

Results of community integration of Vietnamese women trafficked across borders return

Trinh Ha My

Vietnam Women's Academy

Luu Song Ha

Vietnam Women's Academy

Duong Thi Thoan

Hong Duc University, Vietnam

Abstract

Research on community integration results of Vietnamese women who have been trafficked overseas will be done in 2021 using a quantitative design utilizing a questionnaire survey method on 470 trafficked women returning to 5 border regions of Vietnam. Research results have shown that returning Vietnamese women trafficked across the border have relatively high social integration results. The results of community integration connected to legal concerns of identity and safety are the highest, and the outcomes of community integration related to vocational training and interactions with others are the lowest. The results of the One-Way ANOVA test show that there are differences in the results of community integration among Vietnamese women who have been trafficked across borders and returned in different dimensions: ethnicity, marital status, and age, trafficked for the trade, and the number of years spent abroad due to the trafficking. Age, educational achievement, and the number of years back to live in Vietnam are not characteristics that make a difference in the social inclusion outcomes of Vietnamese women who have been trafficked abroad.

Keywords: community integration, community integration outcomes, women trafficked across borders, Vietnam.

1. Introduction

Human trafficking is a global crime that is spreading around the world. Human trafficking is a process in which some individuals take advantage of others by converting them into sexual or work-slaves for their gain. Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights. The common experience of victims of human trafficking is physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. They had to endure many forms of physical coercion, such as beatings, arrests, and non-physical methods including deception, psychological manipulation. As a result, returning trafficked victims had problems of psychology at different levels. In addition to psychological problems, victims of human trafficking also face many other social problems, such as family and community discrimination, which makes it difficult for them to integrate into the community.

Community integration is one of the important issues for returning trafficked persons. Good community integration will enable trafficked persons to live, communicate, live, study, and work in harmony with others in the community. They can participate in social life and enjoy all the benefits and opportunities in society. Community integration is a protracted process that begins as soon as victims are liberated from trafficking. Many trafficked victims returning to Vietnam were able to reintegrate into the community, reconnect with their families, and live a healthy life after receiving assistance from agencies and groups providing post-trafficking support services. brand-new existence.

2. Literature Review

Community integration is one of the key contents in supporting the return of trafficked persons. To assess the social inclusion of trafficked persons, authors and organizations assisting victims of trafficking have carried out studies on social inclusion, including research on criteria to identify, assess the community integration of trafficked persons, factors affecting the community integration process to design the complete community integration program for victims of human trafficking.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and [Abas et al. \(2013\)](#), the reintegration of victims of trafficking into the community is the ability of victims to return to normal life in a safe, dignified and sustainable manner. Areas that need attention to help victims of trafficking return to normal life are accommodation, physical health issues, psychological stability, legal issues, training jobs, and jobs. Based on these areas, research has provided integration support services for victims of trafficking, including housing assistance, medical and psychological care, social and legal counseling, funding, re-education, and vocational training. An issue highlighted in assisting trafficked persons to integrate into the community is that all integration services and supports must be provided to victims completely voluntarily. Services should only be provided with the victim's informed consent, with due regard for their privacy, and with the highest degree of trust. Several criteria for identifying trafficking victims for community reintegration include family reunion, medical concerns (physical health, mental health), money (benefits offered), legal issues, education/training issues, and work issues. An individual integration assessment is very important to best support trafficking victims to reintegrate into the community. This assessment includes an individual assessment (the victim's needs, wants, available resources, motivations); environmental assessment (socio-economic situation, infrastructure in the country/region to which trafficked persons return). These assessments are carried out as an input assessment to develop a comprehensive support plan for trafficking victims to return to the community; The above assessment criteria for community inclusion are provided to determine the victim's community integration after the assistance process ([Yanni et al., 2013](#)).

According to [Shigekane \(2007\)](#), the criteria for determining a victim's integration into the community are based on an overall assessment that takes into account a variety of factors: economic, psychological, and social. US Aid affirms that reintegrating victims of human trafficking into the community is a difficult, intricate, and lengthy process that is unique to each victim and encompasses their personal

issues and their living environment. Personal elements (victim's age, physical and psychological health, family background, duration of trafficking, victim's perspective of trafficking) and contextual factors have a significant role in the victim's integration into the community (educational, economic policies, psycho-social care services for trafficked persons (Shigekane, 2007).

Rousseau (2018) characterized return trafficked persons' integration as a process of recovery and economic participation in the same study on social integration of trafficked persons. economic and social well-being following their liberation from human trafficking. This is a lengthy, complex process that requires a variety of specialized skills. Surtees' research establishes ten criteria for determining the community integration of return trafficking victims. These criteria cover a variety of areas, including health, economy, society, and overall safety. Specifically, a safe, satisfactory, and affordable place to live; stable physical and mental health; legal status; protection and representation; safety and security; economic stability, including professional career and economic development opportunities; educational and training opportunities, a supportive social environment, and healthy interactions; ensuring the victim's best interests are protected during legal proceedings; and ensuring the victim's family and dependents' safety. Rousseau (2018) In his research, Zimmerman and Pocock (2012) pointed out that psychological problems hinder the outcome of social integration of trafficked persons. Fear of others knowing about their trafficking history and fear of becoming an embarrassment to their families were psychological manifestations of most trafficking victims who participated in the Kinnoforum study. This hinders the return of victims to their homeland and their ability to communicate and develop relationships. Overcoming these negative emotions is essential to each victim's socialization process (Zimmerman & Pocock, 2012).

Asis (2015) also confirms that the factors of law, policy, and services make an important contribution to the community integration process of trafficked persons. The author identifies the role and contribution of stakeholders in integration

programs for victims of trafficking, the relationship between programs at the national and local levels, and the outcomes of community integration. In particular, the author recommends strengthening programs and services at the local level because this level has a direct connection with trafficking victims (Lee, 2005).

Dahal et al. (2015) focus on themes of slavery abuse through qualitative research methodologies such as in-depth interviews and focus groups with victims of sex trafficking in Nepal. sexual abuse and the difficulties victims confront upon their return to Nepal. The study's findings indicate that identity protection for victims of sex trafficking is inadequate, and that victim support mechanisms and access to livelihood options are also lacking. as well as the victim's lack of skills, making integration into the community challenging. In Nepal, rehabilitation and reintegration programs are primarily short-term in nature, leaving victims with insufficient opportunity to access secure settings and conditions. This raises the likelihood of becoming a victim of sex trafficking or resuming sex trafficking (Dahal et al., 2015).

Shigekane (2007) confirmed that integration into the community does not seem to be an easy process for victims of human trafficking. Returnees are seen as a shame to their families, subject to discrimination by those around them, especially against victims of trafficking to serve the sex industry. This is a major barrier to community integration. The stigma associated with prostitution keeps these victims isolated when they return to their communities (Shigekane, 2007).

Researchers and Institutions: Crawford and Kaufman (2008); Shigekane (2007); Singh et al. (2006) pointed out that the stigma and discrimination against return trafficked victims created many challenges in the victim's integration into the community. In all areas of life, the community's refusal to return victims puts them at greater risk of being trafficked back into traffic. Shigekane (2007) stated that trafficked persons often experience negative emotions and instability even after having a stable life in the community. These emotions combined with life pressures from family members, rejection, and alienation from those around or from the family can increase negative emotions while being re-abused, trafficked, or increased the likelihood of becoming a

prostitute (Crawford & Kaufman, 2008; Shigekane, 2007; Singh et al., 2006). Digidiki and Bhabha (2018) assert that the absence of comprehensive community integration support services will increase the risk of re-victimization and increase migration.

In summary, community integration of trafficked persons has been studied from a variety of perspectives, including the identified criteria and the factors affecting the process; however, the issue of community integration of trafficked persons has not been studied in isolation, but has been integrated into the overall study of trafficked persons or into support manuals for returning trafficked persons. In general, the findings of the studies indicate that community integration is a critical component in assisting victims of human trafficking; community integration of trafficked individuals is influenced by personal and environmental issues. Thus, in order to be effective in this activity, a comprehensive solution in a variety of fields such as psychology, economics, and society is required.

3. Methods

Study design

This study employed a quantitative design to generalize the research findings. A quantitative design was used in conjunction with a one-time cross-sectional survey.

Study participant

The study participants were returning women who were trafficked across borders, meeting the following criteria: (1) Vietnamese women, (2) Being 18 years of age or older, and (3) receiving financial assistance determined by the research manager to be physically and mentally capable of participating in the study, (4) voluntarily participating.

Study setting

The investigation was conducted in five Vietnamese border provinces. The following criteria were used to choose study locations: 1) They are hotspots for women trafficking to China; 2) They are bordering provinces; and 3) The topography of these five provinces is extremely rough and sparsely populated, making it easy for women to get overseas.

Sample size and sampling

470 returned trafficked women are living in 5 provinces in Vietnam by 2021 and meet 4 criteria: (1) being a Vietnamese woman, (2) being 18 years of age or older, (3) being supported determined by the research manager to be physically and mentally capable of participating in the study, (4) voluntarily participating in the study, eligible to be included in the study. A convenience sampling method was used.

Measurements

In this study, the results of community integration of women trafficked back across the border were used from the model to assess the level of community integration of women after being trafficked by [Warria \(2020\)](#) construction. This model includes 10 evaluation criteria: 1. A safe, satisfactory, and affordable living place; 2. Stable physical health; 3. Stable mental health; 4. Legal status; 5. Safety and security; 6. Economic stability; 7. Education and training opportunities; 8. Social environment and healthy interactions; 9. Ensure the best interests in the legal proceedings; 10. Safety of the victim's family and dependents. Based on 10 criteria, the authors build a scale "Outcomes of community integration of women trafficked across borders" consisting of 10 items. Each item in the scale corresponds to 1 criterion in the community integration model of [Warria \(2020\)](#) and is self-rated by survey respondents on 5 levels: 1. Incorrect, 2. Slightly correct, 3. Normal, 4. Quite right, 5. True.

Independent factors in the study included age at the time of study participation (youth – from 17 to 25, adult – from 26 to 40 years old, middle age – from 41 to 60 years old), ethnicity (Kinh, Hmong, other ethnic groups: Dao, Thai, Muong, Nung, Khmu, Tay, San Tuoi, Day), an education level (illiteracy, primary, middle school, high school), marital status (married, unmarried), age of trafficked (child – 10 to 16 years old, youth – 17 to 25 years old, adult – 26 to 40 years old), the purpose of being trafficked trafficking (selling into prostitution, being sold as

a wife, selling into a place of labor exploitation) and the number of years living abroad due to being trafficked (from 1 year or less, from 2 to 5 years, over 5 years), number of years returned to live in Vietnam (1 year or less, 2 to 3 years, 4 to 5 years, more than 5 years).

Data collection

The enumerators collected survey data by directly interviewing each returned trafficked woman. Prior to data collection, enumerators received training on the research objectives, interview techniques, and information to be collected. Investigators addressed trafficked women who attended each study site to determine if they were qualified to participate in the study. Following screening, eligible and voluntary trafficked women were informed about the study's objectives, content, participants' rights and rewards, and potential hazards associated with participation.. Supervisors strictly controlled the quality of information collected after each interview and during the interview.

Data analysis and statistical method

Collected data were processed by the SPSS program in a Windows environment, version 22.0.

The scale "Outcomes of community integration of women trafficked back across the border" with 10 observed variables was built. Cronbach's alpha reliability test was used to determine the stability of this scale.

The test results show that the scale "Outcomes of community integration of women trafficked back across the border" has a good Cronbach's Alpha reliability of 0.843 (standard level is > 0.6). All correlation coefficients of the total variables (Corrected Item Total Correlation) of each measurement variable are from 0.451 to 0.636, completely satisfying the standard condition of > 0.3 ; Cronbach's Alpha coefficients if the variable type (Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted) is all smaller than the group's Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. Thus, the reliability of this scale is satisfactory.

Table 1: The results of the Cronbach's alpha reliability test of the dependent variable

Model	Observed variables	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	'Cronbach's alpha
Results of community integration of Vietnamese women trafficked across borders - return	1. Have a safe, satisfactory place to live at a reasonable cost, arranged by yourself or provided by the organization/agency	0.509	0.831	0.843
	2. No sickness, no disease, no sexually transmitted diseases...	0.511	0.831	
	3. Confidence and self-acceptance...	0.586	0.825	
	4. As a citizen, have an ID/ID card	0.525	0.831	
	5. Completely free from being threatened or forced by force by the trafficker/others in the family/community	0.451	0.836	
	6. Have a stable job to generate income to support yourself and your family members	0.576	0.825	
	7. Have the opportunity to study, vocational training, life skills training...	0.593	0.824	
	8. Not being shunned or discriminated against by peers, spouses/lovers, and the community	0.534	0.829	
	9. The best interests are guaranteed when participating in lawsuits related to being trafficked	0.636	0.819	
	10. Parents, siblings, children... in the family are safe	0.500	0.832	

(Source: The survey data of the study)

The parameters and statistical operations used in this study are descriptive statistical analysis and inferential statistical analysis. In descriptive statistics, mean score, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage were used to describe the status of community integration outcomes of Vietnamese women who were trafficked back across the border. The inferential statistical analysis mainly compares the mean values (compare means) with the One-Way ANOVA test. In the One-Way ANOVA test, the mean values are considered to be statistically different with a probability of $p < 0.05$.

Ethical considerations

The study was conducted on the basis of informed consent, which required that each woman who returned after being trafficked across the border to participate in an interview be fully told about the research's objectives, substance, and participants. , how the data is stored and processed, what is the data used for, and then returned cross-border trafficked women are asked if they have permission to collect and process them. Returnees from cross-border trafficking who are invited to participate in interviews have the right to decline to be interviewed, withdraw from the study, or refuse to answer one or more particular questions at any point during the interview. . The data collected from the study is strictly confidential, in which the use of a unique identification number is an information protection measure that has been applied, so the full name and surname of women trafficked across the border are protected. Interviews are never written on questionnaires, informed consent forms, lists of study participants, and contact details (along with identifiers) are stored separately, securely, and there is a plan to destroy the data after completing the study.

4. Results

General characteristics of the study sample

Out of 500 Vietnamese women who were trafficked back across the border who were invited to return, 480 agreed to participate, however, 10 refused to continue participating after answering a few questions, so only 470 people participated and completed the survey (participation rate was 94%). The characteristics of the survey participants are shown in Table 2. Nearly half of the trafficked women participating in the survey are currently in their youth (48.1%, $n=226$), and the rest are in adulthood. (38.7%, $n = 182$) and middle-aged (13.2%, $n = 62$) and over half of these women were

married (52.3%, n = 246). The majority of women have been trafficked abroad for marriage (74.5%, n = 350), and the rest are sold into prostitution (13.2%, n = 62) and into places of exploitation. labor (12.3%, n = 58). Nearly half of trafficked women lived abroad for 2 to 5 years (49.6%, n = 233), had a lower secondary education (43%, n = 202), and were trafficked by young people aged 17 to 25 years old (47.7%, n = 221). Over one-third of women trafficked across borders were Hmong (36.6%, n = 172) and trafficked from 10 to 16 years of age (33.8%, n = 159). Nearly one-third of trafficked women abroad returned to Vietnam for 2 to 3 years (35.8%, n = 168), and the rest returned 1 year or less (20.9%, n = 98). , from 4 to 5 years (29.3%, n = 138) and over 5 years (14.0%, n = 66).

Table 2: General characteristics of the study caregivers

	Factor	Value
N (%)		470 (100,0)
Age at the time of study participation	Youth (16-25 years old)	226 (48.1)
	Mature (26-40 years old)	182 (38.7)
	Middle-aged (41 - 60 years old)	62 (13.2)
Nation	Experience (%)	126 (26.8)
	Ass, n (%)	172 (36.6)
	Other ethnic groups, n (%)	172 (36.6)
Academic level	Can't read or write, n (%)	66 (14.0)
	Subfamily, n (%)	82 (17.4)
	Middle school, n (%)	202 (43.0)
	High school, n (%)	120 (25.5)
Marital status	Married	246 (52.3)
	No husband	224 (47.7)
Age of being trafficked	Children (10-16 years old)	159 (33.8)
	Young people (17-25 years old), n (%)	221 (47.0)
	Mature (26-40 years old), n (%)	90 (19.1)
Purpose of being trafficked	Sold into prostitution, n (%)	62 (13.2)
	Sold as a wife, n (%)	350 (74.5)
	Selling to a place of labor exploitation, n (%)	58 (12.3)
Number of years spent abroad due to trafficking	From 1 year or less, n (%)	101 (21.5)
	From 2 to 5 years, n (%)	233 (49.6)
	Over 5 years, n (%)	136 (28.9)
Number of years returned to live in Vietnam, n (%)	From 1 year or less, n (%)	98 (20.9)
	2 - 3 years, n (%)	168 (35.8)
	4-5 years, n (%)	138 (29.3)
	Over 5 years, n (%)	66 (14.0)

(Source: The survey data of the study)

Main findings

Chart 1 displays 10 criteria for assessing the outcome of community integration of Vietnamese women who have been trafficked back across the border according to the model to assess women's level of community integration after being trafficked by [Warria \(2020\)](#) construction. All ten criteria for community integration outcomes have a NE of 4.0 or more, indicating that Vietnamese women who have been trafficked back across the border have successfully integrated into the community. Currently, these women have "Legal Status" (M = 4.43, which is the criterion that trafficked women consider most appropriate for them). This was followed by these women who were given "Safety and Security" (M = 4.34). "Having education and training opportunities" and having a "healthy social environment and interactions" are the two criteria that are considered the least correct for women returning from cross-border trafficking (with M of 4.05 and M = 4.1 respectively). However, these two criteria are still rated at a high level of inclusion.

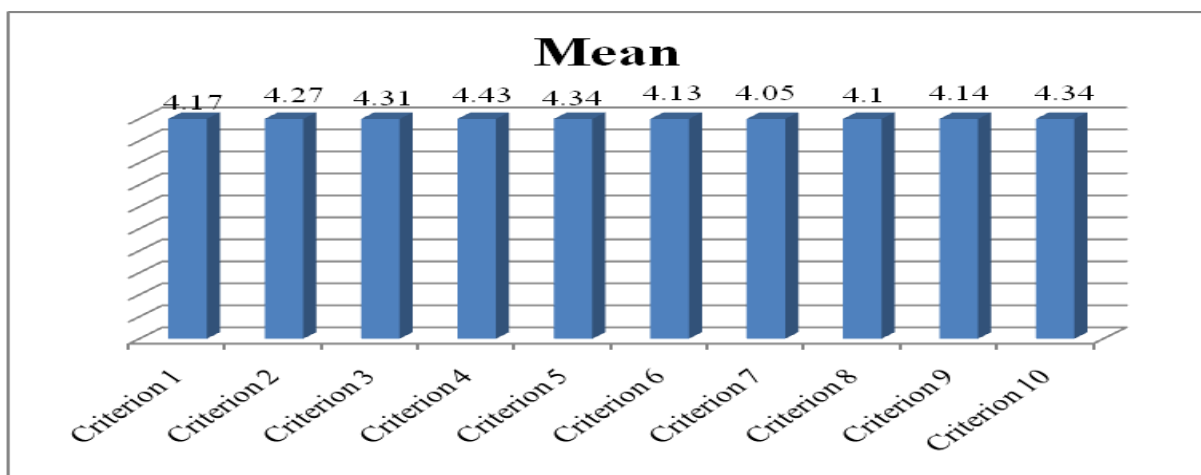


Chart 1: Self-assessment criteria for community integration outcomes of Vietnamese women trafficked across borders return

(Source: The survey data of the study)

Note Criterion 1: A safe, satisfactory, and affordable place to live; Criterion 2: Stable physical health; Criterion 3: Stable mental health; Criterion 4: Legal status; Criterion 5: Safety and security; Criterion 6: Economic stability; Criterion 7: Education and training opportunities; Criterion 8: Social environment and healthy interactions; Criterion 9: Ensuring the best interests in the legal proceedings; Criterion 10: Safety of the victim's family and dependents.

Nearly half of the women participating in the survey said that four expressions and over a third found that six of the ten expressions of community integration were true for them, in which the affirmation "As a citizen, have an ID/ID card" and they are "Absolutely not threatened or forced to do something by the trafficker/other people in the family/community" are two expressions with a high rate of risk. The percentage of women trafficked across the border returning to their homes chose the most (48.9% and 47.2%).

Of the 10 manifestations of community integration, "Having opportunities to study, vocational training, life skills training..." and "Having a stable job to generate income to support themselves and their family members" is 2. The expression with the highest percentage of women being trafficked back across the border said that it was not true for them (3.8% and 2.6%).

Considering the proportion of women trafficked abroad who discovered that the manifestations of community integration were not true for them upon their return to Vietnam, the research findings indicate that, to a certain extent, all women who participated in the survey feel confident and self-accepting; they see themselves as citizens with an identity card and identification card, and they see their parents, siblings, and children as safe.

Comparing community integration outcomes for women trafficked across the border in different slices will shed light on the similarities and disparities in outcomes among target groups. The comparison of the average scores of Vietnamese women who have been trafficked back across the border with the One-Way ANOVA test reveals the following points: There is no statistically significant difference in the results of community integration among groups of trafficked women according to the following criteria: age, education level, number of years of return to residence in Vietnam (p are all > 0.05). This means that regardless of the current age of trafficked women, whether they have a primary, middle, or high school education or how long they have lived in Vietnam, they still have the same social integration results. Understandably, the criteria mentioned above are not factors that make a difference in the outcome of community integration of women trafficked back across the border.

Table 3: Manifestations of the results of community integration of Vietnamese women trafficked across borders return

Manifestations of community integration results	Answer options				
	Incorrect	Right a little	Normal	Much true	It's correct
1. Having a safe	2 (0.4)	12 (2.6)	74 (15.7)	198 (42.1)	184 (39.1)
2. No illness	2 (0.4)	6 (1.3)	30 (6.4)	256 (54.5)	176 (37.4)
3. Self-confidence and self-acceptance...	0 (0.0)	6 (1.3)	38 (8.1)	232 (49.4)	194 (41.3)
4. As a citizen	0 (0.0)	2 (0.4)	26 (5.5)	212 (45.1)	230 (48.9)
5. Completely free from being threatened or forced to do something by the trafficker/other people in the family/community	5 (1.1)	7 (1.5)	31 (6.6)	205 (43.6)	222 (47.2)
6. Having a stable job that generates income to support himself and his family members	12 (2.6)	14 (3.0)	40 (8.5)	240 (51.1)	164 (34.9)
7. Have the opportunity to study	18 (3.8)	24 (5.1)	36 (7.7)	232 (49.4)	160 (34.0)
8. Not being shunned or discriminated against by peers	18 (3.8)	24 (5.1)	36 (7.7)	232 (49.4)	160 (34.0)
9. The best interests are guaranteed when participating in lawsuits related to being trafficked	10 (2.1)	8 (1.7)	50 (10.6)	240 (51.1)	162 (34.5)
10. Parents	0 (0.0)	10 (2.1)	38 (8.1)	202 (43.0)	220 (46.8)

(Source: The survey data of the study)

Meanwhile, the research results show that there is a statistically significant difference in the results of community integration among groups of trafficked women divided by the following criteria: ethnicity, marital status, age of traffic, the purpose of trafficking, and several years spent abroad as a result of being trafficked (with $p = 0.000; 0.037; 0.029; 0.000; 0.000$).

Specifically, the Mong women group has higher social integration results than the Kinh women and the other ethnic groups (Dao, Thai, Muong, Nung, Khmu, Tay, San Diu, Day). Women trafficked as adults had a higher rate of social inclusion than women trafficked as children or adolescents. Additionally, single returned trafficked women were more integrated into their communities than married returned

trafficking women. Additionally, women trafficked overseas for marriage had lower social integration scores than women trafficked to be sold into labor exploitation, and the group of women trafficked for prostitution had the lowest scores. Women who have spent more than five years abroad have a lower rate of social integration than women who have spent less than a year or between two and five years abroad.

Table 4: Comparison of the social inclusion outcomes of women trafficked across borders return in different slices

Factor		N	M	SD	P
Age at the time of study participation	Youth (16)	226	4.23	0.49	0.416
	Mature (26)	182	4.25	0.53	
	Middle	62	4.15	0.50	
Nation	Kinh	126	4.18	0.53	0.000
	Mong	172	4.37	0.41	
	Other	172	4.12	0.55	
Academic level	Can't read or write	66	4.32	0.46	0.278
	Elementary	82	4.20	0.58	
	Middle School	202	4.24	0.51	
	high school	120	4.17	0.47	
Marital status	No husband	246	4.28	0.50	0.037
	Married	224	4.18	0.50	
Age of being trafficked	Children (10)	159	4.26	0.48	0.029
	Youth (17)	221	4.17	0.50	
	Mature (26)	90	4.32	0.54	
Purpose of being trafficked	Sell into prostitution	62	4.07	0.59	0.000
	Selling as a wife	350	4.23	0.50	
	Selling to a place where labor is exploited	58	4.40	0.34	
Number of years abroad due to trafficking	From 1 year or less	101	4.18	0.46	0.000
	From 2 to 5 years	233	4.32	0.48	
	Over 5 years	136	4.11	0.55	
Number of years of return to residence in Vietnam	1 year or less	98	4.31	0.45	0.111
	2-3 years	168	4.25	0.52	
	4-5 years	138	4.18	0.53	
	Over 5 years	66	4.15	0.49	

(Source: The survey data of the study)

5. Discussion

Main findings

Research results have shown that returning Vietnamese women who have been trafficked across the border have integrated into the community fairly. These women all rated their social inclusion symptoms as high. The results of community integration were highest in those related to identity identification and safety from traffickers. The expression with the lowest self-assessment of returning trafficked women for social inclusion is related to vocational training and relationships with others. The results of this study have similarities with some studies of [Crawford and Kaufman \(2008\)](#); [Shigekane \(2007\)](#). Studies have shown that trafficked women returning can face many difficulties in relationships because they have to endure family and community stigma, which hinders their integration into the community.

One-Way ANOVA test results show that age, education level, and several years of return to residence in Vietnam are not factors that make a difference in the results of community integration of women with disabilities..

Mong women have higher social integration than women of other ethnic groups in Vietnam. Women trafficked abroad in adulthood had higher social integration outcomes when trafficked in adolescence and childhood. Women trafficked into prostitution often have lower social integration outcomes than women who are sold as wives and women trafficked into labor exploitation. Previous studies by [Asis \(2015\)](#); [Crawford and Kaufman \(2008\)](#); [Idemudia et al. \(2021\)](#); [Shigekane \(2007\)](#); [Singh et al. \(2006\)](#) about trafficked women also confirmed the difficulty of women trafficked for sexual purposes due to the community's stigma about prostitution activities. Single returned trafficked women had better community integration outcomes than married return trafficked women. Women trafficked for prostitution in previous studies as well as women living abroad for more than 5 years also had lower social integration results than women living abroad for less than 5 years.

Limitations of the study

This is the first study to evaluate the outcomes of community integration for women trafficked across borders in five border provinces of Vietnam by 2021.

Numerous restrictions apply to this investigation. The first drawback is that the cross-sectional design makes establishing a cause-and-effect link challenging. A second problem is that convenient sampling approaches can introduce bias and hence influence the study's ultimate outcome. To address these constraints, additional interviews should be conducted. Additionally, because this is a study conducted in five regions, the findings may not be applicable to all women trafficked back to Vietnam.

6. Conclusions

In summary, the study's findings indicate that returning women trafficked across the border have a reasonably high percentage of community integration. Whereas the highest level of community integration is expressed through legal concerns of identity and safety, the lowest level of community integration is expressed through occupational training and relationships with others.

The One-Way ANOVA test results indicate that age, education level, and years of return to reside in Vietnam did not affect community integration outcomes for women with disabilities. trade with other countries and return. Meanwhile, community integration outcomes for Vietnamese women who have been trafficked across the border and repatriated vary according to their ethnic origin, marital status, age at the time of trafficking, and the goal of the trafficking. As a result of human trafficking, she was sold and forced to live overseas for several years.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their sincerest gratitude to the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, local authorities, club leaders, the Women's Union, and women trafficked across borders. about... belonging to the 5 border provinces of Vietnam selected as the research area, who have enthusiastically guided, contributed ideas, and helped to complete this study.

Declaration of conflicting interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding

This research is funded by Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) under grant number 501.02-2019.04.

References

- Abas, M., Ostrovschi, N. V., Prince, M., Gorceag, V. I., Trigub, C., & Oram, S. (2013). Risk factors for mental disorders in women survivors of human trafficking: a historical cohort study. *BMC psychiatry*, 13(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-244X-13-204>
- Asis, M. M. B. (2015). Supporting Victims-Survivors After Trafficking: Recovery, Return and Reintegration Programs in the Philippines. *Human Trafficking: Issues Beyond Criminalization*, 17, 222.
- Crawford, M., & Kaufman, M. R. (2008). Sex trafficking in Nepal: Survivor characteristics and long-term outcomes. *Violence against women*, 14(8), 905-916. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801208320906>
- Dahal, P., Joshi, S. K., & Swahnberg, K. (2015). 'We are looked down upon and rejected socially': a qualitative study on the experiences of trafficking survivors in Nepal. *Global health action*, 8(1), 29267. <https://doi.org/10.3402/gha.v8.29267>
- Digidiki, V., & Bhabha, J. (2018). Sexual abuse and exploitation of unaccompanied migrant children in Greece: Identifying risk factors and gaps in services during the European migration crisis. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 92, 114-121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.02.040>
- Idemudia, U., Okoli, N., Goitom, M., & Bawa, S. (2021). Life after trafficking: reintegration experiences of human trafficking survivors in Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*, Vol. 17 No. 4, pp. 449-463. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJMHSC-03-2021-0023>
- Lee, J. J. H. (2005). Human trafficking in East Asia: Current trends, data collection, and knowledge gaps. *International migration*, 43(1-2), 165-201. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0020-7985.2005.00317.x>
- Rousseau, D. (2018). From Passive Victims to Partners in Their Own Reintegration: Civil society's role in empowering returned Thai fishermen. *Anti-trafficking review*, (10). <https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201218106>
- Shigekane, R. (2007). Rehabilitation and community integration of trafficking survivors in the United States. *Hum. Rts. Q.*, 29, 112. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hrq.2007.0011>
- Singh, S., Böhler, E., Dahal, K., & Mills, E. (2006). The state of child health and human rights in Nepal. *PLoS Medicine*, 3(7), e203. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0030203>

- Warria, A. (2020). "The child goes back to the trafficking situation": consequences of inappropriate assistance procedures during reintegration of child victims of trafficking. *Child abuse research in South Africa*, 21(1), 47-57.
- Yanni, E. A., Naoum, M., Odeh, N., Han, P., Coleman, M., & Burke, H. (2013). The health profile and chronic diseases comorbidities of US-bound Iraqi refugees screened by the International Organization for Migration in Jordan: 2007–2009. *Journal of immigrant and minority health*, 15(1), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-012-9578-6>
- Zimmerman, C., & Pocock, N. (2012). Human trafficking and mental health: My wounds are inside; they are not visible. *Brown J. World Aff.*, 19, 265.