

Analysis of Precipitating Factors and Practices Relating to Trafficking in Persons in Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was conducted to determine practices relating to human trafficking and also identify factors responsible for the trend in Cross River state. The study adopted Purposive and snow ball sampling methods to select participants while Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII) methods were used to collect data. Data analysis for FGD involved review, transcription and summarization of the discussion; for KII, transcription of responses of the Key Informants Interview was made. The study reveals that common behavioural practices associated with human trafficking include begging, commercial sex, domestic services, bar and restaurant services, hawking, baby reproduction and ritual money. Human traffickers often seek consent of parents of the victims to transport them while others hide under the guise of offering employment to potential victims or settling them after their period of service in order to lure victims into human trafficking ring within and outside the country. Other practices involve baby reproduction and sale by hospitals and orphanage homes. Often voodoo is used to subject the victims under their perpetual control. The study discovered that factors responsible for human trafficking in the study area included economic motivation, poverty, search for employment and lack of knowledge on human trafficking. These precipitating factors seem to be more or less structural in nature and falls within the Marxist analysis of the causes of human trafficking. The study therefore recommends for carefully planned and well implemented poverty eradication programmes for vulnerable group, creation of employment opportunities both for educated and uneducated youth, regular monitoring of health and orphanage institutions to follow up babies giving up for adoption and creation of awareness on human trafficking on the different methods used by traffickers to lure people to the business and how to avoid being a victim.

Keywords: Trafficking in Persons, Human Trafficking, Cheap Labour, Poverty, Child Adoption, Welfare.

1. Introduction

Trafficking in Persons (TIPs), also known as human trafficking, is a global problem confronting both developed and developing societies. Trafficking in Persons especially children and women has been existing for centuries and taking different forms and dimensions involving plethora of stakeholders and institutions (UNESCO, 2006). It is seen as one of the most lucrative criminal business ventures in the world after drugs trafficking and arms dealings and also one of the cheapest sources of labour (UNESCO, 2004; Arlacchi, 2000; Ali, 2014). According to report by International Labour Organization (2008), huge numbers of people are subjected to human trafficking globally while two-third of 110 million children in the world is trafficked (Uwa 2010). In Sub-Saharan Africa, available data suggest considerable proportion of people have being trafficked (Ali, 2014).

In Nigeria, Trafficking in Persons appear to be a common phenomenon as the country is reported to be one of the major African countries engaged in both international and internal trafficking (UNESCO, 2006). It has been estimated that 60-80 per cent of all immigrants working in the commercial sex industry in Italy were Nigerians with a substantial number in Netherlands and Spain (Olujowon, 2008). A report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC (2014) reveals that human trafficking of women for sex business from Nigeria to Europe is one of the most enduring acts in the history of human trafficking in recent memory while UNESCO (2006) report suggest increasing rates of internal trafficking of children and women who trafficked from rural to urban areas for exploitation. The country seems to be susceptible for internal and external trafficking is it serves as the source, route and destination for human traffickers (Lambo, 1993). The endemic states have been identified by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC (2007). UNODC (2012) to include Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Kano, Lagos and the FCT and Abuja while Lambo (1993) listed Cross River, Imo, Abia, Enugu, Osun, Bayelsa, Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Kwara and Ikwa-Ibom as vulnerable states. Ehindero (2004) whose data based on cases reported to the police revealed magnitude of human trafficking in the country as the report showed 157 cases in 1989, 204 in 1990, and 174 in 1991.

Cross River State is seen as one of the most vulnerable states for both international and internal human trafficking (Sissoko and Agba, 2012; Lambo, 1993). Cross River state is highly vulnerable to incidences of human trafficking due to its close proximity to other endemic states like Anambra and its strategic location to Cameroon. The United Nations Children Fund (1998) report revealed that 4000 children were trafficked from Cross River and Akwa Ibom States to various parts of Nigeria as well as other countries. NAPTIP (2004) report showed that most trafficking victims are from Ikom and Yala in the Northern parts of the state as border communities such as Mfum in Etung Local Government Area have been identified as one of the major routes

where children and women are smuggled to Cameroun, Gabon and other African countries.

In response to the human trafficking situation in Nigeria, plethora of studies has been conducted by researchers, international organizations and government agencies involved in the struggle against the scourge. A study by Sissoko and Agba (2012) focused on people's knowledge, perceptions and attitudes relating to human trafficking in the vulnerable states such as Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Kano, Lagos and the FCT and Abuja; including trafficking across borders using routes in states sharing international boundaries like Cross River. The study however seem to ignore factors determining children and women's vulnerability to human trafficking especially in Cross River state. Study by Essien (2013) hinged on patterns of human trafficking and strategies to empower people and women as one of the ways of curbing the menace in Akwa Ibom state. The study also appear to overlook Cross River state which have been designated as one of the states with most fertile breeding ground for both domestic and international practices relating to Trafficking in Persons (TIPs). UNESCO (2006) investigation focused on basic factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria with the objective of making recommendations that could address the situation. But the study seem to be making a macro level assessment of the situation, ignoring the possibility of each of the vulnerable states having their own peculiar causes of human trafficking based on socio-economic and cultural background of the people. This study however fill the knowledge vacuum created by the previous studies by first focusing on existing practices relating to Trafficking in Persons; secondly, choosing Cross River which is described as one of the most susceptible state to human trafficking in the country.

The major objective of the study is therefore to assess human trafficking practices existing in Cross River state. The study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- a. To identify practices relating to Trafficking in Persons in Cross River state
- b. To identify socio-economic factors precipitating Trafficking in Persons in the study area.
- c. Recommend ways of controlling Trafficking in Persons in Cross River state

1.1 Literature Review

1.1.1 Concept of Human Trafficking

The concept of Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) or Human Trafficking has been defined variously by many researchers, government agencies and international organizations. According to United Nations (2000), *“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, labouring or a 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 powers 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 ...Exploitation shall include at a minimum the forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs...”*

To International Labour Organization (2001), TIPs refers to the situation whereby a child or an adult is being subjected to exploitation after migrating to another location. The ILO conceptualizes human trafficking in terms of forced labour, abuse of migrant workers and discrimination of migrants at work. Further, Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation – WOTCLEF (2003) explained the concept of TIPs as the use of deception and force to employ and transport persons either within the domestic borders of a country or across international borders for the purpose of exploitation. The trafficked persons, according to Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), are usually young women, boys and girls who are transferred from rural communities to urban centers to be exploited. Ehindero (2004) conceptualized that Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) as concerning different forms of international and criminal abuse and violation of human rights through activities of illegal recruitment, acquisition, movement, manipulation and marketing of persons, goods and services within and across national and international borders with consequences on the individual, society and the world.

In this study however, Trafficking in Persons refers to use of either subtle or coerce means to transport children or adults from one destination to another for the purpose of exploiting their labour power and sexuality for economic gain.

1.1.2 Practices Relating to Trafficking in Persons

Plethora of practices relating to Trafficking in Persons has been investigated by researchers, government agencies and international organizations. Kane (2001) study exposed one of the practices in which new born babies are secretly delivered and abandoned by their single mothers with claim of aborted pregnancy. The children are then trafficked to the southern part of Nigeria through hospitals who illegally give the children up to the traffickers under the disguise of adoption. He also identified another practice in which poor girls from rural areas are deceived by traffickers and their agents to come to urban areas and improve their economic condition. Upon arrival the girls become tools for mass production of babies who are being sold out to their business partners, who use them for various purposes such as rituals and forced labour. In the North West zone, there is increase in the trafficking of cripples and other forms of disabled children who are used for occultist rituals. In

the northern states such as Katsina, trafficking in persons such as children and women are rampant and used as beggars, prostitutes, child soldiers and political thugs. Other practices according to Kane (2001) relates to the use of religion to conceal deliberate act in TIPs. To him some states such as Kano use children who enroll in Christian or Islamic schools for trafficking activities. Others are establishment of more unofficial exit point along border State, the use of Kano international Airport as the major exit point for victims trafficked out of Nigeria and the growing criminal collaboration among some law enforcement agencies, traffickers and travel agencies. He also noted on the use of crime syndicates among law enforcement officers who provide unofficial and safe exit routes for traffickers.

Ebigbo (2000) revealed practices of TIPs by describing the routes they use for trafficking noting that traffickers mode of operation is complex and constantly changing in order to evade the law. He noted that Kano and Lagos International Airports are the major routes for external trafficking in Persons. However, traffickers now use Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano to traffic victims from both Southern and Northern Nigeria. He observed that traffickers who use Murtala Muhammed International Airport fly to Gabon (West Africa), Italy, Spain, Netherlands (Europe), while those using the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano fly to Saudi Arabia and Libya. He noted that the most common trafficking routes used by traffickers in Nigeria are land and sea as traffickers often take advantage of porous borders and pervasive corruption to cross the borders.

According to Oloko (2004), traffickers employ several psychological and physical means to control their victims in the course of traveling to destination. Victims are moved to destination countries through a variety and combination of routes. They are being transported by air, through waterways, including sea routes in run down vessels, and even on foot across the Sahara desert. She added that victims submit themselves to terms and conditions out of helplessness or failure to see other options. Lambo (1993) noted that, every society has their peculiar practice relating to TIPs depending on their socio-economic and cultural background. He also expressed that victims of human trafficking are sourced internally in states such as Cross River, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Imo, Abia, Enugu, Osun and Bayelsa while destination States for children who are domestically trafficked are Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Akwa Ibom and Abia. For external human trafficking, victims trafficked to Gabon are sourced from Nigeria. They travel through Calabar in Cross River State as well as Ibeno, Eket and Oron in Akwa Ibom State (Uwa, 2010). From these centers in the state, victims are transported to Gabon through Cameroon. Others are moved through Calabar to Republic of Benin through same border to Niger Republic, Libya and Morocco. Most of the victims trafficked are from Edo, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Abia, Imo, Enugu and Rivers States (Lambo, 1993; Uwa, 2010).

Lambo (1993) reported that major routes used as exit points for trafficked persons include Calabar, Ikom, Odukpani, Itu and Ogoja south west in Cross River State for Nigerian victims destined for Cameroon and Gabon. Other exit points include Ibeno, Eket and Oron in Akwa Ibom State for trafficked victims to Gabon. In Ogun and Oyo States, the victims of TIPs are taken through Seme, Okoto, Idioroko and Shake border routes. From Lagos the human traffic victims use Idioroko and Ijofin border routes, while those from Sokoto, Kano, Borno and Katsina States use Cinema, Tuidun Wada and Shegy Jabguwa square to move the TIPs victims.

1.1.3 Factors Responsible for Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria (TIP)

Factors precipitating Trafficking in Persons have been investigated by many researchers. Essien (2013) study in Akwa Ibom revealed that the factors precipitating TIPs in the area include luxurious lifestyles of Nigerians returning from abroad, unequal access to job opportunities, porosity of Nigerian borders, greed, peer group influence, large family size, huge financial gain by traffickers and girl child (gender) discrimination. Other factors were low level of education, strong desire to migrate in search for greener pasture in foreign land, weak enforcement of TIP laws, loss of moral and ethical values, high demand for commercial sex workers, ignorance and High level of poverty.

Aniche (2000) study show that economic motivation, poverty, moral decadence, high demand for commercial sex workers are major factors responsible for TIPs in Nigeria. According to Ojomo (2005), several factors are associated with trafficking in persons in Nigeria. These include ignorance, low level or lack of formal education, poverty, large family size, and lack of effective law enforcement against TIPs. Ojomo (2005) identified poverty as one of the major causes. To him poverty which could be intellectual and material in nature could consciously or unconsciously make people vulnerable to being trafficked. Raymond (2002) mentioned lucrative nature of sex business and resulting demand for prostitutes in developed countries such as Italy, Spain and Germany as most invisible factor in trafficking of women for worldwide.

1.1.4 Theoretical Framework: Marxist Theory

Marxist theory originated from Karl Marx and Fredreich Engels (1963). The basic assumption of the theory is that society is composed of inherent contradictions and conflicts over economic resources which are scarce by various competing groups. The competition and struggle for economic resources have made conflict inevitable in society. Thus, conflict is seen as a normal happening in society rather than an abnormal occurrence. Marx emphasizes that economic interest rather than norms and values are central in the analysis of conflicts in society.

The basic assumptions of the theory are;

- a. Society is composed of different groups that compete for economic resources
- b. There is continuous struggle for economic resources for social groups as they pursue their own interest
- c. Social groups will use resources to their own advantage in pursuit of the economic interest.

The theory seems to suggest that economic determinism is a major factor that influences interaction and relationships in society. This could imply that exploitation of sexuality and labour power of victims of TIPs for economic gain is the main motive behind indulging in the human trafficking.

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Research Design

This paper adopted a case study design. This is because the design allows the researcher to dig deep and generate information that is in-depth, revealing precipitating factors and practices relating to human trafficking from an in-depth point perspective.

1.2.2 Study Area

Cross River is one of the states in the South-south geopolitical region which was created on May 27, 1967 from the former Eastern Region (Nwabueze, 1982). Its name is derived from River (Oyono), which passes through the state. It is located in the Niger Delta with population of 3,737,517 (NPC, 2016 estimates) and occupies 20,156 square kilometers. It shares boundaries with Benue State to the north, Ebonyi and Abia States to the west, to the east by Cameroon Republic and to the south by Akwa-Ibom and the Atlantic Ocean. Calabar is the capital city of the state.

Its major towns are Akamkpa, Biase, Calabar South, Ikom, Igede, Obubra, Odukpani, Ogoja, Ugep, Obudu, Obanliku, Akpabuyo, Ofutop, Iso-bendghe, Danare, Boki, Yala, Bendeghe Ekiem, Etomi, and Ukelle. The State is composed of several ethnic groups, which include the Efik, the Ejagham, Yakurr, Bette, Yala, Igede, Ukelle and the Bekwarra. The Efik language is widely spoken in the southern part of Cross River State, especially in Calabar Municipality, Calabar South and Odukpani while Ejagham language is the most widely spoken language in Cross River State.

There are also the Yakurr/Agoi/Bahumono ethnic groups in Yakurr and Abi LGA, while the Mbembe are predominantly found in Obubra LGA. Further up the core northern part of the state are several sub-dialectical groups, among which are Etung, Olulumo, Ofutop, Nkim/Nkum, Abanajum, Nseke and Boki in both Ikom, Etung and Boki LGAs. Also, the Yala/Yache, Igede, Ukelle, Ekajuk, Mbube, Bette, Bekwarra and Utugwanga people are found in Ogoja, Yala, Obudu and Obanliku Local Government Areas.

1.2.3 Population

Population of the study includes children, youth and women who are victims of human trafficking. The population also includes staff of National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) and Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) who are important stakeholders in human trafficking in Cross River State.

1.2.4 Sampling Technique and Procedure

The sampling technique for the study is purposive and snow ball sampling techniques which are non-random sampling techniques. The techniques were used to select twenty six (26) people, sixteen (16) victims of TIPs for Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and ten (10) for Key Informant Interviews (KII); five (5) staff of NAPTIP and NIS respectively. The selection criteria were based on experience and knowledge of human trafficking activities. The selection process involved selection of Focus Group members using snow ball technique. In this process, the researchers identified a trafficked victim and through the victim identify other victims as well. For Key Informant Interview, the process involved going to state offices of NIS and NAPTIP and discussing. The objectives of study were told to them while seeking for their indulgence to be included in the study. The staff who accepted were selected for the study.

1.2.5 Method of Data Collection

For Focus Group Discussion, data collection involved preparation and organization of discussion venues. During the discussion, moderator was one of the researchers whose responsibility was to make participants feel at ease, probe if necessary and ask questions that would help him achieve the objectives of the study while the other researcher were writing down the important points and recording of the discussion. Data collection instruments by Focus Group Discussion involved use of phones, note books and pen to write down important points.

For key informant interviews, the researchers booked appointments with the key informants after selection; others were interviewed in their offices immediately after selection. Data was collected through use of tape recorders and phones.

1.2.6 Method of Data Analysis

With respect to Focus Group Discussion (FGD), the analysis involved reviewing and collection of statements or discussions made by the focus group members on specific topics. Afterwards the findings were described and

summarized. To achieve this, the researchers listened to audio tapes again and again in order to identify the different positions that emerged regarding each topic and assessed the degree to which each person held to a position. They also read summary notes of each discussion, identified common and diverged positions regarding each topic and linked them with research questions.

For key informant's interview, the researchers transcribed the responses of the key informants and discussed them on the basis whether they corroborate or contradict data from focus group members.

1.3 Findings and Disussions

1.3.1 Practices Relating to Trafficking in Persons in Cross River state

Focus Group Discussions with the group members revealed that trafficked persons are mostly babies, children and young women, though there are some few cases of young men also being trafficked. The members however noted that children about the ages of ten (10) years and above are the group most vulnerable while young women who are below thirty (30) years are mostly involved in human trafficking. The group members further agreed that the common behavioural practices victims of human trafficking are involved in were begging, commercial sex, domestic help, bar and restaurant services, baby reproduction and ritual money. It was agreed that children who are trafficked in the area are involved in begging, hawking, ritual money, farming and domestic services such as cleaning of the house, cooking, washing of clothes and plates and clearing of weed around the house. Young women are mostly utilized for prostitution, bar and restaurant services and ritual money.

An interview with a key informant who is staff of NAPTIP aptly stated:

"...In Cross River state generally, victims of human trafficking are found to be engaged in commercial sex, selling in the market or beer palours or joints , begging for money and domestic help. We still find victims who are trafficked for rituals and baby reproduction...There are few cases of children trafficked to help in farms..."

Another key informant who works with Nigerian Immigration Service in Calabar, Cross River state noted:

"...In the course of my work, I have realized that human trafficking is rampant in Cross River...we have being intercepting and recovering group of victims of human trafficking across the Cameroon border and most of the victims are young women...there are rare cases of child trafficking across the international borders within the state...but we are still gathering intelligence relating to child trafficking on international level in the area..."

The above finding seems to corroborate study by Essien (2013). In his study in Akwa Ibom state, the researcher found that victims of human trafficking forced or subtly lured into prostitution while labour power of other victims are exploited in domestic services and other commercial ventures while Kane (2001) study raised eye brows to the emerging practice of mass baby reproduction used by human traffickers in the country. The findings also appear to agree with Uwa (2010) and Lambo (1993) who lamented utilization of Calabar in Cross River State one of the major human trafficking routes in the country where victims are transported to Gabon and Cameroon.

The human trafficking practices identified above suggest issues relating to assumptions of Marxist theory. Behaviours such as prostitution, begging, domestic help, bar services and baby reproduction indicate element of exploitation as economic determinism seem to be the sole motive. The beneficiaries of these practices seem to be someone else rather than the victim. This, therefore, falls within the assumptions of Marxist theorist who see human trafficking as act of suppression and exploitation of victims by privileged class for economic gain.

Focus Group Discussion also revealed that people who traffic in persons use adopt plethora of methods to lure potential victims. The group members reiterated that for domestic trafficking, human traffickers who live in urban areas such as Calabar or their agents may go to their respective villages and convince young people, often through their poor parents or guardian to release their children to be taken to urban areas with promise of securing their education and provision of jobs. Upon arrival in the city, the victims are now handed over to the traffickers who tell them to help serve in bar or restaurants, hawk in order to raise money for their education. Sometimes the victims, especially young women who serve in the beer joints are forced into prostitution by sleeping with the customers as bar or restaurant owners use this method to maintain their customer's relationship and increase their income. Young men or children are exploited in restaurants while others are engaged to sale various products or do domestic services for their masters.

The group members further revealed that in most instances, human traffickers would advertise a job in a bar or restaurants with tempting salary, specifically for young women. The young would apply for the job and the supposed employer would conduct the interview which requires assessing the physical attributes of the girls to determine their attractiveness. The ladies who are employed are used as commercial sex workers while promised salaries are not even paid to the victims. The discussion also pointed out that some business men go to rural

communities, seek consent of parents to bring young men to city to serve them in their business with promise of “settling” them or setting up their own business after few years. After expiry of these years, the business man would renege, accuse the victim of stealing their money or employ witchcraft to eliminate the victim.

The group members further noted that some hospitals and orphanage homes are being used for human trafficking in their communities. The discussants argued that single ladies with unwanted pregnancies are paid and taken care of by owners of these institutions in order to deliver the babies and hand them to the operators and leave. The babies are now sold to people for adoption, rituals or other purposes.

For international human trafficking, the group members revealed that practices involves deception by display of affluence by traffickers who live in outside the country. This normally happens during festive periods like Christmas. Young people who see this may become restless and ask the traffickers to take them to Europe in order to attain the same quality of life. The trafficker would now promise them to take them to Europe but want assurance that they be loyal and tight lipped which involves taking them to witch doctors to take an oath and to conduct some occult rituals that would perpetually tie the victims to the traffickers. After completion of these procedures, the victims are transported through land to Europe or even North Africa and sold for prostitution and/or drugs. Sometimes victims are taken to Nigerian traffickers in Europe who exploit their sexuality and labour power for money in the name of paying for the cost of their trip to the destination point. The members further disclosed that often, traffickers through their agents may place advertisement for opportunities to work in Europe. Interested people who apply are taken to Europe to be sold or used for various trafficking needs.

Data collected from Key Informant Interviews seem to agree with Focus Group Discussion. According to a Key Informant who is a victim of TIPs:

“...a friend told me, she knew someone who can give me a job abroad ...we met the person and discovered that the other girls too were coming for the same thing ...the man promised to take us to Spain or Italy...we even paid some money and after some time, a date was set for departure which was on land ...we were taken to shrine to take an oath of obedience and secrecy ...we moved on land through northern state to Niger and landed in Libya ...some of us stopped in Libya and were handed over to other people who kept us and people would come and sleep with us and the people collect money...”

Another Key Informant also noted:

“...a man from our community who is from Calabar came to the village and told my parents that he would like to take me to the city so that I will be helping him and he in turn would fund my education...when we arrived in the city he just kept me in the house for domestic chores...after a while he took me to his business place to start selling for him...I was not sent to school as promised...”

A Key informant who is a staff of NAPTIP said:

“...girls are mostly trafficked followed by children and babies in this axis...some people who own medical facilities and orphanage homes use this ventures to traffic babies...it babies may come from young ladies with unwanted pregnancies or they may induce girls financially to produce babies for them...the babies are sold in the name of adoption...since there is no provision for monitoring children giving up for adoption, we don't know what happen to these babies..”

Some of the findings above corroborate studies by Oloko (2004) and Kane (2001). According to Oloko (2004), traffickers employ many methods to control the victims in the course of traveling to destination. Thus, trafficker may exploit their kinship relationship, use financial inducement or affluent life style to attract their victims. Kane (2001) study also revealed one of the practices in which new born babies are secretly delivered and abandoned by their single mothers in hospitals or orphanage institutions and babies are then sold in the name of adoption.

1.3.1 Factors Responsible for Trafficking in Persons in Cross River State

Data from Focus Group Discussion indicate that factors responsible for human trafficking in the study area included economic motivation, poverty, search for employment and lack of knowledge on human trafficking. The discussants argued that pervasive poverty in the area makes people vulnerable to human trafficking as young people or children are more attracted to opportunities that would improve their economic situation. Also, parents do not have the will to reject advances from people who would promise to take care of their children and reduce economic burden on them. Further uneducated young women seeking employment are found to be victims and in most instances are aware that they will be sexually exploited but have no other option, thinking the at least their condition would be better off. The group members also insisted that for some victims, lack of knowledge about

human trafficking makes the trend thrive in the area.

A Key Informant who is a victim of human trafficking aptly noted:

"...I become victims because of poverty...my parents are poor and cannot even pay my school fees in secondary school, so I dropped out...When I was promised a job in Europe, I jumped at the opportunity...when I arrived in Europe, I discovered that the Job was commercial sex job and I was not even paid, my Madam collected the money and even treated me harshly..."

Another Key Informant who is a staff of NAPITIP reiterated that:

"...during our interaction with some of the victims, we discovered that some of them were not aware of the job they were promised...they just tell them that they would get a job in Europe...Sometimes, even their parents are not aware that they are giving up their children to be trafficked...however few of the victims know that they will be involved in prostitution, what they do not know is who will get paid"

The above findings seem to agree with proposition by many researchers. Essien (2013) study in Akwa Ibom revealed that the factors precipitating TIPs in the area include luxurious lifestyles of Nigerians returning from abroad, unequal access to job opportunities, porosity of Nigerian borders, huge financial gain by traffickers and girl child (gender) discrimination, high demand for commercial sex workers, ignorance and High level of poverty. Aniche (2000) study show that economic motivation, poverty, high demand for commercial sex workers are major factors responsible for TIPs in Nigeria. According to Ojomo (2005), factors are associated with trafficking in persons in Nigeria include ignorance, low level or lack of formal education and poverty.

1.4 Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concludes that common behavioural practices associated with human trafficking included begging, commercial sex, domestic help, bar and restaurant services, baby reproduction and ritual money. Human traffickers often seek consent of parents to release their children to be taken to urban areas where they eventually become victims of human trafficking. Others hide under the guise of offering employment to potential victims or settling them after their period of service to lure them into human trafficking ring within and outside the country, often involving use of witchcraft to subject the victims under their perpetual control. Other practices involve baby reproduction and sale for adoption by hospitals and orphanage homes. The findings also show that factors responsible for human trafficking in the study area included poverty, search for employment and lack of knowledge on human trafficking. These precipitating factors seem to be more or less structural in nature and falls within the Marxist analysis of the causes of human trafficking.

1.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

- a. Poverty eradication programmes should be carefully initiated and implemented with real political will, so as to reduce poverty among families and contain the vulnerability of young people to human trafficking in the state.
- b. There should be creation of employment opportunities both for educated and uneducated youth. Poor uneducated young people should be granted opportunity to either go to school through scholarship or engaged in some legitimate income generating activities to reduce their susceptibility to human trafficking.
- c. Government should monitor health and orphanage institutions that are involved in child adoption by regularly taking records of all the babies in the institutions and addresses of people who adopt them. The welfare of the adopted babies should be checked at regular interval to know what is happening with the babies in order to avoid the possibility of trafficking them.

There should be a creation of awareness by relevant agencies, including educational and religious institutions on human trafficking on the different methods adopted by traffickers to lure people in the business and how to avoid it.

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Notes

Focus Group Discussion Guide For Victims Of Human Trafficking

1. What behaviours are victims of human trafficking subjected to by the traffickers?
2. What are the methods used by human traffickers to lure victims into human trafficking in your area?
3. What factors do you think are responsible for human trafficking to thrive in the area?

Key Informant Interview Schedule For Staff Of Nigeria Immigration Service And Naptip

1. What is your name?

2. What is your rank or position in the office?
3. What behaviours are victims of human trafficking subjected to by the traffickers in your community?
4. What are the methods used by human traffickers to lure victims into human trafficking in your area?
5. What factors do you think are responsible for human trafficking to thrive in the area?
6. What do you think can be done to control human trafficking in your community?

Corresponding Author's Biography

Odey, Stephen Adi, is a member of Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Associate Member, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management and Administration, a Fellow of the Centre for African American Research Studies (CAARS) and a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Education (B.Ed) Hons, Masters Degree in Industrial Sociology (M.Sc), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D in Industrial Sociology), Bachelor of Law (LL.B Hons.) and is currently undergoing Masters in Law (LL.M). He is a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Nigeria and a Legal Practitioner. His educational background in the Social Sciences and law has given him a broad base to approach many topics, which has led him to research/publish widely, with over 25 articles in learned journals across the globe, including America, Sweden, Germany and Asia. He is currently an Editor for the International Journal of Industrial Relations as well as, African Journal of Arbitration and Conflict Resolution, both annual Journals of the Centre for African American Research Studies (CAARS).