

**THE IMPACT OF NAPTIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST WOMEN
TRAFFICKING IN EDO STATE, 2003-2019**

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was to the best of our knowledge carried out by **OPE SERENA POTOKI** in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, under my supervision.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Prof. J. C. Nwaka
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE

DATE

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to the Almighty God for giving me life and strength to complete this work successfully and seeing me through my academic career.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Introduction

In the recent past, trafficking in human beings-particularly of women and children-has emerged on the world's political and operational agenda as a human travesty of indescribable proportion. Clearly, this problem which has been exacerbated by the current discourse on globalization, migration, changes in prostitution patterns and increased attention to human rights; has also become a tragedy which affects the physical health, social and economic well-being of its victims.¹

Human trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for their purpose of exploitation.

The sustained increased in human trafficking despite the obvious dangers to poles; including loss of live has remained questioned. How can something so dangerous? So attractive especially to young adult? This issued and more have provoked heavy. Human trafficking as an endemic social problem pervasive and heinous crime is one of the most pressing human rights problems in Nigeria. The gravity of the problem of trafficking in persons has defied several efforts by the government and non-governmental organizations. Especially because it has proved to be a relatively lucrative profession for those who engage in this act.²

According to Osakwe, human trafficking entails the trafficking of persons usually children and young girls for prostitution and cheap labour, within Nigeria and from Nigeria to other countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americans, and has also aggravated the HIV-AIDS scourge in Nigeria.³

Inevitably, therefore, the federal government was compelled to establish a more robust present and effective agency to tackle and curtail the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria. This led to the formation of the National Agency for the prohibition of traffic in persons and other related matters (NAPTIP).⁴

Despite all these measures however, human trafficking across Nigerian borders has persisted with an un-diminishing intensity. Similarly, despite all the humiliation, torture and deportation of several young Nigerian women from various European and other foreign countries, many more young women in Nigeria are committed and determined to find their ways to foreign nations and engage in prostitution and other humiliating or degrading professions.⁵ This study therefore, sets out to examine the role of NAPTIP in the Control of human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria.

Human trafficking has remained a recurrent socio-economic problem affecting Nigeria, and despite diverse efforts by government and non-governmental organizations such as NAPTIP, WOTCEF, Idia renaissance etc, at curbing this menace, trafficking in persons has remained Universal. This trend of human trafficking in Nigeria has provoked heavy attention of scholars, especially on the inability of these organizations to combat human trafficking.⁶

This task at this research is to examine the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP's). NAPTIP mediation and efforts in addressing the scourge of human trafficking in Nigeria. Also, the agency was a response by the federal Government to the

international obligation under the trafficking in person's Protocol supplementing the United Nations transnational organized crime convention (TOC). Therefore, the central task of this research is to examine the extent to which NAPTIP has perform its role as an agency for curbing human trafficking in Edo State.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the study is to examine the combat of human trafficking in Nigeria with particular reference to the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State Nigeria; while the objectives include:

- i. To examine the history of human trafficking in Edo State and the establishment of NAPIP.
- ii. To appraise the NAPTIP efforts in the fight against human trafficking in Edo State.
- iii. To impact achievement of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State.
- iv. To critically examine challenges faced by NAPTIP in fighting human trafficking in Edo State.

Scope of the Study

This study dwells on the role of NAPTIP in the fight against human trafficking in Edo State Nigeria with a focus on periods from 2003 to 2019 and the time frame use in this research was because the period was when NAPTIP with collaboration with Edo State Government in curbing human trafficking in

Edo State decisively, it was a period where palace of the Oba of Benin efforts help promoting the fight against human trafficking in Edo State.

Research Methodology

In the course of the research for this study, relevant data and information would be obtained from two main sources; Primary and Secondary sources. Primary sources include organization document, Oral Interviews. While the secondary sources would include textbooks, articles in learned journals and internet materials. Information obtained from these sources would help to guide and supplement the materials collected from primary sources. This would help to provide data for a historical analysis on the combat of human trafficking in Nigeria with particular reference to the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State.

Literature Review

There is not much academic work on the human trafficking as its relate to the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State. There are however, certain literatures that deal on the role of NAPTIP in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria. This study would build in an attempt to interrogate the impact of NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nigeria.

The first work relevant to the study is Tola Olujuwon, "*Combating Trafficking in Person: A Case Study of Nigeria,*"⁷ the asserts how human

trafficking has consequences not only for the victims, but also for their families and the nations as whole, especially as women and little girls are involved in the risk of pregnancy, maternal mortality, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Child prostitution and child labour deprive the children of the opportunity to pursue and achieve their full potentials, thereby depriving the nation of vital human resources for development. It also detracts our self-esteem as a nation and devalues our pride and moral values.⁸

Cynthia Olufade, article titled “Sustenance of Sex Trafficking in Edo State: the Combined Effect of Oath Tacking, Transnational Silence and Migration Imaginaries on Trafficked Women in Edo State,” examines the broad issues connected with the oath taking phenomenon, the author further examines the phenomenon in transnationalism as a framework with which the intangibility of the oaths takes upon the mobility of its carriers. In addition, the paper tries to highlight the place of rituals in the oath taking process, while doing so, the concept of juju is also analysed. In a bid to understand the control mechanisms adopted by the trafficking network and the processes involved, the author also discusses different actors engaged by the network and the mechanisms with which they operate. In doing this, He sheds more light on the responsibilities of different actors and how their activities lead to the overall success of the business derived through the compliance of the victims, as a result of the oaths taken. Finally, the author seeks to lay emphasis on the role of different groups in the society and how they interact with the oath taking

phenomena, from religious organizations to parents and relatives of victims, as well as the state's established institution.

Oyinkansola Adepitan, work titled "Decolonizing Human Trafficking: A Case Study of Human Trafficking in Edo State Nigeria Trafficking in Edo State Nigeria," posits that the very year, governments and globally acclaimed international organizations alike develop policies, sanctions and other control mechanisms in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution in an attempt to abate the current human trafficking problem which appears to be worsening by the year. The author explore the relationship of colonial legacies to the current human trafficking dilemma, assessing the impact of post-colonial cultural and structural practices that continue to persist and proliferate the movement of human beings across borders and facilitates their sub-human treatment. By analyzing the underlying elements that have caused the current international system to operate and be structured the way it is today, the author hopes to fill a gap in the academic conversation in regards to cultural narratives, the lag between legislation and effective implementation and demand, as well as the role played by religious and ethnic groups outside of the typical Western lens in facilitating and understanding human trafficking.

C. Osim Ndifon in his work "Human Trafficking in Nigeria: A Metaphor for Human Rights, Crime and Security Violations,"⁹ This work examines the phenomenon of human trafficking within the context of its relationship with international crimes and national security. The author argues

that since it is in most cases a trans-national crime, in that it has actual or potential effect across national boundaries, such a crime offends the fundamental values of the international community. He later maintain that, the responsibility of every country to ensure that all states are and must necessarily be interested in curbing it. For a lasting solution to the problem, we recommend a carrot and stick approach with emphasize on poverty alleviation, good governance, law enforcement, prosecution of perpetrators of the crime and a co-ordination of efforts between security services and all stakeholders.¹⁰

Ndiora, Uju Christiana in his work titled, "*Female Trafficking as Organized Crime in Nigeria: A Study of Public Perception in Onitsha, Anambra State*,"¹¹ The work was aimed at finding the public perception of Onitsha inhabitants on female trafficking and organized crime in Nigeria. The major objective of the article was to look at female trafficking and organized crime in Onitsha, and suggest ways of reducing or eliminating the crime. The specific objectives included: to ascertain why Nigerians engage in female trafficking; to find out the organized criminal networks that facilitate female trafficking in Nigeria; to find out the links between trafficking in females and the links between trafficking in female and the entertainment and sex industry; to ascertain whether the victims of trafficking in Onitsha, knew the true nature of the jobs they would go into before accepting the offer, to find out how informed, the inhabitants of Onitsha were on female trafficking and to proffer useful suggestions on possible ways of curbing the problem of female

trafficking. In order to achieve results, the author utilize two different instruments (i.e. Questionnaire and in-depth interview) to collect the needed data.¹²

Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria,”¹³ The document was carried out on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and financed under the European Union funded project “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria by Combating and Reducing Irregular Migration that occurs, inter alia, through Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM)”.The views expressed in the publication are those of the research team and do not necessarily reflect the views NAPTIP, NIS, UNODC, the Secretariat of the United Nations or the European Union. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.¹⁴

Clementina O. Osezua