

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN IN EDO
STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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MATRIC NO: 15/27/MPS002

**BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND
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BY

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September, 2018

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis, an original research work carried out by Adebiyi Esther Temitope has been examined and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Science (M.Sc.) in Political Science (International Relations) in the Department of Politics and Governance, College of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, Kwara State University Malete, Ilorin Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God for giving me the grace and courage to carry out the study and to my beloved foster Parents (Pst. Lekan and Pharm. Lydia Olarewaju) for their love and care.

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Abstract

This research examined the worrisome trends of human trafficking and its implications for women in Edo State, Nigeria. Owing to the illicit trade, Edo State has lost an appreciable number of people who died in the desert, sea and on the road. The aims and objectives of this study were to: investigate the root causes of human trafficking in Edo State; identify the stakeholders in human trafficking in Edo State; examine the benefits of human trafficking to identified stakeholders; assess the effects of human trafficking on women in Edo State and to examine the challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State. Three null hypotheses were formulated for the study. The population for this study involved the Civil Servants, Traders and NAPTIP Staff. The target population for this study was Civil Servant, Traders and NAPTIP Staff. Using census survey method, the researcher sampled 250 from the target population in which 228 were valid. In addition, stratified random sampling technique was used to classify the target population based on gender, marital status, education, and local government. In assessing human trafficking and its implications for women in Edo State, data collected were analyzed using both the descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive research of the quantitative analysis was employed for the study and the instrument used for data collection was a researcher-designed questionnaire. The primary source of data collection includes the use of research instrument, (questionnaire). The instrument was analyzed using mean, standard deviation, Ranking and simple percentage method for data analysis. Findings reveal that: there are various root causes of human trafficking of women of Edo State; The most prevailing causes for human trafficking in Edo State were the search of greener pastures to cater for the family; Lack of parental care and broken home; Porous borders which give room to illegal migration and better job opportunities in other countries than Nigeria. The challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State identified were: inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor; Corruption in all its manifestations; Preponderance of the informal economy; inadequate control of the nation's many borders; Ignorance of the risks involved and role of parents. Challenges such as: poor funding by the government, lack of effective political leadership at the grass root level, ignorance of the risks involved, weak institutional mechanisms and corruption in all its manifestation are confronting the efforts made at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State Nigeria. Also, the most significant effects of Human Trafficking in Edo State identified were: loss of lives among women; broken home, separation from family and emotional depression.

The study recommends that Edo state government should provide the necessary facilities to curtail human trafficking in addition to provision of necessary amenities for the people of the state. Also there should be awareness of sex education in all schools with the use of mass media for proper enlightenment.

Key Words: Human Trafficking, Women, Government

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Human trafficking and its implications for women is not a recent phenomenon. Prior to the abolition of slave trade and slavery in the early 19th century, human beings were sold as commodities to merchants by kings and warriors in exchange for goods and weapons. These merchants provided weapons and fueled crises between communities to increase the supply of slaves. The inhumane treatment meted out to these individuals gave rise to the abolition of slave trade and slavery. Unfortunately, in the past two or more decades this obnoxious and de-humanizing trade has resurfaced in a more dangerous and horrific manner through human trafficking otherwise known as modern day slavery. Unlike the trans-Atlantic slave trade where the European merchant came to Africa to take away the slaves, the new form of slavery involves traffickers taking away the victims not for the benefit of the receivers or the victims per say but for the benefit of the perpetrators.

The irregular migration of Africans into far away countries especially in the western hemisphere is not new, but it has assumed a much more worrisome dimension in recent times. Nigerians seem to lead the ignominious pack of asylum applications rejected by European countries since 2011; Nigerians accounted for nearly 100,000, almost three times the number of any other African country. Even more alarming is the specter of human trafficking and worse of all, the enslavement of Africans, including Nigerians in some other countries. The history of human trafficking, including that of the trafficking of women, cannot be completely divorced from the phenomenon of slavery; which is a local, national and international trade in human

beings with or without the consent of the trafficked person(s). The trend in human trafficking for forced labour continued until 1808 when the obnoxious trade was formally abolished (Oshadare, 2004).

Although slave trade ended in 1808, more than 200 years ago, a contemporary form of slavery, that of the trafficking in women and girls for exploitative sexual and commercial labor in Europe and America from Third world countries, particularly Africa, has been on the upward swing in recent years. Several socio-political, cultural and poverty related issues may have accounted for the phenomenon of the trafficking of women in Nigeria (Oshadare, 2004).

This thesis examines human trafficking as a phenomenon and its implications for women in Edo State. Women and children are the most vulnerable persons for human trafficking in Nigeria, as most girls living in rural areas of the country often lack access to quality education and descent livelihoods. As a result of this, they end their lives on the street hawking their bodies largely as prostitutes in order to be able to feed. This unpleasant lifestyle has made their aged and poor parents to entrust them into the hands of other family members who lives in the city and are financially stable to help them train their children.

Unfortunately, the custom has been jeopardized by those desperate and greedy family members, who in turn decided to convert training of children into business of tedious work, prostitution and all forms of inhumane treatment. It is on this premise, that the researcher sees the act as a serious challenge to the growth of Nigerian society and hampers women's contribution to governance which has massively retarded the development of Nigeria economically, socially and politically.

Human trafficking has taken many forms, but in the context of globalization, it has acquired shocking new dimensions. It is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon involving

multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial levels. It is a demand-driven global business with a huge market for cheap labor and commercial sex confronting often insufficient or unexercised policy frameworks or weakly 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 (Charles, 2011). Decades of military regimes in Nigeria have led to the institutionalized violation of human rights and severe political, social and economic crises. These crises negatively impact the development of community participation, especially of women and children, despite international institutions designed to advance their causes. In addition, the oil boom of 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 (Ikpeme, 2003)

Destinations for trafficked Nigerians include the neighboring 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 (Danish Immigration Service, 2008). Primarily women and girls, but also boys are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ harvesting (Falola, 2007). Poverty is the principal 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. Economic empowerment and reintegration programmes have been used 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. The persistence of harmful cultural practices, the growth of the reach 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.

Benin City, the capital of Edo State has an enviable history in pre-colonial West Africa based on its expansiveness and the density of rich cultural heritage. The region had the first contact with the Europeans in the mid-15th century and a sustained commercial intercourse which largely influenced the Benin culture and language. Till date, Pidgin English is still widely spoken in the region, representing the vestiges of this contact. The arrival of the Portuguese was a very significant aspect of the Benin history (Bradbury, 1957). Males constituted the bulk of slaves sold in this region as they were in higher demand than the female slaves. With the abolition of slave trade, pre-colonial Benin Kingdom had benefitted tremendously, and the social distance between the ruling class and the ordinary citizens had widened. Benin though an agrarian economy was traditionally known for brass casting, blacksmithing and carving which were male dominated tasks.

Edo State, in particular, has gained notoriety for human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation. As the world has experienced globalization, the trafficking of human beings

for sex has taken yet another turn. Human traffickers, aware of the risks involved in the trafficking of human beings, have set up sophisticated channels and networks for the easy and undetected flow of trafficked persons. Irrespective of the interventions by international bodies, NGOs and national agencies to combat trafficking in Edo State, the region is still a hub for trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. The women were usually part of traditional guilds that made beads and clothes, locating them in the domain of providing aesthetic significance to the Oba and his chiefs.

In terms of post-independence experience, Benin City had its fair share of the Structural Adjustment Policy popularly referred to as SAP, which some scholars argue led to the emergence of human trafficking for international prostitution in the region (Oyeonoru, 2001). Presently, Benin City can be described as a civil service town (Omorodion, 2004). Benin people were the first to get in contact with the Portuguese in the exchange of business known as Tomato picking. Ancestral worship is still dominant despite the presence of several Pentecostal churches which also is dominant. It is the home of the Late Archbishop Benson Idahosa, who is reputed to have turned the face of Christianity in Nigeria with the introduction of the gospel of prosperity. This gained wide acceptance based on the natural display of flamboyance reminiscent of prosperous empire of pre-colonial Benin (Fabiya, 2012).

Omolola (1982) noted that a more dramatic change in the character and complexity of slavery came in the late 15-century and mid-19th century when many Africans were shipped across the Atlantic as slaves in what later became known as the slave trade. The intercontinental slave trade, which involved Europeans and Africans, was carried on through four continents of Europe, Africa and the two Americas. Following the voyages countries such as Brazil and Haiti were discovered to be awash with rich mineral deposits and plantations waiting to be exploited. The exploitation of these resources required a large reservoir of labor, which the native Red

Indians could not cope with. Consequently as more plantations were set- up and more mines were opened up, the demand for slaves increased dramatically and attention shifted to Africa. This marked the genesis of the massive importation of able-bodied Africans into the new world as slaves.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The trend of human trafficking is very worrisome in Edo State of Nigeria. Currently, Nigeria ranks 23rd in the global slavery index of 167 countries with Edo State accounting for close to 80% of the trafficked persons in the country, according to the Summit and Roundtable on Migration and Human Trafficking held in Benin City aimed at resolving and ending irregular migration and human trafficking across the country. Owing to the illicit trade, Edo State has lost too many young people, including about 70 to 80 men and women respectively who died in the desert, sea and on the road (Adeniyi, 2018)

There are various causes of human trafficking in Nigeria, which is a major problem of concern in this study. According to Adepelumi (2015), the root causes of human trafficking are as follows: poverty, better job opportunity in other countries, inability to afford a decent living, lack of parental care, broken homes amongst others. A report shows that 8 million Nigerian children and women engaged in exploitative child labour and sex trade due to abject poverty especially in Edo State (Fabiya, 2012). The desire to migrate to study and work in urban cities and abroad also contribute to human trafficking and this is very rampant in the country. World Bank (2015) reports show that more 1.5 billion people live in the countries affected by violent conflicts. Conflict is a push factor for trafficking, migration and poverty. In Nigeria's prone conflict zone, Boko Haram trafficked children and used them as soldiers and as militants, they kidnapped young girls, sell them into slavery and forcefully marry them. Weak legal systems also contribute to the root cause of human trafficking. Also porous borders, corrupt government

officials, the involvement of international organized, criminal groups or networks and limited capacity of a commitment by immigration and law enforcement officers to control borders.

Adepelumi (2015) also stated that lack of adequate legislation and of political will and commitment to enforce existing legislation or mandate are other factors that facilitate trafficking in persons. The practice of entrusting poor children, young girls to affluent friends in Edo State has created vulnerability.

There were the bleak images of coffins of 26 Nigerian girls, out of which twenty were from Edo State, who were buried in Italy in November, 2017; trends that brought Benin City to find solutions to the problem. Even though the Edo State government was determined to curtail the crisis by founding programs aimed at protecting, rehabilitating and reintegrating trafficked victims, yet the problem of trafficking in women and girls still prevail in the state (Channels Television, 2017). This research intends to investigate the implications of human trafficking for women in Edo State. There are various scholars and academic researcher on human trafficking in Nigeria such as Ibrahim (2009), David (2011) and Charles (2015); but none has specifically focused on the implications of human trafficking in Edo State, a gap this project intends to fill.

1.3 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The general aim of the study is to examine the effects of human trafficking on women in Edo state. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. investigate the root causes of human trafficking in Edo State;
- ii. assess the effects of human trafficking on women in Edo State;
- iii. Examine the challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State;
and
- iv. Examine the percentage distribution of human trafficking in Edo State?

1.4 Research Questions :The questions which the research aims to answer are as follows:

- i. What are the roots causes of human trafficking in Edo State;
- ii. What are the effects of human trafficking for women in Edo State;
- iii. What are the challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State;
and
- iv. What is the percentage distribution of human trafficking in Edo state?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

For the successful completion of this study, the researcher formulated the following hypotheses in null form:

H_01 : There are no significant differences among the factors that cause human trafficking in women in Edo State

H_02 : There are no effects of trafficking on women of Edo State in Nigeria

H_03 : There are no Challenges Confronting efforts at curtailing Human Trafficking in Edo state in Nigeria

1.6 Significance of the Study

The findings from this study will be of great importance to the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) as the study enumerates the dangers of human trafficking on women in Nigeria and Edo State in particular. The study will also be of great importance to the management of the Nigerian Immigration Service who may also be familiar with the illegal roots and outlets of those involve in human trafficking. It will also provide necessary information on the causes, effects and solutions to human trafficking in Nigeria. The study is important to researchers who intend to embark on the study of similar topic as a reference point.

The study also is of great importance to students, lecturers, teachers and the general public as it will educate them more on the nature and dimensions of human trafficking in Nigeria.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study covers implications of human trafficking for women with emphasis on Edo State. Solutions to the problems of human trafficking will be sought in the course of the research. The time frame for this study is between the years 2014-2017 when the trend in human trafficking became so pronounced in Edo State. There will be specific focus on two local government areas in Edo State where human trafficking is very prevalent; which are Akoko-Edo and Oredo local government councils.

1.8 The Study Area

Edo State was created from Bendel State on August 27 1991; when it was separated into Edo and Delta State. Edo State is an inland state in central Nigeria, its capital is Benin City which is bounded in the north and east by Kogi State, in the south by Delta state and in the west by Ondo state. Edo State is endowed with abundant natural resources. The main mineral resources include crude oil, natural gas, clay chalk, marbles, and limestone. Agriculture is the predominant occupation of the people in this state. Edo State consists of eighteen local governments. The main religions in Edo State are Islam, Christianity and Traditional religion. The target population for this study was based on two selected local government councils in Edo State which are Akoko-Edo and Oredo; 250 people from the two local governments were sampled for the study. The study examined the root causes of human trafficking, ways in which human trafficking affect women, challenges confronting it, effects of curtailing human trafficking in Edo State and frequency of human trafficking.

Descriptive research methods of the quantitative survey design were employed for the study.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

NAPTIP: This is the acronym for National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons. It is an agency set up by Federal Government of Nigeria responsible for arresting of trafficked person(s) and tackle human traffickers and other related matters.

Human Trafficking: This involves the act and attempted act of recruitment and transportation of persons (both male and female) within or across borders. It is the transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of 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 purpose of exploitation. Human trafficking is also the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.

Women Trafficking: This refers to the recruitment and transportation of women across national or international borders either voluntarily or involuntarily, for sexual or domestic purposes. It also includes the purchase, sale, transfer, receipt or harboring of young girls and women through deception for the purpose of subjecting the women and girls to involuntary servitude. In this study, trafficking of women and female trafficking will be used interchangeably.

Women Traffickers: These are organized criminal rings involved in the smuggling (illegal transportation) of women across national borders to regional destinations (e.g. Europe and Italy). They are commonly referred to as “Trolley”, “Italo”, “Sponsors”, “Madame” and “Boss”, etc.

Trafficked Persons: These are persons; male and female, recruited and transported within or across national borders for the purpose of sexual or domestic services.

Internal Trafficking: This is also referred to as domestic trafficking. It involves the recruitment and transportation of persons within the borders of a country, either from rural to urban areas or from one State to another, for purposes of sex work, child labor, or domestic services.

External Trafficking (Cross-border trafficking): This involves the movement of people across national, continental and international borders for the purpose of sex work, child labour and domestic service in exchange for monetary reward.

1.10 Limitations to the Study

Limitations to this study are the challenges confronted with at the course of carrying out this research. Some of these are:

1. Access to data: Getting access to the data used to be very difficult due to the unwillingness of the respondents to give the desire audience and attention.
2. Relevant information: getting the relevant and necessary information needed from the population was also very tedious because of the fear of intruding their privacy.
3. Securing the cooperation of victims of trafficking while on the field.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This section reviews scholarly works on human trafficking. It presents the conceptual discourse, empirical issues and theoretical framework for the study.

2.2 Conceptual Discourse

The main concern of this section of the research is to define the central concepts used in the paper to ensure clarity of conceptual usage. These terms, which are adapted from the legal instruments of Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAP TIP (2003), are highlighted below.

2.3 Meaning and Nature of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking can be seen as a form of modern slavery, which is unacceptable and condemned by various organizations and international bodies. However, the dimension of its operation across the globe calls for urgent measures that would arrest its multifaceted devastating effects. Human trafficking is considered to be the third largest source of profit for organized crime apart from drugs and arms (UNHCR, 2000). United Nations (2002) defined human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or position, vulnerability of the victims giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Human trafficking is a global crisis that is inextricably linked to the current move of globalization in the sex industry involving women and children (Hoque, 2010).

Bales (2004) define human trafficking as a contemporary slavery in form of a social and economic relationship in which a person is controlled through violence and economically exploited. Today, human trafficking involves the movement of victims, usually women and children, across borders legally or illegally. These victims may be either documented or without documentation as they head into an unknown destination, and in most cases the person being transported is unaware of the consequences thereof. Although slavery has been abolished for a century now, the practice of slavery still exists in different forms. In today's literature, modern day slavery is human trafficking. The problem of human trafficking is growing at a faster rate annually; about millions of people are trafficked every moment of the time (Dunn, 2007).

The forms of human trafficking are varied and to a large extent multifaceted in dimension, thus calling for an integrated approach. In most cases, the structural factors of human trafficking are similar to one another such as the underlying economic and social context but in the larger context its patterns are varied and depend on geographical and regional locations (Cameron, 2008). Human trafficking had become a major source of concern to all societies in recent time. Human trafficking is often presented as a major social problem that is seen as undermining the morality of the societies.

Human trafficking is of different forms and natures; as human trafficking does not only require travel or transportation from one location to another. Sex trafficking involves international agents and brokers who arrange travel and job placement for women from one country to another. In-fact, women who are victims are lured to accompany traffickers based on promises of lucrative opportunities unachievable in their home country (Ajagun, 2012). It is disheartening to know that once these women (victims) reach their destinations, the women discover that they have been deceived and learn the true nature of work that they will be expected to do. It has been observed that the victims of human trafficking are not permitted to

leave upon arrival at their destination. They are held against their will through acts of coercion and forced to work or provide services to the traffickers whose services may range from bonded, forced labour to commercialized sexual exploitation.

2.4 Trafficking of Women in Nigeria

Trafficked women from Nigeria predominantly go to Europe for prostitution, especially Italy, Spain, Belgium, France and the Netherlands. South Africa and the United States are also destination countries (Pearson, 2002). The United Kingdom and Ireland are countries of transit as well as destination countries. The Advocacy Project (N.D), reported that Nigerian women make up 70 per cent of 70,000 African victims of trafficking and that about 70 percent of these Nigerian women end up in Italy. According to Human Rights Watch (2001), Nigeria is a destination country for trafficked persons from Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

Hughes et al (2005), opine that hundreds of Nigerian women and girls, hoping to escape poverty and discrimination at home, voluntarily migrate to Europe and America in response to job offers as domestic workers or waitresses. However, upon arrival in their country of destination, many of these women discover to their dismay that it is not the much-expected “Eldorado” of their dreams, as the majority of them get trapped in forced prostitution, saddled with exorbitant debts and compelled to work under brutal conditions.

Many of those who are trafficked to Europe for prostitution have tended to be of the Ibo tribe and from Edo and Delta States. There is no conclusive research on why women from these states are more likely to migrate. Pearson (2000) attributed the trend to poverty but added quickly that these states are not the poorest part of Nigeria.

Trafficking of girls and women from Nigeria is said to be especially well organized and centers on a female figure called “Mama” or “Madam”, who plays a key role in luring young women to leave their homes for Italy, Libya, Malaysia etc.. The trafficking web is organized at

three levels; the first centers around “Mama” living in the country of origin; the second centers around the Nigerian “Mama” in Italy; and the third, the “Messengers” who are the persons who transfer the money from Italy to Nigeria (IOM, 1996). As part of the ‘recruitment’ drive, Nigerian girls are contracted in the suburbs of cities such as Lagos or Benin City and in the countryside in the south and east. As noted by Pearson, there has been a traditional migration flow from Nigeria to Italy since the late 1980s for agriculture, a trend he said, made many Nigerians to settle in Italy and other countries. He explained that it was predominantly these settled Nigerian women, often married to European men, who are traffickers/madams. According to him, trafficked women are generally not aware of the conditions of work that await them (in Europe) i.e. confiscation of documents, forced to work long hours on the street every day, forced to serve a minimum of clients per day, physical abuse, threats and debt bondage. As revealed by the IOM (1996:12), “debts for travel are supposed to be paid off in six months but in the majority of cases, after three or four years, the girls are still in no position to pay back the debt they owe”.

The Civil Liberties Organization, (CLO, 2000) noted that cartel or cartels behind the exportation of young girls and women overseas to work in the sex trade have largely remained faceless. While some entered the trade knowingly- sometimes with the connivance, approval or acquiescence of their parents – others appeared to have been lured into it with false tales of money to be made from plaiting or weaving hair, or working as maids or children’s nannies- tales which though false, could seem reasonable to young women anxious to help reduce the hardship being faced by their families (CLO, 2000).

According to the CLO (2000), once it becomes established, the trafficking business is extremely difficult to eradicate due to the number of other ‘small enterprises’ which depend on it and service it. These include forgers, disreputable and even fake lawyers who set up

“contacts” between the girls and the traffickers, self-styled “evangelists” who pray for them, traditional voodooists who hold the victims to their promises or undertakings, Customs and Immigration officials who receive bribes to look the other way when regular streams of young women with no visible support are escorted out of the country, and in some cases, corrupt embassy officials who facilitate the issuance of visas.

As the illegal trade in women continues to boom, a large number of Nigerian girls and women have over the years been repatriated from Europe and elsewhere with dire consequences for both the victims and the country’s international image. A Newswatch magazine (1999-2000) reported that 287 Nigerian girls who were trafficked to Italy and Saudi-Arabia for prostitution were deported. A breakdown of the year 2000 figures showed that 17 women were deported from Saudi–Arabia, 76 from Italy while 200 others were sent packing from the Netherlands.

Although the figures of those deported hardly gives a true picture of the number of girls and women being trafficked, a report by WOCON (2000) is very revealing indeed. WOCON reported that between March 23 and July 19, 2000, a total of 247 girls and women whose ages ranged from 18 to 38 were deported from Italy, Saudi-Arabia, Holland, South Africa, Togo and Mali to Nigeria. Of this number, 163 were from Italy, 17 from Saudi-Arabia, 2 from South Africa, 41 from Togo while 4 came from Mali. According to the report, 162 deportees were from Edo State (the highest number of deportees), adding that 26 of the returnees tested positive for the Human Immune Virus/Acquired Deficiency Syndrome, HIV/AIDS.

Ojomo (2000) on the other hand, reported that more than 500 Nigerian prostitutes were rounded up in Italy between 1999 and 2000 and deported to Nigeria at very short notice. Although more than 90 percent of the girls and women trafficked from Nigeria are believed to come from the southern part of the country with Edo State leading (with 90%) followed by Delta (5%) and the rest of the country trailing with 5%, human trafficking in the northern part of

the country is believed to be growing (Lipede, 2007). According to Lipede (2007), 20,383 trafficked women victims were deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between March 2002 and April 2004; 9952 were found to have come from Kano, Borno, Yobe, Nasarawa, Plateau, Niger, Kwara, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Jigawa, Kaduna, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba States” (Lipede, 2007:16).

Commenting on the lack of commitment to the eradication of the phenomenon by the Nigerian authorities, the CLO (2000:179) posited that Nigeria does not seem any closer to any serious attempt by its law enforcement and social agencies to bring those behind the trade in women and girls to justice as “the country still seems to be at the stage of becoming aware of the dimensions of the problem and documenting it.”

The CLO’s position appears at variance with the situation on ground as both private and public initiatives have been started to bring traffickers to book through the promulgation of the WOTCLEF and NAPTIP bills in 2003, which criminalize human trafficking, including the trafficking of women in Nigeria.

2.5 Causes of Trafficking among Women

The traffic in humans, especially women, appears to be flourishing. The global business involving “human goods” seems to have attained a level comparable to those of the illicit trades in drugs and weapons. In terms of numbers, the major victims are women and children who are forced into prostitution or forced labor. Two main reasons which are commonly referred to as ‘Push and Pull’ factors may be accountable for the prevalence of trafficking in women. These reasons as outlined and elaborated by Pearson (2003), include, firstly, harsh living conditions mostly characterized by poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities in the countries of origin and, secondly, the demand that exists in the rich countries of the West. Pearson explained further that it is under such circumstances that the victims are exploited as cheap labour in the

restaurant trade or the sex industry through forced marriage and illegal adoption. Simply put, these are the push and pull factors. The push factors are those factors that force the individual to move voluntarily, and in many cases, they are forced because the individual risk something if they remain in Nigeria. These factors may include: conflicts, drought, famine or extreme religious activity. The pull factors on the other hand are those factors in the destination country that attract the individual or group to leave their home. Those factors known as place utility include: better economic opportunities, more jobs, and the promise of a better life (UNESCO, 2013).

For Anita (2000), some of the trafficked women chose to migrate for sex work because of the realization that the sex trade is profitable. Scripraphai and Scripraphai (1997) on the other hand, maintained that the trade in human beings is an outgrowth of international labor migration. In their view, people seek to migrate temporarily to work in richer countries in order to improve their economic standing at home. The duo explained that while job opportunities abound for male migrants in Europe and North America, women migrants who had no access to jobs often take to prostitution as an option.

Apart from the economic factor, there are some people who blame the trafficking of women on the fact that women in Third World countries are held in low esteem and consequently manipulated and controlled by a male dominated society. One such person is Jane Edeki of the African Women Empowerment Group (AWEG), a non- governmental advocacy group based in Nigeria. Edeki asserted that if women were empowered by the male dominated society, they would be hard put to let themselves be trafficked (Oshadare, 2004).

Edeki's view appears subjective because even in the advanced societies of the West, gender inequality abounds. Therefore, inequality in terms of gender empowerment cannot be enough of a driver. An added causative factor behind the trafficking in women is the total

absence, in some cases, of legislation criminalizing the practice as well as the non-enforcement of such legislations in countries where they exist. A seminar study conducted by Hughes et al (2005), on this factor in Japan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Israel is very revealing. Hughes et al (2005) reported that although the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) amended the criminal code to make the buying and selling of human beings for prostitution a criminal offense, the law had little impact as trafficked women were not treated as victims but as criminals and illegal aliens. The law had little effect on traffickers who continued to bring in hundreds of women and girls from the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe into Israel for forced labour in the sex industry.

As in Israel, the Japanese government also did not do enough to give its law criminalizing the trafficking in women, the desired teeth. Hughes et al (2005) observed that although the Japanese government identified an amendment to the law on control and improvement of Amusement Business to address trafficking, the law was inadequate because it lacked criminal penalties. The absence of a definite law against the illicit trade in women in Bosnia and Herzegovina may have provided a launch pad for traffickers to abuse and exploit women from the former Soviet Union and Europe with impunity.

Hughes et al (2005) submitted that interviews with Human Rights Watch revealed that women trafficked from Ukraine, Moldova, and Bulgaria into Bosnia reported being sold from one brothel owner to another as well as being placed in debt bondage as well as being threatened and actually beaten.

2.6 Methods, Techniques and Agents of Human Trafficking

There is usually a symbiotic relationship between the trafficked woman and her traffickers according to the International Organization for Migration, (IOM, 1996). Traffickers are often young criminals attracted by the prospect of making easy money. According to the

above source, Albanian women and girls trafficked into Italy are usually recruited informally by friends and relatives as well as through organized and independent groups operating on a small scale.

Traffickers use the same migration routes and methods that are generally used for illegal migration. In Albania for example, they use fishing boats to the limits of territorial waters and small boats to the Italian coast route or the coast route along the eastern Adriatic coast northwards; with the total cost of the journey being around 2800 to 5000 dollars, depending according to IOM(1996), on the route and the expected difficulties.

UNICEF (2000) reported that the trafficking of Nigerian girls and women to Italy and other parts of Europe has slave-like characteristics, a trend it attributed to the tightening of controls on illegal immigration to Europe. The UNICEF painted a graphic picture of the tortuous journey thus: *Many Nigerian girls and women are obliged to take long routes across the Sahara to North Africa and make the hazardous journey across the Mediterranean in small boats. Several of them never reach their destinations either because they are abandoned en-route or they drown. Those that reach their destinations are sold off to prostitution rackets and or engage in other forms of commercial sex work* (UNICEF, 2000).

In spite of the hardships which trafficked women go through either on their way to Europe or the dehumanizing treatment they receive in the hands of the traffickers and their agents, only very few of the Nigerian women in the sex trade in Italy wish to return to Nigeria. IOM (1996) blamed this seeming reluctance on what some of the women said were lack of better alternatives to prostitution in Nigeria, fear of reprisals from the traffickers and the shame and stigma of returning home without being successful abroad.

There are various agents that are involved in human trafficking in internal trafficking and cross-border trafficking in Nigeria and across the world.

Traffickers: The trafficker is the link between supply and demand, on the one hand increasing supply through the recruitment, deception, transportation and exploitation process, and on the other hand boosting demand by providing easy access to the trafficked persons. This includes recruiters as well as transporters, receivers, pimps, brothel-keepers, corrupt border guards, and producers of false documentation, all of whom benefit as the trafficked persons pass through their hands. The trafficker is often part of the extended family, has links with the family nucleus, or is someone known within the local community. Whatever the scale and means of the operation, the process is a systematic, well-organized economic phenomenon, involving the displacement and movement of persons solely to profit from the exploitation of the trafficked person's labour.

2.7 Nigerian Government's Intervention in the Trafficking of women

Worried by the menace of the trafficking of women and its concomitant negative image on the country, the then President Olusegun Obasanjo administration adopted a three-pronged attack against the monstrous trade. At the level of the Presidency, was the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP). Secondly, there were the federal government paramilitary agencies such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, (NIS); the Nigeria Police (NPF) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS). The third prong was at the level of government parastatals like the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), whose primary assignments are only indirectly related to human trafficking (Lipede, 2007). We shall only concern ourselves with the activities NAPTIP in this study. To give legal teeth to the attack on human trafficking in Nigeria, the Federal Government sent a bill to the National Assembly seeking to outlaw human trafficking.

The bill, which was passed in August 2003, established the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, which formally criminalized human trafficking.

According to its mission statement, NAPTIP is committed to the prevention of all forms of human degradation and exploitation through the coordinated use of Nigeria's crime prevention and law enforcement resources (Daily Independent Advertorial, 2005). The agency's act prescribes punishments ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment for traffickers caught exporting persons out of Nigeria and importation of the same into Nigeria plus the procurement of any person for illicit intercourse with another person (Daily Independent Advertorial, 2005).

In executing its mandate, the agency has been able to take the anti-trafficking battle to the grass roots level in a number of states and local government areas in the country through imaginative posters, enlightenment campaigns, radio and television jingles as well as seminars and workshops. The agency has, through its Legal and Prosecution Unit established an investigation task force made up of representatives of the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Immigration Service, National Intelligence Agency and the judiciary. The task force has total staff strength of 69, including 40 new members of staff. (NAPTIP 2003).

Working in close collaboration with other agencies, NAPTIP's investigation unit, according to Lipede, (2007) was able to prosecute and convict one trafficker named Sarah Okoma, who was tried in Benin and sentenced to three years imprisonment in November 2004. Between 6 May and June 2004, 32 cases concerning the trafficking of women were referred to NAPTIP from the headquarters of the Nigerian Immigration Service. Out of the other 41 cases reported to NAPTIP in 2004, 27 have been interrogated and eight of them arraigned in courts in Auchi, Benin, Uromi, Kano, Ilaro and Ibadan. Six new cases were reported to the NAPTIP in 2005 (Lipede, 2007). The Agency is currently pressing charges against Alhaji Sani Yerima, former Governor of Zamfara State and serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for marrying a 13 year Egyptian minor in contravention of the NAPTIP act.

Attempting to get to the source of voodoo priests who make it difficult for victims to provide information about traffickers, the agency raided two juju shrines in Edo state, arrested the priests and confiscated their charms and other items including photographs of trafficked victims. In collaboration with the anti-human trafficking units and other security agencies, NAPTIP has successfully intercepted teams of traffickers and their victims within Nigeria and across the Sahara Desert (NAPTIP, 2003). Babandede (2004) explained that even though the NAPTIP does not provide micro credit schemes, it works closely with relevant federal government poverty alleviation agencies such as the National Directorate of Employment, NDE, or the National Program for the Eradication of Poverty, NAPEP, to ensure that rehabilitated female victims of trafficking can access funds to set up shop, while the rehabilitation division of NAPTIP collaborates with anti-human trafficking units of the Immigration Service as well as local and international NGOs to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of human trafficking.

Evident in NAPTIP's collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, (IOM) and ALNIMA (an NGO), was the successful rehabilitation of 18 repatriated victims and the reuniting of 14 with their families. NAPTIP has also been active in the area of cooperation and collaboration with a number of countries both within the West African sub-region and in other parts of the world. This is particularly so with source, transit and destination countries. The agency has in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with England and Northern Ireland. In May 2004 the agency signed a memorandum of agreement with the Italian government while the Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Spain and the Netherlands have been cooperating in the areas of intelligence sharing and prosecution.

The recent submission of the names of traffickers with their addresses to Interpol for investigation is an example of the useful cooperation on going between Nigeria and Spain (Babandede, 2004).

2.8 Consequences of Human Trafficking on Women

Trafficking in women is a global problem affecting large numbers of girls and women. It is lucrative and is linked with criminal activity and corruption, as it is often hidden and hard to address. As pointed out by IOM (1996), women who have been trafficked face a range of dangers, including violence and sexual abuse. In some cases, trafficked women encounter state complicity as they are arrested and detained as illegal aliens. Brussa (1996) remarked that women's physical and mental well-being is harmed by the isolation they suffer by being confined in closed apartments and the restriction of their movements.

In addition to the consequences of the trafficking of women highlighted above, there is also the more worrisome health dimension. Jane Edeki of the African Women Empowerment Group (AWEG) warns that trafficking poses a mortal danger to Nigerian women because of the high incidence of Human Immune Virus/Acquired Deficiency Syndrome HIV/AIDS infection among deported Nigerian girls and women (Oshadare, 2004). In fact, in many rural Nigerian villages and even urban centers, it is common to find young women and girls who were sold into prostitution in Italy and elsewhere and who had contracted AIDS abandoned to their fate. Beyond the women victims of HIV and AIDs are orphans. In 2003, 26% of all orphans were orphaned due to AIDS. (UNAIDS, UNICEF, USAID, 2004).

Consequently, most of these children left on their own are easily recruited by traffickers. A vicious circle thus ensues: HIV and AIDS prevalence increases the number of orphans trafficked as illustrated in case of the AIDS orphans. In general, women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDs infection, thus trafficked girls and women are most at risk. In the case of those trafficked for purposes of commercial sex work. Burkhalter (2003) explained that vulnerability is increased in a variety of ways:

Trafficked persons are unable to insist upon condom use. Trafficked persons may be forced to perform those sexual practices most associated with AIDS transmission. Trafficked persons are

forced to have sex with multiple partners. Violence in commercial sex is common; especially where women or children are forced to have sex against their will. Injuries sustained during forced sex may increase vulnerability to HIV transmission. The physically immature bodies of young girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual injury. Such injuries increase their risk of infection. Many trafficked persons have other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) due to forced and unsafe sexual activities. This heightens the risk of contracting HIV by up to a factor of 10 (UNESCO, 2006:40).

UNICEF (2000) summarized the consequences of trafficking in girls and women from Nigeria to include loss of lives, increasing prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, increase in violence and crime rate, increased school drop-out rates, impaired child development, poor national image and massive deportation of Nigerian girls and women.

Trafficking in humans is a highly lucrative business. Estimated profits are between US \$7-10 billion annually (UNICEF, 2000). Crime networks are well organized, flexible and responsive to demand. Weak state structures, resulting from the upheaval of transitional economies, contribute to an environment that favours predatory criminal organizations. Parallel structures that substitute for state security dominate such economies and flourish through fear and intimidation. The widespread reach of these networks and perceptions of their ability to retaliate against trafficked persons and their families reinforces their clandestine nature, difficulty of investigation and lack of prosecutorial evidence.

Armed conflicts destroy livelihoods, severely damage national economies and cause mass population movements. Through heightened insecurity, wars increase the vulnerability of women and children, promote dramatic survival strategies such as prostitution and often involve the abduction of women and children into armed groups/factions. Increased poverty of survivors, particularly widows and female headed-households, is an endemic feature of armed conflicts. Migration is a response to armed conflict and insecurity, which results in large refugee populations, exposing the most vulnerable to an array of dangers including discrimination, sexual violence, intimidation, and recruitment into armed forces and trafficking. Stringent entry requirements have increased the regulation of population movements. When would-be migrants

fail to meet these requirements, they may resort to illegal means of immigration, giving rise to people smuggling and trafficking.

The increase in demand for cheap labour continues to attract people from poorer regions. As a result, with populations moving in search of employment and with the attendant opportunities for exploitation, there is often overlapping between trafficking sources, transit and destination sites. The commercial sex industry greatly expanded as it was globalized and integrated with other aspects of modernization. The demand factors dominating commercial sex work requires a constant supply of women and children. The commercial sex industry is inextricably linked with tourism, both domestic and foreign, and some countries are specifically promoted for “sex tourism”.

Widespread gender discrimination that denies women their rights, as well as attitudes that tolerate violence against women and consider women and girls inferior result in objectification and support the existence of trafficking that delivers women and girls into appalling living and working conditions. Destitute families are vulnerable to persuasion to hire out or sell their children because they lack adequate resources to provide for their family. Girls are most vulnerable to this form of commercial exploitation. Despite international conventions, there remains indifference and a lack of domestic commitment to protect those most at risk through legislation, awareness, information, and training of the authorities responsible to provide protection.

Human Trafficking: Nigeria

Although Nigeria has enormous natural and human resources (Nigeria is the 11th largest producer of oil in the world. UNICEF, 2000), debt burden and institutionalized corruption takes a serious toll on the country’s economy. Nigeria has been rated one of the six poorest countries in the world with a per capita GNP of about US \$280 Dollars for a population of about 133

Million (UNICEF, 2000).(as at 2017,it was 190.9million,2018 was 195.9million and as at 25th February 2020 is 205,963,826 persons in Nigeria. Nigeria is a country rich in resources but with widespread poverty. Hope of continuing education or working abroad, traditional migration patterns of labour within the country, the practice of children being loaned sent to better-situated family members to be raised and casual border procedures all contribute to acceptance and expectations of unregulated movement. Poverty is the most visible cause of the vulnerability of women and children to trafficking in Nigeria. An ILO/IPEC report found that 40% of Nigerian street children and hawkers are trafficked persons.

Within Africa, the main destinations for trafficked persons from Nigeria are Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea Island, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Mali and Benin. Italy, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom are the main European destinations. Saudi Arabia is also a country of destination. One of the reasons could be traced to the historical business transactions between some of the natives from Edo State with Italians when the Nigerian economy was more robust.

These Nigerians visited Italy to buy gold, shoes and clothing to sell in Nigeria. When the Nigerian economy began to dwindle, some of these businessmen and women stayed longer to pick potatoes for quick returns before returning home. As the economic situation in Nigeria worsened and the business of picking potatoes was taken over by immigrants from Eastern Europe, the growing sex industry became more lucrative for Nigerian women. Naturally, those Nigerians from Edo State started human trafficking activities using their relatives, friends and community members as commodities. Human trafficking being a clandestine criminal activity, the gang members feels safer recruiting from trusted family members. This could explain why to date over 80% of trafficked persons for prostitution to Europe, especially Italy, are from Edo State where the trend started.

2.9 International Agencies Combating Human Trafficking

Instruments relating to the abolition of trafficking in human beings date back to the 1926 Slavery Convention. Additional international instruments which include provisions dealing with the prohibition of human trafficking include: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (1966); the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949); and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979). More recently, international instruments have been adopted to combat human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation, and these include: the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two Protocols: the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (UNTP); and the Protocol against the smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. According to Gallagher, the UNTP is the most significant international instrument on trafficking⁵ because it provided the 'first ever internationally agreed definition of trafficking' which has now gained worldwide acceptance.

2.10 Nigeria and Human Trafficking

Nigeria signed the United Nation Transition Plan (UNTP) on December 13th 2000 and ratified it on 28 June 2001. As a state party, Nigeria accepted a declaration to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children and to punish components of the offence of human trafficking. According to Falola and Afolabi (2003), the trafficking of human beings could only be punished through legislation aimed at punishing components of the offence, such as some isolated provisions of the Nigerian Constitution, the Nigerian Criminal Code, as well as the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria. Falola and Afolabi identify the problems with the legislation associated with punishing human traffickers in Nigeria prior to 2003. According to them,

prosecutors had to use their own creativity to punish perpetrators of human trafficking which resulted in penalties which were not proportionate to the offence committed. Secondly, the strategies adopted by prosecutors also had the result of re-victimization. Thirdly, the application of the provisions by prosecutors also meant that traffickers were able to escape punishment.

Olateru-Olagbegi and Ikpeme(2003), describe the Nigerian legislation dealing with human trafficking prior to 2003 as "scattered" because there was no single legislation on human trafficking and legislation which dealt with human trafficking could be found in the criminal and penal codes. However, "scattered" legislative laws on human trafficking and the problems faced by prosecutors to prosecute human traffickers were eradicated with the introduction of the 2003 Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Trafficking Act).¹ The Nigerian Trafficking Act, amended in 2005 to increase penalties for trafficking offenders, prescribes a five year imprisonment penalty and/or a \$670 fine for labor trafficking, and 10 years to life imprisonment for sex trafficking. The adoption of the Nigerian Trafficking Act by the Nigerian National Assembly has been described as seminal. This is because, according to Falola and Afolabi (2003), 'it marked the first time in the history of Nigeria that the National Assembly passed a measure that addressed the problem of human trafficking holistically' They make excellent remarks regarding the adoption of the Nigerian Trafficking Act. The Act 22 According to the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report on Nigeria, provides detailed and well-spelled out penalties for the trafficking of human beings and, in particular, children. In addition, with the ratification of the UNTP, there is no doubt that Nigeria has made a stance against the trafficking of human beings, particularly women and children. In spite of this, it still remains a popular trafficking destination. The country remains 'a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking'. This report is a result of

the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the United States, which requires the Secretary of State to issue annual Trafficking in Persons reports.

The Trafficking in Persons Report rates countries according to the origin and destination of victims of severe forms of trafficking and Nigeria is currently listed as a Tier 2 country. This means that Nigeria is not complying, but is making significant efforts to comply, with the minimum standards in the fight against human trafficking. To support the assertion on the lack of progress regarding anti-trafficking, the 2012 Report stated that “roughly a third of convicted traffickers received fines in lieu of prison time, and despite identifying 386 labors trafficking victims the Nigerian government prosecuted only two forced labor cases”. The 2012 Report also detailed a decrease in prosecutions of human traffickers: “although court proceedings increased slightly in 2011, the number of cases prosecuted remained low compared to the large number of trafficking investigations.” This figure certainly shows Nigeria's minimal effort in combating trafficking.

The 2012 Trafficking Report also identified flaws with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). According to the 2012 Trafficking Report, NAPTIP failed to increase its funding for the protection of victims which resulted in a lack of reintegration by trafficked victims and the lack of maintenance of shelters for trafficked victims. NAPTIP's lack of funding for trafficked victims to re-integrate into Nigerian society has a detrimental effect on victims of human trafficking because trafficked victims who are not re-integrated are likely to fall victims of re-trafficking. Adams also documents NAPTIP's low reintegration of trafficked victims. According to Adams, although 2,285 victims of human trafficking have passed through NAPTIP since its beginning, only 45 trafficked victims have been successfully reintegrated. This asserts that trafficked victims are

afraid to seek NAPTIP's help because of fear of testifying. Adams states that this fear stems from NAPTIP's criminal centered approach rather than a human rights-based approach.

2.11 Human Trafficking in Edo State

In the same way that Nigeria has adopted national laws to combat human trafficking, the State of Edo has also taken measures aimed at combating human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation. In 2000, the Edo State House of Assembly enacted a law (Edo State Criminal Code (Amendment Law)) criminalizing prostitution in the state. However, the law has been the subject of criticism despite its introduction to combat human trafficking. According to Olateru Olagbegi and Ikpeme, although the state law was introduced to deter anyone from participating in sex trafficking, it also penalizes trafficked victims for prostitution. Irrespective of this criticism, the passage of the Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2000 made its stance on prostitution and human trafficking clear. The amendments, which make prostitution in Edo State a criminal offence, impose penalties of fines and imprisonment on those partaking in prostitution and trafficking. Stating reasons for this law, Babafemi (2010), asserts that the Edo State government enacted it as a “reaction to the perception that the State was the epicenter of trafficking in women for sex in Nigeria. Tim Braimah in Olusegun Adeniyi’s from FRY PAN TO FIRE asserts that: Benin, a city of approximately one million people, it is difficult to find a family that does not have a member mostly women who migrated to Europe. Edo is an operational headquarters of women and girls seeking to travel to Libya, Europe and Italy for prostitution and slavery.

According to the Danish Immigration Service Fact Finding Mission on Human Trafficking to Edo State Statistics on women trafficking, the majority of “female victims of trafficking are from Benin-City”. Similarly, the United States Department of State, in its 2012 Trafficking Report on Nigeria, stated that Nigerian women forced into prostitution in Italy were

primarily from Edo State. Other than Edo State, the International Organization for Migration has stated that Edo State is a source of human trafficking by listing known endemic local government areas which include: Oredo, Ikpoba-okha, Ovia North East, Uhumwonde, Egor, Orhionmwon, Esan North East, Esan Central, Etsako West, and Ovia South West.

Additionally, Aronowitz (2001) states that approximately 95 percent of trafficked Nigerian women to Italy come from Edo State. Aronowitz shows his astonishment at the high percentage of trafficked victims from Edo State simply because of the fact that Edo State is not the most poverty-stricken region in Nigeria. Similarly, Adams opines that it seems odd for Edo State to have the most trafficked victims because it “has a lower poverty rate than three quarters of the States in Nigeria”. More recently, Kara (2009), has asserted that up to 80 percent of victims trafficked from Nigeria to Italy for sexual exploitation belonged to a single ethnic group, the Edos. As a result of previous and current findings of high concentrations of human trafficking victims in Edo State, several NGOs have dedicated themselves to providing help to victims of human trafficking in Edo State. NGOs, such as: Indian Renaissance, which are notable for its pioneering efforts to eradicate human trafficking in Edo State, have helped raise awareness of the effect of human trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation.

In addition, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters has also made efforts to resettle victims of human trafficking and arrest traffickers. However, the convictions of human traffickers made by this National Agency in Edo State are relatively low. From 2004 to 2012 only 34 summary convictions were made in Edo State’s capital, Benin City. This relatively low figure of summary convictions begs the question: if Edo State is the hub of sex trafficking, why are the convictions of sex traffickers not higher than other states in Nigeria? Irrespective of the efforts by NGOs, and national and international

intervention to curb human trafficking in Edo State, the trafficking of victims there is still on the increase.

2.12 Influx of Edo Girls and Women to Europe

The influx of West African prostitutes, particularly girls and women from Edo State, is not a recent phenomenon. The modern sex trafficking associated with Edo State is estimated to have begun in the 1980s. Cole and Booth (2007), stated that women from Edo State were among the first generation of prostitutes in Italy, and over this period, some of the Edo women became madams who in turn themselves began recruiting young girls and women abroad for prostitution. Cole and Booth are correct; the first generation of Edo women and girls who went to Italy initially went abroad to conduct legitimate business such as the buying and selling of goods which included clothes and jewelries. However, in the process of engaging in such business, a lot of women became compromised and augmented their business with prostitution. Carling (2005), agrees with this and maintains that it was Italy's demand for low skilled labor in agriculture and services in the 1980s that sparked the migration of Nigerians, particularly from Edo State to Italy.

2.13 Human Trafficking Activities in Nigeria

Although human trafficking has become a global problem, nevertheless, African countries (including Nigeria) serve as major sources of trafficked persons. According to the report which the United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) presented to the Conference of African Ministers in Benin Republic in 2004, human trafficking is prominent in 53 African countries. The report revealed that 89 percent of the 53 nations involved had been trafficking human beings to and from neighboring countries, but an appreciable volume of the traffic flows to Europe (see Akaigwe, 2004; Njoku, 2005). The African children were said to be “the biggest victims of the complex phenomenon, and are twice as likely to be trafficked as

women”. Some are engaged as child soldiers in war-torn African countries, while many others work as domestic servants, farm labourers or sold into prostitution.

In Nigeria specifically, human trafficking involving women and children has been going on in several locations and communities. The report on Trafficking in Persons, 2004 cited in Maduagwu (2004) described Nigeria as a source, transit and destination country for trafficked women and children. The report noted that Nigerians were trafficked to Europe, the Middle East and other countries for purpose of forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. It also described Nigeria as a destination country for Togolese, Beninese, Ghanaian and Cameroonian children trafficked for forced labour (See Maduagwu, 2004).

A recent report on human trafficking and migration to Europe shows that in 2014, 170, 100 arrived Italy by sea, compared to 141, 484 migrants that were ferried through the Mediterranean Sea from Libya in 2013. According to the report, the migrants had come from Syria (42, 323), Eritrea (34, 329), Mali (9,908), and Nigeria (9,000), Gambia (8, 691), Somalia (5, 756) and some other nations (4,095). Among the migrants, 64, 625 were said to have applied for asylum (Ojugbana, 2015). In the case of Nigeria, most of the migrants were victims of human trafficking hoodwinked by syndicates as a result of their desperation to travel to Europe or Asia for a better life. Thus, human trafficking is a complex phenomenon of which many people are involved at both family and community levels, as well as at the border or international transactions. The Guardian Opinion (June 29, 2004) observed that Nigeria is a well-known player in human trafficking. According to the paper, the country serves as” a base camp and transit channel for traffickers and their human commodity”.

The paper also noted that inside the country and at border areas some locations are known to be target spots for operations. In a similar view, Oloko cited in Okpalakunne (2006)

explained that child trafficking consists of both national and trans-national recruitment and movement of children for the purpose of providing cheap, manipulated and exploitable labour for domestic and agricultural work, commercial sex work or prostitution, begging, unregulated industrial work and street trading. The South-east and South-south geo-political zones of Nigeria are noted for active involvement in human trafficking. For instance, several thousands of children are known to have been trafficked from Igbo land, Akwa-Ibom and Cross River states to Lagos, Benin Republic, Togo and Gabon for the purpose of engaging them in child labour, which is akin to child slavery. The high rate of child trafficking became a major source of concern to the Akwa, Ibom State government that it banned all forms of trafficking in children from the state to other parts of the country to serve as house-helps or cheap labour of any form” in 2004. The government also threatened to deal drastically with parents who persist and promote trafficking in children (Solomon, 2004).

In Benin City, capital of Edo State, there were syndicates who specialized in recruiting and sponsoring young ladies to Europe especially Italy, Amsterdam and Belgium for prostitution. Taire (2004) observed that it was since 2000 that the issue of Nigerian women in general, and ladies from Benin city and its environs in particular going to Europe to work as commercial sex workers had become a real cause for concern. Similarly, This Day (May 3, 2004) in a story called from Economist (May 3, 2004), stated that people-trafficking in Benin-city was an organized and lucrative trade. The paper observed that it was not possible to know how many ladies were shipped out each year, but that everyone in Benin-city knows who has gone. The paper noted that the girls were recruited by local sponsors who pay up-front for transport, and the girls therefore start out with thousands of dollars in debt. By 2004, it was estimated that no fewer than 100,000 young Nigerian women had been sold into sex slavery as

prostitutes, servicing ‘top guns’ and ‘big boys’ in Europe’s flourishing underground sex industry.

According to an official of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Mohammed Babandede (2003), out of about 90,000 sex workers of Nigerian origin in Italy 50,000 of them were from Edo State. This, according to Alhaji Babandede, represented 60 percent of prostitutes in that country (See Njoku, 2005). Sequel to this, the United States of America placed Nigeria on her Tier 2-Watch list of countries involved in trafficking in persons. According to Joann Schneider (2007), Deputy Director of the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons, Washington, Nigeria did not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking though United States recognized that Nigeria was making significant efforts to do so (Emeozor, 2004). It was as a result of the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria and its increasing damage to the nation’s image abroad that some anti-human trafficking organizations were formed by some patriotic individuals to stem the ugly tide.

Among these organizations, the most influential, powerful and well-focused was the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) founded by Mrs. Amina Titi Abubakar, wife of former Vice President of Nigeria, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. WOTCLEF initiated and sponsored the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Labour Bill which was passed by the National Assembly and subsequently signed into law by the former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on July 14, 2003 (Njoku, 2005). The legislation (Act) provided for the establishment of the National Enforcement and Administration to be known as National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP). It gave the agency sweeping powers to initiate prosecution of barons or syndicates of the illicit trade. The

NAPTIP mission statement is the full commitment to the prevention of all forms of human degradation and exploitation.

Through the coordinated use of nation crime prevention and law enforcement resources, we are determined to stamp out human trafficking and to liberate and uplift the vulnerable especially women and children, from dehumanizing exploitative usage, as well as to ensure their rehabilitation and effective reintegration into the society (cited in Adoba, 2004). In 2005 the NAPTIP Act was amended which criminalized the keeping of brothels and the use of children as domestic house helps. The properties of the offenders of this amended act have become targets for seizure by government (Olayinka, 2011).

Moreover, the Federal Government has encouraged NAPTIP to establish a National Investigation Task Force (NITF). The NITF has been upgraded to effective coordinating offices in many states of the federation particularly in states with worst human trafficking problems. NAPTIP has also established shelters where victims of human trafficking are taken care of during rescue and rehabilitation period. Those shelters exist in zonal offices located in Lagos, Kano, Benin, Enugu, Uyo, Sokoto and Maiduguri (Olayinka, 2011). Besides, NAPTIP was said to be increasingly making use of the Police, Immigration Service and traditional rulers in its fight against human trafficking in Nigeria. It was also said to have successfully investigated many cases and had also succeeded in securing the convictions of many syndicates involved in human trafficking in the country.

The NAPTIP was also said to be increasingly collaborating with some national and international agencies in its fight against human trafficking. For instance, the NAPTIP was said to be collaborating with International Organization for Migration (IOM), Spanish Police, the Italian Anti-Mafia Bureau and Benin Republic Police etc. The collaboration with these agencies

was said to have resulted in the arrests and trial of some syndicates involved in human trafficking and the formal repatriation of some victims of the illicit trade, Okumephana (2004) stated that the collaboration between NAPTIP and other agencies had resulted in the arrests of syndicates involved in 13 different cases of which four had been charged to court by December, 2004. However, the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mr. Simon Chudi Egede has revealed that his agency has secured more than 100 convictions with many of them serving various jail terms ranging from two to 24 years in prison (Olayinka, 2011).

2.14 Nature of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

The followings are the nature of human trafficking in Nigeria:

Human trafficking does not require travel or transport from one location to another. According to US Department of Justice Report in 2009, there were 1,229 suspected human trafficking incidents in the United States of America from January 2007 through September 2008. Of these, 83 percent were sex trafficking cases, though only 9% of all cases could be confirmed as cases of human trafficking ([http://content.news14.com/human trafficking.pdf](http://content.news14.com/human%20trafficking.pdf)).

- i. Sex trafficking involves international agents and brokers who arrange travel and job placement for women from Nigeria. In-fact, these women who are the victims are lured to accompany traffickers based on promises of lucrative opportunities unachievable in Nigeria. They fell as victims to these deceptions because of high level of inflationary trends in the society, acute unemployment, and high poverty rate in the country which majorities of Nigerians found themselves which leaders both at the federal and state levels have not addressed

- ii. It is disheartening to know that once these women (victims) reach their destinations, the women discover that they have been deceived and learn the true nature of work that they will be expected to do.

To some extent, many of the women were deceived with lies regarding the financial arrangements and conditions of their employment, later to find themselves in coercive or abusive situation from which escape is both difficult and dangerous to these women (Kara, 2009)

2.15 Challenges of Curbing Sex Trafficking in Edo State

Several factors have contributed to the difficulties in curbing sex trafficking in Edo

Corrupt Government: Although the Nigerian government enacts and implements anti-trafficking laws, the government has played a crucial role in the increase in sex trafficking. This difficulty stems from governmental corruption which, in turn, means that there is a lack of distribution of wealth. Falola and Heaton identify Nigeria as a very wealthy country owing to Nigeria's role as the leading exporter of oil in Africa and one of the leading exporters of oil in the world. Despite the vast amount of oil and mineral resources in the country, the majority of Nigerians continue to live in poverty. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2010, 60.9% of Nigerians were living in absolute poverty. Similarly, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its Paper entitled "The role of corruption in trafficking in persons" concurs that corruption and trafficking in persons (particularly for sexual exploitation) are criminal activities which are closely linked. The UNODC also asserts that it is only when the actual impact of corruption on human trafficking is dealt with, that human trafficking can be effectively challenged. Governmental corruption, which is a major cause of poverty in Nigeria, lies at the heart of the sex trafficking problem in Nigeria, particularly in Edo State. Therefore,

the Nigerian government is very responsible for the difficulty in curbing sex trafficking in Edo State.

Corruption of Public Institutions: Another factor for the non-effective curbing of sex trafficking in Edo State is mainly centered on the Nigerian Police Force. Although the enactment of laws to combat sex trafficking in Nigeria and Edo State are clearly in place, the ability to implement them is nonexistent. Like all other branches of government in Nigeria, corruption is endemic in the Nigerian Police Force. According to Human Rights Watch: The police by routinely extort money from victims to investigate a given criminal case, which leave those who refuse or are unable to pay without access to justice. Meanwhile, criminal suspects with money can simply bribe the police to avoid arrest, detention, or prosecution, to influence the outcome of a criminal investigation, or to turn the investigation against the victim. Saleh-Hanna agrees with this, describing how police set up check points in most parts of Nigeria, wave down cars and collect bribes from some of the drivers. In certain circumstances, drivers who refuse to cooperate are subjected to torture and, in some cases, killed. For example, on the 9th of February 2012, a policeman allegedly shot and killed a commercial bus driver over his alleged refusal to pay a 20 Naira bribe.

Additionally, in a survey conducted by the CLEEN Foundation, it was stated that “among public officials who demanded bribes, the police were the highest at 70 per cent, and bribery and corruption was high in Edo State (42 percent)”. With the high percentage of police corruption in Nigeria, and Edo State in particular, there is a grave danger that the police may not arrest sex traffickers who offer them bribes. Astonishingly, the figures for convicted traffickers in Edo State are considerably low. As previously mentioned, from 2004 to 2012 only summary convictions were made in Edo State’s capital, Benin City. The recent claims by NAPTIP, that the Kogi State police released suspected human traffickers before their intervention, begs the

question whether the trafficking of human beings can be curbed in Nigeria, without the co-operation of the two most important agencies responsible for the ending of human trafficking.

2.16 Effects of Human Trafficking on Nigeria's Image

The concept of national image conjures a mental picture which a nation-state portrays or projects about herself in her relations with other nation-states in the international system. It is a significant factor or an essential element for the perception and assessment of national character. Morgenthau (1949) described national character as those “fundamental intellectual and moral traits which reveal themselves on all levels of thought and action and which give each nation its unmistakable distinctiveness”. It is in recognition of the need to portray good national image in the comity of nations that Nigeria established NAPTIP and collaborates with various organizations in the fight against the scourge of human trafficking.

Despite these efforts, however, the incidence of human trafficking persists and has continued to create negative effects on the country's image in the following ways:

- i. Human trafficking portrays Nigeria in a bad light. It creates a devastating erroneous impression that the country is incapable of providing for her citizens especially in terms of employment and social welfare, hence the exodus of her able-bodied youths to foreign countries.
- ii. It dents the image of the country as many young prostitutes of Nigerian origin are allegedly often spotted in sex parlors and streets of some European countries (Italy, Holland and Belgium etc) soliciting for male clients.

This is despite the fact that the country conducted free, fair, credible and peaceful general elections recently, and is making efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions of its citizens. Human trafficking, therefore, creates wrong impression of the image of the country. It

frustrates the efforts of the government towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly Education for All. Many of the victims of child trafficking are deprived of the opportunity to acquire formal education. Besides, Ezinma (2010) reported that over 12 million Nigerian children are in the bondage of child labor and more are at risk of joining the child labor condition. He stated in his report that it is quite sad that many years after the goal of International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour work (IPEC) was launched, the prevention and elimination of worst form of child labour (WFCL) is still a mirage in Nigeria. This casts doubts on the commitment of the country towards eliminating child labor which is akin to child slavery.

Brain drain which is another dimension of 'human trafficking' deprives the country high skilled manpower needed for rapid national development. Ibekwe (2010) summarized the negative effects of brain drain on developing countries, including Nigeria as follows: Brain drain in developing countries has financial, institutional and social costs: little return from their investments in higher education; increasing dependency on foreign expertise due to dwindling professional sector; diminishing ability of several developing countries to offer basic health care services to their subjects; widening gap in science and technology between the richer and poor countries; crumbling middle class population; failing tax system and disappearance of jobs and society (Ibekwe, 2010). With particular reference to Nigeria, Professors Wilma Meus and David Sanders, both of the University of the Western Cape's School of Public Health, South Africa stated in their research report that Nigeria has incurred loss of \$420 million (N53.34 billion) through the loss of 21,000 doctors to the United States of America.

Meus and Sanders (2003), stated that conservative estimates showed that the United States has saved at least \$3.86 million (N490.2 million) in training fees by employing doctors from Nigeria (Bagshaw, 2003). Similarly, thousands of medical experts of Nigerian origin

reside and work in United Kingdom. On the other hand, Nigeria's health care and education sectors have "been in deplorable state partly due to inadequate number of experts as a result of the effect of brain drain." In the case of health sector, for instance, the report on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as documented by Anuforo (2010) shows that Nigeria really still does not have the kind of public health system that the country needs. The life expectancy in Nigeria is about 55 years, while in other middle income countries it is about 70, and higher income countries about 80 plus. Nigeria is just not achieving the health and maternal survival of the child befitting a country of its stature (Anuforo, 2010). It should be noted that Nigerians in Diaspora were said to be over 20 million contributing greatly to the development of their various countries of residence (Nwanunobi, 2006).

Human trafficking exposes some Nigerian citizens to all forms of inhuman treatment in foreign countries. These include physical assault, rape, detention and in some extreme cases execution. Many Nigerians are also known to be languishing in prisons in some countries of the world due to the misadventure associated with human trafficking. It gives rise to frequent deportation of Nigerian citizens from foreign countries with its attendant diplomatic implications. The former Head of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Trafficking Unit, Miss Nnenna Mbagwu revealed that a total of 2,562 Nigerian girls were deported from Europe in 2002. She also stated that 189 minors who were being 'towed out' of the country ostensibly for child slavery were intercepted in the same year. (*Daily Champion*, January 30, 2003).

Human trafficking exposes Nigerian youths to the danger of being used as 'guinea pigs' for scientific and medical researchers in foreign countries. The National Coordinator of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign (NAHTC), Mr. Richard Osai lamented that human trafficking between Nigeria and the world "is taking worse dimension". He stated that "besides slave work abuse, the victims are losing their vital parts for a paltry \$150 in return for the

permanent damage done to them” (*Nigerian Pilot*, January 20, 2011). This is not only an act of indignity against such victims, but also portrays them as sub-humans without protective rights. It impugns on Nigeria’s national character. It was partly as a result of the bad image which human trafficking paints about the country that the Federal Government resolved to embark on re-branding Nigeria project.

2.17 Anti-Human Trafficking Organizations in Nigeria and Africa

Nigeria is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons including forced labor and forced prostitution.

Human trafficking has become widespread and now occupied a preeminent position among the ills that pervade the Nigeria society. This trade in human beings affects more of Nigerian young people between the ages of 6 and 30. While human trafficking is increasing, more organizations need to extend their activities to fighting human trafficking. Young people also need to participate in eradicating this crime.

Devatop Centre for Africa Development (DCAD) is a leading youth-based anti-human trafficking organization in Nigeria, situated at Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, and making impact in different states.

The organization which was founded by Joseph Osuigwe during his National Youth Service Corps, he has been committed to training, empowering and engaging young people to combating human trafficking and other human rights abuses in Nigeria.

Since 2013, DCAD has trained 5030 young people and sensitized over 400, 000 citizens through community awareness and media campaign. The organization is making Nigerians, especially young people to understand that it is their responsibility to combat human trafficking. In 2015, DCAD realized that there is an urgent need to train, equip and empower people to take strategic

action against this monstrous crime, and decided to carry out a pilot project on The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Other Related Matters (TAPHOM) and a research on Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Training as a Tool for Equipping Young People for Advocacy and Social Action in Nigeria. One hundred and twenty young people (aged 17 to 40) from six states in Nigeria were selected through online and offline registration to participate in the training. Participants were equipped with advocacy skills, toolkits and information materials (Cole, 2007).

Results from the evaluation showed that 95 percent of the participants engaged in strategic anti-human trafficking advocacy and social action through the following approaches: media campaign, community sensitization, school awareness, radio talk, publication of articles, etc. Few participants reported incidences of human trafficking or the identification of victims. Through the training, participants developed a sense of responsibility to combating human trafficking. In 2016, DCAD helped to rescue Amina Saliu, a 17 year old girl who was abducted from Abuja to Kano for forced marriage.

DCAD has partnered with National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) and other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to carryout projects related to human rights protection and promotion (Cole, 2007).

In an interview with the founder, Mr. Joseph Osuigwe, he stated, “DCAD has plans of getting grant to establish or do the second phase of The Academy for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Other Related Matters (TAPHOM), which will be the first of its kind in Nigeria. The academy will focus on training, research, ICT/Media, publication, and empowerment. There

is also plan to develop a mobile application that can easily be used to observe report and track incidences of human rights abuses in Nigeria. One of our 5 strategic plans is that each of the 774 local governments in Nigeria will have at least 10 trained anti-human trafficking advocates who will be observing, reporting and tracking incidences of human trafficking. We will galvanize young people to build a Nigeria without human trafficking” (source: Transnational Network-TNC Reporter February 2, 2017).

2.18 Geographical Dynamics of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

Internal Trafficking: In the last two decades there has been an increase in the internal trafficking of Nigerian women and children. An increased number of people are trafficked from rural communities (Oyo, Osun and Ogun States in the South-West; Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Bayelsa States in the South-South; Ebonyi and Imo in the South East; Benue, Niger, and Kwara States in the Middle Belt) to cities such as Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Calabar and Port Harcourt. Trafficking to these regions is predominantly for exploitative domestic work, farm labor and prostitution, with incidents of human trafficking and forced labour particularly prevalent in Lagos.

Cross-Border Trafficking: Internationally trafficked Nigerians come from all parts of Nigeria but some states tend to provide more trafficked persons than others. These states include: Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ebonyi, Kano, Delta, Ogun, Oyo and Lagos. West African destination countries for Nigerian trafficked women and children are Republic of Benin, Togo, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea where trafficked persons are made to work mostly as domestic servants and on farm plantations. More specifically, women and children recruited from Shaki in Oyo State are mainly trafficked to Guinea, Mali and Côte d’Ivoire to work as hawkers and domestic servants. Recently, Nigerian women and young girls

were also trafficked to Benin for prostitution. Most of these trafficked persons find themselves deceived into believing that their destination would be Europe.

Common European destinations for trafficked women and children from Nigeria are Italy, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. There is a noticeable and growing trend in the trafficking of Nigerian women and young girls to the United Kingdom to work as domestic servants.

An increasing number of young girls claiming context and issue asylum in the United Kingdom are, in fact, trafficked persons. Twenty Nigerian women and girls en-route to Europe spend many months in the deserts of North Africa and are forced into labor and prostitution to survive during the journey. About 92% of Nigerians trafficked to Europe for prostitution come from Edo State of Nigeria. Initially, most came from Benin City, the capital of Edo State, and from cities in Delta State. With the mounting anti-trafficking campaigns, however, traffickers are moving away from urban centers and into the countryside. There are also records of recruitment from other Nigerian states, such as Imo, Enugu, Lagos, Ogun, Anambra and Akwa-Ibom.

The Middle East is another destination, especially Libya and Saudi Arabia. The recruitment of girls trafficked to Saudi Arabia comes predominantly from the northern part of Nigeria, especially Kano, Kwara Kaduna, Niger, Borno, Taraba, Yobe, Nassarawa, Plateau, Kebbi, Kwara, Sokoto, Katsina, Adamawa, Zamfara, Jigawa, Gombe and Bauchi States. Improved immigration records have helped debunk the erroneous impression that human trafficking for prostitution does not occur in the northern part of Nigeria. Based on such sources, a paper from the Nigerian Immigration Service reported that: "From March 2002-April 2004, the Saudi Arabia authorities deported 9,952 women and 1,231 underage unaccompanied

children. Investigations revealed that the majority of the women deported from Saudi Arabia are from: Kano, Borno,

Adamawa, Yobe, Nassarawa, Plateau, Niger, Kebbi, Kwara, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Jigawa, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba States”. Between 1999 and July 2000, traffickers deported about 454 trafficked Nigerians, mostly women and children, from Saudi Arabia. Recently, South America has also become a point of destination for trafficked persons, particularly Venezuela.

Nigeria as a Transit Country

As a transit country, Nigeria is the center for distribution of trafficked persons to West Africa and to Gabon and Cameroon.

i. Nigeria as a Destination Country

As a destination, Nigeria receives Togolese women, young girls and children from Benin, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. Over the years, Buzu women²⁵ from the Niger Republic have been trafficked into affluent homes in northern Nigeria to serve as household helpers and concubines. Occasionally, some of the trafficked Buzu women end up marrying their employers who are often affluent business people.

2.19 Purposes of Human Trafficking Around the Globe

There are various reasons while people [Women and Children] are involved in human trafficking in Nigeria; these include prostitution, domestic work, street traders, exploited in agricultural work, brass melting, stone digging, scavenging among others.

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. 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. 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.

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.

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.

According to an online reports 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, now 14 years old, is the only child of her mother. She has 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 last 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.”

Pre-pubescent 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 young 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. These are excerpts from interviews made for this study.

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 God. Many simply accept the supposed wages. 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.

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. 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. Physically challenged or handicapped persons are hired on a daily basis for begging assignments with a token fee of often no more than 500 Naira (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.

Baby Harvesting

In States like Abia, Ebonyi and Lagos, many cases have been reported to clinics, doctors, nurses and orphanages that 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 a 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 ₦500,000 (about US \$3875) and ₦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 (UNICEF, 2000)

Another case was that of the Good Shepherd Orphanage which engaged in the illegal adoption of babies. Young girls with unwanted pregnancies were sheltered at the orphanage and their babies sold at birth, with official cover from the administration (UNICEF, 1998)

There is no trace of many of the babies that are sold, and one cannot be sure exactly how they are used.

2.21 Theoretical Framework

2.21.1 The Feminist Political Economy and Feminization of Survival

In explaining human trafficking of Edo women, the Feminist Political Economy, FPE provides a macro insight to economic factors and the kind of social relationships mediated as a result of the structural location of women within the existing political structures. Hence, FPE deconstructs the traditional political economic theory that assumes social relations determined economic systems of production without giving a critical analysis to the existing inequality of social relations. Although the traditional political economy theory appeared more integrative than ordinary economic principles of demand and supply by attempting a description of the societies, the corresponding economic systems of production that stem from such social configuration are usually ignored. Traditional political economy theory failed to capture the inherent inequalities between female and male gender, in relation to access to economic resources within the family, in virtually all human societies. Hence, Intra Pares (2004) defined FPE concerns as economics of groups, families, communities, neighborhoods’, localities and

regions as well as individuals. Its utility lies on its focus on people as social political and economic subjects or agents. The holistic integration of the social cultural and political conditions in which the subject operates constitutes the basis of such analysis.

Furthermore, Riley (2008) posited that the macro and microeconomic systems are highly gendered, as there are evidently structural inequalities within the social structure from which the subjects or social actors make economic decisions. FPE identifies gender as a critical component of social relations that significantly influences political relationships and structures of power thereby culminating in differential access to privileges, resources and positions of power.

Sassen (2002) considers the phenomenon of trafficking for the purpose of sexual transaction as gendered processes of contemporary globalization. She argued that a crusade against international prostitution was indeed a refusal to appreciate the wider “social-moral” context in which these phenomena occur. She added that the occurrence and pervasiveness of sex trafficking was an indicator of the “feminization for survival” of highly vulnerable migrant women (Sassen 2002: 274).

In identifying the theoretical relevance of FPE, one would readily observe that the adoption of neoliberal economic policies in the global South, with specific reference to Nigeria had a debilitating effect on livelihood of many Nigerian. Indeed, the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) adopted by the Nigerian government, a macro-economic policy in Nigeria in order to restructure the economy, has been argued to be a major catalyst of trafficking of women for the and international sex trade in the region (Oyeonoru, 2001; Aghatise, 2002).

In the face of severe economic crunch experienced by majority of the populace, the need to devise economic strategies for survival became imperative. The mass retrenchment, employment embargo, freezing of public service salary and the devaluation of the domestic

currency, coupled with the rise in inflation, all had deleterious effects on Nigerians and on family dynamics and structures, with women becoming the major recipients of the economic toll in Nigeria (Oyediran and Odusola 2004). Poverty levels rose in Nigeria with the introduction of SAP and women and children were greatly affected due to the gendered orientation of poverty in Nigeria. The above theory largely explained the macro social environment in which women trafficking occur in the region but obscured the micro level relationships within the family structure.

At the micro level of analyses, the unified gender model as posited by Yanagasiko and Collier (2004) in analyzing social whole is adopted as ancillary to the feminist political economy theory. The relevance of this model stems from the fact that there is an assumption of ‘systemic inequality’, which suggests a prestige structure that calls for analysis.

Yanagasiko and Collier (2004) explained that cultural analysis involves gaining insights into the nature of social relationships within specific contexts. They conclude by stating the need to adopt a historical and comparative analysis in gaining understanding into the relationships between gender, kinship and change. They further posit that such analysis will enable one understand subjective meanings of given ‘facts’ as well as structural location of the respondents. Yanagasiko and Collier (2004) maintain that cultural analysis, which involves the nature of social relationships within specific context, the people’s evaluation, and prestige models, which are encoded in their description and interpretations of events or social relationship, must be investigated. Such will require the adoption of a historical and comparative analysis in light of the facts and meanings attached to words or events and such facts and meanings cannot be ahistorical. This theoretical model is relevant to the current study in that it emphasizes a culture-specific gender relation analyses. This will no doubt provide adequate

insight to the specificity of illegal migration and international sex transaction among the Edo women.

2.21.2 Gender and Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is considered a gender-based phenomenon (Zimmerman, 2005; Russell, 2014), therefore disproportionately impacting the lives of women and girls. The United Nations identifies that women account for 55-60 percent of all human trafficking victims detected globally, while two-thirds of trafficked children are girls (United Nations, 2012). A complex set of “push and pull” factors have identified that that women and girls particularly vulnerable to becoming trafficking victims (Ebbe & Das, 2008; Territo & Kirkham, 2010). These factors include, but not limited to, the system of patriarchy, violence against women, the feminization of poverty and migration, globalization and the capitalist market system, as well as the practice of consumerism and commodification.

2.21.3The Feminization of Poverty and Migration

The feminization of poverty is stated to be “closely aligned with the feminization of migration” (Russell, 2014, p. 536), with both contributing to the gendered narrative of human trafficking victims. The feminization of poverty is commonly conceptualized as the disproportionate overrepresentation of women in poverty, relative to that of men, with female poverty greater in incidence and severity (Ho, 2007; Kim & Choi, 2012; Russell, 2014). Experiencing significant obstacles, such as gender-based division of labor and wages, women are more likely than men to be unemployed, and if employed, their work is the lowest paid, in the least secure jobs (Baykotan, 2014; Ho, 2007; Kim & Choi, 2012; Tavcer, 2006). In addition, the labor a significant number of women participate in consists of the care of dependents, which is often not financially compensated (Ho, 2007; Kim & Choi, 2012; Tavcer, 2006). With the majority of the

world's women employed as "marginal wage workers", or receiving no financial remuneration for their labor at all, their economic disadvantage deepens (Ho, 2007; Kim & Choi, 2012) with "households and whole communities increasingly dependent on women for their survival," (Sassen, 2000, p. 503) the feminization of migration results (Sassen, 2000; Russell, 2014).

Seeking to alleviate their own economically disadvantaged status, or provide for their families, women migrate to find work (Baykotan, 2014; Russell, 2014; Samarasinghe, 2015; Sassen, 2000; Scarpa, 2006; Tavcer, 2006). Faced with increased obstacles to legal migration, due to harsh immigration laws, limited work visas, and increased border security (Lobasz, 2009), women are lured by traffickers promising to deliver them to their desired destination or help them secure employment (Barner, Okech, & Camp, 2014; Berton, 2000; Scarpa, 2006; Russell, 2014; Tavcer, 2006). The traffickers then capitalize on the women's economically and socially vulnerable status. **2.22 Conflict Theory**

This research thesis is also presented from a sociological perspective. This theory propounded by Karl Marx (1818-1883) was one of the theoretical framework is the conflict studies. A close look at Nigeria's social set up shows clearly that the capitalist nature of the economy has led to the polarization of the society into two diametrically antagonistic classes: the haves and the have-nots. What is more, the government's economic policies tend to favor the dominant capitalist class leaving the majority in dire straits. The collapse of the oil boom in the late 1970s and the imposition of the Structural Adjustment Program SAP, at the insistence of the Breton Woods Institutions led to trying times for the majority of Nigerians. SAP has led to a decline in the purchasing power of the Naira and low capacity utilization of industries which in turn contributed to a decline in Per Capita Income and a collapse of social services (Lipede, 2007).

Inequalities in rural and urban incomes widened overtime. Food insecurity, inability to meet basic needs like education, health care, etc., reflected the deepening poverty in rural communities. Flight to urban areas failed to bring the expected succor for job seekers as rising urban unemployment made job seeking a fruitless exercise for many. Poverty and a lack of opportunities to improve people's social conditions lead to a general loss of confidence in constituted authority and the subsequent rise in the rate of crimes such as armed robbery, prostitution, trafficking of women and drug trafficking, etc. Poverty manifested in illiteracy, unemployment and poor living standards occasioned by the failure of the government's socio-economic policies, therefore, appears to be at the heart of human trafficking.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the procedure that was used in carrying out this research. This chapter will be discussed under the following sub headings: Research Design, Sample and Sampling Techniques, Research Instrument, Procedure for Data Collection and Data Analysis Techniques.

3.2 Research Design

. This is a descriptive research design of the cross-sectional survey method. It is aimed at assessing human trafficking and its implications for women in Edo State. A researcher-designed questionnaire was used to obtain relevant information from the sampled population and non-parametric statistic was used to analyze the data.

3.3 Population and Sample

The population for this study involves Civil Servants, Traders and NAPTIP staff in Edo State. The target population for this study was Civil Servants, Traders and NAPTIP staff in two main local governments in Edo State was taken by systematic sampling. Using census survey method which is defined as a complete enumeration survey method wherein each and every item in the universe is selected for data collection, the researcher sampled 250 from the target population. In addition, stratified random sampling technique was used to classify the target population based on gender, marital status, education, and local government.

3.4 Research Instrument

The instrument is a researcher-designed questionnaire entitled; human trafficking and its Implications for women in Edo State. It is divided into four sections: A, B, C and D. Section A deals with the demographic data of respondents such as: gender, marital status, education and local government area. Section B deals with the root causes of human trafficking. This section was rated based on 4-point Likert scale: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). Section C deals with the effects of human trafficking and its implication for women in Nigeria. This section was rated based on 4-point Likert scale: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). Section D examines the frequency of human trafficking. This section was rated based on: weekly, Monthly, Yearly and Not at all.

3.5 Validation of the Research Instrument

The questionnaire used as the research instrument was subjected to pilot study. This research instrument (questionnaire) adopted was adequately checked and validated by the supervisor, their contributions and corrections were included into the final draft of the research instrument used.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire for this study was personally administered to the entire target population sample in Oredo and Akoko Edo local government councils in Edo State. The researcher introduced herself and purpose of the study while respondents were made to participate in the study voluntarily. In addition, the responses were handled with utmost confidentiality. The respondents' names were not disclosed in order to maintain their anonymity. Also, respondents were served the informed consent form to avoid being coerced

and to achieve their willingness to provide reliable responses. The questionnaire consists of four parts. The first part related to the demographics of respondents including; Gender, Marital status, Education qualification, Occupation and Local Government Area. The second part focused on the factors causing Human Trafficking in Edo State. A total of nine (9) factors were considered. The third part focused on the effects of Human Trafficking on Women, including seven (7) types of effects. The final part of the questionnaire was concerned with the challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human-trafficking in the state, including eleven (11) types of practices. The questionnaires were retrieved immediately after completion with the help of research assistants. In addition to the questionnaire distributed, structured interviews were conducted because of the fixed set of closed questions used by the interviewer. The respondents here are the NAPTIP staff, traders and the civil servants in Oredo and Akoko Edo local government council of Edo State. The reasons for selecting NAPTIP staff, traders and civil servants of these local government councils as our respondents is to apply the result on them after analysis and also to allow the researcher and other readers to assess the fulfilment of evidence-based gaps in the literature with respect to the study objectives and population.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

In assessing the implications of human trafficking for women in Edo State, data collected was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The data gathered were analyzed using the simple percentage and mean to analyze research questions. While in the area of instrumentation, questionnaires were designed with closed ended questions based on the topic of research. For the purpose of data presentation and analysis in this study, tables and simple percentage were used.

3.7.1 Rules for Ranking:

1. We find the mean and the standard deviation of each factors (i.e. root causes) using the scales corresponding to each categories of responses (i.e. Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree).
2. Ranking was done in ascending order of significance of factors (i.e. factor with higher mean value that is more significant than the other factors).

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The issue of ethics in conducting research was highly adhered to while high moral and ethical values were highly maintained the rights of individual respondents and of their organizations were preserved. In case of the participants, enrolment was done on a voluntary basis. This ensured that the persons engaging in the study gave information at ease and not to intrude into their privacy in any way. Confidentiality was also given optimum attention to ensure that, the identities of the participants were not disclosed. Finally all the cited authors were referenced and acknowledged accordingly.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collection, presentation and analysis of the data collected. In the main survey, 250 questionnaires were administered, of which 228 valid responses were received (a valid response rate of 91.20%).

4.2 Respondents' Demographic Data

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of Respondents

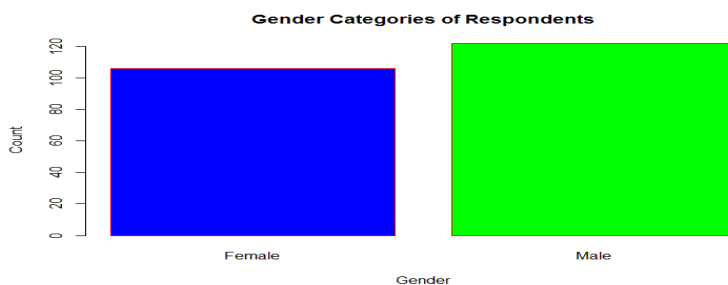
Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	122	53.5%
	Female	106	46.5%
Marital Status	Single	121	53.1%
	Married	93	40.8%
	Divorced	9	3.9%
	Others	5	2.2%
Educational Qualification	SSCE	70	30.7%
	NCE/ND	81	35.5%
	B.Sc	63	27.6%
	Higher Degrees	14	6.1%

Occupation	Civil Servant	109	47.8%
	Trader	76	33.3%
	NAPTIP	43	18.9%
L.G.A	Akoko-Edo	90	39.5%
	Oredo	138	60.5%

Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

Table 4.1 above revealed that 122 (53.5%) of respondents were Males and 106 (46.5%) were Females. More so, 53.1%, 40.5%, 3.9%, and 2.2% were Singles, Married, Divorced and Others respectively. Also, 30.7%, 35.55, 27.6% and 6.1% were SSCE, NCE/ND, B.Sc and PG educational qualification respectively. 47.8%, 33.3% and 18.9% were Civil-servants, Trader, and NAPTIP by occupations respectively. Finally, 39.5% and 60.5% were from Akoko-Edo and Oredo L.G.A respectively. Below are the graphical representations of the corresponding Socio-Demographic data of the respondents.

Figure 4.1: Showing the gender of the respondents

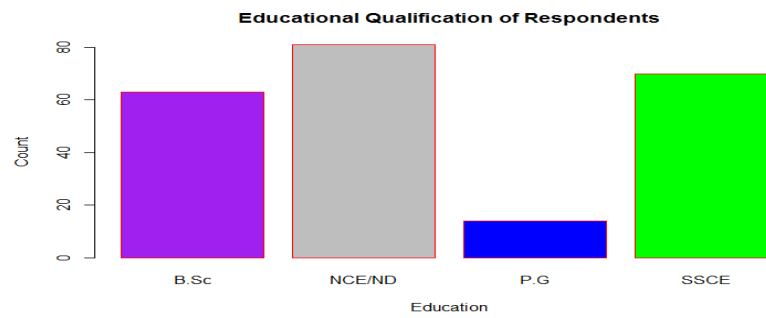


Source: *Field Survey,*

2018Figure 4.2: Showing the Marital status of the respondents

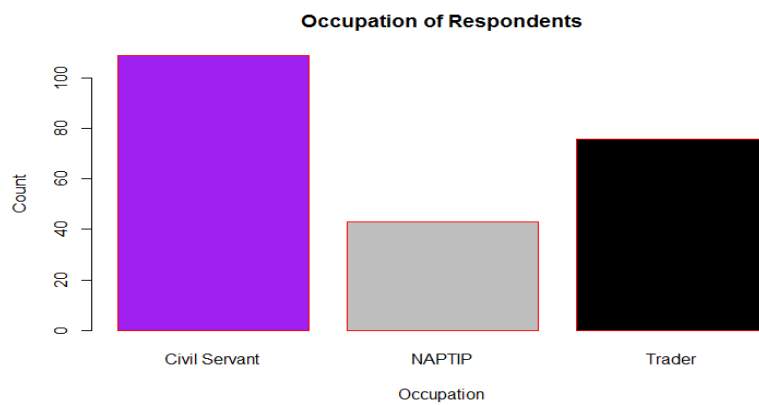
Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

Figure 4.3: Showing the Educational of the respondents



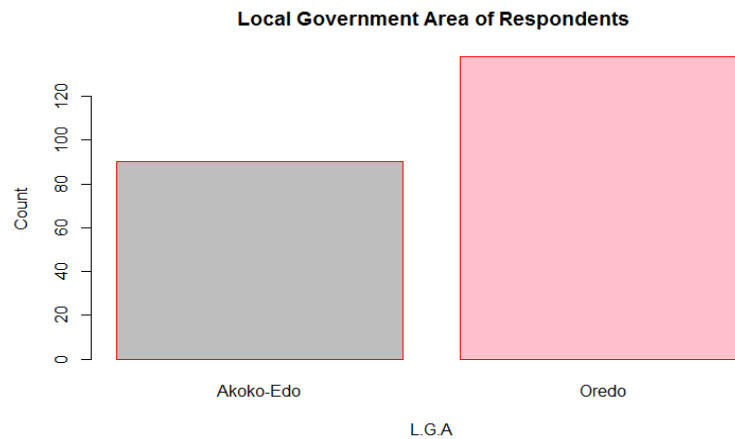
Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

Figure 4.4: Showing the Occupations of the respondents



Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

Figure 4.5: Showing the L.G.A of the respondents



Source: Field Survey, 2018

4.3 Data Analysis on Research Objectives

4.3.1 Root causes of human trafficking in Edo State

Table 4.2: Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State

Observed Variable Number	Driving Causes	Mean (Standard Deviation)	Rank
1.	Economic situation of the country.	2.06 (0.752)	6
2.	The need to escape from poverty	2.05 (0.655)	7
3	Need to escape from violence	2.01 (0.753)	8.5
4.	Inability to meet basic needs of life.	2.21 (0.785)	5
5.	In search of greener pasture to cater for the family.	2.90 (0.757)	1
6.	Porous borders which give room to illegal migration.	2.38 (0.799)	3
7.	Better job opportunity in other countries than Nigeria.	2.43 (0.763)	4
8.	Non-implementation of human trafficking law in the country.	2.01 (0.828)	8.5
9.	Lack of parental care and broken home.	2.56 (0.904)	2

Scale: 1. Strongly Agree (SA); 2. Agree (A); 3. Disagree (D); 4. Strongly Disagree (SD)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the table above, the survey reported that the four most prevailing causes of human trafficking in Edo State were the, “search of greener pasture to cater for family”, “Lack of parental care and broken home”, “Porous borders which give room to illegal migration” and “Better job opportunities in other countries order than Nigeria”. While, factors such as, “The need to escape from poverty”, “Need to escape from violence” and “Non-implementation of human trafficking law in the country” were found to have relatively low significant impacts on the causes of human trafficking in Edo State (Table 4.2).

4.3.2 Effects of Human Trafficking on Women in Edo state in Nigeria

Table 4.3: Effects of Human Trafficking on Women of Edo state in Nigeria

Observed Variable Number	Effects	Mean (Standard Deviation)	Rank
1.	It leads to social disintegration in the community.	1.65 (0.591)	6
2.	Human trafficking leads to loss of life among women.	2.64 (0.829)	1
3.	Exposure of women to illegal drugs trafficking	1.66 (0.591)	5
4.	Leads to broken home and separation from family.	2.58 (1.151)	2
5.	Leads to physical abuse.	1.68 (0.913)	4
6.	It causes emotional depression	2.02 (1.017)	3

Scale: 1. Strongly Agree (SA); 2. Agree (A); 3. Disagree (D); 4. Strongly Disagree (SD)

Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

From the above table, the prevalence of the six (6) effects identified was determined, see Table 3. The three most popular effects found were, “Human trafficking leads to loss of life among women”, “Leads to broken home and separation from family” and “It causes emotional depression”.

The three least popular effects stated were, “Leads to physical abuse”, “Exposure of women to illegal drugs trafficking” and “It leads to social disintegration in the community”.

4.3.3 Challenges Confronting efforts at curtailing Human Trafficking in Edo state in Nigeria.

Table 4.4: Challenges confronting efforts at curtailing Human Trafficking in Edo state in Nigeria

Observed Variable Number	Challenges	Mean (Standard Deviation)	Rank
1.	Poor funding by the Government	1.99 (1.401)	8
2.	Corruption in all its manifestation in the TIP ring.	2.64 (0.829)	2
3.	Lack of Political leadership at the grass root level	2.41 (1.094)	7
4	Ignorance of the risks involved	2.52 (0.723)	5
5.	Weak institutional mechanisms	1.65 (0.591)	9
6.	Preponderance of informal economy	2.63 (1.892)	3
7.	Inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor.	2.88 (1.509)	1
8.	Inadequate control of the nation's many borders.	2.58 (1.151)	4
9.	Cultural values and traditional practices.	1.56 (0.943)	10
10.	Insufficient training and lack of access to educational opportunities	0.92 (1.017)	11
11.	Role of Parents	2.50 (1.207)	6

Scale: 1. Strongly Agree (SA); 2. Agree (A); 3. Disagree (D); 4. Strongly Disagree (SD)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the above table, the prevalence of the eleven (11) challenges identified was determined, see Table 4. The six (6) most popular challenges found were, “Inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor”, “Corruption in all its manifestation in the TIP ring”, “Preponderance of informal economy”, “Inadequate control of the nation's many borders”, “Ignorance of the risks involved” and “Role of Parents”.

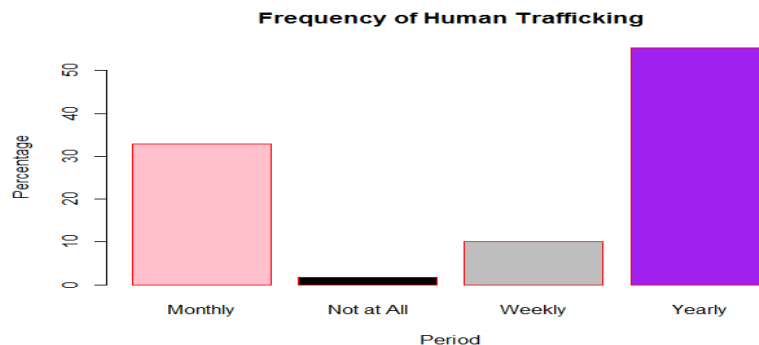
The three least popular effects stated were, “Insufficient training and lack of access to educational opportunities”, “Cultural values and traditional practices” and “Weak institutional mechanisms”.

Table 4.5: Frequency of Human Trafficking

S/N	Item	Weekly (%)	Monthly (%)	Yearly (%)	Not at All (%)
1.	Human trafficking	10.1	32.8	55.3	1.8

Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

Figure 4.6: Graphical Representation on Frequency of Human Trafficking



Source: *Field Survey, 2018*

4.4 Summary of Findings

The following are the summary of findings;

1. The survey reported that the four most prevailing causes of human trafficking in Edo State include: search of greener pasture to cater for the family, lack of parental care and broken home, porous borders which give room to illegal migration and search for better job opportunities in other countries order than Nigeria.
2. The most prevalence of the effects of human trafficking in Edo State identified was: human trafficking leads to loss of lives among women, leads to broken home and separation from family and it causes emotional depression.
3. The most prevailing challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State identified were, inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor, corruption in all its manifestation, preponderance of informal economy, inadequate control of the nation's many borders , ignorance of the risks involved and role of Parents.
4. As clearly indicated in table 5, it was revealed that human trafficking takes place on yearly bases with a percentage of 55.3% in Edo state.

5. 4.5 Implications of the Findings

Based on the findings of this study, the following implications can be drawn:

This study has great implication on human trafficking in Edo state, as it revealed the root causes of human trafficking, effects of human trafficking on women and the frequency of human trafficking in Edo State. It is an indication that human trafficking can be reduced to the barest minimum if these root causes are dealt with.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter focuses on discussion of the findings, conclusions drawn from the findings and recommendations made. Other aspects of this chapter included are limitations to the study and suggestions for further research work

5.1 Discussion of Research Findings

The findings of this study are discussed under the following headings:

1. The root causes of human trafficking.
2. Effects of human trafficking on women of Edo State in Nigeria.
3. The challenges of controlling human trafficking.
4. Percentage of human trafficking that takes place in Edo state.

5.1.1 Discussion on the Root causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State

Research objective One and research question one examined the root causes of human trafficking in Edo, State. The result on table 2 shows that most prevailing causes for Human Trafficking in Edo State were the, “In search of greener pasture to cater for the family”, “Lack of parental care and broken home”, “Porous borders which give room to illegal migration” and “Better job opportunity in other countries than Nigeria”. While, factors such as, “The need to escape from poverty”, “Need to escape from violence” and “Non-implementation of human trafficking law in the country” were found to have no significant impacts on the causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State.

Effect of human trafficking on women was examined in research objective two. The prevalence of the six (6) effects identified was determined, see Table 3. The three most popular

effects found were, “Human trafficking leads to loss of life among women”, “Leads to broken home and separation from family” and “It causes emotional depression”. The three least popular effects stated were, “Leads to physical abuse”, “Exposure of women to illegal drugs trafficking” and “It leads to social disintegration in the community”.

Challenges confronting efforts at curtailing human trafficking on women was examined in research objective three. The most prevailing challenges confronting efforts at curtailing Human Trafficking in Edo State identified were, Inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor, Corruption in all its manifestation, Preponderance of informal economy, Inadequate control of the nation’s many borders , Ignorance of the risks involved and Role of Parents.

As clearly indicated in table 5 based on research objective four, revealed that human trafficking take place on yearly bases with a percentage of 55.3% in Edo state.

This finding appears to confirm the findings of Adepelumi (2015) which state the desire to migrate to study and work in urban city and abroad also contribute the root causes of human trafficking and this is so rampant in Edo State.

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the findings, it could be concluded that there are various causes of human trafficking in Edo state, from economic perspective, broken home and those in authority. Also human trafficking has relatively low effects on women in Edo State. The study also revealed that human trafficking in Edo State is on yearly bases with more than 50%.

5.3 Recommendations

1. All state governments should provide the necessary facilities to curtail human trafficking and provide necessary amenities for the people in order to prevent the citizens from seeking greener pastures.
2. There should be awareness of sex education in all schools with the use of mass media for proper enlightenment.
3. All hands should be on deck, in order to deal with the root causes of human trafficking.
4. Government should empower women, in order to be self-dependent and cater for the family.
5. Combating human trafficking in Nigeria, and the attendant damaging effects throughout Nigerian society, will require the energy, talents and resources of government, international organizations, NGOs and civil society.
6. Government should re-orientate the citizens of Nigeria through the use of churches and mosques about human trafficking and its implications
7. There is need to educate couples on the danger of accepting young girls into their homes who are being trafficked from one state to the other
8. Human trafficking should be included in the school curriculum of studies for proper awareness
9. Nigeria must pay attention to human trafficking that has become the emblem of shame
10. NAPTIP should re-strategize on how to bring human trafficking to an halt
11. The efforts of political authorities at the highest are needed in order to bring human trafficking to a halt in Nigeria.

5.4 Solutions to Human Trafficking in Nigeria

Human trafficking has been discovered to be the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It ties with the illegal arms trade. No wonder trafficking and being trafficked has become a norm rather than a taboo especially in a country where companies request for 40 year experience from 24 year old graduates. However, human trafficking, whether compelled or voluntary is an evil that must be stopped and this research has to contribute to the fight against this modern-day slavery by suggesting the following possible solutions on how to stop human trafficking in Nigeria:

- i. **Investment in Education:** Government should invest sufficiently in the area of education and education infrastructure as well as introduce topics to enlighten the students on human trafficking into school curriculum both at the secondary and tertiary level. This would go a long way in enlightening the people as well as make them less vulnerable to trafficking. Also parents should endeavor to maintain small sized families and give their wards minimum level of education as education remains the best legacy a parent can leave for a child.
- ii. **Rural Orientation:** NAPTIP and governmental and non-governmental organizations fighting against human trafficking in person should focus their awareness and sensitization more on the rural areas as they are the more vulnerable group. Their awareness should also be channeled towards reestablishing lost morals and values in our society.
- iii. **Employment Creation and Skill Acquisition:** Government should also create jobs for the masses as a large number of the trafficked persons were lured into the act due to unemployment and poverty. Skill acquisition centers should also be established to train people on skills necessary to earn a living as well as provide the trained people with soft loans to start their businesses.

- iv. **Resolution of Conflicts in the Country:** Government should also seek for ways to minimize or eradicate the security challenges in the country so as to reduce the number of internally displaced persons and the constant destruction of the people's businesses and property.
- v. **Proper Monitoring of Human Movements at the Borders:** Government and its agencies in charge of fighting this menace should work with Immigration Services to monitor emigration and immigration patterns for evidence of trafficking in person.
- vi. **Using the Social Media:** Agencies in charge of fighting this menace should put in place Google alert so as to help them receive current human trafficking news as well as open websites, blogs and forums where issues relating to human trafficking are reported and discussed.
- vii. **Partnering with Telecommunication Companies:** Telecommunication companies should also be partnered with to send help lines to the people and encourage them to report suspected cases of child abuse, domestic servitude and other similar trafficking activities to the appropriate agencies through the help lines provided.

The implementation of the solutions discussed above will go a long way in helping the government and the appropriate agencies in stopping the evil of human trafficking in Nigeria. Now that we have known that human trafficking is evil, please let us support the government in the fight against this modern-day slavery in Nigeria (Eugene, 2015).

Based on the findings, it could be concluded that there are various causes of human trafficking in Edo state, from economic perspective, broken home and those in authority. Also human trafficking has no effects on women in Edo State. The study also revealed that human trafficking in Edo State is on yearly bases with more than 50%. Furthermore, there was a

significant difference between male and female on the effect of human trafficking on women in Edo State.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies.

1. The effect of human trafficking among teenage girls in Nigeria
2. Implication of human trafficking in other states order than Edo State

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

List of selected Local Government Used in Edo State Nigeria

1. Akoko Edo Local Government
2. Oredo Local Government

APPENDIX II

KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY, MALETE

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Questionnaire on: Human Trafficking and its Implications for Women in Edo State,
Nigeria

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is designed to elicit responses from Civil Servants, Traders and NAPTIP on Human Trafficking and its Implication for Women in Edo State. You are requested to please read each item carefully and tick as appropriate. Be assured that the information supplied will be used mainly for the purpose of this research work and will be treated as very confidential.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours Faithfully,

ADEBIYI Esther Temitope

(Researcher)

INSTRUCTION

Instruction: Please fill in or put a tick where necessary.

Section A: Demographic Data of the Respondent

1. Gender: Male () Female ()
2. Marital Status: Single () Married () Divorce () Others ()

3. Education: SSCE () NCE/ND () BSC () PG ()
4. Occupation: Civil servant () Trader () NAPTIP Staff ()
5. L.G.A: Akoko-Edo () Oredo ()

Section B: Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State

Kindly tick (☐) in the columns that correspond with your level of agreement with the following statements on the Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA) ,Agree (A) ,Disagree (D) ,Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Economic situation of the country.				
2.	Need to escape from poverty, disease and violence.				
3.	Inability to meet basic needs of life.				
4.	In search of greener pasture to cater for the family.				
5.	Porous borders which give room to illegal migration.				
6.	Better job opportunity in other countries than Nigeria.				
7.	Non-implementation of human trafficking law in the country.				
8.	Lack of parental care and broken home.				

Section C: Effect of Human Trafficking on Women in Edo State

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1.	It leads to social disintegration in the community.				
2.	Human trafficking leads to loss of life among women..				
3.	Exposure of women to illegal drugs trafficking.				
4	Leads to broken home and separation from family.				

5.	Leads to physically abuse.				
6.	It causes emotional depression				

Section D: Challenges confronting the efforts at curtailing human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Poor funding by the Government				
2.	Corruption in all its manifestation in the TIP ring.				
3.	Lack of Political leadership at the grass root level				
4.	Ignorance of the risks involved				
5.	Weak institutional mechanisms				
6.	Preponderance of informal economy				
7.	Inadequate or weak implementation of national legislation on trafficking and forced labor.				
8.	Inadequate control of the nation's many borders.				
9.	Cultural values and traditional practices.				
10.	Insufficient training and lack of access to educational opportunities				
11.	Role of Parents				

Section E: Frequency of Human Trafficking

S/N	Items	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Not at All
1.	Human trafficking				