

## **CHILD TRAFFICKING AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM IN NIGERIAN SOCIETY: A SURVEY OF IKEJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA RESIDENTS OF LAGOS, LAGOS STATE**

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### **Abstract**

*This research examines the phenomenon of child trafficking in Nigeria and reasons for victims' vulnerability. It discussed the motivations for child trafficking and identified poverty as a major cause for victim's vulnerability. The research draws on information from primary sources (questionnaire). This study identifies the major causes of child trafficking: high level of illiteracy, unemployment and poor standard of living were identified. Questionnaire was administered to collect relevant data which were analysed, using percentage and chi-square. It was discovered that poor family background, poverty, large family size, rapid urbanization among others are the major factors why many Nigerian children are vulnerable to trafficking. Having identified the causes, recommendations were made to help in solving the problem such as Broad production, Preventive actions and Law enforcement.*

**Keywords: Child trafficking, Social Problem, Causes, Solutions, Nigerian Society.**

### **Introduction**

Child trafficking is human rights violation affecting millions. Children are trafficked into labour, exploited in mines or recruited into militants in conflict zone. Child Trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Definition of child according to 1989 UN convention on the rights of a child which states a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child majority is attained earlier. Child trafficking can also be defined by the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. All children should be enjoying all the rights under UN convention on the right of a child. Child trafficking is a social problem because it is violation of children's rights, including specifically their rights, to be protected from exploitation to remain with their family, to go to school, to be protected from sexual violence and to have time to play when children are trafficked, they almost end up in work that is dangerous to their health safety and sometime morals. They are not able to school and close the opportunity to implore their lives in the future. However the objective of this project is to look more closely to child trafficking as a social problem and to perfect solution to the finding of the study to provide meaningful information as to the stoppage of the act in Nigeria an African as a whole. The main objective is to look closely at child trafficking as a social problem in IKEJA based on the cases that have been reported around the area.

### **Statement of the problem**

Child trafficking is a social problem in Nigeria today and it begins with recruitment. Children are seen to be vulnerable to this social problem by the lack of access to qualify education, good

health and other basic need which forces the family to seek help from someone who they know or not know who are financially upright to help provide the basic need for the child. However these children are being exploited and they get exposed to hazardous work, prostitution and other form of things that lead to social problems. These acts possess serious challenges to the growth of the Nigerian society, economically, socially, and politically. The researcher is going to find out the origins and suggest way to halt child trafficking in Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of this research work is to investigate the opinion of Ikeja residents on the problem of child trafficking. However, the under listed are the specific objectives of the study.

1. To investigate the causes of child trafficking
2. To investigate the states that is more prone to child trafficking
3. To make parents understand that child trafficking is slavery
4. To investigate the effects of child trafficking
5. To fine out the opinions of the people on how child trafficking can be solved.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the causes of child trafficking?
2. Which state(s) are prone to child trafficking?
3. What are the measures to ensure that parents understand child trafficking is slavery?
4. What are the effects of child trafficking?
5. What are the steps that can be taken to stop child trafficking?

### **Significance of the study**

The study will be of great importance, as it will provide necessary information on the social problems and the effects to eradicate child trafficking in Nigeria. It will help in the reduction of death and permanent injuries of the trafficked child. Families will be rest assured about the relocating of their children to find work. This study will help to proffer ways government can invest much in capital, technology and financial development, so as to reduce the number of children been used as labourers. Also, it will help reduce corrupted societies.

### **Scope of the study**

Child trafficking is a common phenomenon in Nigeria; however, this research work cannot cover the whole country on this social problem. The research work, therefore, investigated only Lagos state, Ikeja community was the only area focused on by the researcher. The Ikeja community people's opinions on child trafficking were investigated.

### **The concept of child trafficking**

Child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction of children without their consent (ANPPCAN, 2010). The trafficking of children for the purpose of domestic service, prostitution and other forms of exploitative labour is a wide spread phenomenon in Nigeria. Research evidence shows that child trafficking is one of the fastest growing organized crime with an estimated 1.2 million victims per year, of which 32% are Africans (UNICEF, 2016).

UNESCO (2012) is of the view that child trafficking is not new and has acquired new dimension in the context of globalization. It is a complex, multi facet phenomenon involving multiple stakeholders at the institutional and commercial levels. The first intentionally agreed upon definition of trafficking is embodied in the UN protocol; it is to prevent suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementary the UN convention against transitional organized crime (2020) as follows: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, of abuse of power, giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”

### **The context of child trafficking in Nigeria**

#### **(i) Internal Trafficking**

Child trafficking in Nigeria ranges from internal source to external or cross border trafficking. In rural communities, such as Oyo, Osun and Ogun states in the South-West; Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Bayelsa, state in the South-South; Ebonyi and Imo states 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, from labour and prostitution, with incidents of human trafficking and forced labour particularly prevalent in Lagos (UNESCO, 2012). Cross Border Trafficking (Nigeria as a source country) UNESCO (2012) identified the internally trafficked children as Nigerians and that some states tends to provide more trafficked persons than others. It goes further to include states like Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ebonyi, Oyo, Ogun and Lagos as those involved in trafficking.

#### **(ii) Agents of Trafficking**

The traffickers are the link between the supply and demand, on 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 person. This includes recruiters as well as transporters, receivers and producers of false documents. The traffickers are often part of the extended family, or someone known within the local community (Janice, 2013).

#### **(iii) The Trafficked Person**

The trafficked person include all the women, children and men who are deceived, transported and delivered into the hands of those who exploit them for Purpose of profit making.

#### **(iv) The users of trafficked persons**

The users of trafficked persons are at the end of a long chain (UNESCO, 2012). They can be either the user of sex workers or the heads of farms or shops requiring cheap labour.

#### **(v) Means of Transportation: Road transportation**

This is an increasingly popular means of transporting for trafficking in Nigeria. According Father Don Orestse Benzit at the Pan African Conference on Human Trafficking (Abuja,

Nigeria, 2015): he opined as quoted “until two years ago they used to come to Europe by Aeroplane, now they come by land, by foot and by car, going through desert and various countries to Morocco, through the Gibraltar they arrive in Spain and then by train they get to Italy or other European countries”.

#### **(vi) Transportation by Sea**

It takes place mostly under very deplorable conditions. However, the traffickers make use of boats and on canoes to cross oceans and seas without sufficient preparation for the feeding and well-being of the persons on board.

Sea transportation is used to traffic persons from Nigeria, Benin and Togo to countries in central Africa such as Gabon, Guinea and Cameroon, (ILO, 2014).

#### **(vii) Transportation by Air**

Transportation by air is increasingly difficult due to high security controls. Nonetheless traffickers still manage to get through without been caught.

### **Causes of Child Trafficking**

Many factors can indeed be adduced as major causes of human trafficking and sexual exploitation not only in Nigeria today but globally. These factors include the highly abject poverty that for long have been milking the entire populace dry. Poverty is no doubt the greatest cause of people falling victim to either human trafficker or sexual exploiters. Even during the so-called abolished slave trade, majority of the victim are people from poor parents. Their parents sold them knowingly or unknowingly to the slave traders because they cannot make both ends meet. Indeed, the prevailing condition for such an act then is still very much rampant today. Parents gave out their children freely to these traffickers in exchange for money.

Another cause of this scourge is the high level of illiteracy, unemployment and or poor standard of living. Illiteracy on its own is a disease with the percentage of illiterate people in Nigeria being far greater than the literate one. Unemployment rate in Nigeria has continually been on the increase. The associated ill of unemployment include high level of moral decadency, self-defeat, thuggery, armed robbery, kidnapping, garage touts, political thuggery and or poor standard of living. Majority of Nigeria populace are currently living in abject poverty. Many cannot afford the three square meals a day. Poverty is a disease and to solve it its victim can go into any length including trafficking or sexual exploits. In Nigeria today, there is high taste for materialistic values especially among the youths. An average youth in Nigeria today aims at nothing but to become a millionaire within a day, not minding what it will take. Human trafficking, kidnapping, sexual exploitation, prostitution, pornography act became their pets.

Another cause of human trafficking is political instability. Policing in Nigeria today is manifesting in all facet of life. Educational sector, economic sector, health sector, our ways of living, even family life has all been badly influenced by politics. This no doubt has brought with it all sort of social vices, such as retrenchment, punitive transfer, victimization, downgrading of officers as for political reason, official stealing, lackadaisical attitude of junior officers to superior officers as a result of political or godfather connection etc. All these are ill

winds that never blow well. One of the means of seeking redress by the affected officer could be by engaging in trafficking in human being or become their agent. Dominic A. (2009) opined that, there are criminally organized groups that are involved in human trafficking or sexual exploitation. They are professionals spread across the globe, and because of porous border and advanced communication technology, the business has indeed increasingly become transnational in scope and is highly lucrative. Dohrigde (2007), state that, the opening up of Asia market, porous border, the end of Soviet Union and the collapse of the former Yugoslavia, have contributed to this globalization issue of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In other words, the activities of these professional criminals have contributed to unabated spread of the scourge, many a time they moved into other countries without being intercepted either by immigration officers or other law enforcement agents. Dominic (2009) equally averred that, there are no restrictions, that a lot of women and children are catered away to other countries for sexual exploitation and other related activities. Another shocking dimension to human trafficking or sexual exploitation is that, the adult who sexually abuses a child or adolescent is usually someone the child knows and is supposed to trust. Such person may include a relation of the child, child care provider, family friend's neighbour, teachers, and coach or clergy member. In all cases however the offenders claim in defend of his or her actions; the child did not invite the sexual activity. In other words sexual abuse is never the fault of the child. Closely related to the child innocence e of sexual exploitation is the prostitution of children, which according to ILO convention (2014), is seen as forming art of the commercial sexual exploitation of children globally and is sometimes connected to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes or for ritual reasons depending on the intention of the traffickers. Children have unconsciously started sharing love for money.

This was also the case in a home video film produced by Patience Ozokwor (2008), titled Area Mama a.k.a "Desperate woman". Wherein girls were brought from village on the pretence of assisting them to get job in the city, only for them to be engaged in hire prostitutes or call girls, proceeds from these jobs are usually given to their masters/mistress who in turn gives out just a small part of it to these girls. This no doubt is a clear indication of child sex tourism. Ruwart (2008) in his own submission averred that, children who willingly participate in sexual acts have the right to make such a decision even if it is distasteful to other. In other words, when child pornography is outlawed, prices paid for their child performance rise; thus increasing the incentive for parents to use their children in child marriage, which more often than not can lead to destitute poverty through divorce, separation and or abandonment. The option left for those women found in this type of ugly situation, which I considered to be an extreme mental stress is to run away and later to become either prostitute in brothels or end up being trafficked. Shamiga [2009] stated that, the link between poverty, violence and trafficking have been compounded by the effect of HIV/AIDS infections, which is highly devastating to human growth and development.

### **Implication of child trafficking**

It was once averred in this paper that child trafficking no doubt has actually become modern day slavery. Therefore, it is now a real threat to human dignity and self-worth. Victims have been prevented from realizing their basic potentials as a result of mental illness or fear or anxiety. Ololoban (2004) opined that, victims of human trafficking are often left rejected or become dejected or completely abandoned. This of cause has a negative effect on national

development because level of human resources are reduced and in some area scarce or highly insufficient. Correnery (2006), found out that children emotional and sexual abuse were strongly related to adult depressive symptoms and that explosive verbal abuse and witnessing of domestic violence had a moderately strong association with anger hostility. In other words, a child that was sexually abuse tends to be emotionally depressed any time she think of the ugly incidence. Sexual exploitation inform of prostitution may result in life time of persistent illness of the victim. Such illness include fertility problem, effect from sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy complications, malnutrition, tuberculosis etc. Where all or any of the deadly diseases occurs the national development is adversely affected. Their prevalence normally increases the spread of HIV/AIDS and other related diseases. The psychological effect of the scourge on parents could be grossly devastated. It will affect their productivity which will negatively affect national development. One Yoruba adage says; a dead child is better than a lost one, attested to this. Where parents of the trafficking child is involved, the fear uncertainty of the true position of the child dead or alive at any given time could be too traumatic for these Parent to bear, and this can cause physical or mental illness. Aside a trafficking or sexually exploited child is not contributing much if any to the national economy. No prostitute ever contribute positively to the development of the nation, their actions are disgraceful, or termed as social misfit or deviants. The spread of their transmitted diseases could cause epidemic which may kills thousand within a short time thereby destroying or reducing the nation human resources needed for her growth. Increase in violence, criminalities and high rate of school drop out may be the aftermath effect of child trafficking. Dambo in the Nigeria Tribune of 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 stated that, human trafficking could bring about children impairment, poor and negative image of the country as in the case of massive deportation of Nigeria girls from foreign countries. It increases force prostitution, illicit international adoption, trafficking for early marriage or recruitment as child soldiers such as, recruitment for training as militants or terrorist. It could be for beggars, for sport such as child camel jockeys or foreign religious cults. Also worth mentioning are cases where the victims became domestic servants especially girls while boys are used as scavengers, car washers, bus conductor, drug peddlers community base brass or area boys. Majority of those engaging in these types of nefarious jobs have no true identity. They are from far places to their base; they are usually exploited and cheated by those who engaged or employed them. There are diverse reasons why many Nigerian children are vulnerable to trafficking, including widespread poverty, large family size, and rapid urbanisation with deteriorating public service. Low literacy levels and high school-dropout rates. The demand for cheap commercial sex workers in countries of destination strongly contributes to the growth of this phenomenon and the success of this criminal work. Parents with a large family, often overburdened with the care of too many children, are prone to the traffickers deceit in giving away some of their children to city residents or even strangers promising a better life for them.

Traffickers exploit the trust of people rooted in a widespread, culturally accepted common practice in West Africa of placement and fostering as part of the extended family safety net. In some instances, desperately poor and uninformed parents willingly co-operate with the traffickers, giving away their children in exchange for a small fee. In the hands of unscrupulous guardians, these children are increasingly trafficked and exploited for money.

### **(i) Economic Factors**

Trafficking in child beings is a profitable business and it has been identified by various researchers (Bales, 1999, Hughes, 2001, King, 2004) that socio/economic factors are plainly key explanatory variables. Gilbert King referred to it as a \$12 billion a year global industry (2004)". It is hard to imagine how slavery continues to exist today until we familiarize ourselves with the supply and demand issues in a world context, how such trafficking is an important source of income for many countries, and see the typing with corrupt officials. It is enormously profitable for traffickers and police take little action, can be corrupt, or may be unskilled at recognizing it and instituting polices as Klueber's study on police departments (2003) illustrates. It has been estimated that 9.5 billion US dollars in revenue is produced annually, according to the June 2004 Trafficking in Persons Reports. Other estimates have been higher. Victims pay and then paying. People are willing to pay a lot in other to come to the United State or other destination countries and they come with the belief they will find legitimate jobs promised to them. They might pay a fee of \$40,000 and then once in the country find out they aren't go to get the promised job, but are, instead, forced into prostitution. They are in situation of debt bondage, in which they must work until their debt is paid, at which time they may be released or they may find that the debt is never paid off. More debt can be incurred for non-compliance (Pearce, 2000) identified push and pull factors connected with immigration and provide incentives for trafficking of humans. Factors that push people away from their country toward another have consisted of escaping war or persecution, violence, poverty, environmental disasters and human rights violations. The pull factors bringing people towards certain countries, often in the west, are related to demand for cheap labour in a variety of areas, like domestic services, agricultural work and the sex industry. Traffickers can easily sell their human "cargo" because of this demand for cheap labour. The demand leads to involvement of more people in trafficking until they become larger operations and networks of individual or organized crime (Pearce, 2000). People are the third largest illegal commodity traded, preceded by drugs and firearms. Often drugs and weapons are smuggled with women and children. One point about poverty is that people do what they must to survive, and Dayo Elizabeth Akinmoyo, in her keynote address at a conference in London, United Kingdom, made the observation that in Nigerian culture of communal lifestyle, people can cease to think in terms of "we" or think of neighbours, and would focus on "I". She explains how poor families would begin " to release their children even at no cost) to anyone who promised to migrate them to the city or overseas. She explained how it can occur that criminal would seize these opportunity to explain the vulnerable because of their economic hardships and their level of illiteracy. Just think of the way people get rich by owning slave without officers acknowledgement of ownership and its subsequent responsibility, albeit minimal, as in the slavery days of the Old South, Kevin Bales, (1999) brings it so shockingly to our attention just how profitable and how cheap human life has become. He says, "People become completely disposable tools for making money". Having ownership does not involve any owing of papers necessarily, but they do have control over their property, and it is generally insured through violence. Bales (1999), speaking of sex trade in Thailand, describes just how profitable contract debt bondage can be. A girl between twelve and fifteen years old can be purchased for \$800 to \$2,000, and the costs of running a brothel and feeding the girls are relatively low. The profit is often as high as 800 percent a year. This kind of returned can be made on a girl for five to ten years. He expressed how slave ownership and slave trade has next to no economic growth are interrelated. With populations explosion extremes of poverty

can readily be seen. When faced with the need of cash to buy medicine and food and when lacking in education, it becomes so easy to fall prey to traffickers with bogus contracts, making offers, women and families that are destitute get into enslavement and debt bondage. In the global economy, Bales (1999) feels that, "Given the penetration of multinational companies into developing countries that debt might mean a slave is ultimately serving a global business."

Trafficking has been and still is a major problem in Africa today as it is all over the world. Countries in Africa have been identified as a source, transit and final destination for trafficked victims.

According to the ILO's report on trafficking, Africa has been reported as having the higher percentage of child workers in the world. The statistics reveal that 80 million or 41% of African children work. These children are usually between the ages of five and fourteen and the largest percentage of these child workers are the female children who are usually engaged as domestic workers. This is so because in Africa, there has been the age long traditional practice of "placement". Placement is a term used for when a child is being placed or sent to home to perform light housework in exchange for a monthly fee, educational or training opportunities. The children sent out to render these domestic services are usually from very poor families in urban areas and they are usually sent to families in the rural centres. But unfortunately, these practices have been exploited by many traffickers today and these children are being trafficked out of the country or are being forced into prostitution and in most cases the terms agreed upon are never met. There are various forms of labour which the trafficked victims made to engage in and they include: Victims pay and then keep on paying. People are willing to pay a lot in order to produce to the United State or other destination countries and they come with the belief they will find legitimate jobs promised to them. They might pay a person or group a fee of \$40,000 and then once in the country find out they aren't going to get the promised job, but are, instead, forced into prostitution. They are in a situation of debt bondage, in which they must work until their debt is paid, at which time they may be released or they may find that the debt is never paid off. More debt can be incurred for non-compliance. Traffickers can easily sell their human "cargo" because of this demand for cheap labour. The demand leads to involvement of more people in trafficking until they become larger operations and networks of individual or organized crime (Pearce, 2000). People are the third illegal commodity traded, preceded by drugs and firearms. Often drugs and weapons are smuggled with women and children. One point about poverty is that people do what they must to survive, and Dayo Elizabeth Akinmoyo, in her keynote address at a conference in London, United Kingdom, made the observation ,that in Nigerian culture of communal lifestyle, people can cease to think in terms of "we" or think of neighbours, and would focus on "I". She explains how poor families would begin "to release their (even at no cost) to anyone who promised to migrate them to the city or overseas. She explained how it can occur that criminals would seize this opportunity to exploit the vulnerable because of their economic hardship and their level of illiteracy.

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cheap human life has become. He says, "People become complete disposable tools for making money". Having ownership doesn't involve any owing of papers necessarily, but do have control over their property, and it is generally insured through violence. Bales (1999), speaking of sex trade in Thailand, describes just how profitable contract debt bondage can be. A girl between twelve and fifteen years old can be purchased for \$800 to \$2,000, and the costs of running a brothel and feeding the girls are relatively low. The profit is often as high as 800 percent a year. This kind of return can be made on a girl for five to ten years. He expressed how slave ownership and slave trade has next to no economic growth are interrelated. With population explosions, extremes of poverty can readily be seen. When faced with the need of cash to buy medicine and food and when lacking in education, it becomes so easy to fall prey to traffickers with bogus contracts, making offers. Women and families that are destitute get into enslavement and debt bondage. In the global economy, Bales (1999) feels that, "Given the penetration of multinational companies into developing counties that debt might mean a slave is ultimately serving a global business". Trafficking has been and still is a major problem in Africa today as it is all over the world. Countries in Africa have been identified as a source, transit and final destination for trafficked victims. According to the ILO's report on trafficking, Africa has been reported as having the highest percentage of child workers in the world. The statistics reveal that 80 million or 41% of Africa children works. These children are usually between ages of five and fourteen and the largest percentage of these child workers are the female children who are usually engaged as domestic workers. This is so because in Africa, there has been the age long tradition practice of "placement". Placement is a term used for when a child is being placed or sent to a home to perform light homework in exchange for a monthly fee, educational or training opportunities. The children sent out to render these domestic services are usually from very poor families in the urban areas and they are usually sent to families in the rural centers. But unfortunately, these practices have been exploited by many traffickers today and these children are being trafficked out of the country or are being forced into prostitution and in most cases the term agreed upon are never met. These are various forms of labour which the trafficked victims made to engage in and they include:

#### **(ii) Trafficking for Prostitution**

In this case, the trafficked persons are forced to engage in sex trade. They are placed in brothel, private homes, tourist establishment and street corners where they offer sexual activities for money. Women and female children are more vulnerable to this form of exploitation and this usually occurs in big cities and rich countries all over the world. (Site cases in under all subs).

#### **(iii) Trafficking for Domestic Labour**

The victims in this situation are being sent into homes where they to work as maids and domestic servants for a fee. The victims are usually placed in these homes by agents and third parties. But due to the high increase in rural urban migration, poor families in the rural areas often send their children into the urban areas to search for jobs in the big cities to help the family back home. These victims are most usually abused by their employers both physically and sexually and also made to work for really long hours and intolerable condition too.

#### **(iv) Trafficking For Agricultural Labour**

In this case the victims, who in this situation are usually male, are being forced to work in farms and plantations for very long hours and really low wages. In many situations, they are

made to live in the farms and plantations where they work and are not properly fed and taken care of medically too. They are also abused and treated harshly by their employers.

#### **(v) Trafficking for The Purpose of Begging and Exploitation for Material Gains**

This occurs when religious practices are exploited for material gains. In Senegal and the Islamic states in Nigeria for instance, it has been a long and legitimate practice that parents often send their children to religious schools to learn the Koran when they are between the ages of 5 and 18 years old. But most of the teachers however exploit these practices by forcing the student into the streets to beg and the money gotten from begging is collected by the teachers. These children are exposed to a lot of risk and dangers while out there on the street begging and many of them have lost their lives in the process while others affected in other ways by this.

#### **(vi) Trafficking for Voodoo Sacrifices and Spiritual Activities**

This involves the trafficking of people to be used for voodoo and spiritual practices. This is a trend that is very common in Africa. Many people have been abducted from their homes or on the streets just to be killed and their organs and body parts taken for spiritual rituals. Many peoples in Africa believe that the use of human body parts in ritual can bring riches and prosperity into their lives, so this is a trend that is as hunting as it is dehumanizing but it is the risk that people have to live with everyday in most parts of Africa today.

### **Theoretical Framework**

For clarity and relevance, a couple of popular crime and victimization theories are considered to explain the theoretical basis for the research conducted on the dynamics of human trafficking to wit:

- (i) Criminal Personality Theory
- (ii) Victim Theory/ Routine Activities Theory

#### **Criminal Personality Theory**

Criminal Personality Theory was propounded by Yochelson and Samenow (1994). Their theory is grounded in the ideal that the criminal acts with free will, he/she is self-centred and self-seeking, driven by fear and anger (the anger can explain how the pimps abuse victims who don't comply), and choose a lifestyle "freely in his quest for power, control, and excitement (Barger, 1980)".

#### **Victim Theory/Routine Activities Theory**

The victim precipitation theory appears to fit with trafficking, specifically in terms of passive precipitation. Passive precipitation relates to power imbalance. It is owing to some personal characteristics of the victim that they are singled out for attack and manipulation. Attaining economic power is one significant gain (Siegel, 2003).

We could also apply the victim theory known as routine activities theory because three components are present and these are: the availability of suitable targets, absence of capable guardians (families may sell them off, police may be corrupt, and victims are taken far from home), and presence of motivated offenders (trafficking rings). Predatory crime is more likely when all these components exist (Siegel, 2003).

We will see how economic disparity is involved in the trafficking crimes. The idea of passive precipitation would suggest that it is owing to their powerless position in society where they originate from countries of economic oppression that women and children can become easy prey for traffickers.

### **Research Design**

The cross-sectional survey method was adopted for the study. This was because it enabled the researcher to collect data at a particular point in time from selected respondents who will represent the larger population. Therefore, data were collected from selected number of parents who have had children from age 10-17 in some locations within Ikeja local government Area of Lagos State.

### **Study Location**

This study was carried out in Ikeja Local government Area of Lagos state. Ikeja is a suburb of the city of Lagos and the Capital of Lagos State. It is also one of Nigeria's 774 Local government areas (LGAs). The Murtala Mohammed International Airport is located there. Prior to the emergence of military rule in the early 1980s, Ikeja is a planned, clean and quiet residential environment.

### **Population of Study**

The targeted population for the research was mainly, the residents in Ikeja, Lagos State. The total entities qualified to be studied constituted the population size, and similarly, the total individuals in all entities selected constitute another population called a sample size. At the end the day 100 respondents were selected.

### **Sampling and sample size**

The study utilized multi stage sampling procedure. Ikeja was purposively selected as the study area because the area is heavy populated. Moreover, the entire parents had children from age 1-17 were accidentally sampled within Ikeja metropolis. 100 parents were accidentally sampled for the study. Hence, the 100 parents sampled constituted the sample size for this study.

### **Research instrument**

The research instrument for this study was questionnaire. Hundred questionnaires were equally distributed among the selected number of parents. The questionnaire method of data collection was adopted because this is the medium whereby the researcher can determine the extent to which respondents hold a particular attitude. The questionnaire comprised both closed ended and open-ended questions. This is due to the fact that closed-ended question assist in comparing responses, while open-ended questions will enable the respondents supply variety of responses to any enquiry.

The questionnaire was divided into two parts i.e. part A and part B. In part A, question on the socio-demographic background of the respondents were asked and in part B questions on general opinions and perception on the involvement of child trafficking will be asked.

### **Method of data analysis**

The data for this study came from the data obtained in the field. The data collected from the field were analyzed through statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and percentages were used to present and interpret the data. Chi-square was employed to test causal relationships between variables.

### **Data analysis, interpretation and presentation**

#### **Sex of the respondents**

**TABLE 1**

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	12	15.0
Valid female	68	85.0
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

The table above shows that 85.0% of the respondents were female, 15.0% of the respondents was male. This shows that a larger number of the respondents were female.

**TABLE 2**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
0-20	12	15.0
21-30	28	35.0
31-40	25	31.3
Valid		
41-50	12	15.0
>50	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2023)

The table above shows that 15.0% of the respondents are 0-20 years, 35.0% of the respondents are in the range of 21-30 years, 31.3% of the respondents are in the range of 31-40 years, 15.0% of the respondents are in the range of 41-50, and 3.8% of the respondents are above 50 years. This implies that there are more of respondents in the range of 21-30 years.

**TABLE 3**  
**Educational Qualification**

L	Frequency	Percentage
SSCE	10	12.5
OND	23	28.8
HND	15	18.8
Valid BSC	30	37.5
others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table shows that 12.5% of the respondents had SSCE, 28.8% of the respondents had OND, 18.8% of the respondents had HND, 37.5% of the respondents had BSC, and 2.5% of the respondents had other certificates. This shows that there were more of the BSC holders among the respondents.

**TABLE 4**  
**Child trafficking is the transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	68	85.0
Valid Agree	10	12.5
Disagree	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

The table above shows that 2.5% of the respondents disagree that child trafficking is for the purpose of exploitation, 12.5% of the respondents agreed that child trafficking is for the purpose of exploitation, 85.0% of the respondents strongly agreed. This plies that the respondents agreed to the fact that child trafficking is for the purpose of exploitation.

UN Convention against transitional organized crime (2000) defined child trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception of abuse of power, giving

or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

**TABLE 5**  
**Child trafficking is as a result of poverty**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	57	71.3
Agree	18	22.5
Undecided	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

The table above shows that 71.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that child trafficking is as a result of poverty, 22.5% of the respondents agreed, 6.3% of the respondents were undecided. This implies that the respondents agreed with the fact that child trafficking is as a result of poverty.

Majority of Nigerian populace are currently living in abject poverty. Many cannot afford the three square meals a day. Poverty is a disease and to solve it, its victim can go into any length including trafficking or sexual exploits.

**TABLE 6**  
**Child trafficking can be caused by domestic violence**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	48	60.0
Agree	15	18.8
Undecided	10	12.5
Disagree	4	5.0
Strongly disagree	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table above shows that 60.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that child trafficking can be caused by domestic violence, 18.8% of the respondents agreed, 12.5% of the respondents were undecided that child trafficking can be domestic violence 5.0% of the respondents disagreed, 3.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This table implies that the respondents agreed with the fact that the child trafficking can be domestic violence.

According Correnery (2006), the children that were emotionally and sexually abuse were caused by adult depressive symptoms and that explosive verbal abuse and witnessing of domestic violence had a moderately strong association with anger hostility which may split the family and may consequently lead to giving children out to traffickers, knowingly or unknowingly.

**TABLE 7**  
**Child trafficking can be as a result of poor standard of living**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	63	78.0
Agree	12	15.0
Valid		
Undecided	2	2.5
Disagree	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table above indicates 78.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that child trafficking can be as a result of poor standard of living, 15.0% of the respondents agreed, 2.5% of the respondents were undecided that child trafficking can be as a result of poor standard of living, and 3.8% of the respondents disagreed. The table shows that the respondents agreed that child trafficking can be as a result of poor standard of living.

Akinmoyo, (n.d) explains how poor families would begin to release their children (even at no cost to anyone who promised to migrate them to the city or overseas. She explained how it can occur that criminals would seize this opportunity to exploit the vulnerable because of their level of poverty and poor standard of living.

**TABLE 8**  
**Economic hardship can cause child trafficking**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	51	63.8
Agree	19	23.8
Undecided	5	6.3
Valid Disagree	3	3.8
Strongly disagree	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table above shows that 63.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that parents understand that economic hardship can cause child trafficking, 23.8% of the respondents agreed, 6.3% of the respondents were undecided that child trafficking is a form of slavery, 3.8% of the respondents disagreed, 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed to the fact that economic hardship can cause child trafficking.

Economic hardship and promises of prosperity have left many people vulnerable to trafficking within their countries and to destination in other parts of the world. Unemployment poor standard of living, widespread poverty, and low literacy levels are causes of economic hardship which can lead to child trafficking.

**TABLE 9**  
**Parents understand that child trafficking is form of slavery**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	71	88.8
Agree	5	6.3
Valid Undecided	4	5.0
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table above indicates that 88.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that parents understand that child trafficking is a form of slavery. 6.3% of the respondents were undecided. This table above indicates that then respondents agreed that child trafficking is a form of slavery and the parents were aware. Forced labour takes different forms, including debt bondage, trafficking and other forms of modern slavery, parents sending their children to people they know or not who are financially upright to help provide basic needs for the child.

**TABLE 10**  
**Child trafficking is a form child abuse**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	61	76.3
Agree	15	6.3
Valid Undecided	2	5.0
Disagree	2	100.0
Total	80	

Source: Field Survey 2024

This table above shows that 2.5% of the respondents disagreed to the fact that child trafficking is a form child abuse, 2.5% of the respondents were undecided that child trafficking is a form of child abuse, 18.8% of the respondents agreed, and 76.3% of the respondents strongly agreed. This table above shows that the respondents agreed to the fact that child trafficking is a form of child abuse.

Child trafficking is a form of child abuse. Children, who are without the care and protection of a family or guardian, have been abused or neglected. Children may have been separated from their families, friends, communities and cultures causing distress and alienation. They will often have had no access to education or opportunity for social and emotional development.

**TABLE 11**  
**Child trafficking is a social problem**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	44	55.0
Agree	20	25.0
Valid Undecided	9	11.3
Disagree	3	3.8

Strongly Disagree	4	5.0
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table shows that 55.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that child trafficking is a social problem, 25.0% of the respondents agreed, 11.3% of the respondents were undecided, 3.8% of the respondents disagreed, 5.0% of the respondents strongly agreed. This table shows that most of the respondents agreed that child trafficking is a social problem.

This states that child trafficking could bring about children impairment, poor or negative image of the society as in the case of massive deportation of Nigerian girls from foreign countries and as such has become a serious social problem that must be addressed.

**TABLE 12**  
**Child trafficking has a negative impact on the society**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	60	75.0
Agree	15	18.8
Undecided	2	2.5
Valid Disagree	2	2.5
Strongly Disagree	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

This table above shows that 1.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed that child trafficking has a negative impact on the society, 2.5% of the respondents disagreed, 2.5% of the respondents was undecided, 18.8% of the respondents agreed that child trafficking has a negative impact on the society, 75.0% of the respondents strongly agreed. The above table indicates that the respondents agreed to the fact that child trafficking has a negative impact on the society.

The negative impact of child trafficking goes beyond the individual level and generates to negative effect on the whole society. As trafficking is either a process that happens in one country or in more than in one country, it has its effects on each of it. Its negative impact affects the donor country or community, (places where victims are recruited).

**TABLE 13**  
**Child trafficking has physiological effect on the child**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	73	91.3
Agree	2	2.5
Undecided	3	3.8
Valid Disagree	1	1.3
Strongly Disagree	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

The above table shows that 91.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that child trafficking has physiological effects on the child, 2.5% of the respondents agreed, 3.8% of the respondents were undecided, 1.3% of the respondents disagreed, and 1.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The table shows that the respondents agreed to the fact that child trafficking have physiological effects on the child.

Anker (2004) explained that the physiological defects of the scourge on the child could be grossly devastating. And this can caused physical or mental illness. Such victims can suffer physical injuries due to mistreatment, lack of adequate food, hard work or sexual exploitation. They often contact STDs and STIs such as HIV/AIDS.

**TABLE 13**  
**People are aware of government's stance regarding child trafficking**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	42	52.5
Agree	28	35.0
Undecided	5	6.3
Valid Disagree	3	3.8
Strongly Disagree	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2023

The table above shows that 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed that the people are aware of government stance regarding child trafficking, 3.8% of the respondents disagreed, 6.3% of the respondents was undecided, 35% of the respondents agreed that the people are aware of the government stance regarding child trafficking, 52% of the respondents strongly agreed. The table above shows that most of the respondents agreed to the fact that the people are aware of the government stance regarding child trafficking.

National Agency For the Prohibition of Traffic In Person and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) in Nigeria, has been putting forward significant efforts to combat trafficking in persons through setting up investigations of cases of child trafficking and human trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and counsel and rehabilitate victims.

### **TEST OF HYPOYHESIS**

This section of the study is to present the result of the analysis performed on the data collected to test the propositions made in the study and answer the research questions. In this section we test hypothesis developed for the purpose of this study, using correlation and chi-square. Analyses were carried out using manual method.

Child trafficking is as a result of poverty. \*child trafficking has a negative impact on the society.

### **Cross Tabulation**

	Child trafficking has a negative impact on the society strongly disagree	Total
Strongly agree	0	57
Child trafficking is as result of poverty		18
Agree	0	5
Undecided	1	80
Total	1	

Source: Field Survey 2023

### Chi-Square Tests

<b>Pearson Chi-Square</b>	<b>143.333<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>Likelihood Ratio</b>	<b>96.030</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>Linear-by-Linear Association</b>	<b>65.030</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.000</b>
<b>N of Valid Cases</b>	<b>80</b>		

Source: Field Survey 2023

a. 12 cell (80.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .06. Since the calculated  $X^2$  is greater than the tabulated  $X^2$  at 0.05 and Asymp sig  $0.000 < 0.05$ ; reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking.

### Summary, conclusion and recommendations

This part summarizes the researcher's work carried out in relation to the topic "Child trafficking as a social problem in Nigeria society survey of Ikeja Residents Lagos State; conclusion was drawn that there is a negative impact on the trafficked children and recommendations made.

The survey conducted on this study discovered many major findings which have been presented. The studies showed that many of respondents (85.0%) were quite aware that child trafficking is a social problem in the society. In area of effects of child trafficking (75.0%) of the respondents agreed that child trafficking has effect on the victim, in the area of causes of child trafficking 71.3% of the respondents agreed that poverty can cause child trafficking it was known that most of the respondents (60,0%) agreed the child trafficking can also be caused by domestic violence. Many of the respondent (78,8%) agreed that child trafficking can has a result of poor standard of living.. The survey indicates that most of the respondent (44.8%) agreed that economic hardship can cause child trafficking many of the respondents (88,8%) agreed to the fact that the parent understand that child trafficking is a form of slavery many of the respondent (52,5%) agreed to the fact that the people are aware of government's states regarding child trafficking.

### Conclusion

In Nigeria child trafficking especially for the purpose of exploitation trafficking growing international organized crime it is motivated and continue to thrive because of poverty into action the result of the harsh economic realities in Nigeria such as lack of job opportunities for both it is skilled and ignorance have contribute to its sentence Nigeria is part of the global system and these must respond and been seen in the responding responsibly to trend on any farm future to do so will in effect expose the entire populating to greater ridicule that has been experienced

The countries might be confronted with graver challenges like the prevalence and the depriving of the country of its human resources and HIV/Aids. It is social vice that needs to be curbed by addressing the issues holistically through policy, action and co-operation of stakeholder..

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations were made:

**Broad protection:** Action are geared toward children who could potentially be trafficked include raising awareness about child trafficking particularly in vulnerable community This type of stomach also include policies geared towards improving the economic statuses of vulnerable families so that reasonable alternative are available to them. Other their sending their children to work Example of this include increasing employment opportunity for adult add condition cash, transfer program another major broad projector programs has been readily endorsed by UN, GIFT, the ILO, and UNICEF involves facilitating gender equality, specifically by enhancing both boys' and girls' access to affordable, quality education.

**Preventative actions:** They are focused on addressing the actual practice of child trafficking, specifically by implementing legal frameworks that are aimed to both deter and prosecute traffickers. This involves the adoption and implementation of the international Labour organization international labour standards, as well as the development of safe and legal migration practices.

**Law enforcement:** Refers to the actual prosecution of traffickers: UNICEF maintains that successful prosecution of child traffickers can be "caught" at any one of the three steps of trafficking: recruitment, movement, and/or exploitation; anti-trafficking laws as well as child labour laws must then be appropriately enforced and having them properly implemented. The development of grassroots "surveillance" systems has also been suggested by UNICEF which would enable communities to immediately report signs of child trafficking to legal authorities.

**Protection:** Protection begins first with victim identification; child trafficking laws must specifically and appropriately define what constitutes a "trafficking victim." Legal processes must then be in place for removing children from trafficking situations, and returning them either to their families or other appropriate settings. Victims should also provided with individualized and supportive physical and psychology rehabilitation in other to establish him or her self-aging. For this recuperate can take length of time but, with the individual having the correct support they can achieve to have a functional life.

Step should be taken to avoid "double victimization" –in other words, to ensure that formerly trafficked children are treated as victims and not as criminal An example of double victimization would be a child who was illegally trafficked Into sexual exploitation in the United State and then and then once free from trafficking is presented for being an illegal migrant.

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