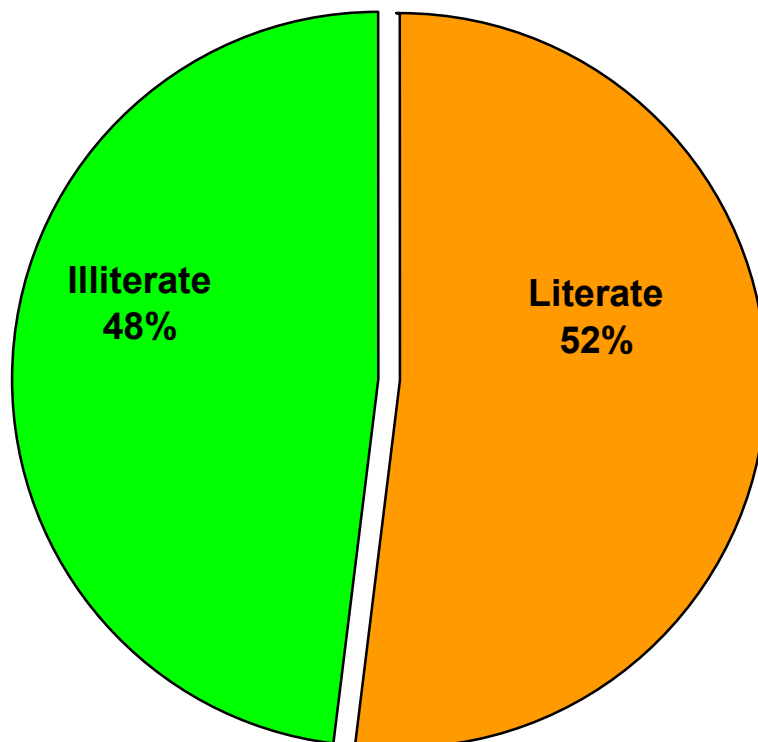
The diagram X shows the proportion of literate to illiterate in the female population of the 5-25 age group. Even at present, a substantial part of female population of this age is illiterate in all districts, Sunsari being the first in illiteracy with 71% still illiterate. By looking at this diagram, we can make intelligent and logical estimation that many girls in various districts are apparently vulnerable to fall prey victim of trafficking.

Diagram X : Proprtion of Literate to Illiterate in the Total Female Population of 5-25 Age in Various Districts



In total, the illiterate portion of female population of this age category is unexpectedly high in the areas where education facilities have long been established. The fact that 48% are illiterate shows that a great number of girls living in this area and also elsewhere as worker is likely to fall prey of trafficking.

Diagram XI: Proprtion of Literate to Illiterate in the Female Population of 5-25 Age in the Region



4.5 Enrolment and Vulnerability

The non school going portion of girl population of the districts is more vulnerable for various reasons some of which are discussed below:

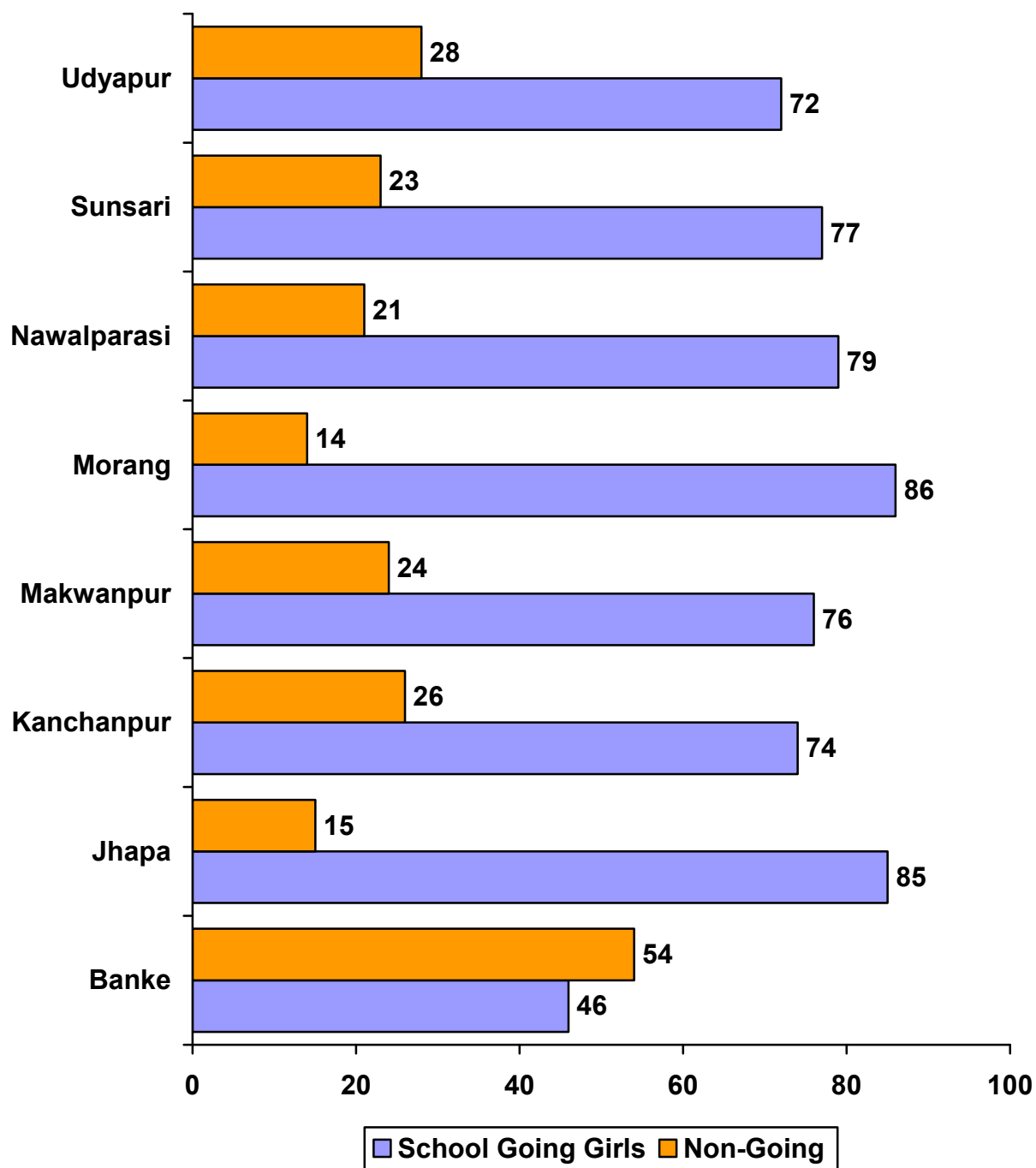
Firstly, this section of girl population belongs to families which are either very poor or discriminatory or both. In either or both case, their possibility of being trafficked is higher. In many poor and discriminatory families, girls are taken as burden and parents try to marry them off in early age or want them to earn and share their burden. Therefore, traffickers find it easier and comfortable to trap them. The traffickers easily established rapport with the parents and inveigle them to letting the girls to work in city.

Secondly, the parents in such family are illiterate and less informed about the trafficking and traffickers' tricks and many easily be deceived.

Thirdly, the school non-going girls are less aware and informed of trafficking and trafficker's trick and are more likely to fall their prey.

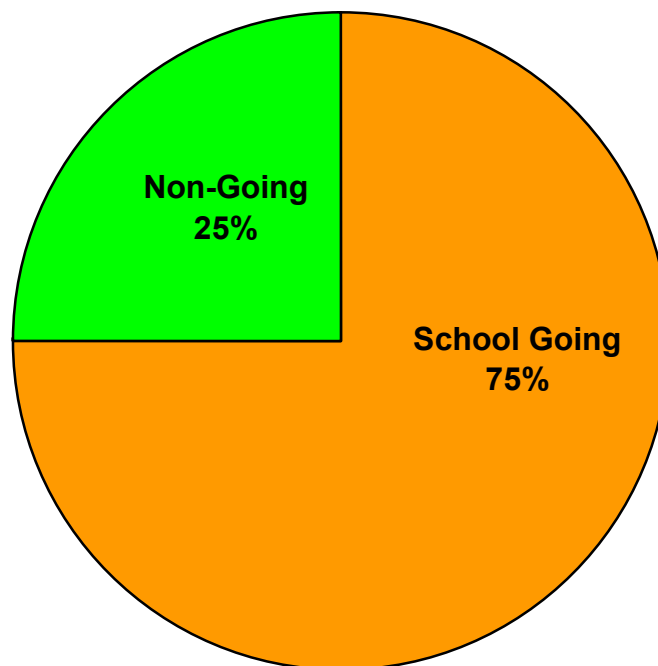
The diagram XII shows the proportion of school going to non-going girls in school going age (5-16) population. The portion of school-going girls is higher than non-going girls but that too is not satisfactory given the state investment on education in this region. When we estimate the size of girl population vulnerable to trafficking, we can not dismiss the possibility of school going girls of falling victim of trafficking. The district such as Banke and Udayapur, as the fact shows, has relatively higher proportion of non school going girls, 54% and 28% respectively and obviously more vulnerable.

Diagram XII: Proportion of School Going to Non-Going in School Going Age (5-16) in Various Districts



The diagram XIII shows the proportion of school-going to non-going girls in school-going age population in the region. As late as present, 25% of the girls of school going age do not go to school which suggests the prevalence of extreme poverty or discriminatory social values and practices or both. These factors, when work in combination, compound the problems many folds. As we know that both category of girls are vulnerable but non-school going girls are rendered even more venerable.

Diagram XIII: Proportion of School Going to Non-Going Female Population in the Region



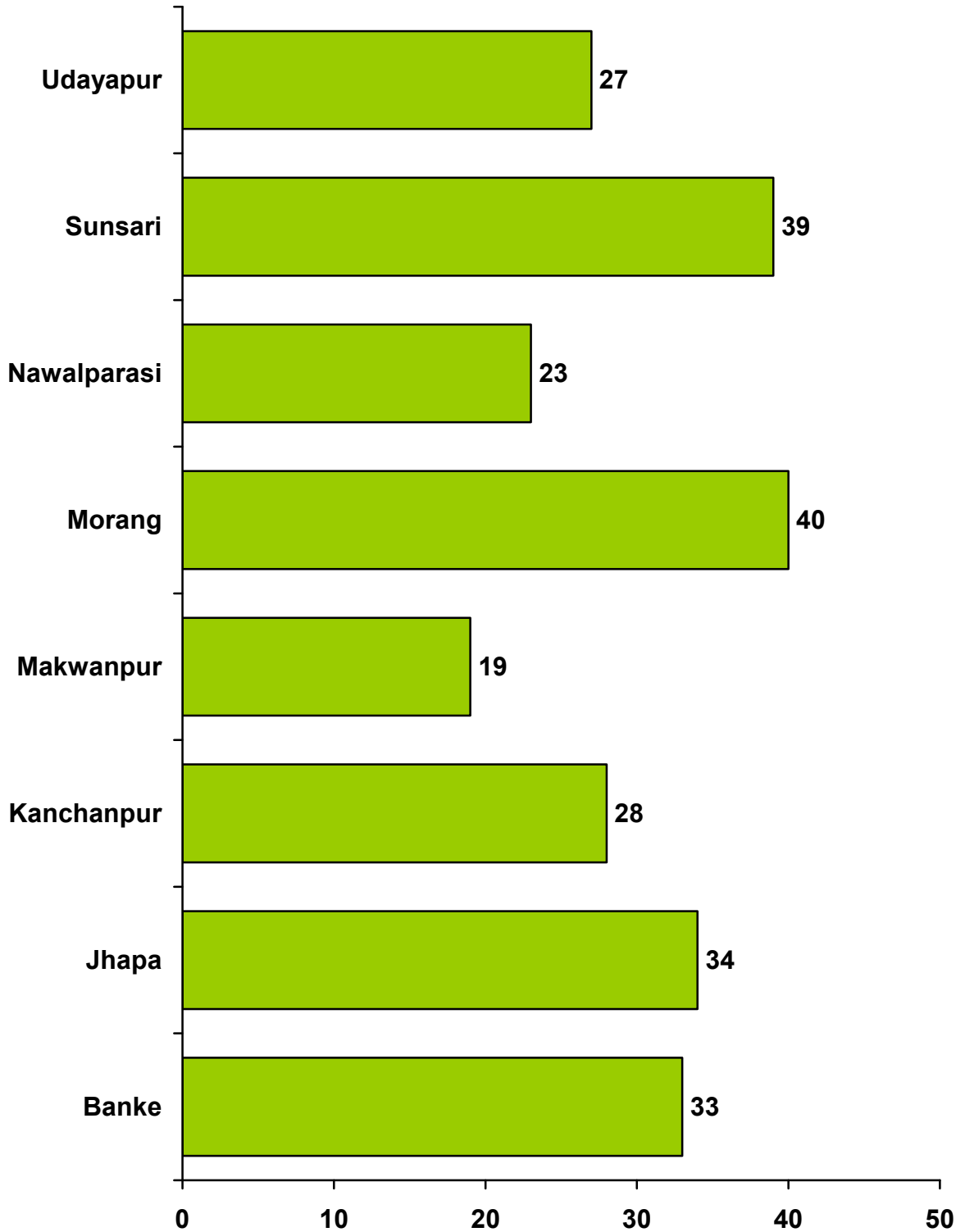
4.6 Child Marriage and Vulnerability

The child marriage adds to the vulnerability for several reasons some of which are discussed below. *Firstly*, it reflects the prevalence of discriminatory and effective values and practices. In such value and system, girl members are treated as burden and parents want to marry them off in early age. But, many girls want to escape child marriage as traditional values have begun to erode under the effect of speedily spreading modernization, education and different aspiration in life. The escaping girls normally leave their home and are much vulnerable.

Secondly, in the rapidly changing value system, child marriages are more likely to break rendering the girls much helpless. These girls are usually less educated and skilled and because of this and other reason, are disoriented. Such population falls prey of trafficking.

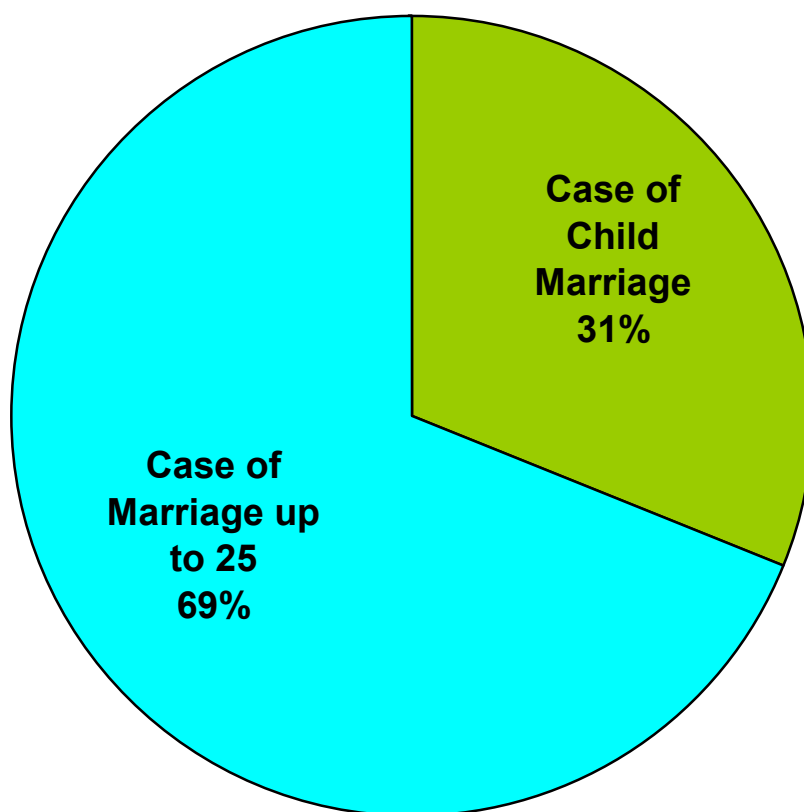
The diagram XIV shows percentage of the girls locked in child marriage out of total married women up to 25. The incidence of child marriage is surprisingly high in most of the districts. It is as high as 34% and 40% in districts like Jhapa and Morang where female literacy and proportion of school going girls are comparatively better. The vulnerability of Sunsari district, where cases of child marriage is as high as 40%, is compounded by its low level of female literacy. In Banke, 33% of the total marriage are child marriage. The situation of the districts with unexpectedly high incidence of child marriage suggests that a great many girls are in vulnerable condition.

Diagram XIV: Portion of Girls Locked in Child Marriage



The diagram XV shows the proportion of child marriage to adult marriage in the entire region (Tarai and Inner Tarai). As the diagram shows, 31% of the total marriage are the cases of child marriage. We can make logical and intelligent estimation that many girls have been rendered vulnerable to trafficking

Diagram XV



4.7. Polygamy and Vulnerability

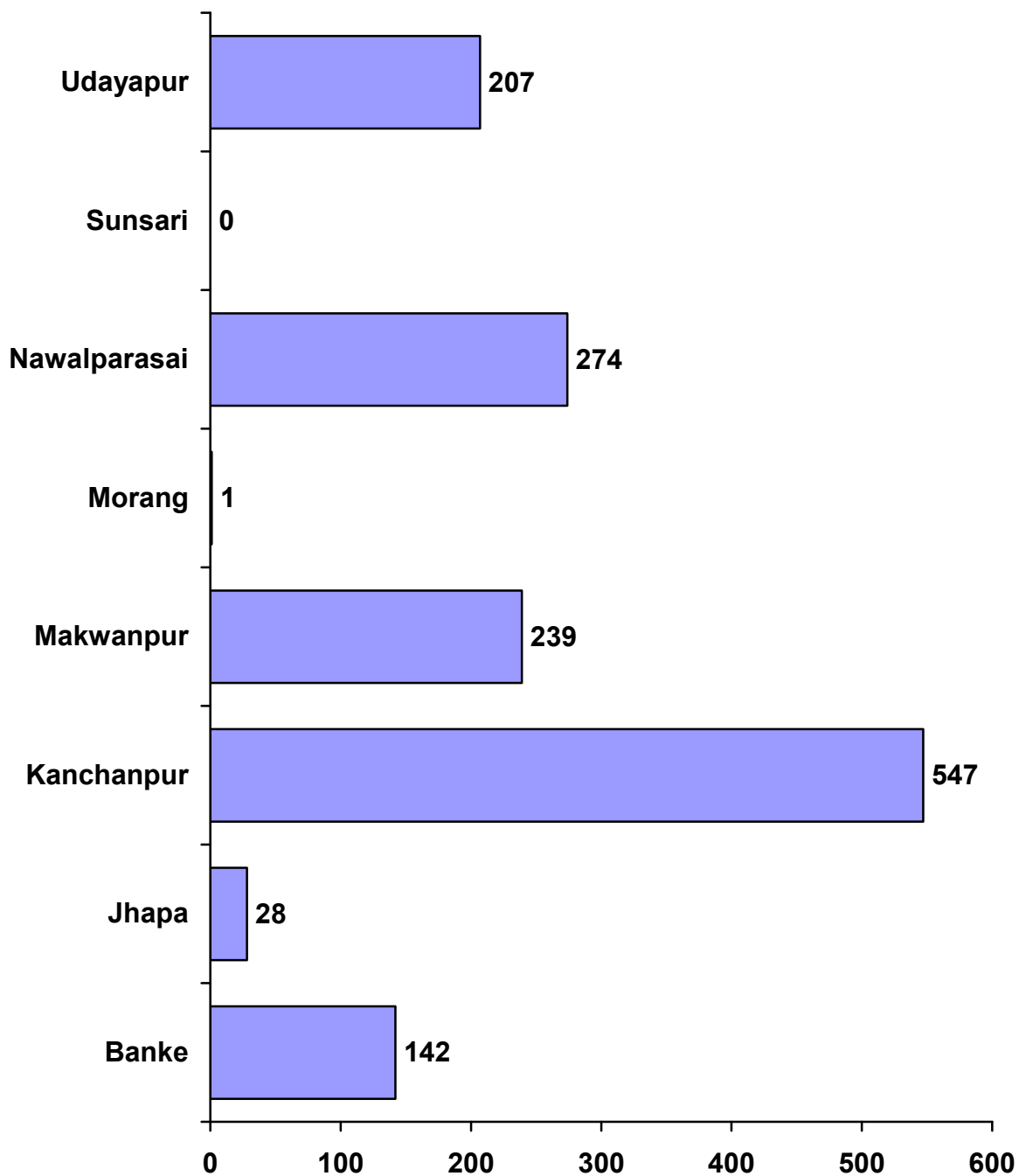
The social custom of polygamy also increases the susceptibility to trafficking in many ways some of are as follow: *Firstly*, such frequent quarrel is very likely in such family and daughters may try to escape this. One best way of escaping is leaving home for elsewhere. This way may lead them to the hands of traffickers.

Secondly, the family property and income is divided to wives and their children which further impoverishes poor family. This compounds the vulnerability.

Thirdly, a daughter in such family is more subject to discrimination by her step-mother, and frequently experience trauma which are very likely to push her to leave home.

The diagram XVI shows actual number of cases of polygamy in surveyed population. As many as 1438 incidence of polygamy have been found in surveyed households from the entire region. The districts like Kanchanpur, Banke and Nawalparasi have the highest cases of polygamy which adds to the vulnerability many folds. The incidence of polygamy in itself is not so high as to arouse serious concern in traditional society like ours . But given the legal provision on polygamy, expansion of education and widespread campaign against polygamy, its existence even in hundreds is surprising.

Diagram XVI : Actual Incidence of Polugamy in Various Districts



4.8. Identification of Sectors of Trafficking and Estimation of Number of Trafficked (Inside Nepal).

The research showed the followings as the major sectors in which women from surveyed districts have continued to be been trafficked.

- (a) Trafficking for the exploitation of prostitution;
- (b) Trafficking for the exploitation of labor of domestic servant;
- (c) Trafficking for the exploitation of labor of hotel worker;
- (d) Trafficking for the exploitation of labor in construction project;
- (e) Trafficking for the exploitation of labor in carpet factory; and
- (f) Trafficking for the exploitation of labor and body in circus.

The use or transportation of women/girls for the purpose of prostitution with or without their consent is trafficking by UN standard. In the case of use of women/girls from (b) to (f), we have good reason to label them trafficking because

- i) in these areas women/girls are so low paid that their earning is not big enough for their mere survival either,
- ii) they have been compelled existentially or formally to continue their work against their will;
- iii) those are some of the most degraded work in society which people normally take as last resort of survival; and iv) they frequently experience degraded and inhuman treatment from their employer.

The data on the category from (b) to (f) were easily obtainable. But it was very difficult to obtain data on category (a). In order to overcome this difficulty, the category "unknown" was created. A substantially large part of the "unknown" can be logically inferred to be in prostitution.

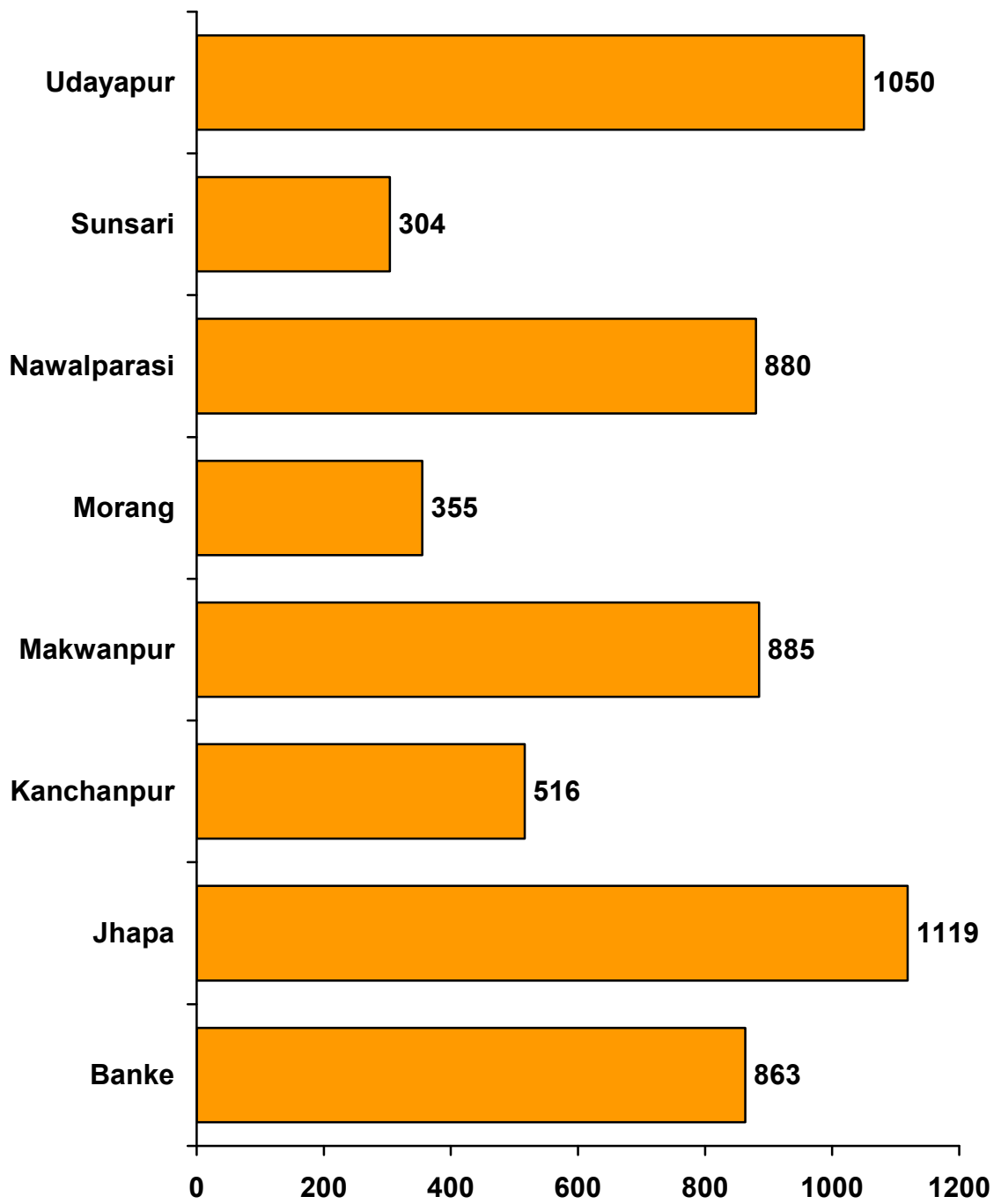
Firstly, the females which have been sold to brothel have not informed their family of what happened to them and what they are doing, therefore, the informants in the family are "unknown".

Secondly, because of strong stigma attached to prostitution, the family members responded "don't know" though they knew.

Thirdly, we have good reason to make logical inference that the number of those working in prostitution is not less than that is counted in "unknown" because some of the females working in prostitution inform their family that they are working in other sector. Therefore, some counts which are actually to fall on unknown fall elsewhere.

The diagram XVII shows the actual numbers of women from surveyed households in different districts who work in the specified sectors outside the village of their residence. The diagram gives us the idea of how many females work outside their village. We should keep in mind that trafficking in human person many take and has taken place even within a village and neighborhood.

Diagram XVII

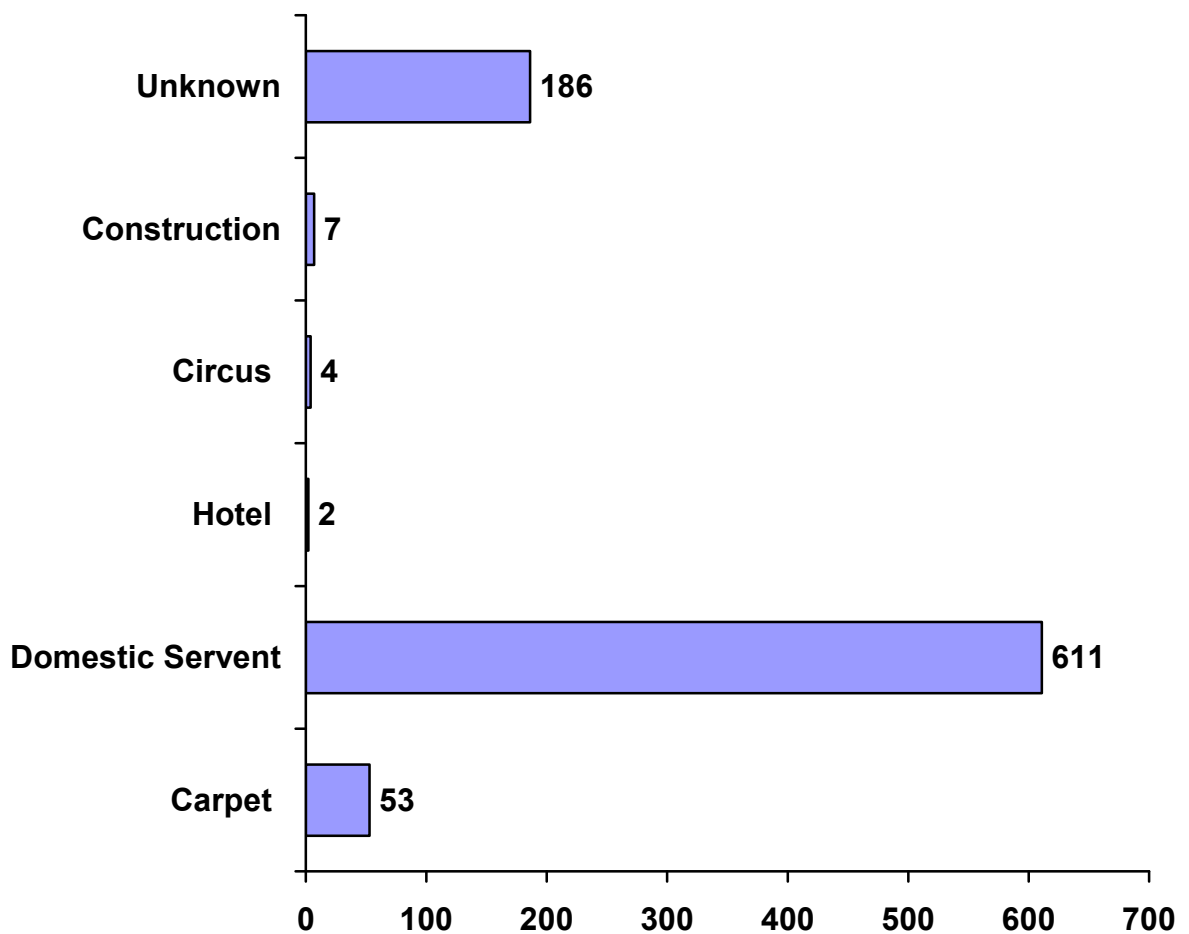


Below, diagrams will be presented to show the actual number of the females working in various sectors that have migrated from the surveyed households of the respective districts.

Banke

The diagram XVII shows the actual number of females that have been trafficked for various sectors from the surveyed households in Banke district. As the following figure is sample the number of trafficked females from Banke district is much higher. The greatest number of females trafficked from Banke has been exploited as domestic servant. As shown in "unknown" category, it can be logically estimated that around 186 girls/women have been trafficked for the exploitation of prostitution.

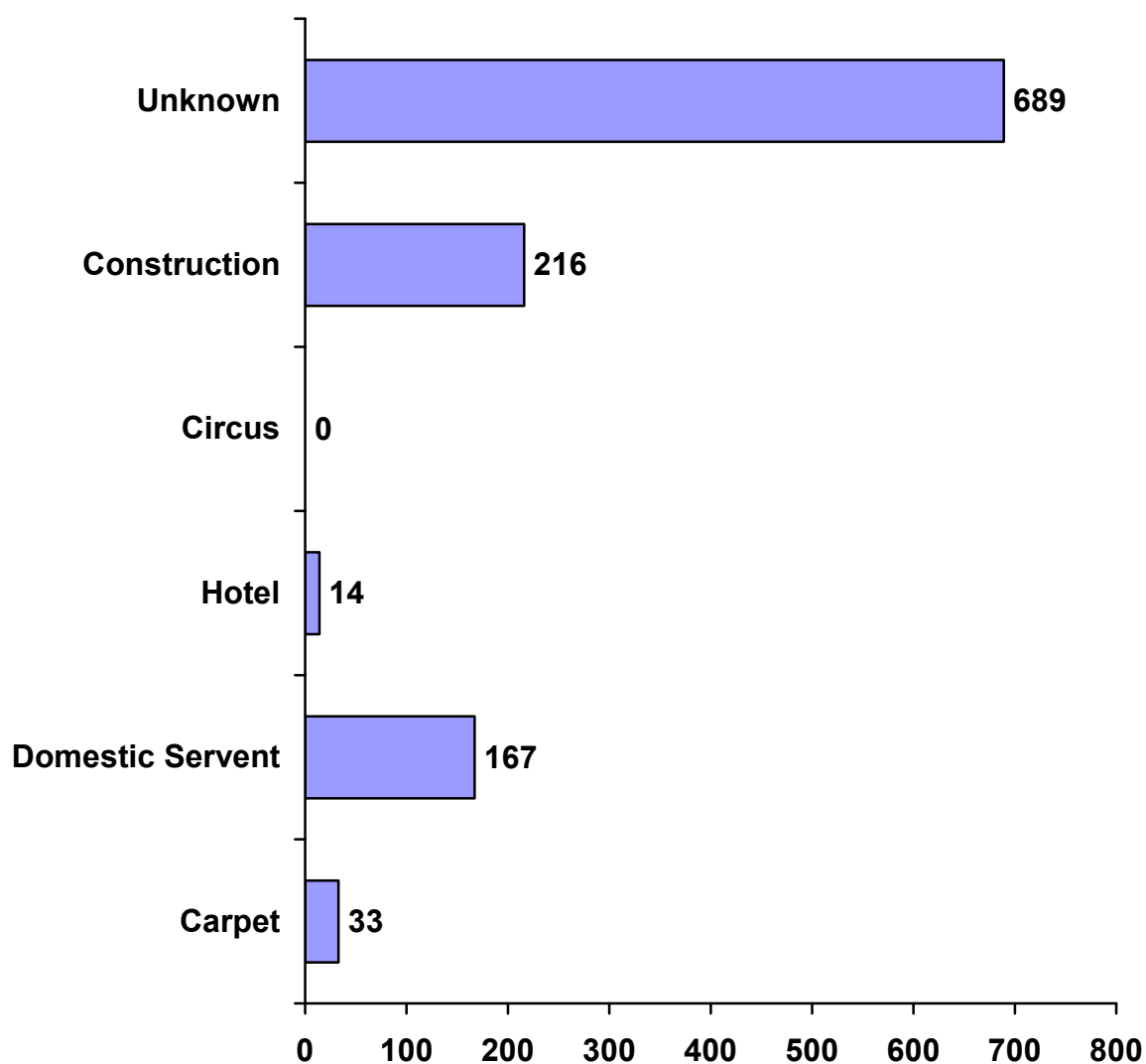
Diagram XVIII



Jhapa

Out of trafficked females, the greatest number has been trafficked to "unknown" sector which, as we have argued, is prostitution. Construction work is next to it. The trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of labor in domestic service is also in a noticeable scale. Trafficking for circus is non-existent.

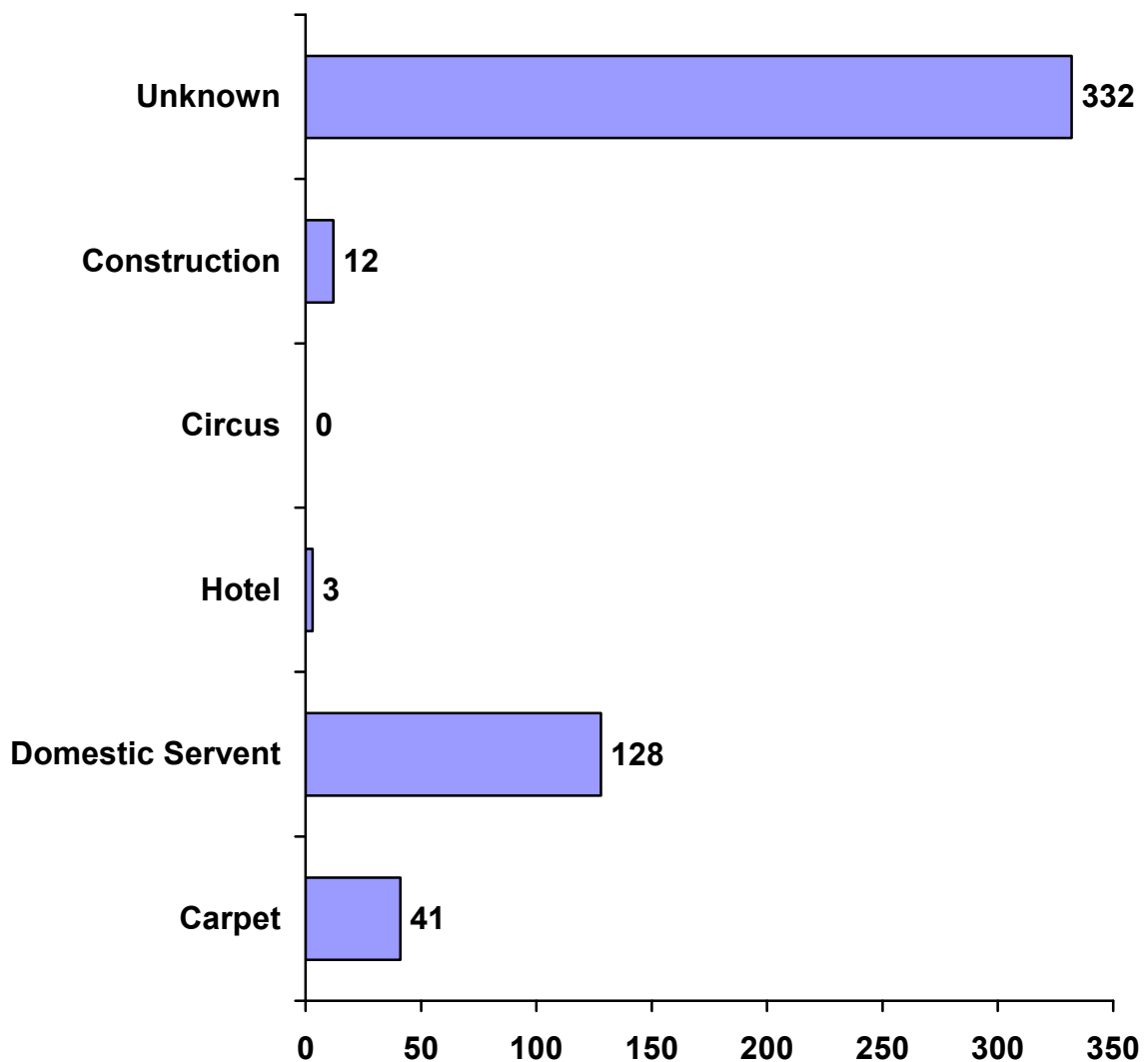
Diagram XIX



Kanchanpur

In Kanchanpur too, as in Jhapa, the women have been trafficked for "unknown" sector. Second to this stands the trafficking for the exploitation of labor of domestic servant. The trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of labor in carpet has continued to some sizeable number. The trafficking to hotel and circus are insignificant and non-existent respectively.

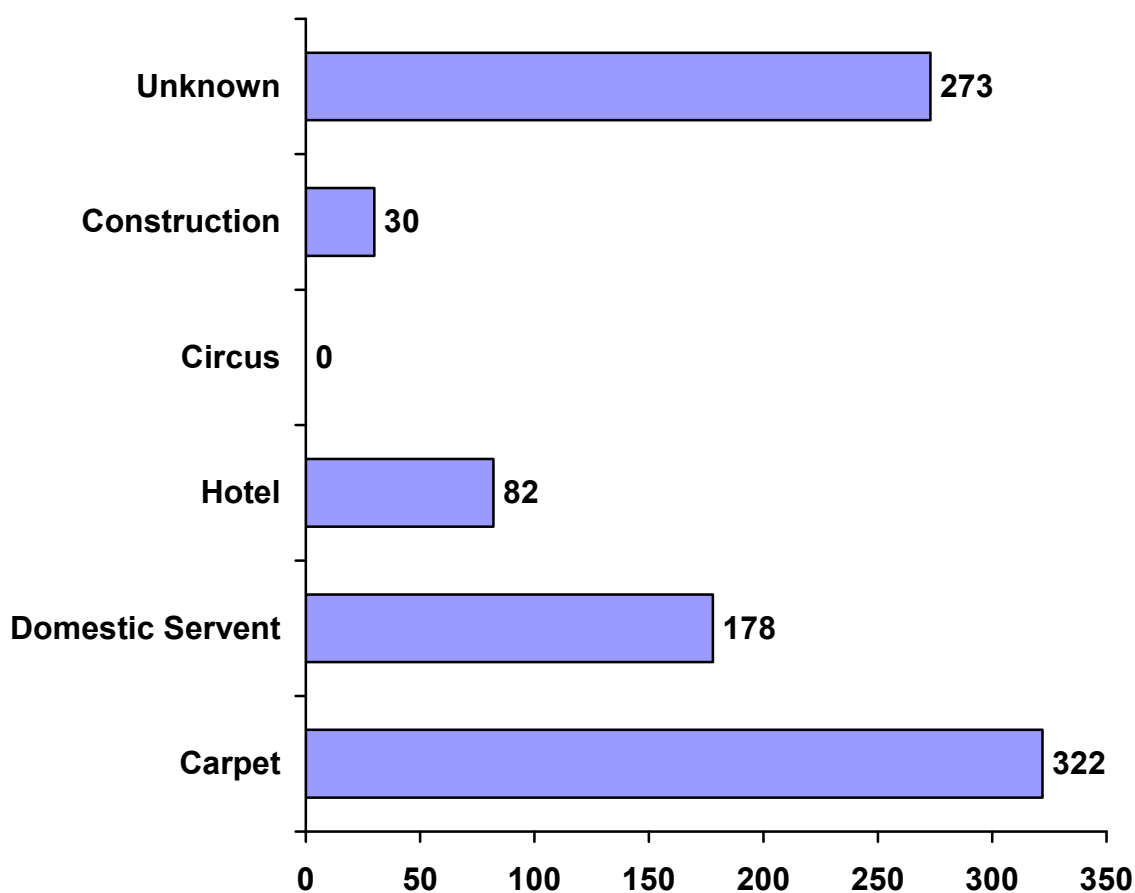
Diagram XX



Makwanpur

As the diagram shows, the highest number of trafficked females has been trafficked for the exploitation of their cheap labor in carpet industries in some urban center, especially in Kathmandu. Here too, the trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution has taken place in a sizeable extent. Trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of labor of domestic servant is also to a noticeable extent. Trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of labor in hotel and construction is also being carried on. But trafficking for circus is non-existent.

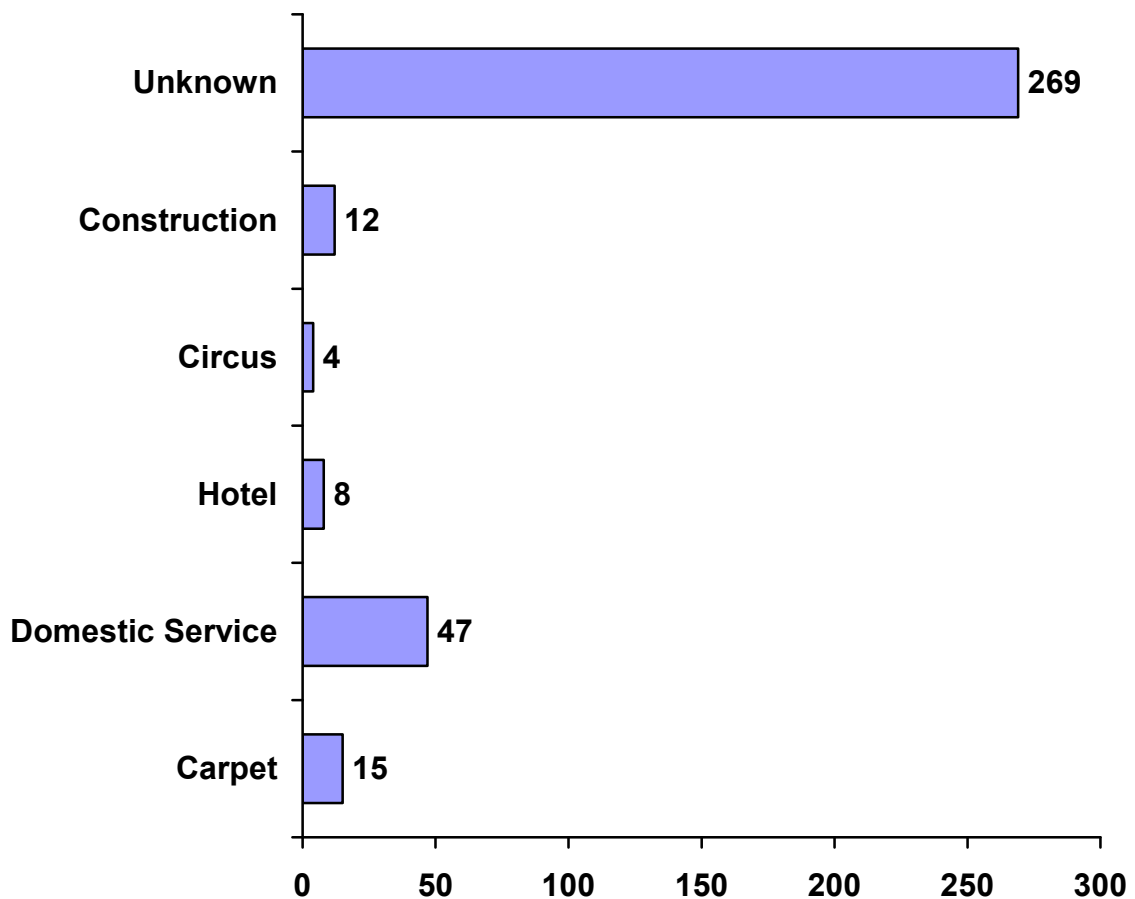
Diagram XXI



Morang

The diagram shows that like, from Jhapa, Makwanpur and Kanchanpur, the highest number of women have been trafficked for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution. The domestic service constitutes the second largest sector for which women/girls have been trafficked. Here from Morang, small number of women/girls have been trafficked for the purpose of exploitation of their labor in carpet industry, hotel and construction work. Unlike in other many districts trafficking for circus has continued but in a small number.

Diagram XXII

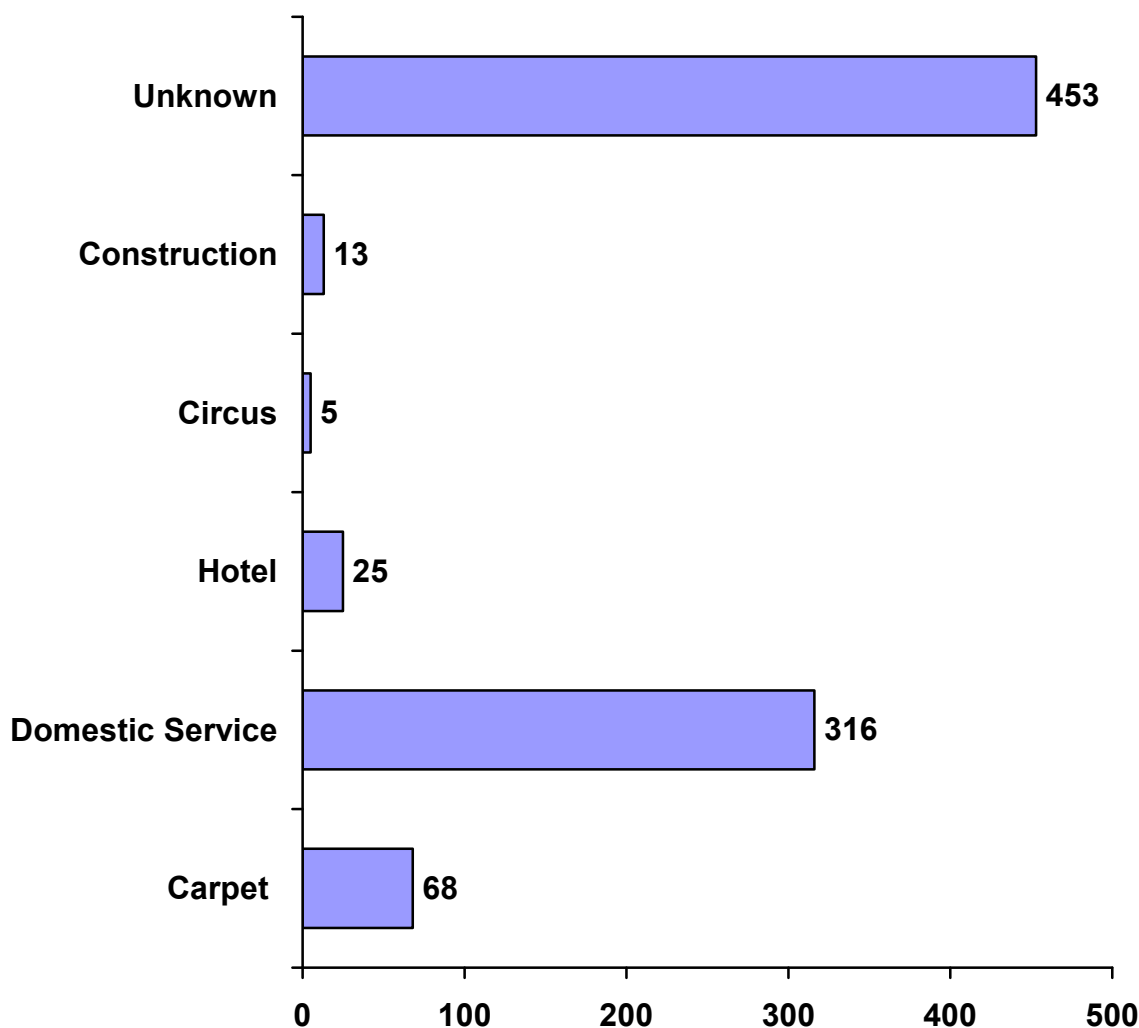


Nawalparasi

Like in other districts, as the diagram shows, the greatest numbers of the women have been trafficked for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution. The domestic service, in which labor of women/girls is exploited, stands second to prostitution. The trafficking in girls/women for the purpose of exploitation of cheap labor in carpet industries is not insignificant.

But trafficking for circus has taken place but in small number..

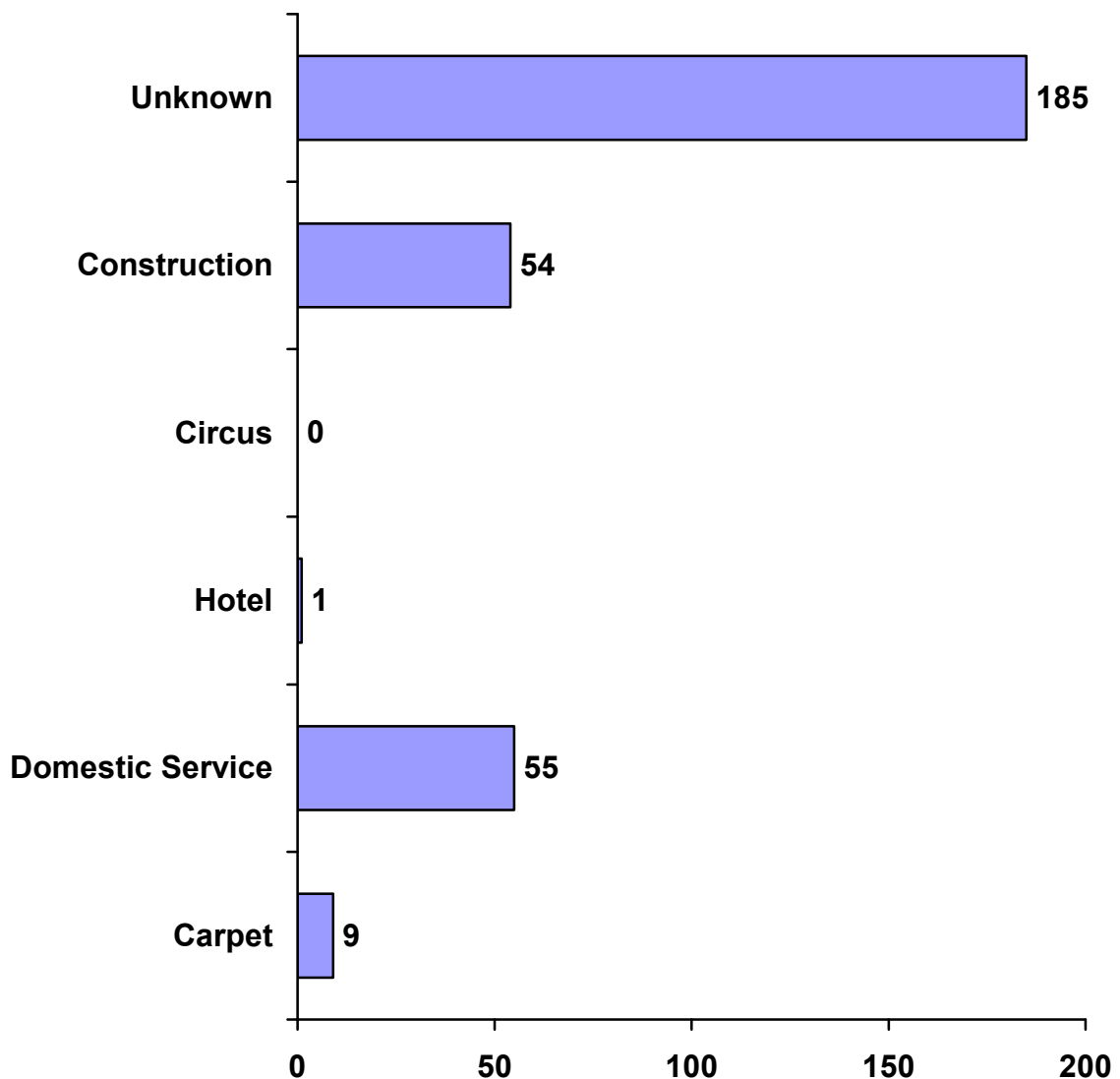
Diagram XXIII



Sunsari

Here too, trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution constitutes the biggest purpose of trafficking. The trafficking in women/girls for the purpose of exploitation of cheap labor in domestic service and construction constitute the next major areas. Trafficking for carpet industry is taking place but to a small extent. The trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in circus and hotel is virtually non-existent.

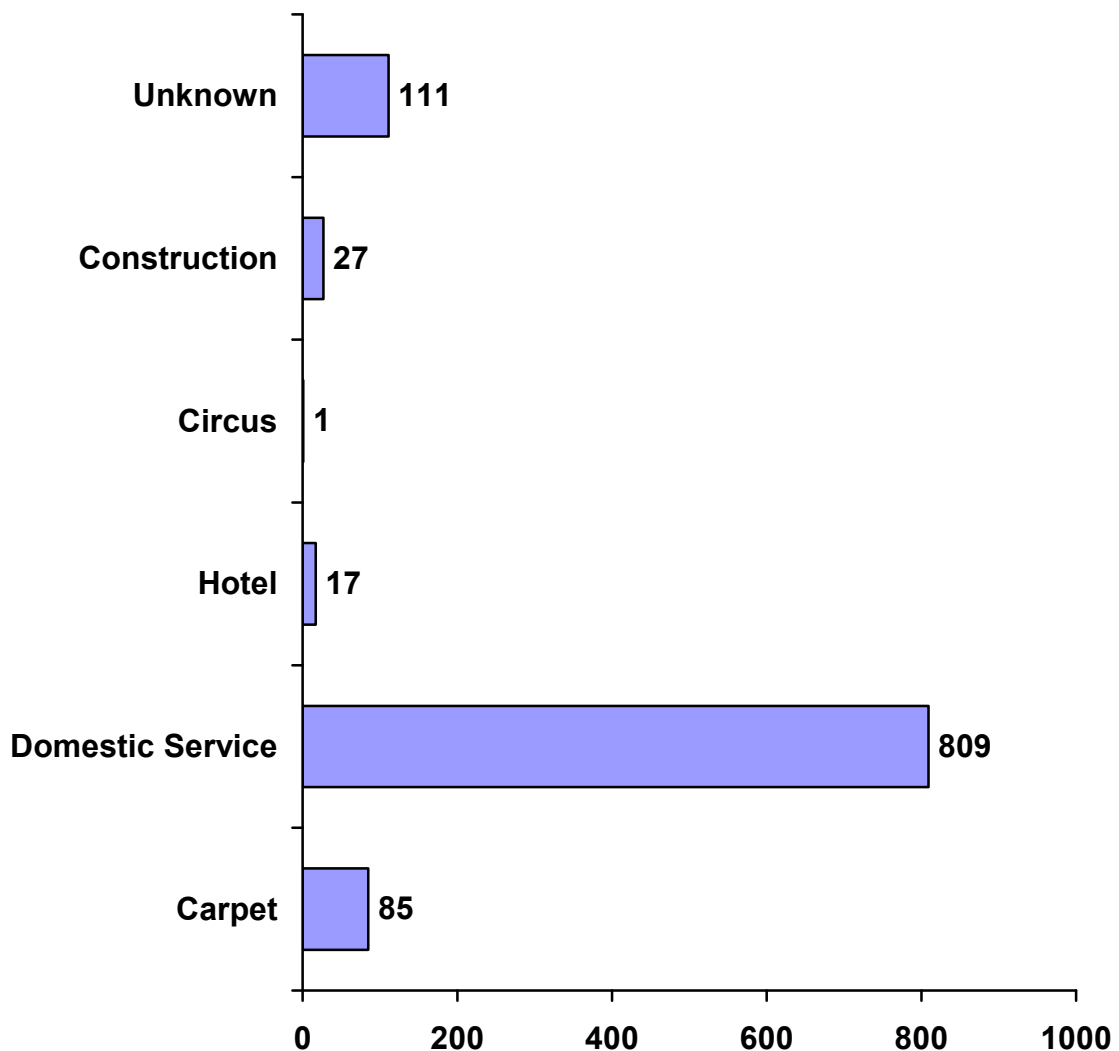
Diagram: XXIV



Udayapur

Unlike in other districts, here in Udayapur, trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of cheap labor in domestic service constitutes biggest purpose of trafficking. Trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution stands next to it. The trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of cheap labor in carpet industries is not insignificant.

Diagram: XXV

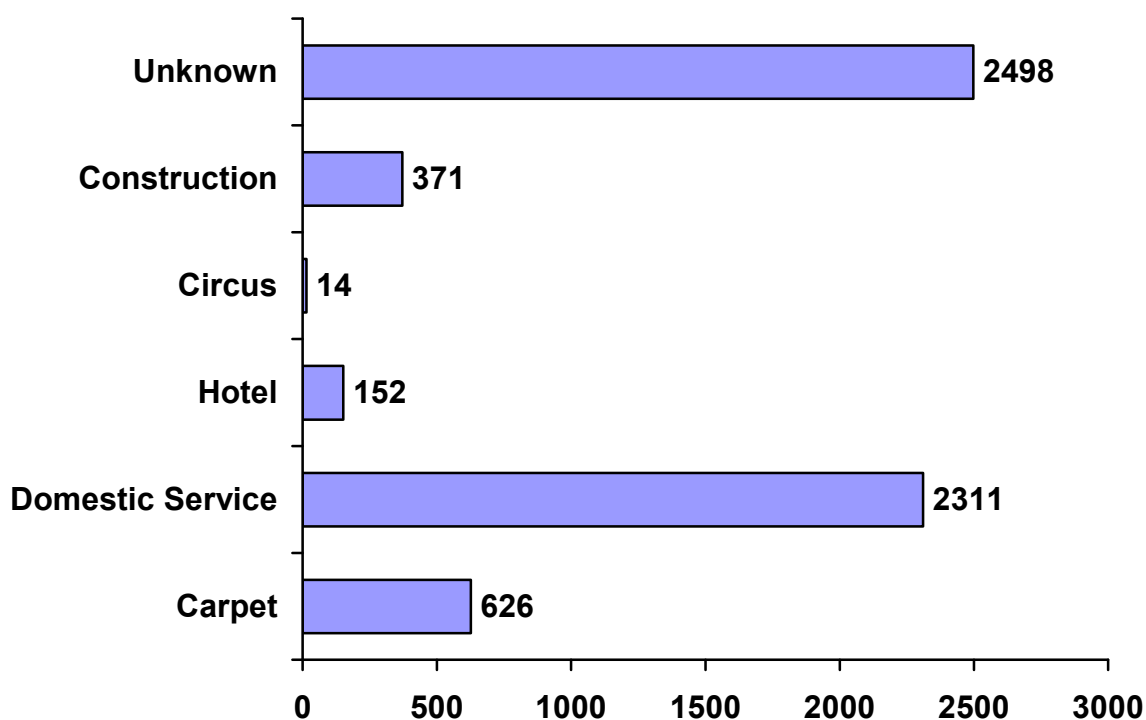


The Region of Tarai and Inner Tarai

The following diagram help us identify those sectors to which trafficking in women/girls is still being carried on at different scale and rate. The diagram shows the actual number of the women/girls trafficked from the households surveyed. Therefore, the actual figure in the entire region (tarai and inner tarai) is much higher.

This diagram shows that trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of prostitution is the most frequent purpose of trafficking. Immediately next to it stands domestic service which has acquired women/girls for the exploitation of their cheap labor. As the diagram shows, carpet factory and construction work are those sectors to which sizable number of women/girls have been trafficked. The trafficking for the purpose of exploitation of labor in circus is very low or virtually non-existent.

Diagram: XXVI

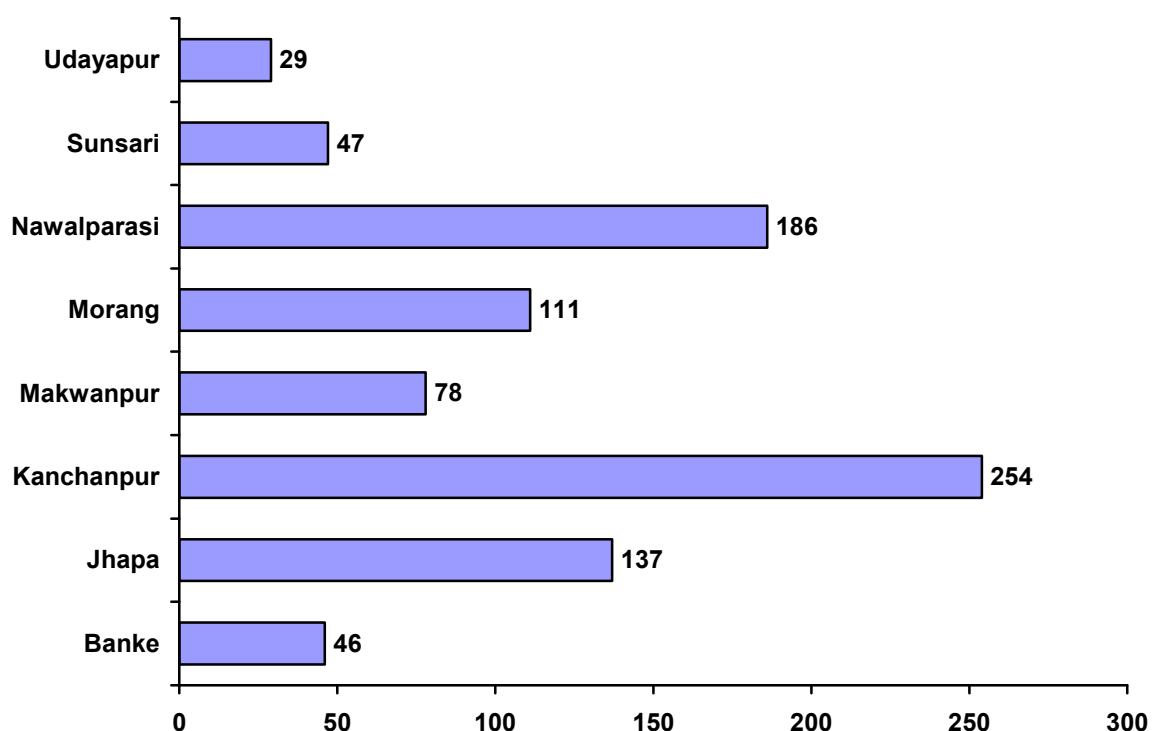


4.9. Trafficking in woman/girl to India:

The following diagram shows the actual numbers of women/ girls from the surveyed households who have been trafficked to India. The vast majority of this, if not the entire number, can be taken as "trafficked" because almost all of them, as the field data shows, were illiterate, and from poor family background and have been to India in search of job. Moreover, most of them were below twenty when they left home. They, for sure, must not have been "lucky" enough to get decent work.

As the diagram shows, the incidences of trafficking in woman/girl to India has still continued despite such a big cry against it. But compared to the incidence of previous years, it has drastically been cut down. It can be argued that some part of trafficking to India has been taken by trafficking within the country. But the danger of girls being trafficked to India will continue as the prostitution in many India cities is constantly on the increase.

Diagram XXVII



5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

A large chunk of female population in a poor country like ours is always vulnerable to trafficking which has globally been recognized as a crime against humanity. Many regional and international covenant and agreement have been signed to carry out a successful battle by taking effective measures at national, regional and global level.

Despite all these, trafficking in woman/girls is on the increase and in some part of the globe it has assumed a scale and speed the kind of which was never known before. Therefore, it is very important to understand the factors which are contributing to such scale and speed of trafficking. It is equally important to know how and why these factors work independently or in combination with each other to escalate trafficking. This research has made some attempts to understand the factors that contribute to vulnerability of female population to trafficking.

A large chunk of female population in the southern part of Nepal (tarai and inner tarai) is vulnerable for various reasons.

One factor is their age. The female population of age category 5-25 has been observed to be more susceptible. Age, in itself, does not constitute the causal factor of trafficking. But if push factors such as poor condition of life and shrinking opportunities in rural areas and pull factors such as high demand of domestic servant, circus girl, prostitute, carpet worker etc are at work, the vulnerability multiplies if this age category is not adequately protected from this evil.

Secondly, unmarried girls are more vulnerable than married women. This section can be easily enticed by the traffickers as they are not bound with husband and children and family responsibilities. Moreover, unmarried girls are preferred as domestic servant, circus girls, and prostitute and hotel workers. The traffickers can easily entice them into false marriage. The finding that unmarried girls are more vulnerable than married women does not constitute the basis of marriage as protective solution to vulnerability. It, rather, demands concerted efforts to protect these girls by drastically reducing or nullifying the vulnerability of these girls to trafficking for any purpose.

Thirdly, economic status constitutes the major basis of vulnerability. In the region (Tarai and Inner Tarai), 57% and 29% households belong to very poor/poor and satisfactory economic categories respectively. This economic poverty, when works in combination with illiteracy and shrinking opportunities in locality, compounds the problem manifolds.

Fourthly, the research has shown that 58% of total female population of age 5+ is illiterate and 52% of the female population of age 5-25 is illiterate. Such high rate of illiteracy has made the girls in the region very vulnerability. Illiterate females are less informed about the problem and may not be capable enough to protect themselves and other from trafficking. The high degree of vulnerability is also evident by the presence of 25% non school-going girls of school-going age in the region.

Fifthly, child marriage and polygamy also add to the vulnerability of female population to trafficking. Child marriage is practiced in all districts in sizeable scale. The region records the 31% of incidence of child marriage out of total marriage of women up to 25 age. Child marriage contributes to trafficking for various reasons. Some girls try to escape marriage and leave the home and may fall prey at the hand of traffickers. Some child marriages are likely to break rendering the girls vulnerable. Such girls are usually less educated and skilled, and because of this and other reason, are disoriented.

It has been shown that many women/girls still work outside their village as degraded and low-paid worker in sector such as construction, carpet, hotel and domestic services. The greatest numbers work in "unknown" sector which most probably must be prostitution. Next to this stands domestic service. Carpet also has been a sector to which women/girls have been trafficked. Trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in circus is very insignificant. Trafficking to India is still continuing despite many efforts by NGO, community and government. However, the incidence is not as alarming as it used to be.

Based on the above findings and our analysis, the following recommendations are made:

For Immediate Implementation

1. **Awareness Program** must be conducted to educate female and male population of the areas vulnerable to trafficking. The people must be educated on the meaning and purpose of trafficking and various tricks that traffickers use to trap the innocent girl/woman.
2. **Community Surveillance System** must be established, promoted and expanded throughout the region. This system should be intended to create sense of responsibility on the part of community. The community must be educated that trafficking is a crime against humanity therefore must be fought by everyone unconditionally. The community should create and operate anti trafficking unit (ATU) itself.
3. As trafficking is cross boarder issue too, **mechanism of regional cooperation** must be built among the SAARC countries and all possible concerted efforts must be carried out collectively. The boarder between countries must be strictly regulated and monitored to reduce the incidence of cross boarder trafficking.

For Long Term Planning

1. **Right to education** of all boys and girls must be guaranteed in action. It should be made sure that every one of school-going age is going to school with adequate facility and motivation.
2. The entire population must be made literate and aware of basic social problems they must fight.
3. Modernization of agriculture must be carried out to create quality opportunity for the larger section of population, male and female both.
4. Commodification of woman body and sexualization of different aspects of life must be discouraged because these things have contributed to significant increase in prostitution.