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Davy, Deanna. 2014. "Understanding the Complexities of Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 34 (11/12): 793-816.

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This article gives addresses the complexities of the child sex trafficking industry in Thailand and some barriers sex trafficking prevention organizations face. Thailand’s history has played a large role in the development of the sex industry that is so prevalent in the country today. Citing Lin’s (1998) work on prostitution in Southeast Asia, Davy (2014:802) attests, “There is evidence that as early as the fourteenth century the Siam government licensed and taxed prostitution and there has been recorded government control and intervention into the sex sector since that period.” Historically, debt bondage has been a key factor in perpetuating the trafficking problem. Rende Taylor (2003) has extensively studied “child welfare” in Thailand and referencing her work, Davy (2014:802) explains:

In Lanna Thai history, the king owned all farmland and if the people were unable to pay their taxes or owed any other debt they could choose to place themselves, their wives, their children or their junior kin in debt bondage. Debt bondage slaves could be bought out of slavery but often were not and once entered into debt bondage, the slave could be resold. Daughters were often resold as the male corve´e labour system demanded a constant supply of female slaves for domestic and sexual services.

During the Vietnam War, an influx of American soldiers expanded the market for sexual services. In the time since, the process of globalization and increased ease of transnational movement have further contributed. Given this historical context, it is not hard to see how the problem was able to reach its current apex. Additionally, the Thai government has remained rather hesitant in taking a stance on internally combating the problems associated with trafficking and even contribute to its perpetuation. Davy points to Shelley’s (2010) research to verify this claim.

The sex industry in Thailand is not, she argues, the consequence of well organised crime groups as in many other countries but rather the result of networks of criminals working with government officials who assume a key role in the trafficking of Thai citizens and migrants (Davy, 2014:803-4).

Davy (2014) explains that those who work to prevent trafficking are working against the age-old principle of supply and demand. “The Asian countries surrounding the Mekong River have among the highest incidence of internal and transnational migration in the world” (Davy, 2014:804). Migrants are already among the most vulnerable in a given population. Poverty and gender inequalities that continue to persist in the region further contribute to their vulnerability and the supply of potential trafficking victims (Davy, 2014). The demand for trafficked individuals can vary, but “is largely motivated by the incredible profits” that benefit traffickers, brothel owners, pimps, and even government officials (Davy, 2014:805).