

Trafficking of Women and Children in Nigeria: A Critical Approach

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Abstract

Trafficking in human beings though is defined differently by different individuals. However, is one out of Trans-border crimes which represent a number of illegal and notorious' human trading activities carried out by individuals or groups across notional and international borders, either for financial or economic benefits or for sociological cam religious considerations? Trafficking in human beings, especially women and girls, is not new, historically it has taken many forms, hut in the context of globalization, it has acquired shocking new dimensions. It is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon involving multiple stake holders 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 framework or trained personnel to prevent it. The persistence of harmful cultural practices, the growth of the rich and influence of organized crime and lack of young women and children to sexual and force labour exploitation required concerted and constant attention Nigeria has acquired a reputation for being one of the leading African countries in human trafficking with cross-border and trafficking. This research work attributed reasons to the institutionalized violation of human rights and severe political, social and economic crises due to decades of military regimes in Nigeria, poverty also led to drive for better life either pushed or pulled women, girl or child to the mare vulnerable to trafficking. Nigeria ratified tile UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons' and by enacted trafficking in persons (prohibition) law enforcement and administration Act 2003, established an office of National Agency for the Prohibition of trafficking in persons, media houses campaigns against the act and many awareness raising activities. Despites this initiatives, human trafficking remains a critical problem in Nigeria. There is a continuing need for further ratification and implementation of international legislation along with the use of nation legal tools currently available to fight against trafficking in human beings. It is on this note, that this research examined agencies, NGOs and individual trafficking, in human beings it is on this note, that this research examined the causes of human trafficking, the extent, patterns and frequencies, more so, government agencies, NGOs and individual effort to curb the menace and the challenges confronting the campaign against trafficking in persons..

Introduction

To stem the rising tide in human trafficking in Nigeria, the government has set up machineries and embarked on legislations while aligning with international protocols as both preventive and deterrent measures. In 2001, it ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially. Women and Children as well as passed a national law in 2003–Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003. Through this act, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was established (David-Odigie. 2008). Nigeria is one of the few countries in Africa to have passed a national law against trafficking,

Section 4 of the Nigerian Trafficking law empowers the NAPTIP to coordinate all the laws on trafficking in persons in the country. Thus, all laws on human trafficking at the state level became subordinate to the national law on trafficking. Certain chapters of the constitution provide protection for vulnerable groups including women and children. However, the sanctions against infringements of these provisions are too weak. Criminals are frequently allowed to escape serious human rights abuses with impunity (UNICEF, 2001). The result is a distrust of the legal system and its punishments. Consequently, there is a need for strong institutional tools to identify and punish human traffickers. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Nigeria and implemented by the Child Rights Act of 2003.

The Child Rights Act deals comprehensively with the issue of child trafficking in Nigeria. Unfortunately, this Act has not been adopted by all the States of the Federation and so its effectiveness cannot be fully measured.

Trafficking in women was criminalized in Nigeria by the criminal code in 1904 and the penal code in 1960. However, the criminal penal codes did not deal with the issue comprehensively enough, failing to accurately define what constitutes trafficking and leaving its various forms unaddressed. Instead, they only defined those offences related to the external and internal trafficking for prostitution and slavery. Section 279 of the Penal Code reads:

“Whoever imports, exports removes, buys, sells, disposes, traffics, or deals in any person as a slave or accepts, receives or detains in any person against his will any person as a slave shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to fourteen year and shall also be liable to a fine.”

Although Nigeria’s trafficking law provides a unified approach for the first time, it is not without its shortcomings. The law adopts the definition of trafficking in persons as contained in the Palermo Protocol but deals more extensively with trafficking for prostitution and sexual exploitation than with trafficking for other forms of labor. This greatly limits its scope. Moreover, there are lapses in the provisions of the Nigerian trafficking law for the protection of trafficked persons and witnesses. It thereby falls short of the recommended human rights standard approach (GAATW, 2001). While it is noteworthy that the law criminalizes the transport of potentially trafficked persons by any commercial carrier with knowledge of the trafficking transaction, no commercial carrier has ever been charged.

Though still young and in need of necessary infrastructures for the effective execution of its mandate, NAPTTP has succeeded in effecting some arrests and prosecutions. In August 2004, for, example, the Agency prosecuted and convicted a woman trafficker in the Benin City High Court in Edo State of Nigeria and as at February 2006, NAPTIP’s efforts have yielded seven convictions: three in Benin City and two in Kano, two in Ijebu-Igbo Ogun State. There are also multiple cases pending that raise public awareness. NAPTIP also collaborates with the Nigerian Immigration Office, the police and NGOs and has established offices across the country. To date a total of four offices have been created: one each in Lagos, Benin City, Uyo and Kano. Two shelters were also set up in Lagos and Benin City in addition to a mini-shelter in Abuja. There is also a National Anti-Child Trafficking Network operating in 22 states of Nigeria with the support of the United States Department of State and UNICEF. Finally, both the police and immigration service have established Anti- Trafficking Units located at exit and entry points for trafficking and the Kano Immigration Command now issues annual reports of repatriations through the Kano Airport.

However, much still needs to be done as the problem still persists because it is a covert activity and thus the extent to which it occurs remains unknown, Non-governmental organizations like Women trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) has also been involved in the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, rehabilitation, retraining and counseling of repatriated trafficked people and their activities have received worldwide support as well as local recognition for their contribution towards curbing the menace. (www.comminit.com/en/node).

In accordance with the national law allowing individual states the right to amend, Edo State recently added new provisions to the criminal code. These provisions had some positive effects: for the first time they made it a crime for third parties, i.e. sponsors and traditional priests, to facilitate the secret oath ceremony and/or to participate in it. Unfortunately, the Edo State amendment also criminalized prostitution, thereby alienating trafficked persons working in prostitution (CC of Edo State, 2001). Since the adoption of this law, there is no evidence that trafficking for prostitution in Edo State has been reduced. In fact, as of April 2004 the majority of repatriated trafficked persons for prostitution from Europe and West Africa were from Edo State. In addition, 25 trafficked Nigerian women were recently deported from the Republic of Benin and 23 of them were from Edo State. There have been no convictions since the enactment of this law.

The amendment also provided for compulsory STDs and HIV tests for deported trafficked persons. This provision violates international human rights standards which permit testing for HIV only with the informed consent of the individual. Nonetheless, state liaison offices are given details of trafficked persons including their HIV and AIDS status for record purposes and “there is a standing order that such deportee victims should be prevented from traveling, outside Nigeria.”

Anti-migratory policies such as not issuing passports to single females from Edo State below the age of 25 years have not had any effect on the trafficking of Edo girls. Instead, traffickers have found other means of getting passports' and visas for trafficked persons. However, the policy has succeeded in discouraging and frustrating women from Edo State from traveling out of the country to pursue legitimate ventures, violating their fundamental rights. With an increased awareness of human trafficking, other Nigerian States are creating laws in response. There is already a law in Enugu State against child abuse that bans child trafficking. Efforts are also underway to arrest and prosecute traffickers. Unfortunately, few cases have been fully prosecuted. In a nutshell, human trafficking denies hundreds of thousands of people their basic human rights, poses a serious public health risk and fuels organized crime around the world. It is a dark and uncomfortable subject, but one that must be illuminated. Trafficking can only be eliminated through combined efforts at national, regional and international levels. When dealing with an issue of this importance and urgency, time is of the utmost essence. The world must come together to act as one in this regard. The world must stop the criminals and terrorists from using human trafficking as a resource, but even more importantly, the world must stop human trafficking in the name of common decency.

Definition of Basic Concepts

(A) Crime:

Crime is the breach of a rule or law for which a punishment may ultimately be prescribed by some governing authority or force. Paul Tappan defines crime as an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law (statutory or case law) committed without defense or justification and punished or sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor.

(B) Trans-border Crimes:

Represent a number of illegal and notorious activities carried out by individuals and groups across national and international borders, either for financial or economic benefits and also sociopolitical cum religious considerations, It is a set of criminal acts whose perpetrators and repercussions go beyond territorial borders it includes crime such as smuggling, human trafficking and child labour, drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal mining, advance fee fraud etc.

(C) Human Trafficking:

Is a form of slavery and it includes the movement of persons who are the victims and who are subject to violence, deception or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

(D) Traffickers:-

Refer 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 profit either directly or indirectly from trafficking, its component acts and related offences.

(E) Trafficked Persons:

Refers to the victims or 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 may include men, women, and children.

(F) Exploitation:-

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.

(G) Recruitment:-

Means transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered trafficking in person, even if the does not involve... (Any of the above listed means).

(H) Child:-

Means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age, who lack adequate experience of life and can easily be deceived.

Push Factors

Are factors resident in the victim of traffickers as well as the environment of the victim which tends to pushing him/her out of his/her present location such as; poverty, peer pressure, weak legal framework, restrictive migratory policies, lack of information, perversion of cultural, traditional and social realities, manipulation of religious rituals, HIV and AIDS, AIDS Orphans, and what have you?

(J) Pull Factors

Are factors resident in the projected location which tends to attract the victims which. Includes: Needs for low skilled labor, high profits, low risk and many others?

(K) Sustainable Development

Is development that meets the needs of the people without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs? It also means economic development maintained within acceptable levels of global resources depletion and environmental pollution. It is as well means development without polluting the environment.

(K) Development:

Means to cause to grow or change into a more advanced form', It is therefore the state of being developed. It also involved a qualitative and quantitative growth that occurred in an individual, group or nation.

(I) National Security:

Is the requirement to maintain the survival of the Nation State through the use of economic, military, and political power for the exercise of diplomacy? It simply means the protection of nation from attack, subversion or other danger by maintaining adequate armed forces and guarding state secrets. To branch out beyond their traditional parameters, take quick advantage of new opportunities, and move more readily into new geographic areas, The major international organized crime groups operate in the United States, Latin America, West Africa, Southeast Europe, Asia, Russia, and all other regions.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

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 affect 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 labor 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 neighboring West African countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea). European countries (Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom), North Africa (Libya, Algeria Morocco) and Middle Eastern countries (Saudi Arabia) UNESCO, (2006). 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 UNESCO, (2006). 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. Economic empowerment and reintegration programmes have tried to address the problem of human trafficking but they did not achieve the expected results. Awareness-raising activities proved to be more vigorous. Despite these initiatives, human trafficking remains a critical problem in Nigeria. There is a continuing need for the further ratification and implementation of international legislation along with the use of national legal tools currently available to fight against trafficking in human beings. The persistence of harmful cultural practices, the growth of the rich and influence of organized crime and the persistent loss of young women and children to sexual and forced labour exploitation require concerted and constant attention. It is against this backdrop that this research seeks to address the case of trans-border crimes in Nigeria with a specific focus Trafficking and National development.

Reasons for Trafficking In Human Beings, Especially Women and Children

In Nigeria, persons are trafficked for prostitution, to work as domestic servants, bus conductors, and street traders. They are exploited in agricultural work, brass melting, stone digging, and scavenging.

A. Prostitution

Nigerian women and children are trafficked both internally and externally for sex. In the last decade, thousands of women and young girls were trafficked into the sex industry, especially into Europe, so that many people in Nigeria came to equate trafficking with prostitution alone and not with other forms of labor. Traffickers recruit girls from countryside markets, salons and other public places. Usually such persons are instructed not to tell their parents that they are planning to travel out of the country. With the help of corrupt immigration officers, traffickers switch pages from stolen passports having valid visas with those of the trafficked persons, giving fake names, ages and other particulars. The trafficked persons are then coached to claim that they have been traveling in and out of the country, whereas they may never have even left their villages. Upon arriving at their destinations, they are deprived of their travel documents and made to sign agreements to pay back their Madams (Darnbazau, A.B., 2007). In addition, prior to their travels or reaching their destinations trafficked persons' body parts such as pubic hairs, finger nails, menstrual flows, as well as underwear and photograph are taken from them and sent to Juju priests in Nigeria to ensure obedience. Many of the girls are also coerced with threats to kill their parents and other relatives if they do not cooperate (Aderanti Adepoju, 2006).

Prostitution in Nigeria is perceived as an aberrant and immoral act and is considered a sin, especially according to the religious teachings of Islam and Christianity prevalent in the country. In the northern part of Nigeria, the penal code is fashioned along Islamic laws and criminalizes prostitution (Nigerian Penal Code, Cap 345 of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990). In the southern part of Nigeria, the criminal code does not criminalize prostitution but does prohibit the operation of brothels and forbids anyone from living on the earnings of prostitutes (Criminal Code Act, Cap 77 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990). Overall, the degree of tolerance of prostitution differs from community to community. For example, many communities in Edo State trivialize the issue. Trafficking for prostitution is only publicly recognized as an external phenomenon while internal trafficking for prostitution, which has been going on for decades, is not publicly recognized. Extensive literature on the trafficking of Nigerians for sex in Europe and the Middle East has drawn national and international attention to the issue. Interventions targeted at the known sources of recruitment, for trafficked persons often focus on Edo State, to the disadvantage of other parts of the country also implicated.

B. Domestic Help

Urban migration and poverty have saturated the labor market, especially the informal labor market, and led to the systematic reduction of the cost of labor. As a result, cheap labor in the informal sector, particularly domestic labor, grew as the economic crisis obliged every member of the family to work outside their homes to sustain family finances. The following narratives capture the experiences of trafficked children in Nigeria for domestic help as documented by UNESCO, 2006 research;

Elizabeth, a native of Benue State in the Middle Belt of Nigeria. Never had any form of education because her parents were poor. Her brother brought her to Lagos along with other girls for domestic service work. She is employed by a Madam to work in a food joint. With this "Madam", she earns Naira 2, 000 (US \$15) monthly. The money is kept by her brother for her father in Benue State, for the upkeep of the family.

Elizabeth wakes up at 4.30 a.m. and is asleep by 1.30 a.m. She is running a 21 hour work day, 7 days a week. She is also responsible for taking care of the house on return from the restaurant often her employer beats and curses at her. Obviously, Elizabeth is under a lot of pressure, she has not seen her brother since she started work and her Madam told her that she had a two- year contract with her. The young girl summed up her feeling like follows: "I wish I had a place I can go to. This suffering is too much to bear."

Bisi, 14 years old girl as at 2006 is the only child of her mother. She worked as house help for three years. Her father has three wives, and Bisi's mother left her because she did not have enough money to care for her child. Bisi left her lust Madam because she was raped by one of the Madam's children who also warned her not to tell anyone. She became pregnant and moved to another Madam. "I was too afraid to tell them who impregnated me because my Madam will not believe me and Uncle Bayo will kill me... Nobody can care for me like my parents." Prepubescent girls are recruited from States in the north with a promise to their parents that they will be trained or will work and accumulate a dowry for when they get married. Girls, some, as you'l'g as seven years old, are thus brought to places like Lagos and Ibadan and given out as domestic servants, beggars or street traders. They are usually paid N 3,000 (around US \$ 23) a month, half of which goes to the traffickers as a "fee", One such female trafficker was intercepted by the police in Lagos in March 2005 with 40 girls between the ages of 7 and 17 years old.

C. "Diya" Or "Blood Money"

A form of trafficking currently under investigation takes place in the northern part of Nigeria and involves the luring of young children to Saudi Arabia to be killed for blood money known as "diya" The method is quite simple: the trafficker, often female, takes a child trafficked to Saudi Arabia to go shopping; when she spots an affluent Arab's car, she pushes the child in the path of the car to get run over and possibly killed. There are two types of penalties for anyone who kills another human being in Saudi Arabia. The first is the death penalty; the second is the offering compensation to the relatives of the dead victim, if the relatives accept ("diya"). The trafficker opts for the second option and obtains an equivalent of about Naira 3,500,000 (local currency, equivalent to some US \$27,000). The trafficker returns to Nigeria and informs the parents of the trafficked child that the child died of natural causes. The trafficker pays the parents about Naira 100,000 an equivalent (about US \$775) as the wages of the child while in Saudi Arabia. Parents do not typically probe the trafficker's story, often accepting the death of the child as the will of Allah. Many simply accept the supposed ages. There is little research on this form of trafficking, but our interviews suggest that those recruited are women and children from poor family backgrounds and rural communities (Yakubu and UNESCO, 2004).

D. Begging

Another type of trafficking in northern Nigeria is the trafficking for organized begging. Physically challenged or disabled persons, such as the blind and crippled, are lured into the begging business in major Nigerian cities, such as Lagos, Ibadan, Kano and Kaduna, and Abuja. Recently, this type of trafficking has spread beyond the country's borders to the Middle East, in particular to Saudi Arabia. Contractual beggars are often adults of both sexes.

According to research conducted by Yakubu and UNESCO, (2004), physically challenged or handicapped persons are hired on a daily basis for begging assignments with a token fee of often no more than Naira 500 (some US \$3.8). There are rampant abuses involved with this kind of arrangement. The 'investor' only releases the trafficked person when he has made sufficient profit. The physically challenged are often carried on their back, in a wheel burrow or wheel chair and taken around town from sunrise to sunset, often under harsh weather and dangerous traffic conditions. Furthermore, experienced adult beggars traffic children under their custody. These children are then compelled to lead the handicapped into organized begging. They are forced to do this for practically nothing or without any financial reward other than the daily meals that may be handed out to them along the streets. These trafficked children who lead beggars across the major cities of Nigeria are denied access to formal education and proper social upbringing in 1995, the Saudi Arabian authorities deported 18 Nigerian men for running a ring that trafficked in women and beggars.

E. Baby Harvesting

According to UNESCO (2006), it was discovered that states like Abia, Ebonyi and Lagos, has many clinics and orphanages where doctors, nurses and orphanages caretakers "help" pregnant teenagers, and other women who do not want to keep their babies after birth. They care for these women during pregnancy and provide money and shelter. Upon delivery the babies are sold to couples who pay a premium for the babies of their choice.

The young mothers are paid off after having signed papers repudiating their claims on the babies or swearing oaths of secrecy. Officials, recently handled case of two sisters who approached a doctor in Lagos with an offer to sell the unborn child of one of the sisters. They demanded N 500,000 (about US \$3875) and N 300,000 (about US \$ 2325) for a baby boy and baby girl respectively. Later they raised the price of a baby girl to N 400,000 (about US \$3100) because of “the rising cost of living.” Another case was that of the Good Shepherd Orphanage in Lagos which was reported to be engaged in illegal adoption of babies as well as sheltering young pregnant girls and selling off their babies at birth. Many of these babies sold cannot be traced and one cannot determine what became of them (www.unesdoc.unesco.org/irimages/0014).

F. Trafficking For Use in Armed Conflict

It has been estimated that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world. Some children join fighting forces due to poverty or abuse, while others are abducted and forced to join them. Children are particularly vulnerable to combat zone or orphaned or if they have limited access to education. The phenomenon of child soldiers has been common to almost all recent African conflicts. Child soldiers are used by a variety of armed groups, including pro-government paramilitary groups, militias and self-defense units, as well as insurgent groups in challenging central government, or in conflict with Governments over political power, natural resources and/or territorial control. According to estimates by United Nations agencies and major non-governmental organizations active in the combat against the phenomenon, in West and Central Africa, over 70,000 former child soldiers have been involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes since 1998, while thousands remain associated with armed forces and groups in Western and Central Africa. Often (though not always) negotiated peace agreements and ongoing peace processes do not bring any real peace to the lives of trafficked children: after they are deprived of their childhood, they may continue to be exploited by being moved to other exploitative situations or deprived the opportunities offered by DDR programmes.

G. Precipitating Factors

The supply and demand equation is typically described in terms of “push” and “pull” factors. These factors have a global resonance, but vary in local emphasis and scale. While armed conflict distorts and magnifies conditions of hardship and insecurity and creates fertile conditions for trafficking in all commodities, it is ultimately poverty, high unemployment and lack of opportunity, the quest for a means of survival, that is the engine driving trafficking in humans. The push/pull factors are two sides of the same coin that make women and girls particularly vulnerable are rooted in systemic gender discrimination. It is important to remember that these explanatory factors can be mutually reinforcing and that some of the precipitating causes can also be the consequence of others. More research is required into the mechanics of these causes.

H. Push Factors

(1) Poverty

Although, Nigeria has enormous natural and human resources as it is the largest oil producer in Africa and the eleventh largest in the world (Afonja, S., 2001), yet it is rated as one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP per capita of about US \$1,000 (2005 est.) for a population of about 150 Million (UNPF, 2011) There is massive unemployment and a general Lack of opportunities for economic ventures, low standards of living, devalued local currencies and a failure to meet the health, food, habitat and security needs of the people. Populations living in political and economic instability often seek to migrate elsewhere in search of better opportunities. The destination of that migration is usually into bigger cities (Adepoju, A. (2005). The rural areas of Nigeria, where the bulk of the population resides, are not industrialized. There are few job opportunities or institutions of higher learning. Consequently, even when the children do receive basic education up to secondary school, there are no jobs at the end of their schooling nor additional institutions for them to attend. The economic situation is such that most parents are unable to care and properly feed their families. Parents subject their children to various forms of labor, including trafficking for economic gains (Darnbazau, A.B., 2007).

Urban migration in Nigeria is not only internal. It also involves migration from poorer neighboring countries, especially from West Africa facilitated by the ECOWAS agreement on free movement of goods and persons. Political and economic instability in Nigeria’s northern neighboring countries (Chad, Mali, and Niger) creates an influx of the displaced into Nigeria.

The massive migration from rural communities to urban centers has had a negative impact on society. In urban centers, it has created a vast supply of human capital, especially in the informal labor market (domestic labor in particular), that greatly outweighs the demand. This has led to a systematic reduction in the cost of labor. During the dry season, or “criminal there is also a mass movement of peasants from the North to the South and newcomers to this seasonal trek are particularly vulnerable to traffickers. Traffickers promise lucrative job opportunities in the cities (Zachariab, 2004).

The majority of dry season migrants who fall prey to traffickers are unskilled males. They often migrate to work on plantations in Côte d’Ivoire, the Republic of Cameroon, and Gabon. When they end up in the cities, most of the unskilled migrants find work as security guards or watchmen of workplaces and the homes of the affluent. Due to poor wages and exploitative contracts, these migrants often end up in perpetual bondage, unable to return home.

2.8 Theoretical Framework

For George R. (1996), theory is defined “as a set of interrelated proposition that allows the systemization of knowledge, experience, and prediction of social life and the generation of new research hypothesis “. Meaning that a theory is a set of statement that say why and how several concepts are related, For a set of statement to qualify as a theory, it must be possible to deduce some conclusion from it that is subject to empirical verification. That is to say, theory must predict or prohibit certain observable events and conclusion.

Dambazau (2007:57) holds that “there are different types of crime committed by different types of people at different time in different places and under different circumstance”. Hence, any attempt therefore to find a fixed causal pattern of criminal behaviour is usually difficult most especially considering the fact that some criminological theories contain a set of assumption that deals with debate on free will/determinism and consensus/conflict. (Agbor, 2008)

2.8.1 Marxist I Economic Theory

This theory arise to correct the failure of most theories to relate the reality of crime to its overall social structure by employing pluralistic conflict model to analyze the different groups and classes with unequal access to the means of production and political power. Using the dialectical materialism as a spring board, economic infrastructure becomes the basis for the understanding of the other superstructure. The Marxist perspective is concerned with the process of law making, law breaking and enforcement and the contradictions that arises between the “form” and reality.” In addition, this perspective does not see crime as a willful violation ‘of the common good, but the struggle of the isolated individual against the prevailing socio-economic condition. That is to say that, Marxist views crime as a “forced response” to the inequality, socio economic disorder, and system generated by the excesses of the elite in the society. No wonder Richard Quinney (1970) cited in Steven Jones (2001) argued that whatever the physical reality of crime maybe it is the social reality that matters; the process by which a collective meaning of crime comes to be established and maintained. Thus, people who allow themselves to be trafficked are the product of the creation of the failures on the part of the economic infrastructures that is dictated and governed by the political infrastructure.

Similarly, Willem Bongor provides the first deeper insights to crime in relation to economic conditions in his book entitled “criminality and Economic Conditions” (1916). He is of the view that capitalism breeds and encourages egoism and greed rather than altruism. The advantages of the rich, the struggle of the middle class to make a living and the deprivation of the poor all directed those groups towards egoism. The lower level of the working class in particular has no reason to have altruistic feelings towards those in power. (Stephen 2001:223) Crime is more prevalent among the lower classes because they have little, if any security in their employment. Moreover, society which encouraged the poor to compete against each other for material gains criminalizes their greed yet does nothing about the greed of the rich (Stephen 2001:223). The poor are dehumanized, exploited by capitalism, a situation that cause status frustration and forced response in form of crime and revolution. Although Bongor (1916) cited in Stephen (2001) agrees that there are inborn differences between individuals which make some more liable to commit crimes more than the other, but still maintained that capitalism is the major driving force behind criminality. For us to understand the crime situation in Nigeria, especially financial and economic crime, we have to rely on applying the dialectical principle of Marxism. In this regard, we should understand the socio-economic factors that create the criminogenic circumstances that make human trafficking to flourish in society’s from a cross-cutting and development point of view.

To put in a different way, we cannot adequately comprehend the prevalence and perversity of trans-border crimes in Nigeria with a special reference to human trafficking in Nigeria without paying attention to the way and manner the social order is organized; the structural opportunities and crimino-genic risk factors created by that order in the form of poverty and unemployment, greed, deprivation, primitive accumulations and lack of accountability and transparency (Abdullahi 2006:40-41). This model describes criminal behaviour as the rational response to the contradictions of capitalism. It views organized crime as an integral part of capitalism.

No wonder, Roshier (1989) argued that when criminal organization becomes powerful they assume the characteristic of the most insatiable and predatory capitalist enterprise (the mafia in USA is a good example) where the social order is characterized by the accumulation of wealth on a global scale, inequality, competition and greed. It is against the backdrop of this theoretical construction that human trafficking which is a special brand of crime should be seen as the inner logic of dependant capitalism in Nigeria because it is some, parasitic elite class or selfish and greedy individuals that traffic humans to accumulate wealth by illegal means supported by "Will" to commit the crime and because of their vantage "opportunity" without any sense of decent morality and indulge in human trade and modern day slavery because of their network that will work to their favour to evade justice (Exit)

2.8.2 Social Learning Theory:-Operant Condition

Closely related to Sutherland theory of differential association is the work of (Robert Burgess and Robert Aker (1966) popularly called the operant conditioning which is purely a social learning theory (Hugh 1990:76). According to this theory, certain behaviours are learned because past examples have been rewarded. Thus people engage in crime because it has been more highly rewarded in the past or present than has other behaviour. Meaning some people become criminals and others do not because all persons do not go through the same socialization process, nor are they exposed to the same non-social situation of reinforcement (Hugh 1990).

In fact, this explain why some people choose to traffic and be trafficked while others do not because of whatever monetary gained as a result of different socialization process and reinforcement we are exposed to. The position of this theory therefore is that people choose to commit and don't commit crime based on their conviction. The same can be said of those who traffic human, and any other kinds of crime because of their orientation, socialization and moral upbringing that crime is considered a counter-culture, while those that commit crime do so out of their free will because of the rewards it brings to them and their associates regardless of the pains and danger it poses to the society.

In the same way Albert Bandura (1961) cited in Stephen Jones (2001: 380), advanced learning by association which is sometimes called modeling or social learning theory. Social learning theory claimed that behaviour is reinforced not only by reward and punishment as in operant learning, but also by observing the behaviour of others. Bandura (1961) further argued that there are three main aspects of the theory: external reinforcement which is the basis of operant conditioning; vicarious reinforcement which is gained through the observation of other people being reinforced or punished while self reinforcement relates to feeling of pride and achievement.

This argument is substantive enough to explain the crime situation in Nigeria especially in the crime of human trafficking. People through vicarious reinforcement get attracted to crime based on the so called "good life and the assumed wealth" the traffickers is able to throw around to lure unsuspecting individuals, group or even the collaboration by some parents to sending their children/child for trafficking purposes or deterred based on observing other people being reinforced or punished.

In fact, the sharp decline in societal values where people who stole public funds are applauded and branded "the true son of the land" with all manner of questionable titles and awards have eroded the feeling of accountability, transparency, and honest attitudes to hard work among some Nigerian of today. Gone are the days where people frown at ill-gotten wealth or corrupt persons. For those who choose to commit this kind of crime, it is no longer shameful to steal indulge in trafficking. This is partly because people who have been involved in human trafficking and its deals comes back wealthy and distributed money to their kinsmen are named heroes and reward with chieftaincy title and all kinds of awards. This development as perceived by this theory is reinforcement because; the rest people join in the crime to be equally rewarded; thus, the cycle continues.

He further observed that the physical skills which are necessary for the commission of a crime are learned from either observing or being taught by others. The nature of this learning together with the physical attributes of the offender determines the type of crime that is carried out. As people (offenders) become more skilled, they are able to select more appropriate target where they are likely to be successful and avoid detection.

This is exactly what human trafficking does by concealing, out-smarting the law enforcement, and taking advantage of weak legislation and enforcement and porous border.

Table 4.6: Control of Human Trafficking and Challenges in Nigeria

Do you think any of the following contribute to human trafficking in Nigeria	YES		NO		UNDECIDED		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Poverty and corruption	75	50	45	30	30	2	150	100
Greed and rich at all cost syndrome	90	60	30	20	30	20	150	100
Illiteracy, deceit and lack of information	50	33	90	60	10	7	150	100
Religious manipulation (almajiri etc)	120	80	5	3	25	17	150	100
Peer pressure	105	70	15	10	30	20	150	100
Vulnerability of HIV/AIDS orphan	90	60	40	27	20	3		
Weak legal and enforcement framework	60	40	70	47	20	13		

Sources: Field Work, 2013.

Table 12 above holds that 75 respondents (50%) said poverty and corruption contributes to human trafficking, greed and the unbridled crave for riches takes 60%, while 120 respondents believed that religion is use to manipulate human for selfish trafficking, weak legal and enforcement frame work (40) and vulnerable children of HIV/AIDS unemployment (96%), have also been identified as factors that contribute to human trafficking in Nigeria.

5.2 Conclusion

Human trafficking denies thousands of people their basic human rights, poses a serious public health risk, and fuels organized crime around the world. It is a dark and uncomfortable subject, but one that must be illuminated. Trafficking can only be eliminated through combined efforts at national, regional and international levels. When dealing with an issue of this importance and urgency, time is of the utmost essence. The world must come together to act as one in this regard. The world must stop the criminals and terrorists from using human trafficking as a resource, but even more importantly, the world must stop human trafficking in the name of common decency. No wonder, President Bush has made the fight against slavery an American priority and called on all Nations to step up their fight. In a September, 2003 speech he made to the United Nations, President Bush called slavery, “A special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent.” He further declared: “*Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others.*” Governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery. The toleration of human trafficking by any individual or government is an evil that must be erased from the face of the earth. Nothing less will suffice.

5.3 Recommendations

Government should also take positive steps to provide employment opportunities for the youth, and create an enabling environment for the private sector to invest and increase employment opportunities. This will include provision of infrastructure such as electricity, water, road and communication facilities as well as cheap credit.

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