NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR IN WEST AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA

BY

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MIAD/SOC-SCI/1170/2011-2012

BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY (MIAD)

MARCH, 2013

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research was conducted by me in the Department of Political Science under the supervision of Mallam Saidu H. Adamu. The information derived from the literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this project was previously presented for another degree or diploma at any university.



CERTIFICATION

The project entitled; "Non Governmental Organizations and the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Child Labour in West Africa: A Case Study of Nigeria" by Mbachu Mary Tony-Chimezie, meets the regulations governing the award of Masters Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy (MIAD) and is hereby approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated with great appreciation to God Almighty for His grace that was sufficient throughout this period and beyond.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

So many people were helpful throughout the period I undertook this program. The page cannot contain all the names.

My husband, friend and soulmate; Tony Mbachu, who did everything possible to support this dream. You are the wind beneath my wings. My deeply loved children; Munachiso, Kasinma and Blossom, thanks for your understanding when I had to leave you guys all those weekends. I am also thankful for Mrs Agatha Mbachu who took time from her busy schedule to take care of my kids in my absence. This is no small favor.

I should also thank my project supervisor, Mallam Saidu Adamu for his time, patience and guidance all the way and all my course lecturers for the knowledge they impacted into me. I am not forgetting my best friends; Ngozi and Hauwa and all my other friends too numerous to list. My colleague, Judith Akinjobi, you made me believe I could do it and I did it; thank you. My mom and mom-in-law for your prayers. My entire family, thank you all. I am where I am now because you've always been there for me. Finally, I want to thank MIAD 14 coursemates. You are all wonderful people.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

Contemporary human society is characterized by various vices which can be viewed as threats to human security. Such vices include corruption, bad governance, human rights abuses, ethnic and/or religious intolerance and poverty among others. Among these, poverty can be said to have generated other vices which include armed robbery, prostitution, drug addiction and human trafficking among others.

Human trafficking can be described as a modern day form of slavery. Trafficking refers to movement. It is this movement or migration which takes the victims away from the protection of home to a place of danger and forced work that especially distinguishes human trafficking from other form of human rights abuses (Ekunkubor, 2003).

Human trafficking not only denies people their human rights but also exposes them to injury, disease trauma and even death. Traffickers use deceit, threats, intimidation and force on people into slave-like labour or into prostitution (Suleiman, 2003). Victims face abuse, cruelty, bondage, extortion and exploitation. Many receive little or no pay for their labour and

are forced to work excessively often without any time off. Each case is unique, each person's experience is different and some may never fully recover from the abuse they have suffered.

Most trafficked people are lured into cities in a foreign countries with promises of lucrative jobs as waitresses, store attendants and domestic helpers, but are instead deceived and pushed into abusive labour of forced prostitution. Anybody can become trapped, however, the most at risk are rural, poorly educated women and children who are largely unaware of the danger signs or ill equipped to migrate to safety. They are vulnerable and easily tricked. Some traffickers are part of the international syndicates. However, many more are not part of organized crime. They include labour recruiters, community leaders, government officials and even friends and relatives. Although the law threatens severe punishment for traffickers, enforcers allow many to go unpunished either because of ignorance or collusion with the suspects. A lack of political action fails to tackle many of the root causes.

Traffickers use various techniques to instill fear to keep people enslaved. Some keep them locked up but today other less obvious techniques are used including:

i. Forcing a person to provide labour to pay off a debt. This is referred to as "debt bondage".

ii. Withholding salary so workers have no means of escape.

iii. Withholding passports, visa and other important document do workers cannot move freely for fear of being detained by police.

iv. Telling workers they are illegal and will be jailed and deported if they try to escape.

v. Limiting contact with outsiders so they are isolated from people who could help.

vi. Threatening to hurt workers and/or their families.

vii. Making them totally dependent upon their traffickers for food, shelter or communication if they are in a place where they don't understand the language, and "protection" from authorities.

viii.. Cutting off workers from family and friends

ix. Threatening to tell their families of their "embarrassing" circumstances (Ayilla, 2003).

Most of these people are young and promising who have the capability to contribute to their countries' development. Their abduction therefore costs their societies and countries direly. Nigeria is a country that is seen as supplier of victims of human trafficking. The prevailing economic hardship in the country makes human trafficking a lucrative venture as many syndicates have emerged in the thriving business. The most common form of trafficking which this study examines is child trafficking and forced labour. Despite efforts to combat the menace by successive governments in Nigeria, the trade persists. In addition to the efforts of government, various Non Governmental Organizations have joined the campaign. The worst affected areas in the country are states in the southern part of the country. Various perceptions exist on the forms, extent, consequences and remedy to human trafficking in Nigeria. This study is conducted in view of the need to examine the efforts of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the war against child trafficking and forced labour.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The trafficking of people especially women and children has increased dramatically in scope and magnitude over the past two decades as a result of globalization. It is a gross violation of human rights and an

extent of the way in which the effects of globalization are not gender neutral. The ongoing abuses of human rights and the growing social and economic inequality within and between countries has led to a situation in which young people have few choices and resources and are thus vulnerable to being lured, mislead or forced through kidnapping into being trafficked.

Once trafficked, victims are exploited and abused in circumstances that are tantamount to modern day slavery. Young women are typically forced into the sex industry but may also be forced into begging, agriculture, domestic service and forced marriage. Whether bonded by debt, fear for the safety of their families or by their illegal status, many victims are 'sold' a number of times and may remain captive for years. This is not without consequences for their home or societies. Nigeria faces a problem in its human capital development drive as a result of the prevalence of human trafficking hence the activities of government and NGOs to combat the social menace. This study therefore appraises the efforts to address this social menace in West Africa and Nigeria in particular.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The general aim of this study is to discuss the public perceptions of human trafficking in Nigeria and Edo state in particular. Specifically, this study is set to achieve the following:

i. To identify the forms of human trafficking in Nigeria.

ii. To examine the extent/ magnitude of human trafficking in Nigeria.

iii. To analyze the consequences of human trafficking in Nigeria and Edo state in particular.

iv. To examine the efforts put in place to remedy human trafficking in Nigeria.

v. To proffer solutions on how the menace can be effectively addressed.

1.4 RESEARCH ASSUMPTIONS

The assumptions of this study are:

i. Human trafficking and child labour are offshoots of persistent poverty in West Africa and Nigeria.

ii. Efforts by NGOs to combat human trafficking and child labour have not been effective.

iii. Efforts by NGOs to combat human trafficking and child labour have been very effective.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

On completion this work will add to existing literature. It is hoped that it will serve as a veritable reference material for those who might be interested in carrying out a similar research in future. It will also contribute to policy formulation and implementation in the area human trafficking in Nigeria.

1.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This work shall rest on the theory of functionalism. Factionalism is a theory of international relations that arose during the inter-War period principally from the strong concern about the obsolescence of the state as a form of social organization. Rather than the self-interest of nation-states that realists see as a motivating factor, functionalists focus on common interests and needs shared by states (but also by non-state actors) in a process of global integration triggered by the erosion of state sovereignty and the increasing weight of knowledge and hence of scientists and experts in the process of policy-making (Rosamond, 2000).

Its roots can be traced back to the liberal/idealist tradition that started with Kant and goes as far as Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points" speech. (Rosamond, 2000).

Functionalism is a pioneer in globalization theory and strategy. States had built authority structures upon a principle of territorialism. State-theories were built upon assumptions that identified the scope of authority with territory aided by methodological territorialism (Scholte 1993). Functionalism proposed to build a form of authority based on functions and needs, which linked authority with needs, scientific knowledge, expertise and technology, i.e. it provided a supra-territorial concept of authority. The functionalist approach excludes and refutes the idea of state power and political influence (realist approach) in interpreting the cause for such proliferation of international organizations during the inter-war (which was characterized by nation-state conflict) and the subsequent years.

According to functionalism, international integration - the collective governance and material interdependence between states - develops its own internal dynamic as states integrate in limited functional, technical, and/or economic areas (Mitrany, 1966. International agencies would meet

human needs, aided by knowledge and expertise. The benefits rendered by the functional agencies would attract the loyalty of the populations and stimulate their participation and expand the area of integration.

There are strong assumptions underpinning functionalism:

1. That the process of integration takes place within a framework of human freedom,
2. That knowledge and expertise are currently available to meet the needs for which the functional agencies are built.
3. That states will not sabotage the process.

The objective of factionalism towards global peace is achieved through functional cooperation by the work of international organizations (including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations). The activities of functional international organizations involve taking actions on practical and technical problems rather than those of military and political nature. They are also non-controversial politically and involve a common interest to solve international problems that could best be tackled in a transnational manner (Mitrany, 1966).

According to David Mitrany, dealing with functional matters provides the actors in the international community the opportunity to successfully cooperate in a non-political context, which might otherwise be harder to achieve in a political context. Further development would lead to a process called "autonomous development" towards multiplication, expansion, and deepening of functional international organizations (Peter, 1973). Ideally, this would ultimately result in an international government. Functionalists in this manner assume that cooperation in a non-political context would bring international peace. Eradication of existent non-political, non-military global problems, which Functionalists consider to be the very origin of conflict within the global community, is what they aim to pursue (Lawrence, 2005).

The postulations contained in the theory of functionalism shall be used in the explanation of the role of NGOs in the fight against human trafficking and child labour in Nigeria.

1.7 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Human trafficking has become an issue of concern in Nigeria due to its effects on human capital development in the country. The scope of this

study is therefore narrowed down to the efforts of NGOs in combating the menace. This is in view of the need for specificity and ease of analysis and in order for the research to be thorough.

1.8 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Trafficking

This refers to the act of movement of humans or commodities from a particular location to another for the purpose of trade. It can also mean forced migration of a person by another. Trafficking takes many forms like drug trafficking, human trafficking etc. The most common form of trafficking toady is human trafficking.

Human Trafficking

This implies the movement of people through violence, deception or coercion for the purpose of forced labour, servitude or slavery like practices. It can also refer to deceiving or coercing someone to move either within a country or abroad through legal or illegal channels for the purpose of exploiting him or her.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the various opinions of relevant authors in the area of human trafficking. The review is undertaken in a thematic manner in line with the objectives of this study. It thereafter presents the theoretical framework for the study.

2.2 FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Two broad forms of human trafficking have been identified. They include internal and international trafficking. The internal trafficking trafficking entails the movement of persons from one place to another within the same country. While the international trafficking entails the trafficking of persons across national borders.

According to Toye (1999) internal trafficking of women and children is not a new phenomenon. It has been going on with the trafficking of people from rural communities to major cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, Calabar, Warri and Port-Harcourt, predominantly to him the

incidence is a little more precarious in Lagos, the commercial nerve center of Nigeria with a surging population of about 9.1 million. The busy schedules of families who are mainly working class, makes high demand for domestic servants imperative.

Toye further maintained that trafficking for organized begging takes place mostly in the Northern part of Nigeria where physically challenged or disabled persons are lured into begging business in major cities such as Kano and Kaduna. Furthermore, experienced adult beggars traffic children under their custody. These children are then compelled to lead the handicapped into organized begging, they are forced to do this for practically nothing or without any reward other than the daily meals that may be handed out to them along the streets. These trafficked children are denied access to formal education and proper social upbringing.

Baby harvesting is another type of human trafficking in Nigeria according to Toye. In states like Ebonyi, Abia and Lagos, there are cases of hospitals, clinics, orphanages, doctors and nurses who keep teenage and single mothers who do not want to keep their babies after birth to provide them shelter and care while they are pregnant and sell off their babies for a premium to couples that need them. They are made to sign

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papers renouncing their rights to the babies as well as swear to oaths of secrecy. The Good Shepherd Orphanage in Lagos was reported to be engaged in illegal adoption of babies as well as sheltering young pregnant girls and selling off their babies at birth. He lamented that many of these babies sold cannot be traced and one cannot determine what became of them.

With regards to international trafficking, Nigeria has been described as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking and African countries tike Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Cameroon, Gabon, Benin Republic, Libya; Algeria and Morocco are some of the destination points for trafficked Nigerians; while countries like Belgium, Spain, Germany, and United Kingdom are the destination points in Europe. According to the News Agency of Nigeria, (2007) the trend for Nigerian women and girls trafficked to Europe is to be used as domestic servants, whereas in Italy, prostitution is the main work that they usually end up doing. Venezuela in South America is a recent addition to the destination points while Saudi Arabia is the destination point in the Middle East. Nigeria has road links with Niger republic and it provides the route to North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Most of the trafficked persons

are deceived into believing that their destination would be Europe but most of them end up in some African countries like Benin Republic or other countries other than Europe.

An escapee narrated her ordeal in the traffickers den. According to her story, the twenty year old victim, a senior secondary school student in Edo state before she was trafficked said she escaped from Burkina Faso with the help of a Burkinabe after one month of prostitution. She also stated that her male trafficker resided in Benin City Edo state. She had been made to believe that she would be taken to Europe but she ended up in Burkina Faso. She was deceived by a friend's brother's promise of a job in Europe. She mentioned that the trafficking ring use the Saki Route in Oyo state to cross girls into Burkina Faso and Mali. She also revealed that girls most of them below fourteen years are beaten and starved to subdue them into doing the biddings of their madams. She also alleged that the illicit trade thrived with the connivance of some security agents, (News Agency of Nigeria, 2007)

The Northern part of Nigeria has not attracted enough attention as Edo, Cross Rivers, Delta, Ebonyi and other states from the South leading to the erroneous assumption that human trafficking is more prevalent in the

south of Nigeria. However from March 2002 to April 2004 alone, the Saudi Arabia authorities deported nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty women and one thousand, two hundred and thirty one underage and unaccompanied children,

Investigations revealed that the majority of the women deported from Saudi Arabia are from Kano, Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Nassarawa, Plateau, Niger, Kebbi, Kwara, Sokoto, Zamfara, Jigawa, Combe, Bauchi and Taraba states. These records debunk the erroneous impression that human trafficking for prostitution does not occur in the Northern part of Nigeria (News Agency of Nigeria, 2007).

2.3 EXTENT/MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

According to Madunagu (2003) trafficking in girls and women is very endemic in many Nigerian states. To her, as a lot of energy is burnt in curbing trafficking externally, it is thriving well internally. She cited examples of such areas e.g. Yakur Local government council of Cross River State. In her opinion it was due to the extent of trafficking in women in the state that the Girls Power Initiative (GPI) had to put up a seminar to sensitize the people of the state. Bringing out the different forms of

trafficking that goes on in the state and Nigeria generally, Madunagu stated that trafficking in Nigeria takes many forms which include recruitment for forced prostitution, house helps and slave labour.

Odocha (2004) argued that despite the vigorous campaigns mounted against women trafficking, the situation has persisted and to her, the reasons for this are the various ways the perpetrators use to lure their victims. These ways include moving the victims to places where they would be unable to contact any help thereby making them helpless in the hands of abductors. She added that the victims being isolated and not being able to speak the language of the country, loose the support and aid of families and friends. These factors according to Odocha make the victims more vulnerable to the traffickers demands and threats.

Other methods according to her include promising the unsuspecting and often gullible parents of the young women that they would marry their daughters. They also make use of fraudulent employment, travel, modeling and match making agencies. They claim to have fictitious job vacancies in various fields: advertising in local newspapers and offering mouth watering pay package in western cities. These methods according to Odocha are done just to lure the girls away and later force them into prostitution.

According to Ilumagbo (2000) The United States Presidents Interagency Council on Women estimates that over one million women and children are trafficked around the world each year with about fifty thousand of them trafficked into the United States, primarily from Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Latin America and South East Asia. In his opinion, these women are held captive and forced to work as garment workers, while some are forced into the sex industry by threats of violence.

According to Odeh (2004), the major root cause of human trafficking in Nigeria is the prevalence of poverty. In his view the last twenty years of Nigeria's history has been difficult and distressing for the poor, challenging for intellectuals, rewarding and encouraging for the rich and fulfilling for the international and domestic capital as promoted by the international financial institutions particularly the International monetary Fund and the World Bank. Odeh further posited that in response to the devastating economic crisis of the late 1970s and early 1980s, the period has experienced series of state economic policy experiments. These policy experiments in his view share the same ideological roots with their conception of the state as the main obstacle to economic development.

The state is over bloated, extravagant, parasitic and weak against social forces like workers and the poor.

In his view, Makinde (2004) posited that a number of factors have led to the origin and expansion of the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria. These to him include the easy profits made from exploitation, growing deprivation and marginalization of the poor, discrimination against women, restrictive migration laws, a lack of information about the realities and dangers of trafficking and insufficient penalties against traffickers.

In Obahi's opinion (2004), it is true that greed and avarice have their own roles also to play in the whole dilemma. Especially young ladies that would want to do everything possible to get money. But when one takes time to study those ladies, it would be obvious that they come from poor families. She insists that till poverty is tackled head on, till such a time when there is an enabling environment for economic activities to thrive, until then people would continue to fall victims to the traffickers even with their eyes wide open.

In view of the foregoing opinions by Odeh, Makinde and Obahi, it can be added that poverty is a syndrome which has persistently remained part

of human existence but which brings people to humiliation, disposes humans of their confidence and is capable of eroding all the virtues in man. Poverty leads to dishonesty and it subverts commitments and enthrones a culture of inefficiency.

Poverty in Nigeria has assumed a disturbing dimension. It has become multidimensional and exhibits national, rural-urban, age, racial, inter-family, occupational and individual differential with its various manifestations which include lack of income and hunger, malnutrition, ill health, limited access or total lack. The pervasive state of poverty in the Nigerian society which affects people and homes is a major factor which accounts for the evolution of human trafficking.

Viewed from all these perspectives, it is no doubt that the trafficking in women is assuming a global dimension. It is also not contestable to state that the phenomenon is condemnable and a crime against humanity.

2.4 CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

To argue that human trafficking has adverse implications both on the victims and society is not a misnomer. Some of the various dangers which the victims are usually exposed to are domestic violence, alcoholism,

psychological problems and other sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS.

Significant financial resources are gained from it as there has been a tremendous rise in trafficking from Nigeria to Europe since the late 1990s, Much of the profits flow to other illicit activities and are laundered and the trade thrives not only because of prevalence of poverty but also because of highly paid facilitators in the west. (ELI Report, 2005)

According to Agbu (2003) organized criminal groups which traffic women in Nigeria have multifaceted crime portfolios of which the trade in women is one part of their criminal profile. Using female recruiters who conclude contracts with girls and manipulating voodoo traditions, they are able to force compliance through psychological as well as physical pressure. The physical pressure also manifests in various significant human rights violations as children are abandoned in recipient countries (in the case of trans border trafficking) and women pressured to work in the most physically dangerous conditions at the lowest end of the prostitution markets usually as streetwalkers - exposed to the elements with physical violence against them being common. He noted further that they are also

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exposed to the threat of HIV/AIDS which is also a major security threat. Upon arrival at their destinations, victims are placed in conditions controlled by traffickers while they are exploited to earn illicit revenues. They also prey on victim's fears that authorities in the foreign country will prosecute or deport them if they ask for help,

. Agbu lamented that human trafficking deprives the country of its human resources. Though majority of the people trafficked are semi-literate or illiterate, some literate and talented people are also trafficked out. Putting it plainly, talent and human resources are pushed out of Africa mostly by domestic conditions. The result is a self-perpetuating cycle in which mass poverty and underdevelopment feeds crime and violence that in turn leads to even greater poverty.

Furthermore there is a situation in which enduring values are totally regarded as almost irrelevant. It is tragic to note that institutions of higher learning which are meant to be centres of excellence in learning, culture and characters have been turned into breeding places for social vices which include sexual perversion and prostitution. The values of yester years are now fading away like the dew of the morning.

Victims of trafficking are targets of oppression exploitation and abuse by procurers and their accomplices and of prosecution and persecution by the state authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination. The illegality and consequent clandestine nature of recruitment and transportation from one place to another make the victims vulnerable to intimidation, coercion and abuse. Their illegal presence in the country of destination and consequent fear of arrest and prosecution, make them more dependent on their exploiters under slave like conditions.

For Ogbeh (2005), the issue of women trafficking in the country is an issue of great concern. To her, many Nigerian women and children are being trafficked and made to engage in one form of labour or another some of which are in her opinion, hazardous and inimical to the growth and development of the women. She argued further that most of the women are subjected to both physical and sexual abuses, they are denied education or vocational training, such that they are ill equipped to face the future challenges or to make any meaningful contribution to productivity or development of their family economy and also that of the nation at large.

Above all, Lawal (2005) argued that human trafficking leaves a lasting impact on the home country of the victims. This to him is in view of

the fact that the country is deprived of the young and strong members of the society who have the potentials to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of the country.

2.6 REMEDY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

To stem the rising tide in human trafficking in Nigeria, the government has set up machineries and embarked on legislations while aligning with international protocols as both preventive and deterrent measures. In 2001, it ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children as well as passed a national law in 2003 the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003. Through this act, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPT1P) was established.

However, much still needs to be done as the problem still persists because it is a covert activity and thus the extent to which it occurs remains unknown. Non-govern mental organizations like Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) have also been involved in the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, rehabilitation,

retraining and counseling of repatriated trafficked people and their activities have received worldwide support as well as local recognition for their contribution towards curbing the menace. This study is aimed at assessing the contributions of these non governmental organizations in the eradication of child labour and human trafficking in the West African sub region and Nigeria in particular.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The data gathering process is vital to the entire research and is indispensable for arriving at the research finding. To this end, the various steps to be adopted in conducting this research is here presented.

3.2 TYPES AND SOURCES OF DATA

The major building block of all research is data (Ujo, 2000). Data can take many forms, it can be primary or secondary. The information contained in research can be classified under primary and secondary sources. The primary sources are those in which the researcher obtains data from first hand sources of the event or phenomenon (Oshodi, 2007). This gives the reader a basis on which to make his own judgment concerning the study. They include reports, interviews, questionnaires etc (Oshodi, 2007). The secondary sources are materials that contain summaries and reviews of other peoples' studies given by someone who did not witness the event or phenomenon. The author merely gathers and synthesizes a collection of primary materials (Oshodi, 2007). They include textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers etc.

The secondary sources of data will be relevant in this study. The secondary sources from libraries of ABU, Zaria would be used to support or validate the primary data if any.

3.3 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The major means of gathering data through the secondary sources is document analysis. It includes historical analysis, films, recoding of narrative accounts of events, perception or personal values, or by examining collections of printed documents. The methods for primary data include the field methods like interview, administration of questionnaires or by observation (Arikpo, 1986).

This study however employs the document analysis method of obtaining data from secondary sources.

3.6 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis refers to the strategies and effort to categorize, summarize and seek patterns and relationships within the relevant information gathered. Data analysis could either be descriptive or inferential. Descriptive statistics deals with methods and techniques of summarizing and description data (Mbachu, 2005). It applies mostly in

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CHAPTER FOUR
NGOS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR IN NIGERIA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Like other countries of the world where human trafficking is experienced the Nigerian state and those who operate on its behalf have made several efforts in combating the social problems. Private individuals have equally been working to ensure a total eradication of human trafficking.

4.2 EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

At the state level, legal and institutional framework have been created for the purposes of combating human trafficking in Nigeria. At the international level, Nigeria ratified the UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children in 2001 and at the national level, Nigeria passed a national law against trafficking entitled "Trafficking in persons (prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003". Nigeria is also one of the few African countries to pass the Child Rights Act in 2003, which deals comprehensively with the issue of child trafficking. Apart from these legal frameworks, economic empowerment and reintegration programmes have been tried to address

the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria. There have also been several awareness-raising activities.

There are other efforts undertaken by the State party to combat human trafficking, including establishment of bilateral anti-trafficking agreements and introduction of joint border controls. Others are the enactment of the law prohibiting human trafficking in July 2003, the creation of the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), and the Presidential appointment of the Special Assistant for Human Trafficking and Child Labor in June 2003. There is also the signature of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in 2003, and the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2002, by the State party.

4.3 NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

At the non-governmental level, Nigerian NGOs are involved in efforts to combat human trafficking. Worthy of mention according to Agbu (2003) are National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), FIDA (International

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Federation of Women Lawyers) and WOTCLEF. The activities of these NGOs have gone a long way in exposing the various dimensions of this trade in Nigeria and bringing relief to many of the victims.

Several other Non-Governmental Organizations in Nigeria are involved in the eradication of human trafficking. Notable among these are Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation, (WOTCLEF) initiated by Mrs. Titi Abiku Abubakar in 2000. WOTCLHF's eradicating efforts are carried out through counselling, rehabilitating and empowering the victims in order to restore their sanity, dignity and integrate them into the larger society. WOTCLEF has not only succeeded in creating awareness, it has counselled two hundred and eighty five deported victims, provided micro-credit scheme to two of the deportées, scholarship to two, while two other deportees benefitted from the trainee scheme. However, Salami advocates a holistic approach through the use of theatre-in-education or role playing whereby the victims see other people portraying their problems in drama. WOTCLEF has adopted this approach through the sponsorship of a weekly drama on the Network programme of N.T.A. The drama titled *"Izozo "* was being aired every Tuesday between 8.00p.m. and 8.30p.m. since the last quarter of 2003. For her efforts at WOTCLEF, Mrs.

Titi Abubakar received the award of Woman of the Year in 2002." WOTCLEF also organized an international summit in Abuja in July, 2003 which governments and other like-mindedNGOs attended.

With UNICEF support, NGOs like WOTCLEF have joined to create a Network of NGOs against Child Trafficking Abuse and Labour in Nigeria. Together with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons created in 2003, they have supported public awareness campaigns against human trafficking in Nigeria. They also act as a surveillance system to report cases of trafficking and to identify and prosecute traffickers. The network has been actively protecting the victims of this illicit trade by establishing rehabilitation centres and providing education and vocational training to enable children to acquire the necessary skills to make a living.

Another N.G.O. working to eradicate human trafficking is "Idia Renaissance", initiated by Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, wife of Edo State Governor. Its focus is a crusade against the trafficking of Edo teenage girls to Europe and America for prostitution54. Mrs. Igbinedion described human trafficking as an organized crime that is deeply rooted in the countries of

their destination with women as targets. She noted that the crime could only be curbed through international co-operation and legislation.

The United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) is also collaborating with the Nigerian government and N.GOs to eradicate human trafficking by organizing workshops and training programmes. In addition, the U.N. office on Drugs and Crime Commission has representatives in Nigeria and Italy in an attempt to curb the trafficking of Nigerian girls to Italy and to assist those already in Italy to return home. Still on the international plane, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) gave small grants to Nigerian organizations such as the International Federation of Women Lawyers, to encourage local government efforts in addressing trafficking issues. In addition, the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs gave assistance to the Nigerian government to specifically combat trafficking through training, personnel development and equipment. This assistance went through NGOs that in turn provided funds for relief materials for victims of human trafficking as well as assisting in personnel training and development. Finally, USAID collaborated with the International Organisation for Migration to construct a $1 million (about N140 million Naira) processing

centre near Lagos for female victims of trafficking who returned to Nigeria from abroad. The centre was intended to work with a similar facility in Benin City designed to facilitate the easy reintegration of the former victims into the Nigerian society.

4.4 THE ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC MISSION

The Catholic Mission in collaboration with the Nigerian government plans to establish modalities with Europe and America on how to free enslaved victims of human trafficking who would then be repatriated to Nigeria. The Church faithfuls are encouraged to collaborate with existing national networks of Church, societies, N.GOs and other established organizations. Similarly, the Church in collaboration with government and other agencies would provide medical, psychological and spiritual rehabilitation for victims who return to Nigeria. Vocational training would also be provided to make them employable. While still abroad, the Catholic Church collaborates with local priests and the Religious Groups (Rev. Brothers and Rev. Sisters) to provide chaplaincy services to the victims of human trafficking. The Catholic Church has agreed to collaborate with other Christian denominations and other faiths, such as Islam, to find a means of ending the sinful act of human trafficking. Also the Church has

encouraged the Nigerian Conference of Women Religious Organisations (NCWR), the Confraternity of Christian Mothers and the Catholic Women Organisation (C WO), to be more involved in ending human trafficking.

Despite these initiatives, human trafficking remains a critical problem in Nigeria. Many reasons have been adduced for this. According to Agbu (2003), tackling human trafficking in Nigeria by the government means engaging corruption directly. However, it seems Nigeria's laws cannot effectively control corruption for the simple reasons that they were not designed for the kind of society existing now. Secondly, there are problems with the adversarial criminal justice system not the least of which are its technicalities and inadequate enforcement agencies. The point being made above is that the legal frameworks put in place are too weak to confront the dangers occasioned by corruption to wit; human trafficking.

The consequence of this weak legal and institutional framework is that those saddled with the responsibility of enforcing the law have taken advantage of the weakness of the law to violate the law. In 2001, a former police officer and 50 other Nigerians were arrested in Conakry by Guinean authorities for human trafficking offences (Odunuga, 200).

Another problem that has weakened the campaign against human trafficking in Nigeria is poor funding by governments or international donor agencies. However, in some cases, funds meant for this campaign have been discovered to have been misdirected by officials of these governmental and non-governmental agencies to other uses. Corruption, therefore fuels human trafficking in Nigeria. And by the same token, human trafficking fuels corruption in Niger.

Furthermore, the anti-human trafficking campaign and activities are only being carried out at the urban and developed centres of the country at the detriment of the rural areas. Yet greater percentages of trafficked persons in Nigeria or human trafficking victims are "sourced" from rural areas (UNESCO, 2006). Most fundamentally, government policies and programmes have not adequately addressed the problem of mass illiteracy in Nigeria, yet the nexus between illiteracy and lack of access to information against human trafficking had long been established (ILO/IPEC, 2000; UNESCO, 2006).

4.5 TEST OF ASSUMPTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

The first assumption which states that human trafficking and child labour are offshoots of persistent poverty in West Africa and Nigeria in particular is here verified by the finding that the Structural Adjustment Programmes as prescribed by the world financial institutions have engendered a situation where the poor have got poorer thereby resorting to various vices for survival.

The second assumption which states that efforts by NGOs to combat human trafficking and child labour have not been effective is here accepted due to the finding that human trafficking remains a critical problem in Nigeria because of the pervasiveness of corruption in the society which the government itself has not been able to address as laws are ineffective in the face of persistent corrupt practices.

The third assumption which states that efforts by NGOs to combat human trafficking and child labour have been very effective is here rejected because of the finding that those who are saddled with the responsibility of enforcing anti human trafficking laws have taken advantage of the weaknesses in the laws to violate the law with sundry corrupt practices. Another finding in this respect is that anti-human trafficking campaign and

activities are only being carried out at the urban and developed centres of the country at the detriment of the rural areas while the greater percentages of trafficked persons in Nigeria or human trafficking victims are sourced from rural areas.

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CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

Although, Nigeria like most African countries is bedeviled by so many problems such as poverty, unemployment, insecurity and natural disaster, the problem of forced labour and human trafficking has continued to undermine the essence of living. Every day, increasing number of men, women and children are trafficked from one city to neighbouring countries and across continents with promised of better life outside their comfort zones. In the cause of searching for greener pasture, they are coerced into work they have not chosen and subjected to perpetual life in bondage. They work under strenuous conditions and do not receive the wage that was promised them. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) described this group of people as victims of forced labour who have been trafficked into a situation from which they find it difficult to escape.

In Nigeria, there is a high demand for cheap and easily disposable labour as organisations, which are already over burden with high cost of operations engage the services of private recruitment agencies. This is common in industries that are labour intensive such as agriculture,

domestic work or construction. Most of these agents, unknown to many are traffickers who take advantage of the huge supply of cheap labour within and outside the shores of the country. Though the ILO recognises the positive role played by Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) in national and global labour markets, it however called for strict regulations and the promotion of recruitment practices that do not threaten workers' rights.

This study has therefore examined the various NGOs fighting against human trafficking worldwide in general and in Nigeria in particular, pointing out its numerous consequences. It has focused on human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution from Nigeria to Europe and other parts of the world. Political, economic and social difficulties have been identified as the major causes of this undesirable practice. Efforts of the Government, N.GOs and the Catholic Mission to stop human trafficking and rehabilitate the victims have been highlighted. In addition to highlighting the recommendations of the plenary session of the Catholic Bishops of Nigeria in 2001, this study has made additional suggestions on how the evil practice can be eradicated. The study concluded that it is only through the collaborative efforts of local and international N.G.Os, the public, the

Church and other religious organizations that human trafficking in Nigeria can be stopped.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Thus, to effective combat human trafficking in Nigeria, it is *recommended as follows;*

1. There is the need for a continuous and further ratification and implementation of international legislation along with the use of national legal tools currently available to fight against trafficking in human beings.

2. Secondly, combating human trafficking and its attendant damaging effects throughout the Nigerian society will require the energy, talents and resources of government, international organizations, NGOs and the civil society. This simply calls for synchronization of ideas, policies and efforts at the international and national levels.

3. Obviously, human trafficking amounts to human rights violation. Thus, there is the need to incorporate human rights and development perspectives into the campaign against human trafficking.

4. Governments needs to enact a comprehensive law that will cover most aspects of human trafficking, specify severe punishment for traffickers, rehabilitate victims, and give law enforcement officers adequate

investigative tools while legal institutions and frameworks must be strengthened.

5. There is the need to discourage excessive materialism and the culture of get rich quick.

6. While proper and adequate education and gainful employment for the youths is encouraged, government must ensure a proper coordination of efforts between the police and other state security services.

7. Public enlightenment through regular workshops, conferences, and through print and electronic media must be evolved. On the other hand, schools, religious bodies, traditional institutions, and the family should be sensitized on the evils of this abominable trade.

8. Finally, security especially at national frontiers and entry points must be strengthened to check the schemes of the traffickers.

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