

ANALYTICAL POTENTIALS OF RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY IN THE ANALYSIS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Summary: Economic approach to human trafficking is based on the rational choice assumption. When deciding whether or not to engage in criminal activity like human trafficking, offenders estimate benefits and costs of that activity. As a rational beings, they choose to engage in human trafficking only when net benefits from committed criminal act exceeds benefits from legal activities. Expected benefits from the exploitation of the human trafficking victims is the main factor that affects supply and demand on illegal markets. If profit from human trafficking is high and costs are low, than we can expect increase in the number of trafficked victims. Demand for victims of human trafficking is derived from demand for commodities i.e. services obtained on the basis of their exploitation. Efficient suppression of human trafficking implies measures aimed to reduce supply or demand as a key factors of human trafficking. The aim of this paper is to examine human trafficking from the standpoint of rational choice theory, especially motives that are at the core of decision to commit criminal offence of human trafficking, which should enable adoption of measures aimed at general prevention.