

The Socio-Economic Effects of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Human trafficking is globally recognised as modern day slavery with multifarious negative socio-economic, legal and health implications. Besides drug trafficking and gun running, human trafficking has become a lucrative business globally and yields an estimate of US \$32 million annually. Traffickers trade on human lives; subject them to gory and traumatic experiences in order to make profits. Human trafficking is therefore the worst form of human right violations and gender based violence against female who constitute majority of the victims in the country. Regrettably, Nigeria occupies the ignoble position of a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in the recent times, the scourge has assumed complex dimensions, become more elusive, shrouded in secrecy and with the attendant consequences and implication on the lives in the country. Data from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) shows that seventy eight percent of victims of human trafficking in Nigeria fall within the age range of 8 – 27 years, children within this age bracket are naturally of school going age. Victims of trafficking miss educational opportunities needed for today’s globalised world. This paper was based on the dynamics of human trafficking in Nigeria, some emerging trends in trafficking, the socio-economic implications, government’s strategies in curbing the menace and possible adoption as good practice.

Keywords: Human trafficking, Transnational Creime, NAPTIP, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

History of human trafficking and slavery is indeed very ancient. There is ample evidence that right from ancient times, affluent people kept slaves for physical pleasure or manual labour. Over 400years ago, Africans were carried over the Atlantic Ocean and exported to different parts of the world as bonded labour

Although the British settlers who settled in the New World started the African slave trade, Britain was main country to push for an end to African slave trade. In 1807, the British parliament banned slave trade and in 1833, slavery was abolished from British colonies. However, by then human trafficking and slave trade had made many people rich and economies of certain colonies and nations were built by

these slaves. Thereafter for decades, Britain forced countries to adopt anti-slavery policies and were successful by and large.

However, this paved way for white slavery, which was commonly used to describe all forms of prostitution licensed and coerced. White slavery targeted women and children who were sexually exploited and abused. It became an international problem with women and children being trafficked and sold as sex slaves to rich owners, who invariably used them and then relegated them as bonded slaves to work for them.

By the time World War II ended, prostitution was a criminal offense in the United States. This led to a reduction in international human trafficking and slavery which took on a more local and regional look. The 1980s saw countries making a renewed effort to curb trafficking. Countries started taking human trafficking seriously and efforts were made to control sex tourism in Southeast Asia and prevent the trafficking of women and girls from poor countries to North America and Western Europe. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, girls, women and children from Eastern Europe were trafficked into Western Europe and once again countries renewed their efforts to stop the slave trade.

Modern day human trafficking and slavery has its roots in ancient times. History of human trafficking and slavery teaches us that exploitative practices of the past are still being used today and we should look at these practices to fight trafficking and slavery in all their forms.

Trafficking means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by the means of threat, or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, fraud or deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Prostitution and the accompanying evil of trafficking for the purposes of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community.

Slavery is defined as ‘the condition of a person over whom any or all of the power attaching to the right of ownership are exercised, including where such a condition results from a debt or contract made by the person’. (270.1 criminal code).

According to the international labour organization (2016), human trafficking generates \$150 billion illegal profits each year.

The two most commonly known forms of human trafficking are sexual exploitation and forced labour. Any instance in which an individual engages in a commercial sex act (such as prostitution) as a result of fraud, force or coercion is considered sex trafficking. Sex trafficking also includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children or minors (CSEC).

Forced labour can occur within any form of labour or services and is the subjection of individuals to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. In all instances of forced labour, the individual works against his or her will for little or no pay under the threat of some sort of punishment.

Trafficked persons may be forced or coerced to work in a variety of settings, both hidden and in plain sight. Some examples include factories, sweatshops, fields, brothels and massage parlours, online escort services, on street corners, as child soldiers or in private homes. The most common industries associated with the trafficking in persons includes: agriculture, construction, garment and textile manufacturing, catering and restaurants, domestic work, entertainment and the sex industry.

While human trafficking spans all demographics, trafficked persons most often come from positions of vulnerability. Prior to their trafficking situation, individuals may come from a low socio-economic background, be homeless or have ran away from home, be an immigrant seeking a better life or opportunity, having a history of sexual abuse, rape or domestic violence, be in foster care, have been subject to natural disasters, conflicts or political turmoil and be involved in the sex industry.

These vulnerabilities are the result of policies and practices that marginalise entire groups of people and make them particularly susceptible to exploitation. Traffickers use these vulnerabilities to their advantage and use a number of tactics to establish control over victims. Violence, isolation, threats, deception, manipulation, debt bondage, prospects of an education and romance are just a few methods used. Traffickers may operate alone with one or many victims or may be a part of an extensive criminal network. Examples of trafficking rings includes: gang members, family members, pimps, business owners or smugglers.

Trafficking in persons is a transnational crime with global implications. In order to combat trafficking and bring its perpetrators to justice, all nations must recognize that trafficking is a serious criminal offense. Politicians and law enforcement officials in all countries must give priority to the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in person's offenses, assign appropriate punishment to those found guilty, and protecting the victims of such offenses. All transit, receiving, and supply countries must cooperate in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking phenomena and offenses. Because the United States is a key destination country for trafficked victims, it has a special role to play in combating the problem and setting an example for other countries to follow.

Trafficking affects virtually every country in the world. The largest numbers of victims come from Asia, with over 225,000 victims each year from Southeast Asia and over 150,000 from South Asia. The former Soviet Union is now believed to be the largest new source of trafficking for prostitution and the sex industry, with over 100,000 women and children trafficked each year from that region. An additional 75,000 or more are trafficked from Eastern Europe. Over 100,000 victims come from Latin America and the Caribbean, and over 50,000 are from Africa. Most of the victims are sent to Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe and North America. The U.S. Department of State has estimated that at any given time, there are hundreds of thousands of people in the trafficking pipeline, being warehoused by traffickers, waiting for new routes to open up or documents to become available and their primary targets include the United States, the European Union, and Canada.

In October 2000, the U.S. government voted into law “The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.” The purpose of the statute is to combat trafficking in persons and assist its victims. The strategy for addressing trafficking is governed by three principles: first, prevention of trafficking; second, protection and support for victims; and third, prosecution of the traffickers.

Trafficking in human beings, especially women and girls, is not new. Historically it has taken many forms, but in the context of globalization, has acquired shocking new dimensions. It is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial level. It is a demand-driven global business with a huge market for cheap labour and commercial sex confronting often insufficient or unexercised policy frameworks or trained personnel to prevent it.

Nigeria has acquired a reputation for being one of the leading African countries in human trafficking with cross-border and internal trafficking. Trafficking of persons is the third largest crime after economic fraud and the drug trade. Decades of military regimes in Nigeria have led to the institutionalized violation of human rights and severe political, social and economic crises. This negatively impacts the development of community participation, especially of women and children, despite international institutions designed to advance their causes. In addition, the oil boom in the 1970s created opportunities for migration both inside and outside of the country. This created avenues for exploitation, for international trafficking in women and children, for forced labour and for prostitution.

Nigeria is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking. There is also evidence of internal trafficking. Destinations for trafficked Nigerians include the neighbouring West African countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea), European countries (Italy, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom), North Africa (Libya, Algeria and Morocco) and Middle Eastern countries (Saudi Arabia). Recently, South America has also become a point of destination for trafficked persons, particularly Venezuela.

Primarily women and girls, but also boys are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ harvesting. Poverty is the principle driving force behind this trade, propelling vulnerable people into the hands of traffickers, who belong to both small-scale, local enterprises with extensive criminal networks and to large scale multi-commodity businesses.

Nigeria ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2001 and passed a national law against trafficking entitled “Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003.” Nigeria is one of the few African countries that passed such a law. Nigeria also passed the Child Rights Act in 2003, which deals comprehensively with the issue of child trafficking.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES:

• Concepts of Human Trafficking

Trafficking in Persons was first defined in the International law through the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. This Protocol popularly known as the ‘Palermo Protocol’ or ‘Trafficking Protocol’ supplemented the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol states;

“Trafficking in Persons (TIP) shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of office or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation”.

Preamble to the Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and for the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949):

“Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, services or the removal of organs”.

This definition is the most widely endorsed and provided the essential basis for national law reform. Further to this definition, article 3 paragraph (b) states;

“the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in paragraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in paragraph (a) have been used”.

In other words where ever any of the elements of trafficking in persons is used the consent of the victim is meaningless. The three elements of trafficking include:

- i. The act (what is done): The operational concept of movement and transportation for example recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.
- ii. The means (how is it done): this means the intervention of an intermediary noting that most often the means is present before the act could take place namely threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, of vulnerability or giving payments or benefits of a person in control of the victim.
- iii. The purpose (why it is done): for the purpose of exploitation which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

In the Europol Convention of 1995, Traffic in human beings is defined as follows: “Subjection of a person to the real and illegal sway of other persons by using violence or menaces or by abuse of authority or intrigue with a view to exploitation of prostitution, forms of sexual exploitation and assault of minors or trade in abandoned children”

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in “Trafficking in Human Beings: Implications for the OSCE” defines Trafficking in Human Beings as:

“all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport (within or across borders), sale, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons;

- By the threat or use of force, deception, coercion (including abuse of authority), or debt bondage;
- For the purpose of placing or holding such person, whether for pay or not, in involuntary servitude, forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like conditions;
- in a community other than the one in which the person lived at the time of the original deception, coercion or debt bondage”.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), trafficking in human beings occurs when:

“- a migrant is illicitly engaged (recruited, kidnapped, sold, etc) and/or moved, either within national or across international borders;

- intermediaries (traffickers) during any part of this process obtain economic or other profit by means of deception, coercion and/or other forms of exploitation under conditions that violate the fundamental human rights of migrants”.

The Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), the International Human Rights Law Group and the Foundation Against Trafficking in Women (STV) in conjunction with similar NGOs around the world defined trafficking as:

“Any act or attempt involving the recruitment, transport within or across national boundaries, exchange, sale, transfer, lodging or reception of a person by means of deception, constraint (including the use of force or the abuse of authority) or by means of debt bondage with a view to placing or maintaining the person in question, with or without financial consideration, in a position of servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in forced labour or in conditions analogous to slavery, in a community other than that in which the person lived until the moment the deception, constraint or debt bondage was brought to bear.”

The Geneva Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, adopted by the League of Nations in 1926 and joined by a Supplementary Convention in 1956, provides a precise definition of slavery and trafficking.

The Convention described Slavery as the possession of a person and exercise over the same of any or all the powers attributing to the right of owners hip.

The Geneva Convention described trafficking as a practice which includes the act of capturing, acquisition or conferment of a person to reduce the same to slavery, as well as every act of acquisition or conferment by sale or exchange, and, in general, every act of trading or transport of slaves.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Child, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002) defines Trafficking in Minors in Article 2(a) as:

“any action or transaction that transfers a child from one person or group of persons to another for remuneration or for any other benefit”.

Trafficking is outlawed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949), the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1979), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) with its supplementary Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002); Convention No. 182 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Relating to Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) and the Charter of the International Criminal Court (Rome, 1998).

According to a report on “Trafficking In Persons: Global Patterns,” published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in April 2006, “Governments need to get serious about identifying the full extent of the problem so they can get serious about eliminating it.

The act that this form slavery still exists in the 21st century shames us all. Virtually no country in the world is unaffected by the crime of human trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced labour”. The report further identified 127 countries of origin, 98 transit countries and 137 destination countries.

African countries are source, transit and destination countries for human trafficking. For instance, Nigeria is a source, transit and destination country for trafficked women and children who are usually trafficked to Europe, Middle East and other countries in Africa for the purposes of forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.

Recent studies carried out by the Nigerian Embassy in Rome, Italy revealed that 80% of trafficked persons from Africa are young girls including minors of 8 between 12-16 years.

- **Migrant Smuggling**

Smuggling of Migrants is a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national or resident. Migrant smuggling affects almost every country in the world. It undermines the integrity of countries and communities, and costs thousands of people their lives every year. UNODC, as the guardian the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention) and the Protocols thereto, assist States in their efforts to implement the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (Smuggling of Migrants Protocol).

The Smuggling of Migrants Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines the smuggling of migrants as the:

"procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident." (Article 3, Smuggling of Migrants Protocol).

In order to comply with the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, Article 6 requires states to criminalise both smuggling of migrants and enabling of a person to remain in a country illegally, as well as aggravating circumstances that endanger lives or safety, or entail inhuman or degrading treatment of migrants.

Virtually every country in the world is affected by this crime, whether as an origin, transit or destination country for smuggled migrants by profit-seeking criminals. Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to life-threatening risks and exploitation; thousands of people have suffocated in containers, perished in deserts or dehydrated at sea. Generating huge profits for the criminals involved, migrant smuggling fuels corruption and empowers organized crime.

Currently, data is too scattered and incomplete to paint an accurate picture of numbers of people who are smuggled each year and the routes and methods used by those who smuggle them. Still, available evidence reveals the following trends and patterns:

- Criminals are increasingly providing smuggling services to irregular migrants to evade national border controls, migration regulations and visa requirements. Most irregular migrants resort to the assistance of profit-seeking smugglers. As border controls have improved, migrants are deterred from attempting to illegally cross them themselves and are diverted into the hands of smugglers.
- Migrant smuggling is a highly profitable business in which criminals enjoy low risk of detection and punishment. As a result, the crime is becoming increasingly attractive to criminals. Migrant smugglers are becoming more and more organized, establishing professional networks that transcend borders and regions.
- The modus operandi of migrant smugglers is diverse. Highly sophisticated and expensive services rely on document fraud or 'visa-smuggling'. Contrasted with these are low cost methods which often pose high risks for migrants, and have led to a dramatic increase in loss of lives in recent years.
- Migrant smugglers constantly change routes and modus operandi in response to changed circumstances often at the expense of the safety of the smuggled migrants.
- Thousands of people have lost their lives as a result of the indifferent or even deliberate actions of migrant smugglers.

These factors highlight the need for responses to combat the crime of migrant smuggling to be coordinated across and between regions, and adaptable to new methods. In this regard, UNODC seeks to assist countries in implementing the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol while promoting a comprehensive response to the issue of migrant smuggling.

UNODC's Response to Migrant Smuggling as the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementary protocols, UNODC's primary goal with respect to combating migrant smuggling, is to promote global adherence to the smuggling of migrants protocol and assist States in their efforts to effectively implement it.

- **Child Labour**

A child or children are minors under the age of 18 years. Child labour includes those children (minors under age 18) working in the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) as outlined in International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 and children engaged in work that is exploitative and/or interferes with their ability to participate in and complete required years of schooling, in line with ILO Convention 138. ILO Convention 182 defines the WFCL as:

1. all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
2. the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
3. the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and
4. Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

According to ILO Convention 182, hazardous work "shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration relevant international standards..." As this suggests, forms of work identified as "hazardous" for children [Article 3(d)] may vary from country to country. ILO Recommendation No. 190, which accompanies ILO Convention 182, gives additional guidance on identifying "hazardous work." ILO Recommendation No. 190 states in Section II, Paragraph 3 that "[i]n determining the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) of the Convention [ILO Convention 182], and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia to:

5. work which exposes children to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse;
6. work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;

7. work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
8. work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
9. work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer."

Child labour spans nearly every sector and kind of work. Children harvest cotton in Uzbekistan, work as domestic servants in Haiti and mine diamonds in the Central African Republic. It is important to recognize that not all work performed by children is exploitative. Children of legal working age who perform work that does not hinder their mental, physical or emotional development can be an asset to their families' welfare and their nations' economic development. Activities that would qualify as non-exploitative under these international standards include performing household chores, assisting parents in a family business outside of school hours, and working in non-hazardous activities after school or during vacations to earn extra income.

- **Forced Labour**

The internationally recognized definition of forced or compulsory labour is found in ILO Convention 29. According to this Convention, forced or compulsory labour is "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily." There are four key elements to this definition, and indicators related to each element, as set forth below. The combination of indicators for each situation must be analyzed in order to determine whether the situation is one of forced labour or not.

- All work or service: This includes all types of work, service and employment, regardless of the industry, sector or occupation within which it is found, and encompasses legal and formal employment as well as illegal and informal work.
- Any person: This refers to adults and children.
- Menace of any penalty: This refers to a worker believing he or she will face a penalty if they refuse to work. "Menace" means the penalty need not be exacted, but rather, that threats of penalty may be sufficient, if the employee believes the employer will exact the penalty. A wide variety of penalties, such as confinement to the workplace, violence against workers or family members, retention of identity documents, dismissal from employment, and non-payment of wages, or other loss of rights or privileges, may be sufficient to fulfil this element of the test for forced labour.
- Voluntary: This refers to workers' consent to enter into employment and their freedom to leave the employment at any time, with reasonable notice in accordance with national law or collective agreements. In essence, persons are in a forced labour situation if they enter work or service against their free choice, and cannot leave it without penalty or the threat of penalty. Involuntariness does not have to result from physical punishment or constraint; it can also stem from other forms of retaliation,

such as the loss of rights or privileges or non-payment of wages owed. Note that a worker can be considered to be in forced labour even if his or her consent was given, if that consent was obtained through the use of force, abduction, fraud, deception or the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, or if the consent has been revoked.

ILO Convention 105 further specifies that forced labour should never be used for the purpose of economic development or as a means of political coercion, discrimination, labour discipline or punishment for having participated in strikes.

Forced labour can happen in any industry, but is especially prevalent in industries that require low-skilled labour, such as agriculture and mining, or occupations hidden from public view, like domestic service.

Until the 20th century, most of the world's forced labour was rooted in traditional social stratification systems and patterns of discrimination, agrarian production structures, conquest, colonialism and the slave trade. Certain castes, religious minorities, and indigenous peoples have long been vulnerable to forced labour.

Forced labour is not just a historical problem. Today, as in the past, some governments force their citizens to carry out infrastructure projects, produce goods, raise crops and perform other forms of work. Indeed, the ILO estimates that 10 percent of forced labour worldwide is state-imposed forced labour. This includes prison labour where victims are imprisoned without conviction by a court of law, and made to perform work or service.

Global economic migration has also given rise to new forms of forced labour. The push factors of poverty and lack of jobs where people live, combined with the pull factor of employer demand for cheap labour, have caused many migrants to seek economic opportunities in other countries or in other parts of their own. Migrant workers make up a significant proportion of the workforce in certain industries and parts of the world. They are especially vulnerable to labour recruiters and other intermediaries, organized crime syndicates, and employers offering false contract terms and other fraudulent schemes. Many migrants pay fees to such recruiters or intermediaries and become trapped in debt bondage: cyclical debt, often including unreasonable interest or other terms that their wages are insufficient to repay. Cycles of debt bondage can also occur when employers deduct from workers' wages for housing, food and other costs, leaving them with little or no take-home pay.

Many migrant workers are required to sign contracts in languages they cannot read; many others have informal employment relationships with no contract at all. Some are required to turn over their identity documents to employers, leaving them without the option to escape. Migrants can also be especially vulnerable to confinement in workplaces, including through various forms of physical and/or psychological coercion, since they are often unfamiliar with their surroundings and local languages or cultures.

Modern dynamics of global production have also increased worker vulnerability to forced labour. For instance, buyer pressure on suppliers to keep prices low and to complete orders quickly, commonly implemented through production quota systems, often lead suppliers to rely on excessively long schedules, in some cases rising to the level of forced overtime.

While poverty can push people into exploitative work, it is important to distinguish between very poor working conditions and forced labour. A lack of economic alternatives, such as other jobs, does not by itself qualify a situation as one of forced labour. Forced labour is distinguished by the worker feeling a threat of penalty, exacted by his or her employer or an agent of the employer, such as a supervisor or recruiter, and completing the work involuntarily.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Every study requires relevant theories to provide guide for its course. Theories by nature are sets of facts and explanations about study. Some theories are below;

Structural functionalism theory relating to social stability and instability: social stability is manifested in the number of jobs that trafficked human perform. We find them not only doing sexual work, but in all areas such as agriculture, domestic service, construction work and factories. Due to the low cost owners have to pay for this kind of modern slavery, businesses become very profitable. Profitable businesses generate wealth to the country. For example, child labour in countries like China allows foreign industry to offer low manufacturing cost that will return higher margins for the owners.

The instability exists in different areas. Jobs for the general population are reduced. Sexual slaves live in deplorable conditions and lack hygiene, increasing the chance of getting sick and transmit sexual diseases. Since human trafficking is an illegal business, the places where they take place do not meet health and safety standards. The trafficking industry also generates violence, increasing the number of victims and the death people in the country.

Conflict Perspective: the lack of jobs, low wages and high cost of living caused by inflation creates an opportunity to human traffickers. Lack of food, clothing and housing and the impossibility of the government in fulfilling these needs create the desire in their citizens to emigrate and look for better opportunities, and it is there when they become a prey for heartless human beings who lure them with false promises. Trafficked people usually are seduced with untruthful promises of employment, better pay and security.

When they arrive to their destination, they discover they have been lied to and suffer a series of abuses. Drug traffickers belong to powerful criminal organizations that enrich selling human beings and their services. Conversely, trafficked people usually pertain to lower social stratus, reason why they become an easy target.

Interactionism: human trafficking is not a product of rational choice, but it is influenced by the desire to satisfy basic needs and progress in life. This is when traffickers take advantage of peoples dream and promise them employment abroad with secure pay. Trafficked people become slaves in other countries while they perform all kind of services.

Majority of trafficking is done by networks of smaller groups that each specialize in a certain area, like recruitment, transportation, advertising, or retail.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is clandestine in nature and is carried out in most cases unnoticed and not indicated as a criminal network.

Trafficking either occurs within the shores of a country (internal) or outside its shores (external).

Internal trafficking involves trafficking of a person from one community or village to another, within the states or outside the states. It is trafficking of persons within a country. The purpose of internal trafficking is usually for domestic labour, child labour, illicit adoption, begging, sexual exploitation, ritual, organ harvesting etc. External trafficking of persons on the other hand is carried out outside the shores of the victim’s country.

In other words, a victim’s exploitation occurs outside his/her country of residence. Sexual and labour exploitation are the major purpose for external trafficking. Others are begging, organ harvesting, etc. The process of human trafficking is hidden and shrouded in secrecy making data collection and empirical studies very difficult.

As a result of this accurate statistical data is hardly available Nevertheless it is estimated that no fewer than 1 million and 2 million people are trafficked worldwide annually. Virtually all countries of the world are involved in one form of trafficking or the other. They always fall within countries of origin, transit or destination. In most cases, some countries especially developing countries fall within the three categories.

In Africa, no one has been able to trace the origin of this new form of slavery, but one thing is sure, that is the fact that it was not regarded as a major concern until in the 90s when it became obvious that many countries within the continent had acquired the unenviable position as source, transit and destination countries for human trafficking.

Trafficking of women to Europe for sex is more prevalent in West Africa than elsewhere in Africa. It is estimated that no less than 60% of foreign prostitutes in Italy hail from Africa the majority coming from Nigeria.

On forced labour, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), Africa has the highest percentage of child labourers in the world with 80million or 40% of African children of between five and 14 years working under wholesome conditions, many of them are victims of human trafficking.

The ILO estimate indicates that 200,000 to 300,000 children are trafficked each for forced labour and sexual exploitation in West and Central Africa.

UNICEF on the other hand estimates that between 10,000 and 15,000 West African children work on coca plantations in Cote d'Ivoire, after being sold by middlemen to farmers for up to \$340 each. The ILO further estimated in 2005 that 980,000 to 1,225,000 children both boys and girls are in a forced labour situation as a result of trafficking. From the Polaris Project "An estimated 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked annually in the United States alone.

The number of US citizens trafficked within the country are even higher, with an estimated more than 200,000 American children at high risk for trafficking into the sex industry each year 27 million people are estimated to be trafficked all over the world out of which 80% are women and children.

THE UGLY TIDE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

United States Agency for International Development, 1999; *"Trafficking is a complex development issue. It is an economic problem as the vast majority of women seeking to escape poverty are lured into trafficking by the false promise of economic gains. Trafficking is a health problem as trafficked women and children are at the risk of HIV infection.*

It is a gender problem, as unequal power relations reinforce women's secondary status in the society. Lastly it is a legal problem, as its victims are stripped of their human rights and lack any access to redress the crimes committed against them" ..

Trafficking in persons is a complex phenomenon and involves such aspects as human rights violations; fight against organized crime; migration and visa policies; gender inequalities; poverty and socio-economic inequalities within and between countries

The term "traffickers" refers to recruiters; transporters; those who exercise control over trafficked persons; those who transfer and/or maintain trafficked persons in exploitative situations; those involved in related crimes; and those who profit either directly or indirectly from trafficking, its component acts and related offences.

The term "trafficked persons" refers to victims of trafficking in persons as well as persons who are in the process of being trafficked by deception, threat, coercion, kidnapping, sale, fraud, marriage, child marriage or any other unlawful means.

Trafficked persons include men, women and children. Children are trafficked or forced to beg for alms while women and girls are trafficked into domestic servitude or forced prostitution.

Trafficked persons are victims of violence, threats, ill treatment, incarceration and extortion, and they have to pay off considerable debts to meet the costs of their transportation and documents. They are illegal residents and the fact that they have been robbed of their money and identity documents puts

them in a situation of hopelessness and at the mercy of the traffickers. Trafficking has become a highly organized transactional crime with serious criminal, moral and social implications.

“Trafficking is a transnational criminal enterprise. It recognizes neither boundaries nor borders. Profits from trafficking feed into the coffers of organized crime. Trafficking is fuelled by other criminal activities such as document fraud, money laundering and migrant smuggling.”

According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the U.S. State Department, 700,000 to 2 million people, the majority of them, women and children are trafficked across international borders. Trafficking in people represents the third-largest source of profits for organized crime after drugs and guns, generating billion of dollars each year.

According to United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), 80% of young women engaged in prostitution in Italy are Nigerians. They are usually girls between the ages of 12-25years. Nigerian girls and women make up about 70% of 70,000 African women who are victims of trafficking. About 70% of these Nigerian women end up in Italy.

At least 700,000 persons annually, primarily women and children are trafficked within or across international borders. Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked to United States each year. Many of these persons are trafficked into the international sex trade often by force, fraud, or coercion. The International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) estimates that about 246 million children worldwide are involved in child labour which represents one out of every six children. The ILO reports that about 180 million of these figures are exposed to the worst forms of child labour.

“This exploitation of childhood constitutes the evil, the most hideous, the most unbearable to the human heart.” According to the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), a great deal of international trafficking in many African countries is as a result of the extended family system where African parents have traditionally sent their children to work in other households sometimes entrusting them to better-off relations in the cities.

This traditional practice is what traffickers have increasingly abused to exploit children on a commercial basis with high dividends. In other words, parents, guardians and persons who stand in *loco parentis* to child victims knowingly or unknowingly collude with dubious traffickers to send these children into bondage.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Facts from the National agency for the prohibition of trafficking in persons (NAPTIP); the problem of trafficking in persons (TIP's) became prominent in the past two decades due to severe economic plight of the African continent. In this regard trafficking for prostitution and forced labour has become a big time money spinning business by cartels and has posed a tremendous challenge to

African countries. It is the third largest profit yielding business after arms dealing and drug trafficking.

UN estimate indicates that Trafficking in persons (TIP's) generates about \$10 billion annually for criminals. An African child trafficked to the US might net the traffickers \$10,000 - \$200,000. USAID 2005; department of states Annual Trafficking in Persons report puts the estimate of people trafficked globally at;

Annually; 800,000 – 4million persons move across international borders annually; 80% of trafficked victims are believed to be females; 50% are youth and children and majority are trafficked for commercial sex.

Regionally, UNDOC Report, (2005): crime and development in Africa: shows that, 89% of African nations are involved in (Trafficking in Persons) TIP's; 300,000 children are taken from their homes in West Africa each year and sold into domestic slavery; between 28,000 and 30,000 children are lured into prostitution in South Africa, half of whom are between 15-18years of age.

More than 120,000 children under the age of 18years, which is about one third of the world's child soldiers, are currently participating in armed conflicts across Africa. Some of these children are not more than 7 or 8 years of age.

Nationally, according to the US Department of states, 15,027,612 working children exists in Nigeria; Over 2million children are exposed to long hours of work (15 hours or more); of this number 56% are in school while 42% are found in house-keeping activities.

It was also discovered that the victims are taken to different native doctors to take oath of secrecy, when they get there the native doctors either cut their nails, their pubic hairs, their eyelashes, their hair from the centre of their head or even collect their clothes and even wood (wood represents money). They sleep with the native doctors to cement the oath.

They leave anything collected from them in the shrine of the native doctors and they are made to swear not to reveal it because if they do they will die, same with their families or they will go mad which will also apply to their families. The native doctors will keep anything collected in a safe place in the shrine; those things collected will be given back to the victims after payment.

When such victims are intercepted and they have not finished paying, NAPTIP follows them to the native doctors to reverse the oath and they are taken care of by NAPTIP in a place called shelter (this shows the government is trying in the curbing of the menace), while the victims are and their traffickers are arrested and taken to court, when the victims are safe they are established by training them in different skills and those that want to continue their education are sponsored by the government so that they can fend for themselves.

Different facts were discovered, some facts derived based on general questions on human trafficking are; a lot of people are aware that human trafficking exist in Nigeria. Also, it was

discovered that majority of the respondents have been victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, the study found that women and children are the most vulnerable group.

The age bracket of those trafficked was also examined which showed that the age bracket of those trafficked is between 15–25. It was confirmed that Edo state is among the states with the highest percentage of human trafficking in Nigeria. In an average of every 10 persons there is usually a victim of human trafficking in Nigeria.

One other debated issue is whether victims are forcefully/coerced or willingly submitted themselves to be into trafficking business, the paper discovered that majority of the victims may have not submitted themselves voluntarily to be trafficked.

To lend credence to this, It was also discovered that trafficking is usually done with the consent of the parents and guardians. Moreover, it was revealed from the study that most of the trafficked victims may not have a firsthand knowledge of the business they would do in their destination. Conclusively, there was another argument on whether victims improve their standard of living and those of the families, an investigation into this claim yielded mixed reactions.

Eight major causes were identified and highlighted as the major causes of human trafficking and these include; the current economic situation in the country, socio economic status of the traffickers and their victims, poverty and unemployment, ignorance and illiteracy, lack of goodwill from the government and some other related agencies saddled with the responsibility of curbing the menace in the country.

The result indicated that poverty and unemployment top the list of the major causes of human trafficking in Nigeria. Also, it was discovered that ignorance and illiteracy were also a major factor affecting the high rate of human trafficking in Nigeria. In addition, apart from ignorance and illiteracy, the current state of the economy was also seen as the major causative factor of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Other factors such as socio economic status of the traffickers, lack of strong institutional framework, family upbringing and lack of goodwill on the part of government respectively. Surprisingly, it was however discovered that the sexual urge of the victims was not a critical factor influencing the human trafficking in Nigeria.

Several effects were noted. The result of the study indicates that of all the effects, the country's image abroad is the most dented as far as the negative consequences of human trafficking is concerned. Furthermore, another noticeable effect of human trafficking in Nigeria is that it has increased the risk of HIV/AIDS among the victims.

Still, another negative effect of human trafficking in Nigeria is that it increases the rate of school drop outs and consequently retards child's development. In addition, the negative effect of this socio malady on nation's building and on violence and crime rate cannot be overemphasized.

Seven possible remedies to human trafficking in Nigeria were identified in this paper. Top among the list is the creation of jobs and employment opportunities for the people. It was also generally believed that by mapping a strong security outfits in and around our borders, the incidence of human trafficking will be reduced. In addition, enacting a law that will prohibit and prosecute offenders can go a long way to solve the incessant cases of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Other remedies for curbing human trafficking includes, whistle blowing, punishment and collaboration with government agencies and the international communities to nip the problem in the bud.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Trafficking has a complex socio-economic and political basis linked to larger, global processes. It is not simply a social or moral problem to be treated with casual initiatives, as they do not address poverty or related issues of vulnerability and discrimination in strategic or sustainable ways. Trafficking is a development concern, which requires a balanced, layered and integrated approach, built on a foundation of rights-based principles and standards.

UNESCO focuses its recommendations on the prevention side of the fight against human trafficking.

Prevention requires long-term thinking and interventions on three levels, primary (stopping things before they happen), secondary (limiting the number of cases that occur) and tertiary (limiting the extent of the cases and their damaging impact.) The following recommendations are proposed in compliance with this requirement:

- **Legal Actions:** Further ratify international legal instruments aimed at protecting human rights and combating human trafficking, including the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990), the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000).

Effectively implement all of the ratified international laws and regulations, in particular the Palermo protocol (2000), the UNCRC, the ILO Convention No. 182 and the CEDAW, in order to provide an environment conducive to the elimination of human trafficking in Nigeria. The focus must be on all forms of trafficking including trafficking in children, and not limited to trafficking for prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Federal Government and transit and destination countries. Continue regional and international cooperation between NGOs and government institutions and honour the existing bilateral agreements to uphold international human rights.

Harmonize laws against trafficking at the regional level, especially between English and French speaking countries, and encourage all the countries in the region to enact laws to fight trafficking in persons where they have not done so.

Adopt and implement the Child Rights Act of 2003 in all Nigerian States. Revise anti-trafficking measures and laws so as to address all forms of trafficking as well as the protection of trafficked

persons. Replace anti-migratory policies with policies that inform and empower citizens migrate safely. At the national level it may be too early to rush into immediate reform as the laws are still in an early stage, thus some further experience is necessary in order to identify grey areas.

- Policy Changes; Give a human face to the poverty alleviation programmes with active participation and access available to all, especially women at the lowest level of poverty. Implement a peer review mechanism at the ECOWAS level to ensure that every member state is working hard to improve its economy in order to eradicate poverty. Carry out more policy-oriented research on the various manifestations of human trafficking in Nigeria, in particular on socio-cultural factors increasing vulnerability.

There is a need for the different agencies including the Hajj Board, the Department of Immigration and the police to check the harmful effects of the annual pilgrimage on human trafficking in Nigeria.

Develop concerted and clearly articulated strategies to combat human trafficking in Nigeria along with a national plan of action and reliable information with the active collaboration of all strategic stakeholders such as the government, NGOs, international agencies, as well as representatives from urban and rural communities. Create anti-trafficking watchdog committees in rural areas across Nigeria. Such efforts should require the cooperation of community based organizations (CBOs) and law enforcement agents such as the Police and Immigration Departments. Give funds to all anti-trafficking agencies including National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the police and immigration to support their actions and improve efficiency. This measure would enable National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to ensure speedy prosecution of trafficking cases.

Establish witness protection programmes to encourage and protect trafficked persons who act as witnesses. Set up policies to create jobs for young graduates and school dropouts in Nigeria, the skill acquisition programmes of the government must be designed to meet the needs of the Nigerian people, create resource centers for the skills acquisition of rescued trafficked persons, develop facilities and social services for the reception, protection and reintegration of trafficked persons to prevent as much as possible the re-trafficking of the trafficked persons, further strengthen NGO networks and build alliances with migrant workers, including those in domestic work or prostitution, for the protection of the trafficked persons amongst them.

- Awareness-Raising and Training: in cooperation with UN agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF), implement the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme, which mandates free and compulsory education for every child up to junior secondary school level.

Establish a community education program for the prevention of child abuse and trafficking, with children as the main actors of the program. The initiative should consist of awareness-building in schools and elsewhere through drama, song, dance, sports, speeches and debates on harmful practices using children. Develop awareness raising and educational courses about HIV and AIDS

and human trafficking to better inform the public about the mutually reinforcing effects of these two phenomena.

Train community leaders regarding the manipulation of religious practice in human trafficking. Train community leaders on gender issues to address the perceptions of the role of women and men and how those perceptions relate to the phenomenon of trafficking. Involve traditional and religious leaders in the fight against trafficking and forced labour as these phenomena are often linked to customary practices and beliefs.

Train paralegal staff to work in communities to assist trafficked persons. Provide adequate training for police officers to sensitise them about trafficking, in particular regarding the causes of trafficking, the modus operandi of syndicates, the profile of trafficked persons and traffickers and how to identify and investigate the legal and social implications of the problem within and outside the country.

Educate recipient communities of repatriated trafficked persons so that they accept them without unnecessary and unfair stigmatization. This would prevent the re-trafficking of the repatriated person.

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