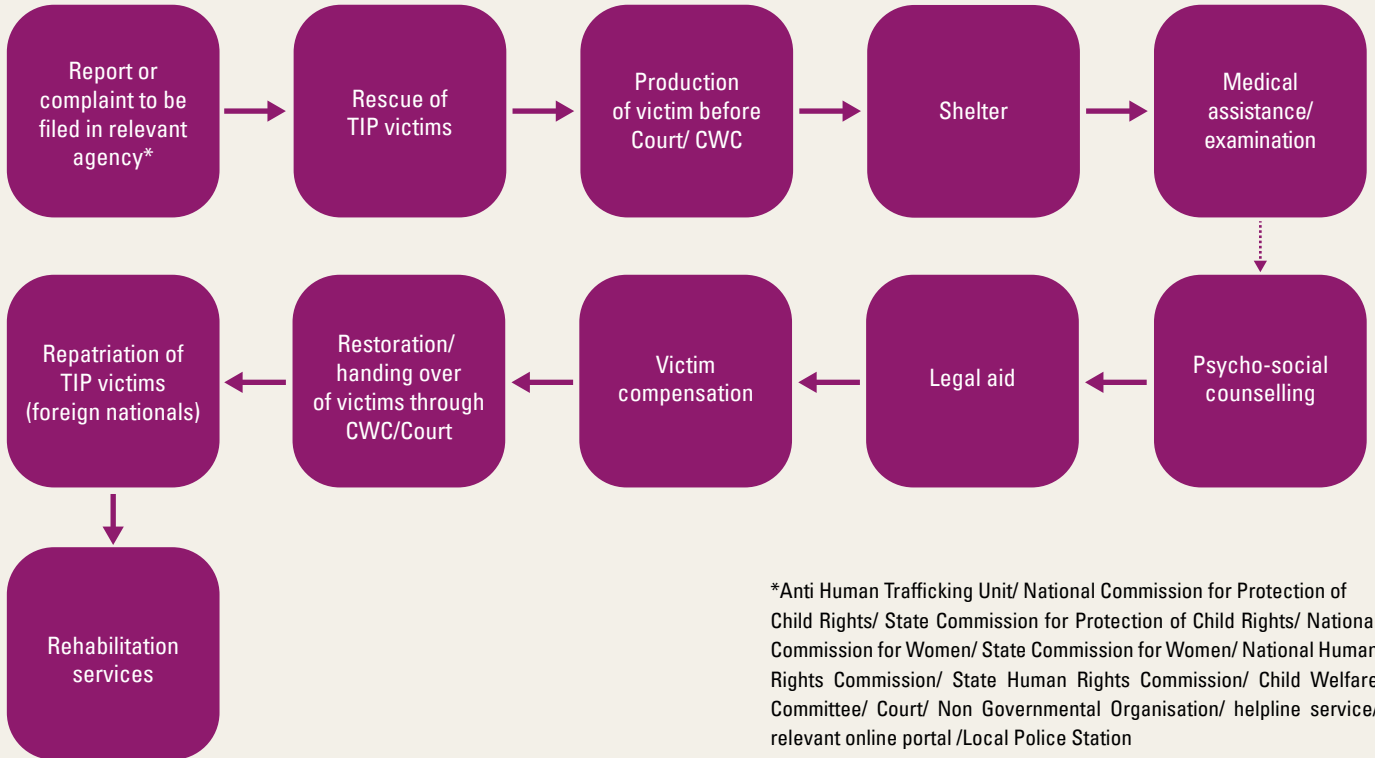




India Factsheet

Advantages and challenges of integrating services for Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Persons

Flow chart of services for Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Persons



Perceptions on service quality

Interviewed victims of GBV and TIP were generally satisfied with the services received at the shelter home or from NGOs but were dissatisfied with the services received from police and prosecutors. Victims highlighted a serious gap in the rehabilitative services especially towards their economic independence.

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The common thing here is violence...both the victims have gone through different forms of violence. Therefore, by staying together they will understand and share each other's pain, empathize with one another, draw strength from one another and most importantly will learn about The potential risk factors of both the categories. This would help both the victims of TIP and GBV recover from trauma together.
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(GBV Victim, Madhya Pradesh, August 24, 2020)

A key question underlying the research was to examine the possibility of integrating or seperating services for TIP and GBV victims towards improving access to service delivery

”
Yes! It [the services] can be integrated under a common location. Itna compartmentalize nahi hona chhiye [the services should not be compartmentalized so much]. If a counsellor is capable of handling both the victims of TIP and GVB, then it can be done. There are services which are overlapping and can be given at a common location. The only difference is in the duration of the services required by each victim.
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(CWC, Female, Delhi, July 18, 2020)

”

I think both the situations are different so they should be kept separated. Initially, for three to four days both the victims of TIP and GBV can be kept under one roof in One Stop Centre. But after that they should be kept in separate spaces because the trauma of both the victims of TIP and GBV are different.

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(Government Official, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Male, Maharashtra, July 7, 2020)

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Integration of the services would depend on the intensity of the violence faced by the victims. Since TIP is a part of GBV there is no harm in putting both the victims under one umbrella, but TIP is very much nuanced, there are so many different shades of TIP cases. Even within TIP situation the exploitation faced is different.

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(Administrator, One Stop Crisis Centre, Female, Manipur, June 23, 2020)

Recommended Methods and Advantages of Integrating Services

- **Integrated Intervention:** Some stakeholders saw providing service under one roof as a good practice. They emphasized that it's important to treat victims equally. Victims can be housed in a common shelter home which would help them recover from their trauma as well as get access to services such as legal support, counselling services, medical services, vocational or skill-building training, etc., from the shelter home itself. This integration must be complemented with extended training to train responders to address GBV and TIP victims.
- **Separate Units under Common location:** Some respondents recommended conditional integration favoring hosting different services under a common location. The common location would have different Units operating under the same roof and the victims would not have to face any challenge in accessing the services. This would also save time, increase transparency, and make accessing services easier for victims.
- **Ease in accessibility of various services:** Different steps in responding to GBV and TIP victims could operate under a common location – like recording of statement before Magistrate, production before CWC, medical assistance, trauma-induced care/counselling, translation, compensation, etc. The victims (both TIP and GBV) therefore will not have to run in between different spaces for accessing different services; Similarly, for the police all the processes would become easier.
- **Optimize use of scarce resources:** Limited and uncertain funding is an important consideration for integrating services and optimizing their utilization.
- **Time factor:** Integration of services could potentially reduce the time spent in accessing different services.
- **Less confusing and cumbersome:** Structures could be designed building on the benefits of One Stop Crisis Centres (OSSC). The common structure could link victims of different kinds of violence to appropriate services based on their needs, thus reducing their challenges.

Challenges to Integration

- **Services must be trauma-informed and may therefore differ for GBV and TIP victims:** TIP victims, especially victims of commercial sex exploitation, experience severe mental and physical trauma, are often abandoned by family and community, and are treated as criminals. Some stakeholders underlined that often TIP and GBV victims experience different kinds of trauma and may therefore need different kind of support and services from each other.
- **Stigma about trafficking victims:** Service providers and victims expressed preference in keeping GBV and TIP victims separate due to the social stigma associated with the latter.
- **Lack of trust:** The trafficking victims have layers of fraudulent experiences hence the trust factor is often lost among them.
- **Different forms of expertise needed among service providers:** Service providers should be trained in specialized responses and may need additional capacity building to respond to different forms of exploitation.

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