
Strategic Assessment of the Forms and Effects of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study is carried out in order to strategically assess the forms of trafficking on victims in Nigeria and the effects of human trafficking in Nigeria. Two objectives, two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated for the study. The study adopted a survey design method. The population of the study comprised trafficked Nigerian citizens, NAPTIP staff, staff of all the NGOs working in the area of trafficking and other international collaborators in Nigeria such as staff of International Office of Migration (IOM), staff of United Nation Children Education Fund (UNICEF), staff of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and staff of International Labour organization (ILO). A sample of 1450 teachers participated in the study. Simple random sampling technique was used to draw the sample. The instrument used for the study was a structured questionnaire. The results obtained proved that there are various forms of Human Trafficking common in Nigeria that range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school to business opportunities abroad. The result also proved that there is significant effect of human trafficking on the health of trafficked victims in Nigeria such as low self-esteem, doom to their fate and danger to their lives. One of the recommendations was that government should enlighten members of the society on the tricks and forms of human trafficking used by the tricksters to deceive people as well as enlightening people on the trafficked persons danger and stigmatization.

KEYWORDS: Forms, Effects, Human Trafficking, Victims and Nigeria.

Introduction

Human trafficking has received increased global attention over the years. Initially the term traffic was first used to refer to the white slave trade in women around 1900. The trafficking and voluntary migration of white women from Europe to Arab and Eastern States as concubines or prostitutes was of particular concern to European middle class men, women and governments. The result was the creation of an international agreement for suppression of the white slave trade in 1904. As at that time, traffic meant the movement of women for inimical purpose as well as closely linked to slavery. Initially the definition required the crossing of country borders but by 1910 it changed to acknowledge that trafficking in women could occur within national boundaries. Right from then, human trafficking became a global problem and even decades after the 1900s.

Trafficking of women and girls for forced sex, work and other forms of exploitation has become the sole focus of advocacy and assistance. Today, there is recognition that women, children and men are trafficked into many different forms of labour, and for sexual exploitation (World Health Organisation, 2012). In Nigeria the trend involves both internal and external trafficking. According to UN Gift Facebook Posting (2012), 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year; out of this number 70% are female while others are children. It is common knowledge that around 1990s, the trend for international prostitution especially in destination countries like Italy was alarming. Uhimwen (2006) submitted that it was a common sight in the early 1990s to see bold headlines stories on national dailies of Nigerian girls involved in international prostitution being deported from Italy back to Nigeria. He added that the situation was so appalling that every black woman in Italy was seen as a potential prostitute. At that time there was increasing evidence showing many states in Nigeria that were being affected by the problem as source, transit, destination or a mixture of these three components. Hence this study which is to bring to limelight the possible forms of trafficking, the effects and the way forward.

Statement of problem

The involvement of Nigerians in human trafficking has painted Nigeria in a very bad light. Trafficking in persons not only has consequences for the individual, but also for the community and country. Words cannot adequately describe the profound trauma a victim goes through. Some of the short-term and long-term effects include physical damage due to violent encounters, sexually transmitted infections include AIDS, stunted growth among minors, anemia and other diseases caused by poor living condition, drug dependency, and severe psychological damage. In addition, most victims suffer from guilt, shame and a loss of self-esteem. If and when trafficked victims return to communities, they are often stigmatized and ostracized from the family and the community. This study therefore seeks to find out the forms of human trafficking and its effects on Nigerian victims.

Objectives of the Study

This study specifically seeks to:

1. Strategically assess the forms of Human Trafficking common in Nigeria.
2. Determine the effects of human trafficking on victims in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions will be answered:

1. What are the forms of Human Trafficking common in Nigeria?
2. What are the effects of human trafficking on victims in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Concept of Human Trafficking

All over the world, trafficking in human beings has been recognized as not only a serious crime, but an abuse of individual's human rights. According to the United Nations (UN), it is one of the

fastest growing areas of international criminal activity, as it often involves a number of different crimes, spanning different countries and involving an increasing number of victims.

Human trafficking in India is a complex process, and often starts with family members handing over responsibility for the safety and well-being of the trafficked person to others known to them, but then ending up trafficked by a third set of persons and into the profession as a Commercial Sex Worker (CSW), commonly known as a prostitute. The term 'prostitute' has always aroused a range of hostile feeling and perceptions. However, till date no society has been able to eradicate or abolish it. In India available statistics on trafficking are limited and contested. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act 1956, now Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), was enacted in pursuance of India's international commitment on ratifying the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic of Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of others (signed at New York on 9th May, 1950).

Legislation on the subject of suppression of immoral traffic did exist in a few States but the laws were neither uniform nor did they go far enough. In the circumstances, it became necessary that a Central law be passed which would not only secure uniformity but also be sufficiently deterrent for the purpose. The importance of prevention of trafficking is irrefutable, but somehow, the entire focus of ITPA appears to be on eliminating prostitution rather than prevention of trafficking in persons. It is noteworthy that in the continuum of anti-trafficking initiatives, law formulation and enforcement is more or less restricted to the area of raid, rescue, and repatriation and to a limited extent the rehabilitation aspect. There is a marked absence of any standard guideline for intervention or law enforcement in preventing trafficking from occurring in India. Prostitution in itself is not an offence under the Act, save in the manner given in Sections 7 and 81 of the ITPA. Yet the rights of these CSWs/ victims of trafficking are often violated (Akee, Bedi, Basu, and Chau 2010).

Forms of Human Trafficking

- 1. Child Labour:** Child labour refers to the employment of *children* in any work that deprives children of their childhood privileges, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful.
- 2. Child Sex Trafficking:** Thousands of children are lured, sold, or kidnapped for the purpose of sexual exploitation in hotels, night clubs, brothels, massage parlors, private residences, on sex tours e.t.c. annually. Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for minors, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and sometimes death.
- 3. Debt Bondage:** Bonded labour is similar to slavery, because it involves a debt that cannot be paid off in a reasonable time. The employer/enforcer artificially inflates the amount of debt, often adding exorbitant interest or charges for living expenses, deducting little or nothing from the debt and increasing the amount of time the individual must work. It is a cycle of debt where there is no hope for freedom.

4. **Involuntary Domestic Servitude:** Involuntary servitude occurs when a domestic worker becomes ensnared in an exploitative situation they are unable to escape. Typically, in private homes, the individual is forced to work for little or no pay while confined to the boundaries of their employer's property. This isolation keeps them from communicating with family or any other type of support network, increasing the subjection to psychological, physical and sexual abuse.
5. **Child Soldiers:** It is illegal to recruit through force, fraud, or coercion of children under the age of 18 as combatants or in other roles associated with a conflict, such as messengers, sex slaves wives', servants, or cooks.

Effects of human trafficking on victims

It is quite obvious that a number of studies have identified the serious and often complex mental health needs of victims of human trafficking. The majority of research related to the mental health needs of this population focuses on the significant levels of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (International Organization for Migration, 2006; Pico-Alfonso, 2005; Zimmerman et al., 2006). As stated by American Psychiatric Association (APA), (2005), victims of human trafficking have often "experienced, witnessed, or been confronted with an event or events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or others" and their response to these events frequently involves "intense fear, helplessness, or horror." Moreover, according to statistics by the U.S. Department of State, globally, 2 million children are trafficked into the sex trade each year.

The children suffer from lack of self-esteem, emotional disturbance, disorientation, and depression and are scarred for life. They develop deep psychological disorders that they struggle with for the rest of their lives even if they have been rescued. Thus, in seasons when extra hands are needed, families see no contradiction in withdrawing girls from school so that they can help, because all children are considered a family resource at all times (Adepoju, 1997). As it can be observed, Psychological vulnerability hinders trafficked victims from having a healthy state of mind in the future. The children are likely to become withdrawn and tend to be suicidal. Any children born to the victims of prostitution are taken away at the time of birth causing further mental agony to the mothers. In fact, the longer the victims have been enslaved, greater will be their traumatic experience. Victims suffering from complex trauma often experience depression, anxiety, self-hatred, dissociation, substance abuse, despair, and somatic ailments.

Individuals exposed to this type of trauma are also at heightened risk for self-destructive and risk-taking behaviors as well as re-victimization, and tend to experience difficulty with interpersonal and intimate relationships (Courtois, 2008). Future incorporation of this diagnosis into the DSM-V may have significant implications for the diagnosis and treatment of victims of human trafficking. While victims of human trafficking can suffer from a range of mental health problems, the most prominent and those for which there is significant research documenting their presentation tend to be anxiety disorders, mood disorders, dissociative disorders, and substance-related disorders. While the future diagnosis of complex trauma in this population is possible, the uncertainty of its inclusion in the DSM-V prohibits extensive examination of evidence-based research regarding the treatment of this disorder.

A study of sex workers in Lome in 1992 showed that nearly 80 per cent of the women tested were HIV positive. Sadly, they are often charged as collaborators of the crimes rather than being seen as victims. They are kept in very poor conditions with sub-standard clothing and food, unhygienic living conditions and no provision for healthcare. They are also often physically and sexually abused by their employers and 'clients' for non-compliance with demands. This is a very gruesome picture of the face of our society, hiding behind a wall. Another point to be noted here is that the victims are deprived of education and all human rights. The victims may be used as bonded labor in their own country or transported to another country whereupon arrival, their passports and migration documents are taken away from them, leaving them helpless and immobile (Fanou-Ako et al. (2004), Nagel, 2000; Human Rights Watch, 2003). The victims always struggle to gain acceptance in society from the stigma after being rescued. This illegal trafficking often intermingles with other crimes such as smuggling of drugs and ammunition. Corruption is so widespread in our world that the greed for wealth only further encourages trafficking of humans to flourish, with no barriers. In such a scenario, the development of a stable and robust society seems like a distant dream.

Child victims of human trafficking require specialized attention by mental healthcare providers. The most common presentations for victims of child sexual exploitation are substance-related disorders, dissociative disorders, impulse control, conduct disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, antisocial personality traits, and most or all of the Axis IV psychological and environment problems. Mood and anxiety disorders such as obsessive compulsive disorder and PTSD are also common; however, presentation for these disorders may be less overt due to self-medication and/or use of other survival skills (Alexander et al., 2005). Some studies have found that concurrence of victimization and developmental milestones can exacerbate psychological consequences (Office for Victims of Crime, 1998). Little is known about the presentation of PTSD in children. Lack of information is due, in part, to the fact that identification of PTSD in children has been more recent than its recognition in adults (Pfefferbaum, 1997). In a related study, it was discovered that while children might initially respond to trauma through a "fight or flight" response, long-term trauma without relief can result in children responding through immobilization followed by dissociation (Perry, Pollard, Blakley, Baker, & Vigilante, 1995). Some evidence suggests that girls are at higher risk for re-victimization than boys, while boys are more likely to develop aggressive behavior as a result of their victimization. This evidence suggests the need for distinct, targeted treatment for boys and girls (Office for Victims of Crime, 1998).

METHODS

Research Design

The research design adopted for the study was inferential in nature

Area of the study

The area used for the study was Nigeria.

Population of the study

The population of this study was drawn from Six (6) Geopolitical Regions in the country. Specifically, the study included all the trafficked victims, NAPTIP staff, staff of all the NGOs

working in the area of trafficking and other international collaborators in Nigeria such as staff of International Office of Migration (IOM), staff of United Nation Children Education Fund (UNICEF), staff of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and staff of International Labour organization (ILO).

Sample and Sampling Technique

The study made use of 1,450 subjects including both male and female respondents. Simple random sampling was used with the hat and draw method to select the samples.

Instrumentation

The instrument used for this study was structured questionnaire developed by researcher.

Validation of the Instrument

The validity of the instrument was established by the test developer with a test-retest reliability of .64 and significant at 0.05 levels. The instrument used for the study was made to pass through face and content validity to ascertain it's usage.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument was tested by carrying out a pilot test on 150 persons outside the study area. The aim was to check for clarity and appropriateness of the test. Data collected were analyzed item by item. The result obtained indicated that the instrument was reliable for the intended purpose.

Procedure for Collecting Data

The researcher used a letter of introduction to the respondents for acceptance and assistance.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were subject to appropriate statistical analysis. For the purpose of this study, inferential statistics were employed.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Results

Research Question one: The research question sought to find out what are the forms of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Table 1: Respondents views on various forms of human trafficking that range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school and to business opportunities abroad.

Responses	Respondents	Percentage
SA	480	48%
A	220	22%
D	200	20%
SD	100	10%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

Table 1 indicates that 480 persons representing 48% of the respondents strongly agreed that various forms of human trafficking range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school and to

business opportunities abroad. 220 persons representing 22% of the respondents supported the statement, 200 persons representing 20% disagreed, whereas 100 persons representing 10% strongly disagreed with the assertion.

Table 2: Respondents views on whether the effects of human trafficking on victims can lead to low self-Esteem, spell doom to their fate and endanger their lives.

Responses	Respondents	Percentage
SA	605	60.5%
A	172	17.2%
D	88	8.8%
SD	135	13.5%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

From Table 2, it could be seen that 60.5% of respondents strongly agreed that the effects of human trafficking on victims can lead to low self esteem, spell doom to their fate and endanger their lives. 17.2% agreed to this, 8.8% disagreed while 13.5% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposition.

Hypothesis One

Ho: There are no forms of Human Trafficking in Nigeria.

The table below presents respondents' views on whether there are various forms of human trafficking that range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school to business opportunities abroad. To establish the validity of the hypothesis, Chi-Square analysis was applied to determine the degree of association.

Table 3: Chi-Square Contingent Table

Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe) ²	$\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$
480	25	455	207,025	8,281
220	25	195	38,025	1,521
200	25	175	30,625	1,225
100	25	75	5,625	225
1,000	100			11,252 (112.52%)

At 3 degree of freedom with 0.05 significance level, the table value of chi-square is 7.81. The calculated Chi-Square as seen in table 3 is 11,252 representing 112.52%. Since the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value, it therefore follows that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative accepted. This means that there are various forms of human trafficking that range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school and to business opportunities abroad.

Hypothesis Two

Ho: There are no effects of human trafficking on victims.

The table below presents respondents’ views on whether there are effects of human trafficking on victims that can lead to low self esteem, spell doom to their fate and endanger their lives. To establish the validity of the hypothesis, Chi-Square analysis was applied to determine the degree of association.

Table 4: Chi-Square Contingent Table

Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe)²	$\frac{[(Fo-F)^2]}{Fe}$
605	25	580	336,580	3,365.8
172	25	147	21,609	864.36
88	25	63	3,969	39.69
135	25	110	12,100	121
1,000	100			4,390.85 (43.10)

At 3 degree of freedom with 0.05 significance level, the table value of chi-square is 7.81. The calculated Chi-Square as seen in table 4 is 4,390.85 representing 43.10%. Since the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value, it therefore follows that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative accepted. This means that there are diverse effects of human trafficking on victims that can lead to low self esteem, spell doom to their fate and endanger their lives.

Discussion of findings

The result of the first hypothesis disclosed that there are various forms of human trafficking that range from deceit to learn a trade, enroll in school to business and economic opportunities abroad. In accordance with Bureau of Public Affairs, United States Department, which states that “Although labour and sex trafficking are usually analyzed as separate trafficking in persons issues, victims of both forms of trafficking often share a common denominator: their trafficking ordeal started with a migration in search of economic alternatives”. The result is therefore significant.

The result of the second hypothesis made known that there are effects of human trafficking on victims that can lead to low self esteem, spell doom to fate and endanger their lives. In support to the findings of this hypothesis, American Psychiatric Association (APA), (2005:467) maintained that “...victims of human trafficking have often experienced, witnessed, or been confronted with an event or events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or others” and their response to these events frequently involves “intense fear, helplessness, or horror.”

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the research work, it was concluded that there are various forms of Human Trafficking common in Nigeria that range from deceit to learn a trade, to enroll in school to business opportunities abroad. There are significant effects of human trafficking on the health of trafficked victims in Nigeria such as low self-esteem, doom to their fate and danger to their lives.

Recommendations

From the result of the analysis, the researcher submits the following recommendations:

1. Government should enlighten members of the society on the tricks and forms of human trafficking used by the tricksters to deceive people as well as enlightening people on the trafficked persons' danger and stigmatization.
2. The bureau of labour should screen every recruitment agencies or individuals to ascertain the validity, authenticity and the address of the recruiters before such agencies and individuals put up an employment notice.
3. The leaders in various social and public groups should encourage hard work among young people; discourage the idea of "quick money", "overnight success" and every form of trafficking to avert the effects as the prevention of trafficking is irrefutable.
4. Government should see the need to ensure that adequate funds are made available for rehabilitation of the ex-victims.
5. Government should provide appropriate measures to ensure that victims who were intercepted do not look for other means of travelling out of the country and also ensure that they are fully rehabilitated and re-integrated into the society.

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