Outcomes used in Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Interventions

MODERN SLAVERY
CORE OUTCOME SET
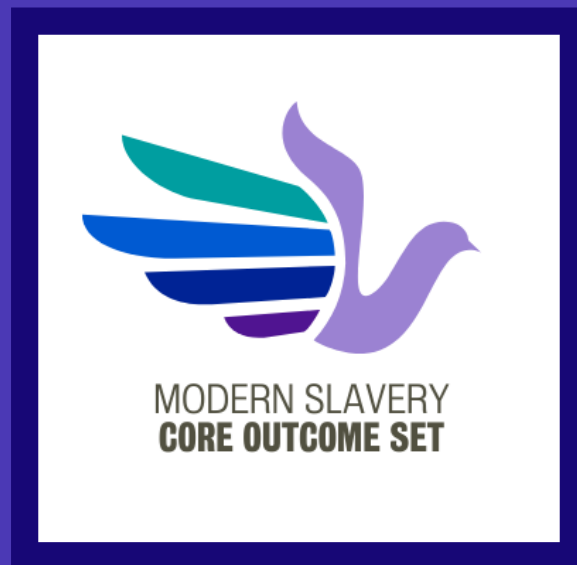
A Rapid Review of Qualitative Studies

Introduction

The aim of the Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set Project is to identify priority outcomes to be reported across interventions that aim to support the recovery, healing and reintegration of survivors of modern slavery.

We know that survivors of modern slavery experience serious and long-term health, social, and economic consequences. But, high quality evidence is lacking about how policies and services can intervene effectively to support recovery, healing and reintegration. Comparing the effectiveness of interventions requires that the measurement of outcomes is standardised. Yet currently, there is no consensus on the definition and measurement of recovery, healing or reintegration outcomes for survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery. Building a consensus is vital. The development of a Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set (MS-COS) will enable this, providing a minimum set of standard and measurable outcomes that should be reported across interventions that aim to support survivor recovery, healing and reintegration.

In order to develop the MS-COS, our project has two phases. The first phase is generative in nature, generating a long list of outcomes and sorting these into a taxonomy or schema. To do this we have undertaken rapid reviews of the literature, analysed secondary qualitative data, collected primary data, and run two stakeholder workshops. This short report outlines our findings from the second rapid review undertaken.

What we did

We wanted to understand the benefits and harms of post-trafficking services from the perspectives of survivors of human trafficking. In particular, we investigated views around psychological and social interventions.

To answer our questions, we searched for relevant academic research papers since 2000. Papers needed to be qualitative studies that explored the service provision experiences of adult survivors. Studies could use any qualitative methods, including interviews or focus group discussions. We only accepted papers that used the Palermo Protocol definition of trafficking. We searched the following electronic databases: EMBASE, MEDLINE, HMIC and PsycINFO. We also conducted reference list screening and forward citation tracking.

From the 1877 records, we found 18 studies were relevant to our aims.

Studies Included

This table summarises the characteristics of each of the **18 studies** we included in our review.

LEAD AUTHOR	YEAR	STUDY COUNTRY	SAMPLE SIZE	MEN (N)	WOMEN (N)	NATIONALITIES & ETHNICITIES	EXPLOITATION TYPES
Castaner	2021	USA	• 14	• 0	• 14	• Mexican, Central American	• Sex trafficking
Mumey	2021	USA	• 6	• 0	• 6	• African American, Arab American, Latinx	• Sex Trafficking
Balfour	2020	Ghana	• 27	• 0	• 27	• Ghanaian	• Domestic • Labour
Da Silva	2019	India	• 10	• 0	• 10	• Indian	• Sex Trafficking
Doyle	2019	Ireland	• 15	• 2	• 13	• Pakistani, South African, Indian, Filipino, Kenyan, Nigerian, Malawian	• Labour
Evans	2019	USA	• 15	• 0	• 15	• Hispanic, Caucasian, African American, Dutch Canadian, Native American	• Sex Trafficking
Hodge	2019	USA	• 21	• 21	• 0	• Latin American, Asian	• Labour • Sex trafficking
Orme	2019	USA	• 12	• 0	• 12	• Hispanic, Caucasian	• Sex Trafficking
Viergever	2019	Netherlands	• 14	• 5	• 9	• African, Eastern European, Asian, Middle Eastern	• Sex trafficking
Hopper	2018	USA	• 17	• 0	• 17	• African American, Caucasian, Hispanic	• Sex Trafficking
Bruijn	2017	USA	• 8	• 0	• 8	• Caucasian, African American	• Sex trafficking
Eldridge	2017	USA	• 9	• 0	• 9	• Caucasian, Hispanic	• Sex Trafficking
Rajaram	2016	USA	• 22	• 0	• 22	• Caucasian, African American, Hispanic	• Sex trafficking
Dahal	2015	Nepal	• 10	• 0	• 10	• Nepalese	• Sex Trafficking
McCrory	2016	USA	• 6	• 0	• 6	• Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Asian	• Sex trafficking
Jones	2014	USA	• 8	• 0	• 8	• Caucasian, African American, Caribbean, Romanian	• Sex Trafficking
Busch-Armendariz	2011	USA	• 9	• 0	• 9	• Unspecified	• Sex trafficking • Labour
Westebbe	2004	Thailand	• 5	• 0	• 5	• Thai	• Labour • Sex Trafficking

What we found

Overview of the studies

Studies were largely conducted with female survivors, with only three working with male trafficking survivors (e.g., Hopper et al. 2018).

The majority of studies (16 of 18) involved survivors of sex trafficking, with studies mostly conducted in one country, the United States (12 of 18). This suggests a heavy geographical skew, limited exploration of male survivors' needs, and an underrepresentation of labour trafficking.

Outcomes

Analysis of these studies followed a stepped approach, which involved first extracting direct quotes from participants. Following this, author interpretations of these quotes were extracted. These were then used to determine similarities and differences across studies.

This process was continuously revised until we generated four categories around service provision.

1 Personal Desired Outcomes from Aftercare Provision

Outcomes desired by survivors including independence and agency, stability, greater self-efficacy, identity formation, and safety.

2 Qualities Displayed by Service providers

Centering on the importance of non-judgmental, compassionate, and empowering approaches and authenticity from services.

3 Recommendations for Services

Emphasizing the need for aftercare provision to provide holistic, trafficking-specific, and long-term care support.

4 Facets of Service Provision

Highlighting the resources, activities, and psychological support needed for post-trafficking support, and focusing on preparing for a life beyond immediate aftercare.

How we are using these findings

To our knowledge, this is the first synthesis of qualitative research exploring survivors' desired outcomes and expectations of post-trafficking service provision. This research can inform practice and policy initiatives, by identifying how current service provision can offer a standard of care that aligns with what survivors desire.

Outcomes identified in this rapid review have been fed into a master list of outcomes from the other review, interviews, and our exploratory workshops. This master list of outcomes provides the foundation for the e-Delphi exercise where stakeholders will vote on a core outcomes set.

We have addressed the gaps suggested by this review in our project by conducting supplementary interviews with male survivors and survivors of labour trafficking.

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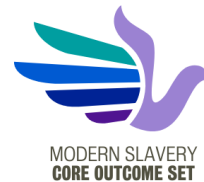
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