

**THE DYNAMICS OF ILLICIT MIGRATION IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF THE  
ROLE OF SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMES IN  
COMBATING, 2015-2020**

**BY**

**JAPHET GBENGA ADESOYE  
ART1900993**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
FACULTY OF ARTS,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,  
BENIN CITY.**

**SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**THE DYNAMICS OF ILLICIT MIGRATION IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF THE  
ROLE OF SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMES IN  
COMBATING, 2015-2020**

**BY**

**JAPHET GBENGA ADESOYE  
ART1900993**

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)  
HONOURS DEGREE IN HISTORY,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,  
BENIN CITY.**

**SEPTEMBER, 2023**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this work was carried out by **JAPHET GBENGA ADESOYE** in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PROF. EDDY O. ERHAGBE (FHSN)**  
**PROJECT SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DR. FRANK IKPONMWOSA**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to the Almighty God, for his mercies and benevolence and for preserving me against all odds.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My most profound and utmost gratitude goes to God Almighty for his steadfast and unfailing love, guidance, strength, provisions, mental resources and wisdom towards the successful accomplishment and realization of this work that made this project a reality.

I am also especially thankful and grateful to my amiable project supervisor, Prof. Eddy O. Erhagbe, for his support, priceless suggestions and patience throughout the course of this project. His priceless suggestions and corrections greatly assisted me and contributed to the successful completion of this project.

I will also like to express my gratitude to some scholarly distinguished personalities in my department, in persons of, Dr. Albert O. Onobhayedo, Dr. Charles Osarumwense, Dr. A. O. Nwaokocha, Prof. E. A. Erhagbe, Prof. O. B. Osadolor, Prof Ifidon, Prof Osaigie, Mr Victor O. Aiguoarueghian, Miss O. Oriahki, Mrs. L. Enadeghe and Mr. E. Toby, for their academic support and enormous impact.

Also, my heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation goes to my ever supportive parents, Mr and Mrs Adesoye, through whom their countless support, encouragement, prayers and steadfastness has contributed immensely and brought to fruition the successful completion of this project. I also owe special thanks and gratitude, and my warmest appreciation to my lovely wife Mrs Peace Gbenga, for their immense contribution and the vital roles they both played towards the successful accomplishment

of this work. To both my parents and siblings, i say a big thank you for standing firmly with me and being a huge part of my academic journey and success. I wish to aknowleged my son Babatunde Emmanuel Olamide. To all my wonderful friends in and outside of University of Benin, thank you for your support, friendly advice and cooperation.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Certification.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Acknowledgments.....	v
Table of contents.....	vi
<b>CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY</b>	
Introduction.....	1
Aim and Objectives.....	3
Scope of the Study.....	7
Methodology.....	7
Literature Review.....	8
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	
THE NAUTE OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA.....	12
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	
GOVERNMENT AND NGO SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA.....	29
<b>CHAPTER FOUR:</b>	
SIGNIFICANCE AND CHALLENGES OF GOVERNMENT/NGO ROLE IN CURBING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA.....	46
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>	
CONCLUSION.....	61
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	70

# CHAPTER ONE

## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

### **Introduction**

This study analyses the nature of illegal migration in Nigeria and efforts in curbing it through skill acquisition and empowerment programmes. The movement of human populations across the planet has characterized human societies throughout history. Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon and deals with economic, social, and political factors, and can be international or internal.<sup>1</sup> International migration involves the movement of people across political boundaries to a different country than an area of origin, whereas internal migration is the movement of people within the national boundary of a specified country.<sup>2</sup>

Illegal migration is the migration of people across national borders in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country. Illegal immigrants are also referred to as unauthorized/undocumented immigrants. Recently, it has been noted that there is a rising trend in illegal migration worldwide, especially from poorer to richer countries. Most migrants within and outside Africa are illegal migrants.<sup>3</sup> However, those found in Nigeria appear to be on the increase in recent times.

On the other hand illegal migration can also be referred to as trafficking of persons, which has been a global crisis linked with increasing globalization and often intertwined with illegal immigration, human smuggling and transnational crime. It is a form of modern day slavery that trades and exploits children, women and men each year,

violating their basic rights to life, liberty and security.<sup>4</sup> This statement above buttresses the fact that from an economic lens, illegal migration can be considered as an economic activity and a consequence out of a commoditized process that profits from human mobility. It is observed from the various crusades for the humanization of migration that as the businesses become more globalized and borders open, the transfer of people, both willing and forced, is becoming more widespread contributing to unprecedented growth of human trafficking. Also the increasing levels of inequality, both globally and internally, encourage millions of disadvantaged individuals to migrate internationally and internally.<sup>5</sup> As migrants search for more economic opportunities outside their homes, some end up in coerced work by the use of threat or deception. Although the number of humans trafficked is not known, but it has been estimated, according to UN convention in 2017, that there are at least 700,000 trafficked victims globally each year.<sup>6</sup>

However, it is clear that human trafficking poses a problem at both the local and global levels. There is an urgent need of local, national, regional and international cooperation to combat this exploitation, from government officials to law enforcers, health care professionals to education officials. Non-governmental organizations are particular have been playing a key role in improving human trafficking prevention, victim protection and prosecution of traffickers.<sup>7</sup>

Therefore, this project attempts to highlight the place of the effort in combating illegal migration in Nigeria, by using Edo State as a case study of the roles and the state government and government agencies and non-governmental organizations are playing in

curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. For a better and more organized research, this study is grouped into five different chapters.

This research stands as an exposition of the economic and social effect of illegal migration on Nigeria, with a main focus on the role of skill acquisition and empowerment programs aimed at curbing illegal migration in our contemporary time. It is meant to enlighten the people about the various understanding drive and trends on illegal migration as well as causes and consequence of cross border illegal migration from Edo State, Nigeria from 2015 to 2020. In time past, the significant role of skill acquisition and empowerment programs in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria has not been brought to light and following this realization, this study fully intends to undertake further exposition of all the activities of government institutions and non-governmental organization in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria as they relate to Edo state. However, this research will be a worthwhile foundation of information for future academic work on this subject and its likes.

### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study is to examine the dynamics of illicit migration in Nigeria as it relates to Edo state. While the objectives include:

1. To examine the historical origin of illegal migration in the international system.
2. To examine the youth migration and poverty in Nigeria.
3. To examine efforts of government and non-governmental organizations in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria.

4. To attempt a critique on causes and consequence of illegal migration on Nigeria image in the diaspora.
5. To examine Nigeria's achievements in the fight against illegal migration in Nigeria.
6. To examine the nature of women trafficking in Edo State.
7. To highlight the role Edo state government and other state non-governmental organizations are playing in curbing illegal migration.

### **Scope of the Study**

This research covers the dynamics of illicit migration in Nigeria as it relates to Edo state and the contributions of government and non-governmental skill acquisition and empowerment in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria with a main focus on Edo government and other non-governmental organisations in the State from 2015 to 2020. The study covers Godwin Obaseki's administration (2016 to 2020). It also covers the roles of NGOs in combating women illegal migration in Edo State, using Idia Renaissance as a case study.

### **Methodology**

In writing this research work, the researcher adopted the historical research methodology. Hence, both primary and secondary materials were gathered, analyzed, and interpreted to achieve the aim and objectives of this study. The primary data was collected from archival documents and oral interviews from selected victims of human trafficking which were very relevant to the subject matter. Also, information was

collected from personnel in Edo State Women Affairs, NAPTIP and Idia Renaissance. The secondary data, on the other hand were obtained from journals, articles from the internets, chapters in books and books in Edo State. Materials gathered for this study were analyzed via literature review, by a way of criticizing various actors' books articles, journals and other related document; meanwhile this study used narrative the analysis framework. Some important photographs also served as sources of this research.

### **Literature Review**

There is much literature on the illegal migration and the role of government and NGOs in combating them, as the review below shows. However, there is virtually none on the combatting illegal migration in Nigeria: a study of the role of skill acquisition and empowerment programs, 2015-2020 which this study attempts to fill the existing gap.

The first on my review list is Istifanus A. Joshua's article titled "*Is Illegal Migration on the Rise among Nigerians? A Wake-Up Call,*"<sup>8</sup> gave an historical account on the causes of illegal migration in Nigeria, where he asserts that;

The causes of illegal migration differ from individual to individual and from community to community; which have to with poorest classes in a developing country that may lack the resources needed to mount an attempt to cross illegally, or the connections to friends or family already in the destination country. He further points out that Nigeria is the 6th largest producer of petroleum in the world, it is the 8th largest exporter, and has the 10th largest proven reserves. In spite of the country's vast oil wealth, the majority of Nigerians are poor with 71% of the population living on in the country.<sup>9</sup>

Although the author narrated the antecedence of illegal migration in Nigeria but he failed to elaborate on the role of government in combating the menace via empowerment and skill acquisition; this vacuum created by Istifanus will be filled by this study.

According to Clare Cummings book *titled Why People Move: Understanding the Drivers and Trends of Migration to Europe*,<sup>10</sup> he examines the various aspects of migration trends in Europe. In his view “despite inconsistencies in the statistical data on irregular migration, it is clear that there has been a significant rise in the number of people attempting to enter Europe via irregular means in recent years, driven by a combination of conflict, political instability and economic insecurity. The evidence is clear that the reasons why asylum-seekers and economic migrants choose to make the dangerous journey to Europe are often similar and a person may fit both of these categories at the same time. At the centre of this is the need for secure livelihood opportunities.<sup>11</sup> The book deals basically on measures asylum-seekers use to gain entry, while restricting the entry of economic migrants, overlook the reasons why a person migrates, and are likely to result in increased irregular migration as migrants seek alternative and often more dangerous entry channels. This book very useful to this research. However, the author did not dwell much on the role made by government in fighting illegal migration; this makes this work very useful.

The third work under my review is AY. Mohammed article titled “Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking and Refugees,”<sup>12</sup> The author provides insight on the magnitude of undocumented or irregular migration, as well as estimates of refugees and

victims of human trafficking. He also examines Government concerns about irregular migration, and discusses major conventions with respect to human trafficking, and refugees and asylum seekers.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, his article is only relevant to my research on the general overview of illegal migration in the world, which will be captured in my chapter two. He failed to appreciate the significance of the Nigerian government and NGO in combating illegal migration in Nigeria.

Another book to this research work is *International Migration and the study of Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria: the role of Nigerian Immigration Service*<sup>14</sup> written by Ebri Promise Okeoghene, The author point out that International Migration activities is monitored by the Nigerian Immigration Service as this agency can be a tool for socio economic development and security in the Nigerian state. The author also revealed that qualified immigrants in a nation-state's work force can supply quality and productive results to the nation state. And that this is one importance of International Migration that can bring socio economic development in the Nigerian state.<sup>15</sup> This book relevant in the fourth chapter of this project when discussing the solution and ways of curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. Despite the usefulness of this research the work is limited to Nigeria Immigration service as the only way to curb illegal migration thereby refusing to address the role of skill acquisition and empowerment in combatting illegal migration.

The fifth work on our review list is the *Idia Renaissance Magazine*,<sup>16</sup> This book is a publication from Idia Renaissance. This magazine is one of the most influential

literatures in this project. It gives us a great deal of insight into the organization itself which is the case study of this work. The magazine opens our eyes to the aims and objectives of the organization, activities such as rehabilitation of victims at its resource centres, the manners in which it carries out its operations, and its campaigns. The magazine talks about the menace of human trafficking in Edo State and the urgency of intervention on the issue of human trafficking particularly in Edo State. However, the book did not look at human trafficking as it affects other parts of the country (this is expected as Idia Renaissance is an Edo State based NGO). Also, the Idia Renaissance Magazine failed to look at the concept of NGOs in Nigeria and to give to a background check to the historical beginning of the surge of Edo women into Europe for greener pastures. This work is most useful to this project as it serves an expository purpose into the mind of Idia Renaissance.

Another article to this research work is “Counter Trafficking Initiative: Analysis of the Evolution of Trafficking in Persons, Grass Root Social Intervention, Building Social Services and Networking Capacity and Promoting Direct Assistance”.<sup>17</sup> This article discusses about the efforts and mechanisms put in place to prevent human Trafficking and restore persons trafficked. This article is a research work which mostly explains how efforts are made to reduce the amount of persons trafficked on a yearly basis and to analyse the intervention from all levels and parastatals. The article, unlike the Idia Renaissance Magazine, looks at how human trafficking started in Third World

countries such as Nigeria and proffers solutions to it. However, the book fails to have an in depth discussion of the roles of NGOs in the curbing of this corruption.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in Nigeria”<sup>18</sup> is a document on the report of the Conference on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Abuja, Nigeria in November 2002. This document discusses the actions of the UN against transnational organized crime and the steps taken by Nigeria to implement the Convention. It looks at the efforts of the United Nations in fighting human trafficking around the globe. The book is a publication on the convention held by Nations to create laws to fight transnational organized crime such as human trafficking, proliferation of firearms, and drug trafficking and countries domestication of the Protocols. This book looks at how the Federal government of Nigeria reacts to the protocol and steps they have taken to domesticate the protocol in order to be binding on her and her citizens. The book however did not talk much about how Edo State is in the centre of human trafficking around the world.

Another literature that was relevant to this research was Elaine Pearson in *Human Trafficking, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection*,<sup>19</sup> this is an interesting book on anti-slave which sheds light on human trafficking and the fight against it both by international governmental bodies and international non-governmental bodies not excluding states and agencies therein. This book did not discuss the roles of NGOs as it based its attention mostly on Anti-Slavery topics.

T. Brain and F. Laeko (eds.) in *Fatal Journeys, Tracking Lives Lost during Immigration*<sup>20</sup>, talked about the dangerous journey embarked on by people seeking greener pasture and the hazards they encounter. This book is rich in statistical data and records of migrants across the desert to Libya and to Italy. This statistics show in estimate the number of deaths recorded and the number of persons that have made a journey. It discusses the ordeals of the victims and the roles the traffickers have played to evade authorities. How government and other agencies find a way to curb the growth of the human trafficking market and how the traffickers have always devised ways to go around authorities to carry on their business. This book is written in a style that is more of a novel on the topic of modern human slavery known as human trafficking. This book fails to pay attention to Edo State and its intense affiliation with human trafficking and is therefore tangentially relevant to our study in many aspects.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in *Measures To Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*<sup>21</sup>, This book talks about the factors contributing to trafficking in human beings in West Africa paying attention to Benin Republic, Nigeria, and Togo. This book is instrumental because it gives a clear definition of terms involved and also discusses about the various legislations regarding human trafficking in these West African states. This book, however, is lacking in the area of roles of NGOs in fighting human trafficking and also does not discuss broadly on human trafficking in Edo State. Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State is also a report of United States fight on human trafficking. This report by the

Department of State is basically an analysis on the efforts of the United States to fight human trafficking within and outside its borders. The report documents victims from parts of Africa, Southern America, India, Pakistan, and many other states. It gives, with lucid pictorial illustrations, the hardship suffered by trafficked victims and the stringent laws enforced by officials to fight the crime. However, the report lacks indepth relevance to our study as it does not look at how NGOs are concerned with human trafficking and as related to Edo State in particular.

Odigwe A. Nwaokocha in “Non-State Actors in International Relations”, A. Omu and Leo E. Otoide, *Themes in International Studies and Diplomacy*,<sup>22</sup> talked about NGOs and their role in international relations, although he did not specifically look at the duties of NGOs as it relates to human trafficking in general and women trafficking in particular, the chapter in book will help this research establish basic understanding about NGOs.

Samson B.J Dubukumah in “Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Custody Edo State,”<sup>23</sup>, gave an insight into the situation of human trafficking in Edo State. This article finds out the causes of human trafficking that is why victims agree to human trafficking in Edo State and also how Nigerian institutions are made to checkmate human trafficking. It also looks at factors that influence human trafficking in Nigeria and in Edo State in particular, but it does not take the NGOs onto consideration.

Tim S. Braimah in “Sex Trafficking in Edo State Nigeria: Causes and Solutions”<sup>24</sup>, also sheds light on the situation of human trafficking in Edo State. This article is one of the most prominent materials used in this work because it basically

concentrates on human trafficking in Edo State and discusses on a broad scale the causes, consequences and solution to human trafficking in Edo State. This article is important because it has an in depth research into the culture and traditions of the Edo people and therefore understands the dynamics of the Edo society. This article also looks at the government institutions and how they react to human trafficking in Nigeria. This article however fails to talk about NGOs.

In as much as we agree, that these contributions and views have their own merits towards understanding the illegal migration in Nigeria, but we must also agree that they have not been able to give a total study of the role of skill acquisition and empowerment programs in combatting illegal migration in Nigeria. All the books and articles reviewed have been able to cover only some parts of my research. This research seeks to fill that vacuum that has been created for a long while by various scholars.

## **CHAPTERIZATION**

This study will be carryout in five different chapters

### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

This chapter gives us the preamble of the entire research work; it captures the introduction, aim and objectives, scope of the study, methodology and literature review.

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE NATURE OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

This chapter examines the concept of illegal migration, the historical antecedences of illegal migration in Nigeria. The nature, operational mode and manifestations of illegal migration in Nigeria. The chapter also captures the various causes and factors that necessitated the illegal migration in Nigeria.

## CHAPTER THREE

### GOVERNMENT AND NGO SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

This chapter elucidates the various efforts made by the federal, state and local government in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. The chapter capture a case study the programmes and policies of how the present state government Governor Godwin Obaseki in combating illegal migration in Nigeria.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SIGNIFICANCE AND CHALLENGES OF GOVERNMENT/NGO ROLE IN CURBING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

This chapter examines the importance of government in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. The chapter also outlines the various challenges and bottleneck faced by government and non-governmental organization in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION

This chapter gives a general summary of the entire research work and give identifies the contributions to knowledge.

## Endnotes

1. Istifanus A. Joshua, "Is Illegal Migration on the Rise among Nigerians? A Wake-Up Call," *Journal of Sustainable Development Studies* 5(1), 2014, p.23.
2. *Ibid.*
3. Charlotte Min-Harris "Youth Migration and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Empowering the Rural Youth," *Topical review Digest: Human Right in Sub-Sahara Africa*, Vol.2, No.1, 2012, p.50.
4. *Ibid.*, p.52.
5. *Ibid.*
6. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and it's Protocols in Nigeria" being a United Nations report of the Conference on the United Nations Conventional against Transnational Organized Crime, November 2002.
7. *Ibid.*
8. Istifanus A. Joshua, "Is Illegal Migration on the Rise among Nigerians? A Wake-Up Call," *Journal of Sustainable Development Studies* 5(1), 2014, p.23.
9. *Ibid.*
10. Clare Cummings, *Why People Move: Understanding the Drivers and Trends of Migration to Europe*, London: Longman, 2002, p.112.
11. *Ibid.*
12. AY. Mohammed "Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking and Refugees," *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol.20, No.5, 2016, p.2.
13. *Ibid.*
14. Ebri Promise Okeoghene *International Migration and the study of Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria: the role of Nigerian Immigration Service*, Ota: Covenant University Press, 2017, p.65.
15. *Ibid.*
16. *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, 2017.
17. A. Akinyoade, "Counter Trafficking Initiative: A analysis of the Evolution of Trafficking in Persons, Grass Root Social Intervention, Building Social Services and Networking Capacity and Promoting Direct Assistance", *NAPTIP Project Handbook*, Accra: Creatif Xpressions, 2011.

18. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in Nigeria" being a United Nations report of the Conference on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, November 2002.
19. E. Pearson, *Human Trafficking, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection*, London: Anti-Slavery International, 2002.
20. T. Brian and F. Laezko (eds.), *Fatal Journeys, Tracking Lives Lost During Immigration*, Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2014.
21. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*, September 2006.
22. O.A Nwaokocha, "Non-State Actors in International Relations," I.A Omu & L.E. Otoide (eds.) *Themes in International Studies and Diplomacy*, Benin-City: Mindex Publishing, 2002.
23. Tim S. Braimah, "Sex Trafficking In Edo State, Nigeria: Causes and Solutions", *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 2013, p. 3
24. Samson B.J Dubukumah, "Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Case Study Edo State," Retrieved from, academia.edu. Accessed on 21/04/2023.

## CHAPTER TWO

### ORIGIN AND NATURE OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

#### Introduction

With a population of more than 150million and being Africa's most populous country, Nigeria still continues to experience high level migration due to the size of her population, her harsh economic climate, porous borders etc.<sup>1</sup>

Nigeria is burdened with corruption and endemic poverty with nearly 70 percent of her population living below the poverty line. Scarce employment opportunities, corruption and poverty force thousands of Nigerians to emigrate every year in search of better quality life. Illegal migration has been fast on the increase and is largely facilitated by forgery of passports, visas, false asylum claims, bogus marriages under false pretense, human smuggling, and human trafficking and a host of other avenues.<sup>2</sup>

Illegal migration in Nigerian minors and women into Italy for prostitution started around the second half of the 1980s, following the economic difficulties caused by the structural adjustment programme.<sup>3</sup> They started leaving the country on promises of fantastic and well-paying jobs in Europe, in factories, offices and farms. They arrived in Italy only to find themselves sold into sexual slavery. They were forced to engage in prostitution. According to Aghatise noted that the women who were trafficked at the beginning were mainly married women or separated women on the lookout for a way to cater for their families. Later those trafficked were mainly young girls who went in

search of jobs to help their families. Their aim was to go abroad to suffer for a few months, earn huge amounts of money and return home to help the family.<sup>4</sup>

However, the reality was often different. Some have estimated that about 80% of girls and women trafficked into Italy from Nigeria are from Edo State. This is curious because traditionally this ethnic group does not encourage prostitution. Girls and women trafficked from Nigeria are often made to undergo some rites in order not to reveal the identity of their traffickers and *madams* to the Police and to pay their “debts” without creating problems.<sup>5</sup> The attention of the Nigerian Government was drawn to the menace of trafficking in women in 1997 when the Nigerian Ambassador to Italy, Ms Judith Attah, drew the attention of the Nigerian delegation to the 63rd Interpol General Assembly. She informed them of the nuisance level to which the African women, especially Nigerians, were constituting themselves and called on the Police to put in place necessary machinery to tackle the problem back home. The Police took up the challenge, and since then, efforts have been made to collaborate with relevant agencies and NGOs to address the menace.<sup>6</sup> However, strong cooperation between a cross section of agencies (Law Enforcement and prosecution, immigration and border control, social agencies and NGOs) on which to base a strategic, integrated approach to control trafficking has not yet been developed.<sup>7</sup> It is against this backdrop that this chapter seeks to examine the Nature of Illegal Migration in Nigeria.

## **Trends of Migration since Independence**

Flows from Nigeria to countries beyond the region did not occur on a large scale until independence in 1960. From the 1950s through the 1970s, the emerging elites moved mainly to the United Kingdom due to legacy of colonial ties, for educational pursuit, in a few cases for administrative matters.<sup>8</sup>

The expectation was that Nigerian students would return with valuable skills needed for nation building. Indeed, most Nigerians educated abroad in the 1960s and 1970s readily came home after completing their education to assured plum jobs in the civil service or booming oil and private sectors of the economy.<sup>9</sup> After independence in 1960, this largely highly skilled migration to the United Kingdom continued, although an increasing proportion of Nigerians also migrated to the United States for study, business, and work.

As political tension engulfed Nigeria and as its economy stagnated in the late 1970s and 1980s, the stream of emigrants increased. Unlike previous emigrants, these Nigerians tended to stay abroad for longer periods after graduating, and some never returned.<sup>10</sup>

As a result, a well developed culture of professional migration emerged. By 1978, an estimated 30,000 Nigerian graduates from UK higher institutions were living outside Africa, with 2000 them living in the United States. In 1984, the Nigerian population living in the United States had increased to 10,000.<sup>11</sup> According to Afolayan and colleagues; many were highly skilled. In addition to the poor economy, Nigerian-based professionals left

because of austerity measures of structural adjustment program (SAP), which the government agreed to as a condition of a loan from the IMF in mid-1980s. Because the program included devaluing the national currency, wages for professional became lower and working conditions worsened. As desperation in the country continued, many less educated youth became significant part of the emigration stream.<sup>12</sup> By the early 2000s, an increasing number of Nigerians had migrated to countries such as Spain, Italy, Ireland and Belgium as well as the Gulf states.

### **Labour Emigrants**

Nigeria is less affected by skilled emigration than other ECOWAS countries. Nevertheless, the emigration rate of highly skilled Nigerians remains high and is increasing over time.<sup>14</sup> According to Docquier, asserts that in 2000, 10.7 per cent of highly skilled Nigerians trained in the country worked abroad, which represents an increase from the 8 per cent recorded in 1990. In the United States and Europe, highly skilled Nigerians represent a large part of the total Nigerian immigrant population, with 83 and 46 per cent, respectively.<sup>15</sup> On average, in OECD countries, 65 per cent of Nigerian expatriates have a tertiary education, with the most highly educated working in the medical profession.

The medical sector is consequently the most affected by the outflow of Nigerian emigrants. Docquier and Pettersson estimated the number of emigrant physicians who were trained in the country in 2000 to be 4,856, 14 per cent of the total available doctors in the country.<sup>16</sup> Ninety per cent of the Nigerian physicians abroad are currently

working in two countries: the United States and the United Kingdom. These two countries also attract most of the Nigerian nurses emigrating abroad. It was estimated the number of nurses trained in Nigeria who have emigrated to be 12,579, or 12 per cent of the total number of nurses in Nigeria, as of 2000. The United States and the United Kingdom remain the most attractive poles for this category of skilled emigrants, with 71 and 27 per cent, respectively.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, the United Kingdom's nursing and Midwifery Council registers Nigeria as one of the top source countries from which nurses and midwives are admitted: about 500 nurses legally emigrated to work in the United Kingdom between April 2002 and March 2004. Figures remained stable for the following years and slightly decreased to 378 nurses for the period April 2005 to March 2006.<sup>18</sup> About 55 per cent of the 247,500 Nigerian residents in OECD countries in 2002 were highly skilled professionals. By mid-2003, one third of 25,000 registered doctors emigrated, and, in that year alone, 2,855 doctors registered with the American Medical Association. Indeed, between 2001 and 2006, about 21,990 health workers had emigrated.<sup>19</sup> The national policy on health estimates that about 26 per cent of Nigerian doctors are either working abroad or have changed professions and are in other jobs that are more financially rewarding.<sup>20</sup>

### **Students**

From 2000 to 2006, the number of students who left the country more than doubled, from 10,000 to almost 22,000. The outbound mobility ratio<sup>13</sup> also consistently increased over time, from 14.5 per cent in 2003 to 20.7 per cent 2006. The flow of local students

abroad is expected to continue also in coming years.<sup>21</sup> An annual report on international academic mobility, published by the Institute of International Education and the United States Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, gives a total of 6,192 Nigerians in universities in the United States in 2006.<sup>22</sup> In particular, the report indicates that positive results are expected from the more recent proactive efforts of American universities to enroll international students. Furthermore, another report refers to a large increment in Nigerian students in educational institutions in the United Kingdom, from 2,800 in 2007 to a projected 30,000 by 2015, based on a number of factors. Regarding the chosen field of study, in OECD countries, social sciences, business and law are the faculties preferred by Nigerian students.<sup>23</sup> A number of factors account for this dramatic increase in student migration abroad, such as a demand for education that exceeds supply, poor facilities and a growing middle class that can afford to send their children abroad for educational purposes.<sup>24</sup>

### **Irregular Emigration**

Irregular emigration does occur, despite the associated risks. The estimated total number of nationals abroad varies, as well as the number of nationals apprehended at the border. For example, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, disclosed the following in a workshop in Abuja, 2008: “Not less than 59,000 Nigerians are currently in Northern African countries without valid travel documents.<sup>25</sup> This number represented those who were in transit waiting for the opportunity to migrate to the West. Figures available to the Ministry showed that

8,000 of the illegal immigrants were in Morocco, 16,000 in Algeria, 20,000 in Libya and about 15,000 in Mauritania”.<sup>26</sup> He also noted that there are increased rates of repatriation of Nigerian migrants from different destinations abroad, especially from the European Union. In addition, the Minister stated that:

“Information provided by our missions abroad indicated that, apart from those held for simple immigration offences, the majority of those in prison are being held for drug-related offences. Reports had it that over 10,000 migrants has died between 1999 and 2002 while trying to cross over from North Africa to Europe. The circumstances of their departure such as using unofficial routes and without proper documentation have made them vulnerable to criminal gangs. These gangs recruit them into all manner of illicit business, with long jail sentences as consequences when they get caught”.<sup>27</sup>

In 2007 alone, almost 6,500 Nigerian citizens were apprehended in the European Union for illegal immigration. This number represents – after Senegal – the largest population among the countries of the ECOWAS region. The large majority of apprehensions were carried out in Italy (2,523) and Spain (1,243).<sup>28</sup> In the same year, 1,422 Nigerian citizens were removed from the European Union. As in the case of apprehensions, removed Nigerians represented the largest number – after Senegal – in the ECOWAS region although the figure had decreased from the 2,113 carried out the previous year. Internal apprehensions refer to the illegal presence of aliens in the territory of European Union.<sup>29</sup>

### **Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons**

Trafficking and smuggling in persons from Nigeria has taken varied forms and been on the increase over the years. As very few asylum applications are granted, those

denied asylum in some cases stay on illegally, at least for some time. In addition, some minors and women who are granted asylum status run away. In a few cases, the asylum system is being abused by traffickers to get Nigerian women and children trafficked into the European prostitution market. The trafficking network is based on a strong link, involving different categories of actors and contacts at the source, Nigeria, and destinations, mostly countries in southern Europe.<sup>30</sup>

In 2009, NAPTIP reported that 46 per cent of Nigerian victims of transnational trafficking are children, with the majority of them being girls trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Some of the victims are Nigerian, while others are trafficked from other African countries through Lagos. In addition, women, girls and boys are trafficked between Nigeria and other West and Central African countries, primarily Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana and Niger, for forced labour in homes, on the streets and in quarries.<sup>31</sup> Benin is a primary source country for boys and girls who are trafficked for forced labour in Nigeria's granite quarries. Nigerian women and girls are also trafficked to North Africa, Saudi Arabia and Europe, most notably to Austria, Belgium, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain.<sup>32</sup>

The Nigerian State of Edo is a primary source area for woman and girls who are trafficked to Italy for sexual exploitation. Most of the trafficked women in Europe are believed to be from the State of Edo, with Italy being the most important destination for trafficked persons from Nigeria, followed by the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Austria.<sup>33</sup>

## **Irregular Emigration Routes**

The official routes for persons leaving Nigeria are most likely the routes taken by the majority of irregular emigrants. The major departure areas of the trafficked persons from Nigeria are Edo, Kano, Kaduna, Calabar and Lagos, through the neighboring border countries and onward to further away destinations.<sup>34</sup> The latter comprise the ECOWAS Member States of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, as well as Chad, through routes along the south-eastern and north-eastern borders to the Central African countries of Cameroon and Gabon and to northern African countries through Mali. Those who travel to Europe over land can be on the road for months, or even several years. Migrants going to Central Africa and Europe use the Lagos axis routes, while those bound for southern Europe and northern Africa cross Nigeria and Niger between the States of Sokoto and Borno.<sup>35</sup>

In general, it can be said that African countries absorb most of the emigration flows though European countries and the United States are preferred, at least by educated people. There have been observed increase in the total number of emigrants leaving the country annually. In 1991, 458,222 people left, more recently, the number doubled to 1,147,228 in 2005 and 2,637, 164 in 2008.<sup>36</sup>

A large portion of the motives for this emigration are caused by economic incentives while social factors could account for an infinitesimal proportion. Nigeria is faced with extreme poverty and increasing unemployment and corruption forcing thousands of Nigerians to emigrate every year in search of better life.

Desperation leads quite a number of Nigerians to emigrate as refugees/asylum seekers. After a peak in 2002, the number of refugees decreased substantially in 2006, falling from 24,568 to 13253. Since then, the number has remained stable, although high, with 13902 and 14168 in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Further regarding the African continent, Cameroun remains the most important destination for Nigerian refugees with 2872 Nigerian refugees.<sup>37</sup> However, European countries still remain the most targeted destination for Nigerian asylum-seekers with Italy, Ireland and Switzerland in the first three positions with 5673, 1009 and 988 refugees respectively, recorded in 2008.

In 2003, Nigerians were among the top five nationalities among the refugees population in Ireland and by 2008, they represented 24% of all refugees in Ireland. Furthermore, because of the high level of poverty and unemployment rate prevalent in the country, the emigration rate of highly-skilled Nigerians remains high and is increasing over time.<sup>38</sup> This constitutes the problem known as brain drain. According to Docquier and Marfourk, in 2001, 10.7 percent of highly skilled Nigerians trained in the country worked abroad which represent an increase from 8% in 1990. In the United States and Europe, highly skilled Nigerians represent a large part of the total Nigerian immigrant population, with 83% in the US and 43% in Europe. Also on the average in OECD countries, 65% of Nigerian expatriates have a tertiary education with most highly educated working in the medical profession.<sup>39</sup> However no single data source has been able to adequately capture data on the type of employment of Nigerians; however, there is evidence to suggest that a large number of Nigerians are employed in the healthcare

system. In other words, there exist a high negative relationship between emigration and development as the medical sector, which is a very critical sector in the economy is consequently the most affected by the outflow of Nigerian emigrants. :More than 90% of the Nigerians physicians abroad are currently working in two countries the US and the UK, hence till date, the US and UK remains the most attractive poles for this category of skilled migrants, with 71 and 27% respectively.<sup>40</sup>

In addition, the UK Nursing and Midwifery council registered Nigeria as one of the top source countries of which Nurses and midwives are admitted. About 500 nurses legally emigrated to work in the UK between 2004 and about 714 between 2005 and 2011. Furthermore, students also make up a considerable proportion of the total annual emigrants.<sup>41</sup> Thousands of Nigerian students leave the country year after year in search of quality education and a number of factors account for this dramatic increase in student migration abroad such as the demand for education that exceed its supply, poor teaching and learning facilities and a growing middle class that can afford to send their children abroad.<sup>42</sup> The flow of local students abroad is expected to continue, also in the coming year. An annual report in international academy, mobility published by the institute of international education and the United States bureau of educational affairs (11E, 2008) gives a total of 6192 Nigerians in universities in the United States in 2008. Furthermore, another report refers to a large increment in educational institutions in the United Kingdom from 2800 in 2007 to a projected 30000 by 2015, based on a number of factors.

However, it should be noted that not all the emigration in Nigerian is done via regular or legal means. Irregular emigration thus occurs despite its associated risk.<sup>43</sup>

### **Motivations for Human Trafficking in Nigeria**

Although Nigeria has enormous natural and human resources, corruption takes a serious toll on the country's economy. Nigeria has been rated one of the poorest countries in the world and so widespread poverty abounds even in the midst of abundant resources. Thus, poverty has been identified as the principal driving force behind this trade and the most visible cause of the vulnerability of women and children to trafficking in Nigeria.<sup>44</sup> An ILO/IPEC report found out that forty per cent of Nigeria's Street children and hawkers are trafficked persons. These are children who are from poor and deplorable backgrounds and so due to lack of opportunity at home and with or without their consent are trafficked. Again in some communities in Nigeria, the wealthy are accorded honor and respect without bothering to find out the source of their wealth. This at times makes people engage in all sorts of vices to acquire wealth. The society stratifies people into groups of the 'haves' and the 'have – not' and some people out of the desperation to belong to a better social class or at least pull through the poverty line fall into the racketeering bait.<sup>45</sup>

In Edo state from where the contemporary trend in human trafficking started, it is alleged that business transactions existed between the natives and Italians when the Nigerian economy was more robust. These Nigerians visited Italy to buy shoes, gold and clothing to sell in Nigeria. However when sex business became more lucrative in Italy,

coupled with worsening economic situations in Nigeria, the women shifted to sex business and involved their relations in it, and with time involved more people as the business began to boom. This explains why until date, over eighty per cent of trafficked persons for prostitution to Europe especially Italy come from Edo state.<sup>46</sup>

Again, the road and sea links or boundaries of Nigeria with her neighboring countries are extensive and are difficult and expensive to patrol effectively. As a result, citizens from other African countries who have intra-state conflicts in their countries of origin use this porosity to flee across international borders to enter into the country as refugees and some of them end up doing menial jobs in Nigeria or fall prey to the traffickers.<sup>47</sup> No doubt the political and economic situations in various African countries contribute to rending African people vulnerable to human traffickers.

The motivation for human illegal migration in Nigeria is multifaceted, poverty though identified as the major cause cannot fully explain it. As said earlier, unemployment, ignorance, illiteracy, collapse of the protective environment and the decline in cultural and traditional values are contributory factors.<sup>48</sup> However, the worst form of motivation for human trafficking is greed and quest for quick wealth on the part of the traffickers who go to any extent to deceive the victims. They are the ones who flaunt their life styles of unexplained wealth and use it to prey on victims' ignorance and misery.<sup>49</sup>

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, as clearly seen, the issue of migration remains a global phenomenon and a major issue of concern for several countries. As in the case of Nigeria, however, it should be noted here that the effect of illegal migration in Nigeria has brought the country into economic underdevelopment and bad image among the community of nations; thus there is need for government to find possible way in curbing the menace. This will be examine in the subsequent chapters.

## Endnotes

1. Adepaju, A. 1997 .Introduction. in A. Adepaju (ed.), *Family, Population and Development in Africa*, Zed Books Ltd., London and New Jersey.
2. Aderinto, A.A. 2003 .Socio-economic profiles, reproductive health behaviour and problems of street children in Ibadan, Nigeria., paper presented at The Fourth
3. African Population Conference: Population and Poverty in Africa. Facing Up to the Challenges of the 21st Century, UAPS, Tunis, 8-12 December.
4. Afonja, S. 2001 .An assessment of trafficking in women and girls in Nigeria Ile Ife., unpublished mimeo.
5. Agbu, O. (2003) *Corruption and Human Trafficking: The Nigerian Case* West Africa Review ISSN: 1094-2254 Available from World Wide Web [www.africaresource.com/war/vol14.1/agbu.html](http://www.africaresource.com/war/vol14.1/agbu.html)
6. Anarfi, J.K. 1998 .Ghanaian women and prostitution in Côte d'Ivoire., in K. Kempadoo and J. Doezema (Eds), *Global Sex Workers: Rights, Resistance and Redefinition*, Routledge, New York.
7. Anderson, B., and J.O. Davidson 2003 .Is trafficking in human beings demand driven? A multi-country pilot Study. *IOM Migration Research Series No. 15*, IOM, Geneva.
8. Anti-Slavery International 2001 .Is there slavery in Sudan?., Anti-Slavery International, London.
9. Butegwa, F. 1997 *Trafficking in Women in Africa: a Regional Report*, mimeographed.
10. Castle, S., and A. Diarra 2003 *The International Migration of Young Malians: Tradition, Necessity or Rites of Passage*, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London.
11. Dottridge, M. 2002 .Trafficking in children in West and Central Africa., *Gender and Development*, 10(1): 38-49.
12. Fanou-Ako, N., and A.F. Adihou 2002 *Rapport de recherche sur le trafic des enfants entre le Bénin et le Gabon*, Anti-Slavery International and Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde.
13. Fitzgibbon, K. 2003 .Modern-day slavery? The scope of trafficking in persons in Africa., *African Security Review*, 12(1).
14. Human Rights Watch 2003 *Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo*, 15(8A), Human Rights Watch, New York.

15. *Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Root Causes and Recommendations* UNESCO  
Doc. Available from World Wide Web  
[www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014](http://www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014)

## CHAPTER THREE

### GOVERNMENT AND NGO SKILL ACQUISITION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

#### **Introduction**

Illegal migration has been viewed from various perspectives by various groups, persons and organizations. It is described as being a large and growing practice not only in Nigeria but the world over.<sup>1</sup> Illegal migration of humans involves moving, men, women and even children from place to place for various degrading and dehumanizing purposes such as forced labour and prostitution.<sup>2</sup>

However, the Federal government of Nigeria, and state government in collaboration non -governmental organization has proffered ways in combating illegal migration in Nigeria. In 2017, the Federal government in collaboration with NAPCIP, and the Federal ministry of Foreign affairs have engaged in rigorous combat of illegal immigrants, and agents who involve in human trafficking.<sup>3</sup> Policies and programs were embarked upon by state government in controlling the trafficking of persons, in their state. It is against this backdrop, that this chapter seeks to examine the efforts of government and NGOs in combating illegal migration in Nigeria.

#### **State Responses to Illegal Migration via Constitutional Review**

Before the acceptance and declaration of the Palermo Protocol Act, Nigeria has been handling the issue of Illegal migration through the Nigeria Constitution, the Criminal Code and through the Northern Nigeria Penal Code.<sup>4</sup> Because Illegal migration was the infringement of human rights, it is necessary to consider the pertinent provision

of the Federal Republic of Nigerian 1999 constitution that guarantees basic human rights. The chapter IV of the Constitution spells out basic freedom of the society whereas chapter XI contains the aim and rule of state policy. Section 34 of the Nigeria Constitution fight for the dignity and freedom of a person, this include fight against Illegal migration and sex trafficking because it infringes on such rights.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, the Constitution condemns the repression of a person to servitude or slavery and *it proffers that every person's dignity is to be respected, no individual shall be subjected to any form or affliction or should be held as a slave or is oblige to carry out any forced labour.*<sup>6</sup>

### **Government and Skill Acquisition and Empowerment Programme**

In Nigeria, skill acquisition and empowerment programme has always been an issue of great concern to parents, communities, and governments at federal, state and local levels. Giving the devastating impact this has on youth and the economy at large; the government has been looking for ways to provide alternative sources of employment for the teeming youth since white collar jobs are almost unavailable. One of the programmes introduced thus far is the skills acquisition programme.<sup>7</sup> This programme has been considered worthy by the Edo State governments as it will help to develop, empower and engage the teeming jobless youth. The aims and objectives of the programme according to the Department of Youth Development are to

- Stimulate the interest of youth in the state in vocational trades through the provision of training at designated centers and the provision of Microcredit to successful graduands of these centers.
- Train unemployed youths in simple vocations to make them self-reliant.
- Encourage productive entrepreneurial and small business skills.
- Assist in the development of the downstream industries.
- Encourage the adaptation to local technology.
- Stem the rate of rural-urban migration; and
- Enhance social peace and stability.<sup>8</sup>

### **Cases of Impact of Government in Curbing Illegal Migration in Nigeria**

**Federal Government of Nigeria Impact:** In January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, The Federal Government evacuated no fewer than 1,490 stranded Nigerians from Libya to the country in three batches through the Port Harcourt International Airport in Rivers State. While first flight airlifted 484 victims, the second flight arrived with 446 and the third came in with 560 persons.<sup>9</sup> It was learnt that besides 15<sup>th</sup> January arrival of 560 returnees, more flights were expected to join Max Air to facilitate the evacuation process as ordered by the Federal Government.<sup>10</sup>



**Photo Showing Federal Government Returning Nigeria from Libyan**

Public Relations Officer of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Sani Datti, said Medview Airline joined Max Air in airlifting more Nigerians until the 5, 037 target was met. However, the Federal Government urged states that are yet to pick up their returnees to do so without further delay in the interest of their citizens.<sup>11</sup>

**Edo State Government Impact:** Meanwhile, the Edo State government commended the Federal Government, International Organisation on Migration (IOM), European Union (UN) on their role in the return and rehabilitation of Nigerian victims of trafficking, especially those of Edo extraction.<sup>12</sup>

Senior Special Assistant to Governor Godwin Obaseki on Anti-Human Trafficking, Solomon Okoduwa, also commended Onyeama and the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to President Muhammadu Buhari on the Diaspora, Abike Dabibri and

urged the National Agency for the Prohibition and Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to tow the same line. Okoduwa said over 70 per cent of the deported Nigerians were from the South-South region, with Edo leading in the number of victims. On government's efforts towards empowering the youths, he said: "Recently, government approved N100 million seed grant and 150 hectares of farmlands to some recently trained returnees to engage them in various skills as they have become more vulnerable."<sup>13</sup>



According to Vanguard Newspaper in February 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, to ease their re-integration into society, the Edo State Government has graduated 302 returnees from Libya from her capacity building and skills development programme. Chairperson, Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking, and Commissioner for Justice/Attorney General in Edo State, Prof. Yinka Omorogbe, at the ceremony to mark the end of the two-week vocational and technical training programme, said "the graduation marks the

first step in preparing the returnees on the path to becoming successful entrepreneurs and employers of labour.<sup>14</sup>

The second batch of graduands from the programme were trained on beadmaking, make-up and basic sewing, and their graduation came few months after the first set of returnees were trained on agribusiness and provided with 150 hectares of land and 100 million start-up fund to ease their settling into society.

According to Omorogbe, “163 of the returnees acquired skills in make-up; 92 in basic sewing, while 47 were trained in the art of beadmaking.” She charged the graduands to be ambassadors of Edo State and expressed delight at the success of the programme. She said the state government will assist returnees who have successfully acquired skills in different trades to enable them set-up small-scale businesses through which they can provide for themselves and employ others.<sup>15</sup>



**Photo Showing Edo State Beneficiary of Libyan Returnees being Empowered**

In an interview with the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to Edo State Governor on Anti-Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration, Mr. Solomon Okoduwa said, “The graduation ceremony further demonstrated the commitment and interest of the state government in the fight against human trafficking and irregular migration in the state.”

He added, “Mr. Godwin Obaseki has shown that he will keep his promise to assist the returnees and reintegrate them into the society by providing them with sustainable means of livelihood.” Okoduwa further maintain that the graduands will be organised into co-operatives, which will enable them access credit facilities at zero-percent interest. He noted that “all the graduands will be required to register with the cooperative. Their progress will be monitored to see how they will put credits into good use. It will also help us breed entrepreneurs and employers of labour.” A bank manager, who was also one of

the facilitators, Mr. Michael Adetola, urged the returnees to apply financial discipline as they set up their businesses, stressing, “ Financial discipline plays important role in managing small businesses. Without it, one makes wrong decisions, which account for the failure of most small businesses.”<sup>16</sup>

### **Analysis of Activities of NAPTIP**

NAPTIP activities are based on prevention, prosecution and protection as they affect trafficking in persons in Nigeria. Along this line, some arrest has been made and some victims have been rescued, reintegrated counseled for example, between February 2004 and December 2006, NAPTIP returned 757 trafficked victims including six babies.<sup>17</sup> 73 victims rescued and counseled in 2004, 337 victims rescued and counseled in 2005, 348 victims rescued and counseled in 2006. NAPTIP presently runs five shelters for rehabilitation in Benin City, Lagos, Kano, Sokoto and Abuja. The shelter has been able to rehabilitate 201 victims in various skills like trading, knitting, beading, auto mechanic casting and hair dressing.<sup>18</sup>

The NAPTIP Shelter in Lagos was set up in 2004. It is run in cooperation with international organization for migration (IOM) and has spaces for 120 people. It has space for skills acquisition training programmes within the premises, but the equipments cannot go round the victims that inhabit the shelter e.g. (Sewing Machines, computers, etc). Those who participate remain at the shelter for three months.<sup>19</sup>

On formal responsibility for protection cases, the Nigerian Police anti-trafficking unit refers protection cases of returned prostitutes in need of protection to NAPTIP.

NAPTIP has also taken about 46 cases of trafficking before Federal and State High Courts of which seven has resulted in convictions thus far. The prison sentences imposed have all been around three years long, and none of those convicted has been sentenced only to pay fines.<sup>20</sup>

To further strengthen the activities of NAPTIP, the NAPTIP act was amended on December 7th, 2005. One of the main highlights of the amended Acts is the issue of using children as domestic helps in different households. The amendment highlights the offence of Child slavery in the guise of child domestic. It provides that a child (i.e. a person is prohibited from working as a domestic help outside his family environment.<sup>21</sup>

NAPTIP has in the course of carrying out its statutory mandate rescued several children ranging from ages 10 - 19 from being trafficked for forced labour and child prostitution. An example is the case of 67 children from Niger State, who were rescued from a container Ferrying them to Lagos for distributions as house helps and street hawkers to various people.<sup>22</sup>

### **The Role of Idia Renaissance in Combating Illegal Migration in Nigeria**

Idia Renaissance's roles have been carefully laid out in its magazines and they are; to eradicate human trafficking, promote sexual health of women and children, promote positive cultural values and eradicate harmful traditional practices against women and children, protect the fundamental human rights of women and children to develop their capacity, advocacy and mobilization of relevant organs to promote gender equity and equality, sponsor and lobby for legislative framework to fight human trafficking and

other social vices, equip youths with information to guide against drug abuse, restiveness, human trafficking, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/ AIDS, rehabilitate and integrate victims of trafficking into society, promote legal migration, educate migrants on rights, destinations and help abroad and also provide assistance services to voluntary returnees.<sup>23</sup>

These are the various roles of Idia Renaissance in women trafficking in Edo State. Now how do they do this is the question. Mr. Roland Nwoha, Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance, states that they use a lot of tools to address the problems of human trafficking under which the first is the Prevention mechanism. Under the Prevention mechanism they do a lot of awareness raising which entails sensitizing the people on the problems of human trafficking; going to schools, market places, churches and public places and targeting different organizations and groups. Also part of the Prevention program includes training in Vocational skills. According to him, they believe that acquiring skills and education keeps the youths away from getting engaged in human trafficking.<sup>24</sup>

Idia Renaissance also carries out its roles by Partnering with other NGOs like them and other government agencies or international agencies that can help them achieve their goals. The partnership is aimed at doing research and assisting victims and developing other strategies in approaching or attacking human trafficking. The local agencies they partner with includes God's Power Initiative (GPIN), Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women, International Reproductive Right Research Action

(IRRRAG), Salvation Army, Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons, African Women Empowerment Growth (AWEG), etc. International agencies they partner with includes Caritas in Germany, Austria and, Belgium, Dutch Council for Refugees etc.<sup>25</sup>

According to the Idia Renaissance's Magazine, they carry out their roles by research, advocacy and mobilization, promote legal framework, education and enlightenment, youth empowerment, training and capacity building, rehabilitation and reintegration, empowerment assistance for trafficked and at risk persons, HIV/AIDS counselling and testing, support for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and migration.<sup>26</sup>

Her Excellency Titi Abubakar, and wife of the Nigerian Vice President founded the NGO. It was set up in 1999 with the main objective of creating awareness on issues of trafficking and to get the Government and the Nigerian people to acknowledge that trafficking is becoming a social problem that must be promptly tackled. It is to their credit that the Office of the Special Assistant on Trafficking, and the Police Department on Trafficking was created. Additionally they assisted in developing the Bill against Trafficking in Persons that is presently before the National Assembly.<sup>27</sup>

They organized the Pan- African Conference on Trafficking and within the mandate of the plan of actions established at that conference is now trying to set up a network of NGOs working on trafficking issues in Central and Western Africa. WOTCLEF has presence in 25 states.<sup>28</sup> All of these activities, which are supported by the founder, are part of the preventive and public enlightenment strategies adopted by WOTCLEF to combat trafficking in the country. It has also established Rehabilitation

Centers to provide counseling, shelter and skills 23 acquisitions to repatriated persons. WOTCLEF would like to expand the centers to cover states like Imo and possibly some parts of Northern states where Traffickers are becoming active.<sup>29</sup>

## **Conclusion**

However, it should be noted here that some Nigerian citizens who embarked on the desperate journey did not reach their destinations due to associated hazards, while many of those who got to their destinations found themselves engaging in precarious jobs akin to slave labour, prostitution or crime. This created bad image for the country and necessitated the establishment of NAP TIP, and collaboration with some international organizations to stem the tide. The scourge of human trafficking still persists in the country despite federal government's concerted actions. Indeed, it has become part of the global problem of illegal migration involving hundreds of thousands of people mainly from Africa and Middle East, which presently threaten the social stability of Europe.

## Endnotes

1. C.O. Osezua, "Changing Status of Women and the Phenomenon Trafficking of Women for Transactional Sex in Nigeria: A Qualitative Analysis", *Journal of International Women's Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 3, July 2013, p. 14
2. C.O. Osezua, "Gender Issues in Human Trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria," *African Sociological Review*, Vol. 20, No.1, 2016, p. 37.
3. T.S. Braimah, "Sex Trafficking In Edo State, Nigeria: Causes and Solutions", *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 2013, p. 17.
4. N. Polycarp, "*Horror of Human Trafficking in Edo*", Available at <https://www.google.com.ng/amp/s/www.vanguardngr.com/2017/horror-human-trafficking-edo/amp/>. Accessed on June 10, 2023.
5. Ibid.
6. T.S. Braimah, "Sex Trafficking In Edo State, Nigeria" 3, p. 2.
7. A.A Lawal, "Human Trafficking in Edo State (Nigeria): A Socio-economic Study", *African Journal Historical Review*, Vol. 13, 2013.
8. Ibid.
9. L. Akor, "Trafficking of Women in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and the Way Forward", *Corvinus Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2011, p. 90.
10. I. Omolola, *Main Trends in Africa History from the Earliest Times to 1990*, Omolayi Standard Press, 1982, p. 123.
11. Akor, "Trafficking of Women in Nigeria" p.91.
12. Ibid, p. 92.
13. Akor, "Trafficking of Women in Nigeria", pp. 100-101.
14. Interview with Lilian Eghator, 25yrs old, Hair Stylist, Benin Motel Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
15. Interview with Lilian Obazee, 24yrs old, Small-scale Business Woman, Benin Motel Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
16. Danish Immigration Service, "Protection of Trafficking in Nigeria, being a report from Danish Immigration" Services Fact-Finding Mission to Lagos, Benin-City and Abuja, Nigeria, FIS 2008, p. 5.
17. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Measures to Combat*, p. 30.

18. Danish Immigration Service, Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Nigeria pp. 5-6.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Braimah, "Sex Trafficking In Edo State, Nigeria: Causes and Solutions", p. 20.
24. Ibid, pp. 21-26.
25. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and it's Protocols in Nigeria", p. 18.
26. Ibid, pp.19.
27. A. Akinyoade, "*Counter Trafficking Initiative: Analysis of the Evolution of Trafficking in Persons, Grass Root Social Intervention, Building Social Services and Networking Capacity and Promoting Direct Assistance*", NAPTIP Project Handbook, Accra: Creatif Xpressions Limited, 2011, p. 21.
28. Ibid, pp.22-23.
29. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Measures to Combat Trafficking in*, p.100.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SIGNIFICANCE AND CHALLENGES OF GOVERNMENT/NGO ROLE IN CURBING ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

#### **Introduction**

The concept of illegal migration has been a major challenge in the Nigeria society. Government and NGO over the years has promote techniques and mechanism in fighting illegal migration.<sup>1</sup> For instance, the immigration service which is an agency of the federal government of Nigeria has implanted various policies and programmes to checkmate the incessant migration of Nigeria citizen especially those who engage in human trafficking and illegal drug trafficking in Europe.<sup>2</sup> Also,NGO has setup various programmes and mechanism to support the government in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. Despite the success of the government and NGOS in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria there is still some various obstacles and challenges that promote the business of illegal migration either through agent or human trafficking of prostitution or cartel who are involved in promoting young boys to overseas for drug trafficking.<sup>3</sup> It is against this background that this chapter seeks to examine the significance of government and NGO program in the fight against illegal migration in Nigeria and obstacles in hindering the success made to fight the illegal migration.

#### **Significance of Government Role in Curbing Illegal Migration**

In recent time, the federal government and state government has embarked on a drastic effort in repatriating the Nigerians from African countries and Europe who are

involved in illegal migration and also provide necessary skill acquisition training to empower the returnees in order for them to be useful in the Nigeria society.<sup>4</sup> For example, in May 2019, the Edo state tax force against human trafficking (ETAHT) came out with various achievement made by the government in sustaining skill acquisition and empowerment training for returnees from Libya to aid their reintegration into the society.<sup>5</sup> Speaking to journalist while hosting the returnees in Benin city, a counselor with the (ETAHT) Miss. Nkechi Megbuzie noted that a fresh batch of the returnees concluded and Agro business training and start-up fund to set up an Agro-allied business in which the programmes was held in Ibadan and was facilitated by donors, foreign partners and a foundation operated by the serving senator in the state.<sup>6</sup> She also noted that the state government monitor the returnees and March the with training opportunities. In another development, Godwin Obaseki in February 2019 gave his score card on the success made in curbing illegal migration in Edo state.<sup>7</sup>

At first, he lamented that among the 36 states of the federation, Edo state have recorded highest number of Libya returnees. In otherwords, Edo state recorded the highest transaction of illegal migration in Nigeria. The Governor while addressing the journalist in the state house, maintained that his administration have rule out programmes and policies to cater for the Libya returnees and they have partnered with foreign donors and local NGOs to provide skill acquisition training and empowered the Libya returnees with startup fund to enable them fit into the Nigeria society.<sup>8</sup> Still on remarks, Godwin Obaseki identified that over five batch of Libya returnees have benefitted from the Edo

state skill acquisition program and most of them have started their businesses while some have been gainfully employed by the Edo state government and private companies within Edo state. He also noted that within a year the state has recorded an increase in the economic commercialization, wealth creation, job opportunity and revenue generation for the government. However, the governor also identified various steps taken by the federal government in partnership with the state agency towards combating illegal migration in Nigeria.<sup>9</sup> The governor emphasize how his government have put machinery in place within and outside Nigeria to combat the cartel and agent involved in the illegal migration in Nigeria.<sup>10</sup>



Photo showing Edo State Signing Agreement in Combating Illegal Migration in Italy; Retrieved from Accessed on 12<sup>th</sup>/September/2023.

In another development, the Iyase, who is also the Grand Beacon of CEEDI, lamented that the statistics of victims of human trafficking of Edo origin recently airlifted from Libya by the Federal Government was saddening.

At least, 2,000 victims of human trafficking have so far been received by the state government through the Edo State Task Force on Anti-human Trafficking. Igbe said, “I nearly wept when I saw what our children went through. Out of the over 1,000 who returned, over 500 were from Edo State. It is so painful.”<sup>11</sup>

According to him, more disturbing was the desperation of some of the victims who sold their businesses in order to generate huge sums of money to make the journey to Libya. The Iyase stated, “The general belief is that people who do not have jobs are the people who go out there. But that is not correct. I have met one or two of those who came back.”I met somebody who was active in the police force and I met a soldier who was a Lance Corporal in the Nigerian Army.<sup>12</sup>

“There were some who left their jobs in the federal and state civil services to go to Libya. One of them said that he knew how much he spent going, in terms of the transport and what he paid to get to Libya.

“They spent large sums of money, which can provide them with a job in Nigeria, on other people in order to get to Libya, only to get into slavery. The treatment given to them is inhuman, which is painful for people like us, who are free to go about as we like.<sup>13</sup>

### **Challenges in Curbing Illegal Migration in Nigeria**

Over the years, the federal government of Nigeria has witnessed several obstacles in curbing illegal migration in Nigeria. This obstacle has enhanced and promotes the business of human trafficking, drug trafficking, and illegal entry and exit of countries in the world.<sup>14</sup> Thus, this challenge is as follows;

1. **Corruption:** this has been one of the major factors hindering the fight of illegal migration in Nigeria. For instance, government agencies that are saddled with the

responsibility of fighting illegal migration have compromise in appending the sponsors or cartel involved in the illegal.

According to Omorodion Joseph narrated how the Nigeria Immigration Service promotes illegal migration especially their officers who are in charge of issuing visas and other particulars to those who travel outside the country.<sup>15</sup> He also noted that eighty percent of the cartel who take Nigerians to Libya has secret officers in the Nigeria immigration service that helps in processing the necessary papers for trans-border crossing of young men and women to Libya.<sup>16</sup> He explained that for this challenges to be resolved there is need for the federal government to collaborate with the EFCC to fish out those involved in the immigration service that encouraged illegal migration in Nigeria. He also maintained that government should establish a special body within the immigration services to checkmate and fight the various cartels involved in illegal migration.<sup>17</sup>

**2. Economic Hardship:** this also had been one of the viable tool that encourage illegal migration in Nigeria based on the fact that a lot of young men and women who are unemployed and faced with an untold hardship see travelling abroad as a means of their financial freedom. The government on its part has failed in providing the basic economic facilities that will enhance and promote commercial activities in Nigeria.<sup>18</sup> Thus, this has promote the business of human trafficking which Nigeria girls take pleasure in carry our in Europe. According to an interview with Miss Esther Omoruyi narrated her ordeal on how she was carried to Libya by her friend and was informed of the prostitution business

in Libya in which she preferred it to that of the hunger and hardship she faced in Nigeria.<sup>19</sup> Miss Esther further maintained that although she have returned to Nigeria but still wish to travel back again because she came to meet the same economic hardship that made her travelled the previous time.<sup>20</sup>

Another Libya returnees named Osarumwese Happiness explained how she was encouraged by her family members to travel to Italy for prostitution in order to selvage her family from the untold hardship they have experienced over the years. According to Happiness " I never wanted to travel to Italy, infact it took series of family meeting to convince me and my agent gave me a lot of sweet promises that within one year I can build two storey building for my family in Nigeria, this prompted me to engaged in such trip to Libya and today have been repatriated back to Nigeria without achieving any of those dreams he told me. I have been molested and tortured by the Libyans. It took the grace of God for me to survive this horrible experience".<sup>21</sup>

However, for government to fight illegal migration easily there is need for good economic policies and programs that will reduce hardship in Nigeria and therefore discouraged illegal migration in Nigeria.<sup>22</sup>

**3. Powerful Cartel:** illegal migration has been a major factor in Nigeria that is promoted by traffic Agent who are powerful politically and economically to the extent that they can fight and subdue government policies towards combating illegal migration. These cartels have been one of the major obstacles in preventing the fight against illegal migration.<sup>23</sup> Some tools they used in hindering the fight of illegal migration by the cartel are;

1. Political influence: most of this cartel are most times members of the law enforcement agency or gained political appointment in government and have some political backup from government. Thus, this helped them to have their way in smuggling of humans from Nigeria to other countries in the world.<sup>24</sup>

2. Economic power: Again this cartel have a strong financial muscle which they used to bribe their way in the transaction of illegal migration and especially when they have been caught by the law enforcement agency they offer huge amount of money to the officers which might be very difficult to reject thereby making the business a give and take activities.<sup>25</sup>

3. **Frustrating Government Policy:** most of this cartel who are involved in government activities carries out various means or frustrating any legislative bill that might hindered their illegal business. Most times, they bribed the legislators and other Agency to turn away from promoting law that will hinder their illegal business.<sup>26</sup>

It should be noted that based on the numerous challenges that has hindered the fight against illegal migration in Nigeria. There is need for government to set up policies, more ideas and summon courage to combat menace of illegal migration which have ridiculed the Nigeria image in the international arena. Also, there is need for the NGO to promote more awareness and programs towards discouraging families and young girls and boys from engaging in such a risky journey.<sup>27</sup> More so, government should encouraged foreign investors in Nigeria that will help to boost the economy in order to discourage illegal migration in Nigeria.

## **Limitations of the Activities of NAPTIP**

The efforts of NAPTIP at curbing human trafficking are limited in the following ways viz:

- i. Although efforts have been made by NAPTIP in arresting and reuniting victims with their families NAPTIP have not been able to better the lots of the victims. Some victims of human trafficking always found themselves going back to the act as a way of survival.
- ii. NAPTIP has only five shelters across the Federation. These shelters are not only few but they are also ill-equipped which makes it difficult to rehabilitate victims.
- iii. There is also the issue of inadequate awareness and sensitization on the activities of NAPTIP which has aggravated human trafficking, especially in the rural areas.
- iv. The porous Nigerian borders also have a major limitation on the activities of NAPTIP. This is also aggravated with the current dimension of globalization which enhances the movement of people.
- v. Finally, NAPTIP is presently under - funded. This also incapacitates the activities of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking.<sup>28</sup>

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, based on the analysis above, there is need for States Parties to constantly review their laws and their obligations under international treaties. Effective implementation of the provisions of these laws will contribute to reduction in the

incidents of illegal migration in Nigeria. Some of the measures highlighted below could be very helpful if adopted by State Parties in monitoring progress.

## **Endnotes**

1. How Victims of Human Trafficking Find Succor in Idia Foundation, *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017, p.33.
2. Ibid.
3. D. Patience Odigie, "Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria," *Police Studies*, Vol.12, No.5, 2009, p.1.
4. Ibid.
5. Tola Olujuwon, "Combating Trafficking in Person: A Case Study of Nigeria," *Asian Journal of Medical Sciences*, Vol.2 No.1, 2011, p.146.
6. Ibid.
7. C. Osim Ndifon, "Human Trafficking in Nigeria: A Metaphor for Human Rights, Crime and Security Violations," *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, Vol.9, No.2, 2001, pp.163.
8. Ibid.
9. Ndiora, Uju Christiana, "Female Trafficking as Organized Crime in Nigeria: A Study of Public Perception in Onitsha, Anambra State," *Peace Studies Journal*, 2008, pp.77.
10. Ibid.
11. D. Patience Odigie, "Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria," *Police Studies*, Vol.12, No.5, 2009, p.1.
12. Ibid.
13. Clementina O. Osezua, "Gender Issues in Human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria," A paper presented at a Seminar on Human Trafficking and Child Labour at Fagge Local Government Secretariat Kano State, 2011, p.112.
14. Ibid.
15. Aryn Baker, "An Ancient Curse Kept Nigerian Women Bound to Sex Slavery. Now, It's Been Reversed," *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017, p.45.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Oral Interview with Mr. Nwoha Roland, 55yrs, Project Coordinator, at his office in Idia Renaissance, 27<sup>th</sup>/09/2023.
19. Ibid.
20. How Victims of Human Trafficking Find Succor in Idia Foundation, *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017, p.33.

21. Oral Interview with Mr. Nwoha Roland, 55yrs, Project Coordinator, at his office in Idia Renaissance, 27<sup>th</sup>/09/2023.
22. Management Structure of Idia Renaissance, Retrieved from <https://www.endslaverynow.org> › idia-renaissance, accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup>/09/2023.
23. Tunde Fagbohunbe, eds. With Shock From Gabon. A Special Report of Nigerian Trafficked Children to the Republic of Gabon. WOTCLEF, Nigeria, 2001, p.111.
24. Ibid
25. Inger Ulleberg, *The Role and Impact of NGOs in Capacity Development From Replacing the State to Reinvigorating Education*, Paris: International Institute for Educational Planning, 2009, p. 10.
26. Ibid.
27. Aryn Baker, “An Ancient Curse Kept Nigerian Women Bound to Sex Slavery. Now, It's Been Reversed,” *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017, p.45.
28. Ibid.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## CONCLUSION

To achieve the objective of this research, study was divided into five functionally related chapters. To begin with, in chapter one a broad introduction to the study with references the human trafficking was analyzed. Following the introductory note, the purpose of the study was examined, viz-a-viz to dispel the growing negative perception of Human trafficking as it affect societal values. The methodology of the study was clearly stated to include oral traditions and written material such as textbooks, dissertations, journal and articles. The scope of the study was noted to be range and period the study covered, after which some relevant literature relating to the topic under study were thoroughly relieved.

In chapter two, attempt was made to explain the historical background of human trafficking, the origin, meaning, nature of human trafficking, trajectory of human trafficking in Edo State, human trafficking and it human rights violation and volume of trafficking in person in Nigeria.

The chapter three, examined the causes of human trafficking with focused and emphasis on poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance, gender inequality, demand and supply, effect for globalization, absence of effective legislation and enforcement and open borders.

In chapter four, effects of human trafficking and its economic impact on social development of Edo State and Nigeria in general. Here summary has proceeded in the subsequent paragraphs of this chapter five, conclusion will be treated.

This study has been centered on human trafficking among Nigerian youths. The need for the study arises because of the alarming rate of increase of human trafficking among the youth in the area of under study. From the our study, it was discovered that human trafficking brings about total moral breakdown and breakdown of peaceful marriage or homes. Human trafficking brings about loss of lives and property; human trafficking terminates academic careers and also bring poor national image or poor reputation.

Nigeria has been bedeviled by myriad of problem most of the problems can be attributed to the pervasiveness of some of the ills that hamper the attainment of the development of the Nigerian societies. As a result of ills that currently hampers the development of the country, human trafficking has become widespread and now occupied a preeminent position among the ills that pervade the Nigeria society. While, it may appear that the problem of human trafficking seem endemic in Edo State which has been described as the hub of recruitment of victims of traffickers there are indications that no parts of the country is immune from this social malaise that has ravaged many communities in Nigeria.

An overview of the history of slavery and an analysis of the modern conceptualization of human trafficking have indicated human trafficking is a highly complex concept, and that there are various approaches to the understanding of the concept of human trafficking. Again, there are various definitions of trafficking found in international instruments of which the most important has been identified as that

contained in the Palermo Protocol. The definitions vary also because trafficking is closely related to the phenomenon of migration, slavery and smuggling of humans.<sup>4</sup> The study further identified some significant root causes of trafficking generally as well as specific to the selected area (Edo State). It was found that the root causes of trafficking are basically the same in all jurisdictions, depending on whether it is a country or region; destination; or both. These root causes of human trafficking are mainly poverty, unemployment; lack of education; poor borders and ingrained gender discrimination.

Human trafficking is considered to be modern day slavery where many children and women are forcefully or fraudulently recruited, transported and harbored for sexual or labour exploitation. The victims of human trafficking are usually made to provide sex under threat and without consent. The international labour organization (ILO) recently estimated that over twelve million Nigerian children especially in Edo state are engaged in child labour and its subsequent human trafficking. The survey also estimated that over ten thousand Nigerian girls are engaged in prostitution in Italy which constitutes half of the Italian Sex Market.

It was found that in Nigeria, similar to the history of slavery in the jurisdiction of the US, Germany and Britain colonization and the institution of slavery and, more particularly in Edo State, the legacy of colonialism and more recently the impact of globalization have had an impact on modern human trafficking. It was observed that the combating of human trafficking and related issues such as victim protection is not sufficiently addressed in Edo State. The research conceded that though common-law

crimes and statutes can be utilized to challenge some trafficking elements, these offences are not comprehensive enough to amply deal with the crimes' complexities and provide only a fragmented approach to combating the crime. Regarding the transitional legislation in place to prosecute trafficking offenders, it was noted that although the sexual offense Act 2007 and the Children's Act 2005 include the crime of trafficking, the crime appears in a limited manner in both Acts. Trafficking in the sexual offences Act 2007 is directed at both adult and children but the offence is limited to trafficking for sexual purposes, and the provisions in the children's Act restricts trafficking offences to those committed against children.

The study established also that international, regional and sub-regional instruments on trafficking and related aspects of trafficking provide guidelines for developing effective strategies as found in treaties (including convention), protocols, declarations and resolution; those focusing specifically on combating trafficking and those with already trafficked and create structures for prevention. Regional instruments specifically formulated to combat trafficking as well as instruments that make reference to the issue of trafficking in persons may further provided the basis for long-term strategies to combat human trafficking. However, it was found that although Nigeria has adopted many cooperation mechanisms in the form of direct bilateral or multilateral agreements, as well as international and regional treaties and conventions, the jurisdiction has not yet implemented comprehensive strategies to combat human trafficking.

The introduction of legislation to combat human trafficking, and various other strategies envisaged in the NATIP Act and also suggested in this study, should be considered by parliament as a matter of priority. A comprehensive response to human trafficking which includes adequate protection of victims is required in terms of various constitutional imperatives identified in this study. While the Government has made some progress in addressing the problem, it can be argued that the Government can do more to prevent trafficking and protect victims. For instance, according to the 2015 TIP Report the government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The Government has to implement formal procedures for the return and reintegration of Nigerian victims to ensure that victims are afforded adequate care upon their return to Nigeria; take proactive measures to investigate and prosecute government officials suspected of trafficking related corruption and complicity in trafficking offenses; and fully integrate anti-trafficking responsibilities into the work of the Nigerian Police Force and the Ministry of Labour.

Again, it is important to note that it is necessary, in order to effectively fight human trafficking, to address the long list of factors identified and facilitates human trafficking in Nigeria, such as poverty, limited educational opportunity, limited access to media, traditions of child labour and fostering, discrimination against women, and high rates of orphanhood due to HIV/AIDS.

Finally, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery which involves the movement of thousands of Nigerian women and children mainly through land routes of

some North and West African countries with the ultimate aim of taking them to Europe for slave labour and prostitution. The escalation of the incidence of human trafficking in Nigeria began in 1980s as a result of decline in Nigeria's economy which gave rise to pervasive poverty at family level; frightening unemployment, deterioration of social infrastructure; low wages, soaring price of goods and consequent social misery among the populace. This situation provoked the urge to immigration to foreign countries by many Nigerians to seek for better life and favourable economic opportunities.

Some Nigerian citizens who embarked on the desperate journey did not reach their destination due to associated hazards, while those who got to their destinations found themselves engaging in precarious jobs akin to slave labour, prostitution or crime. This created bad image for the country and necessitated the establishment of NAPTIP, and collaboration with some international organizations and agencies to stem the tide. The scourge of human trafficking still persists in Nigeria despite federal government's concerted actions. Indeed, it has become part of the global problem illegal migration involving hundreds of thousands of people mainly from middle East and Africa especially Nigeria, which threaten the social stability of Europe. Thus placing a stigma on Edo State in particular and Nigeria as hub of trafficking in persons.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Primary Sources**

## **Government Document/Gazettes**

ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation Nigeria: COI Compilation on Human Trafficking December 2017.

Danish Immigration Service, Cooperation with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), April 2009.

European Asylum Support Office, *Nigeria Sex Trafficking of Women*, EASO County of Origin, Information Report, October 2015.

Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: *Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017.

International Labour Office. A Global Alliance against Forced Labour, 2005.

International Organization for, Migration (IOM) *Human Trafficking Through The Central Mediterranean Route: Data, Sources And Information Collected By The International Organization For Migration*, Project Co-Funded By The European Union Asylum, Migration And Integration Fund (2014-2020), 2017.

Trafficking in Persons Report; Annual Report of U.S State Department's office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2016.

Tunde Fagbohunbe. eds. With Shock From Gabon. A Special Report of Nigerian Trafficked Children to the Republic of Gabon. WOTCLEF, Nigeria, 2001.

UNESCO, *Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Root Causes and Recommendations*, Policy Paper Poverty Series No.14 Vol.2, Paris 2006.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division *International Migration Policies. Government Views and Priorities* (PDF). Archived from the Original; 28 July 2019.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), *Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Root causes and recommendations*, Policy Paper Poverty Series, Vol. 14, No.2, 2006.

United Nations Global Initiative to fight Human Trafficking, the Vienna Forum Report: A Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking, 2006.

United Nations Human Rights office of the High Commissioner, *Human Rights and Human Trafficking*, Fact Sheet no.36, 2009.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global Report on Trafficking In Persons*, 2016.

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *The Role of Organized Crime In The Smuggling Of Migrants From West Africa To The European Union*, January 2011.

## Oral Interview

### Lists of Informants

Names	Age	Occupation	Place Of Interview	Date Of Interview
Nwoha, Roland.	55yrs,	Project Coordinator,	Idia Renaissance Benin/City	27 <sup>th</sup> /September/2023.
Ogbe, Obasogie.	67yrs	Civil Servant,	Benin City,	12/August/2023.
Omorodion, Isoken.	59yrs	Trader,	Benin City,	23/August/2023
Osarogue, Efosa.	51yrs	Businesswoman,	Benin City	22 <sup>nd</sup> /September/2023
Ugiagbe, John.	62yrs	Police Officer,.	Esigie Police Station, Benin	25 <sup>th</sup> /September/2023

## Secondary Sources

### Books

Cole, J. Sally Booth, *Dirty Works Immigrants in Domestic Service Agriculture and Prostitution in Sicily*, Lexington Books, 2007.

Enabulele A. and Bazuaye, B. *Teachings on Public International Law*, Benin City: Ambik Press 2014.

Njoku A.O, *Contemporary Public Issues in Social Studies Education In Nigeria*, Enugu, Redeemed Printing and Publishing Co, 2013.

Nwakocha, O. A. “Non-State Actors in International Relations”, I. Aomu and L. E Otoide (eds.), *Themes in International Study and Diplomacy*, Benin City: Mindex Publishing, 2002.

Pearson, E. *Human Trafficking, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection*, London: Anti-Slavery International, 2002.

Ulleberg, I. *The Role and Impact of NGOs in Capacity Development From Replacing the State to Reinvigorating Education*, Paris: International Institute for Educational Planning, 2009.

### Articles in Learn Journals

- Adams, C. "Re-trafficked victims: How a Human Rights Approach can Stop the Cycle of Re-victimization of Sex Trafficking Victims," *Georgia Washington International Law Review* 43 2011.
- Adeleye, O. Okonkwo, C. "Ideal Child Gender Preference In Men's Worldview and their Knowledge of Related Maternal Mortality Indices in Ekiadolor, Southern Nigeria," *Asian Journal of Medical Sciences* Vol.2, 2010.
- Ajayi, A. "Assessment of Traditional Institutions and Socio Economic Development of Benin City," *Scholarly Research Paper*, 2012.
- Akor, L. "Trafficking of Women in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and the Way Forward," *Corvinus Journal of Sociology Policy*, Vol.2, No.2, 2011.
- Alika, H. Egbochuku, O. "Drop out from School among Girls in Edo State: Implications for Counselling," *Edo Journal of Counselling* Vol.2, 2010.
- Aronowitz, A. "Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings: the Phenomenon, the Markets that Drive it and the Organizations that Promote It," *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research* 9, 2001.
- Braimah, Tim S. *Sex Trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria: Causes and Solutions*, *Global Journal of Human Social Science Sociology & Culture*, Vol.13, No 3, 2013.
- Egbochuku, Alika, H. "Drop out from School Among Girls in Edo State: Implications for Counselling," *Edo Journal of Counselling* 2, 2010.
- Ellis A. and Akpalla D. 'Assessment of Traditional Institutions and Socio Economic Development of Benin City' *Scholarly Research Paper*, 2012.
- Ikein, O. Alamiyeseigha F. and Azaiki, O. "Romancing the Foe: The HIV Epidemic and the Case for a Pragmatic Stance on Prostitution and Illicit Drug Use in Nigeria," *Malawi Law Journal*, Vol.4, No.1, 2009.
- Lawal, A.A. "Human Trafficking in Edo State (Nigeria): A Socio-Economic Study," *African Journal Historical Review*, Vol 13, 2012.
- Okojie, O. "Ideal Child Gender Preference in Men's Worldview and their Knowledge of Related Maternal Mortality Indices in Ekiadolor, Southern Nigeria," *Asian Journal of Medical Sciences* Vol.2, 2010.
- Osazuwa Clementina A. "Changing Status of Women and the Phenomenon; Trafficking of Women for Transactional Sex in Nigeria: A Qualitative Analysis", *Journal of International Women's Studies*, Vol.14, No.3, 2013.
- Osezua, C.O. "Gender Issues In Human Trafficking In Edo State, Nigeria," *Africa Sociological Review*, Vol.20, No.1, 2016.

Otoide, Leo Enahoro. "Nature and Management of Human Trafficking: The Nigerian Edo People's Experience" *International Journal of Humanities*, Vol.2, No1, 2010.

### **Seminar Paper/Conference Paper/Unpublished Work**

Aghatise, E. "Research and Case Studies on the International Trafficking of Nigerian Women and Girls for Prostitution in Italy," Unpublished REPORT. Turin, Italy: Associazione IROKO, 2004.

Belser. P. *Forced Labour and human Trafficking; estimating the profits*. Geneva, International Labour Organisation, 2005.

Cole, J. Booth, S. "Dirty Work: Immigrants in Domestic Service, Agriculture, and Prostitution in Sicily' Lexington Books Danish Immigration Service, Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Nigeria," April 2008.

Kalu, G. "Trafficking of Nigerian Girls to Italy' Report of Field Survey in Edo State, Nigeria," 2003.

Plambech, S. *Points of Departure, Migration Control And Anti-Trafficking In The Lives of Nigerian Sex Worker Migrants after Deportation From Europe*, PhD Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen and Danish Institute for International Studies, 2014.

### **Newspaper/Magazine**

"Trafficked to Turin: the Nigerian Women Forced to work as Prostitutes in Italy," *The Guardian*, 7 August 2016.

Aryn Baker, "An Ancient Curse Kept Nigerian Women Bound to Sex Slavery. Now, It's Been Reversed," *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017.

How Victims of Human Trafficking Find Succor in Idia Foundation, *Idia Renaissance Magazine*, Vol.2 No.1, 2017.

Maduaguru, C. "Human Trafficking: Nigeria's Efforts Not Good Enough," *Daily Champion*, Thursday, July 29, 2004.

### **Internet Materials**

Carling, J. "Trafficking in Women from Nigeria to Europe," Migration Information Source, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14044205>, accessed 22 July 2023.

CEDAW - UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Nigeria [CEDAW/C/NGA/CO/7-8], 24 July 2017 (available at ecoinet) [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/1930\\_1510143183\\_n1722755.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1510143183_n1722755.pdf).

[http://theyonseijournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ifeyinwa-Mbakogu\\_TRAFFICKING-OF-NIGERIAN-WOMEN-AND-CHILDREN-IMPLICATIONS-FOR-ATTAINING-SUSTAINABLE-DEVELOPMENT-IN-NIGERIA.pdf](http://theyonseijournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ifeyinwa-Mbakogu_TRAFFICKING-OF-NIGERIAN-WOMEN-AND-CHILDREN-IMPLICATIONS-FOR-ATTAINING-SUSTAINABLE-DEVELOPMENT-IN-NIGERIA.pdf).

Jorgen Carling. *Trafficking in women from Nigeria to Europe*, Migration Information Source available at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=318> accessed 6 August 2023.

Management Structure of Idia Renaissance, Retrieved from <https://www.endslaverynow.org/idia-renaissance>, accessed on 23rd/10/2023.

Nwadiaro, A.A. Report on Activities of Police in the Fight against Trafficking in Benin, Nigeria, February 2003. Retrieved from [www.Natip/humantrafficking/edo](http://www.Natip/humantrafficking/edo). Accessed on 12<sup>th</sup>/October/2023.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center, *“Difference between Smuggling and Trafficking”*. Archived from the original on 2. February 2013, Retrieved 28 July 2023.

Unodc.org, *Convention on Transnational Organised Crime*, retrieved 31 July, 2023.