

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

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
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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.

L. O. Enadeghe (Mrs)
PROJECT SUPERVISOR

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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 in her work titled “Gender Issues in Human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria,”¹⁵ The author examined the predominance of human trafficking within a social cultural milieu in Nigeria, by taking into account gender issues that have reinforced the phenomenon in the region. The author relied on primary data generated from an anthropological fieldwork conducted in the affected area. A total of 120 household heads were purposively selected and interviewed in order to capture family dynamics and power relations and women status in contemporary Benin society. In addition four key-informants were interviewed to appreciate the historical and cultural context of the Benin people. Furthermore, eighteen (18) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted among males, females and youths with a view to capturing the insiders’ perspective of the perceived gender issues precipitating human trafficking. The author revealed that the presence of classical patriarchy as shown in high prevalence of polygyny, male-child preference, inheritance and succession

systems and highly controlled female sexuality, segregated and unequal access to critical economic resources have continued to heighten the inequality within the social structure in favour of the male child. The author concluded that efforts targeted towards eradicating existing gender inequality in the region can potentially mitigate the convoluted challenges posed by high human trafficking incidences in the region.¹⁶

Another article in 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”.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ The article, unlike the NAPTIP Magazine, looks at how human trafficking stated in Third World countries such as Nigeria and proffers solutions to it.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in Nigeria”¹⁹ 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 action of the UN against transnational organized crime and the step 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 United States to create laws to fight transnational organized crime such as human trafficking, proliferation of firearms, and drug trafficking and countries domestication the Protocols.²⁰ This book looks at how the Federal government of Nigeria reacts to the protocol and step they have taken to domesticate the protocol in other to be binding on her and her citizens. The book however did not talk much about the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

Another literature that was relevant to this research was Elaine Pearson in *Human Trafficking, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection*,²¹ 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.²² This book did not discuss the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

T. Brain and F. Laeko (eds.) in *Fatal Journeys, Tracking Lives Lost during Immigration*,²³ 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 shows in estimate the number of deaths recorded and the number of persons that has 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.²⁴ 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 the role of NAPITIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in *Measures To Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo*,²⁵ 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.²⁶ However, this report lacks much relevance to our study as it does not look at the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

The Vienna forum report: *A Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking*,²⁷ by the United Nations Global Initiative to fight Human Trafficking, the present report describes the discussion, activities and accomplishments of the Vienna forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008. But also the report has little relevance to this project as it does not also talk about Nigeria economy and its effect on human trafficking in Edo.²⁸

Odigwe A. Nwaokocha in “Non-State Actors in International Relations”, A. Umu and Leo E. Otoide, *Themes in International Studies and Diplomacy*,³⁰ talked volumes about NGOs and their role in international relations, although he did not specifically look at the duties of NGOs as it relate to human trafficking in general

and women trafficking in particular, the book will help this research establish basic understanding about NGOs.

Samson B. J. Dubukumah in “Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Custody Edo State,”³¹, 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.³² It also looks at factors that influence human trafficking in Nigeria and in Edo State In particular. But it does not take the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

Tim S. Braimah in “Sex Trafficking in Edo State Nigeria: Causes and Solutions”³³, also sheds light on the situation of human trafficking in Edo State. This article is one of the most prominent materials used in this project because it basically concentrates on human trafficking in Edo State and discusses on a Brad 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.³⁴ This article also looks at the government institutions and how they react to human trafficking in Nigeria. This article however fails to talk about role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria.

All the literature cited above basically shows the background evolution of role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria, in this light, stating its role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria and its effect on human trafficking in Nigeria in which this research will be talking about.

Endnotes

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CHAPTER TWO

A HISTORY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EDO STATE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIP

Introduction

Trafficking of humans (human trafficking) can be regarded as a modern form of the old trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 21st century which totally compromises human dignity. It encapsulate so many issues of human right and rule of law, inequality, corruption, discrimination, economic deprivation, psychological tutor, migration, physical violence and even issues regarding sexual exploitation which is a core aspect of human trafficking, especially trafficking of women which include coercion, extortion, amongst others which can be generally characterized as slavery¹

Historical Background of Human Trafficking in Nigerian

The history of human trafficking is traceable to the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, also known as transatlantic trade. This era witnessed the trading, primarily African people, to the colonies of the New World that occurred in and around the Atlantic Ocean.² It lasted from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Most enslaved people were shipped from West Africa and Central Africa and taken to North and South America to work as unpaid labour on sugar, coffee, cocoa and cotton plantations, in gold and silver mines, in rice fields, or in houses to work as servants.³

Apparently, some scholars have also argued that slavery was practised in Africa before the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade and that slavery and the slave trade were

an integral part of African societies and states which supplied the Arab world with enslaved people for centuries before the arrival of the Europeans. But the Trans-Atlantic slave trade incorporated and integrated Africa into the international business of slave trade. The Atlantic slave trade is customarily divided into two eras, known as first and second Atlantic systems.⁴

The first Atlantic system was the trade of enslaved Africans to, primarily, South American colonies of the Portuguese and Spanish empires, it accounted for only slightly more than 3% of all Atlantic slave trade. It started (in a significant scale) in 1502 and lasted until 1580, when Portugal was temporarily united with Spain. While the Portuguese traded enslaved people themselves, the Spanish empire relied on the ascent system, awarding merchant (mostly from other countries) the license to trade enslaved people to their colonies. During the first Atlantic system most of these traders were Portuguese, giving them a near-monopoly during the era, although some Dutch, English, Spanish and French traders also participated in the slave trade.⁵ The second Atlantic system was the trade of enslaved Africans by mostly English, Brazilian, French and Dutch traders.³ The main destination of this phase were the Caribbean colonies, Brazil and North America, as a number of European countries built up economically slave-dependent colonial empires in the New World. The motives behind the Atlantic slave include cheap labour to work on plantations, it was reported that the plantations economies of the New world were built on slave labor. Another motive is slave trade profits. All these reasons are also applicable to human trafficking as the case may be.⁶

In the case of Nigeria, during the transatlantic slave trade, the emissaries from the king of Portugal visited the court of the Oba (king) of Benin, they maintained close relationship, because the port of Benin was used to handle the peppers, ivory and increasing number of slaves offered by the Oba in exchange for coral beads, textile import. Slaves in Nigeria were initially bought for resale on the Gold coast where slaves were traded for gold, and for this reason, the south-western coast in Nigeria and neighbouring parts of the present day republic became known as the “Slave Coast”. More slaves came from Nigeria coast in the 18th century, while in 19th century perhaps 30% of all slaves sent across the Atlantic came from Nigeria, over the period of the whole trade, more than 3.5 million. During the period most of the slaves were supplied from the Oyo empire, Benin empire and Aro confederacy.⁷

During the period, Nigerians were sold like commodities in the market place, shipped and transported to Europe and America in the most dehumanizing conditions and the women served as mere sexual tools and subjected to various sexual violence and abuses. Although the transatlantic slave trade was abolished in the early 1880s, subsequently Africans witnessed the era of colonialism in which Africans were exploited, subjugated and oppressed. Comparing transatlantic slave trade with human trafficking, It will be discovered that human trafficking has become another form of slave trade due to the terrible economy in the country, young men and women at their prime age are trafficked for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficking, in humans reached its peak in the late 1990s, although it has been in existence for a long time now, young children and

ladies taken away either within Nigeria or oversea by distant relatives in the guise of further studies. However, most of these children end up being used and eventually dumped by these individuals, which has a far reaching consequence of the development of the nation.⁸

Human Trafficking in Contemporary Edo

The available account shows that human trafficking, especially prostitution started with Edo State women. Newswatch Magazine stated that “the craze to go Europe actually began in the late 1980s when some young Benin girls taken there by Nigerian pimps to work in factories and do household chores for “kind “Europeans. When they arrived there, they found that they had been deceived. To escape deportation or suffering most of them resorted to prostitution. But they managed to come back home with so much money that they converted to Nigerian naira. The notion soon spread around town that their people are plucking dollars on the streets of Europe. Since then, its no longer a matter of being lured there under false pretence, but of girls begging to be taken there by sponsors’.⁹

In contemporary, it is one of the greatest human rights uses being witnessed in Nigeria which now involves trafficking of people (males and females) as labourers, prostitutions, hawkers leading to child abuse. Like a wild fire the issue has continued to assume a worrisome dimension. Human worth and human values are daily being diminished and being made to pave way for selfish economic consideration. In this age and era, the situation is not only deplorable but obviously absurd. Recently the dynamics

of human trafficking has escalated and operates in two major ways namely: Internal trafficking and cross border (external) trafficking.¹⁰

Internal Trafficking: It is internal when it takes place within a country. An increased number of people are trafficked from rural communities to cities such as Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Kano, Calabar and Port Harcourt. Trafficking to these cities are predominantly for exploitative domestic work, farm labour and prostitution, with incidents of human trafficking and forced labour particularly in Lagos. Some children are trafficked by their family members.¹¹

External Trafficking: External trafficking also known as cross border trafficking, takes place across international boundaries. This occurs when human beings are trafficked from one country to another. Internationally trafficked Nigerians come from all parts of Nigeria but some states tend to provide more traffickers persons than others. These states include Edo, Cross, River, Delta, Ebonyi, Imo, Ebonyi, Kano, Ogun, Oyo and Lagos. West African destination countries for Nigerian trafficked people are; Republic of Benin, Togo, Cote d'voire, equatorial Guinea, Cameroun, Gabon and Guinea where trafficked persons are destined to work mostly as domestic servant and on farm plantations. Recently, Nigerian women and young girls were also trafficked to Benin for prostitution.¹² Most of these trafficked persons found themselves deceived into believing that their destination would be Europe (WOTCLEF News Magazine July 2005:8). Common European destination for trafficked persons from Nigeria are Italy,

Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom as prostitutes and domestic servants.¹³

According to Cornell an increasing number of young girls claiming asylum in the United Kingdom are, in fact, trafficked persons. Nigerian women and girls en-route to Europe into labour and prostitution to survive during the journey. Cornell also stated that about 29% of Nigerians trafficked to Europe are from Edo States of Nigeria; initially most came from Benin City, the capital of Edo State, and from cities in Delta State, but recently recruitment records are from other Nigerian states, such as Imo, Enugu, Lagos, Ogun, Anambra and Akwa-Ibom. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), claimed that over 300,000 Nigerians have been illegally trafficked out of the country since the obvious business in human trafficking gained roots in the country. Also estimates show that between 60% and 80% of girls involved in sex trade are Nigerians.¹⁴

The Middle East is another destination, especially Saudi Arabia. The recruitment of persons trafficked to Saudi Arabia comes predominantly from the Northern part of Nigeria especially Kano, Kwara, Kaduna, Niger, Borno, Taraba, Yobe, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, Adamawa, Zamfara, Jigawa, Gombe and Bauchi States. From March 2002 –April 2004; the Saudi Arabia authorities deported 9,952 women and investigation revealed that majority of the women deported are from the above mentioned states.¹⁵

Method of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

The modes operandi of the trade of human trafficking in Nigeria indicates kidnapping, enticements, deception, physical treatment and transportation of persons especially women and children for sexual and other forms of human trafficking. This is carried out through the efforts of a well-organized and co-ordinated network running through both the receiving countries and exporting nations. To be able to understand the methods of operation of human trafficking, it is important to know the people involved in the act. One of the groups is the traffickers; the traffickers are syndicate run by the head pimps referred in most cases as “Madam” or “Mama”, who usually resides in the foreign country and receives houses and deploys the unfortunate girls once they arrive.¹⁶

For the head pimp to operate effectively, the head pimp keeps a line of staff or co-conspirators, who play specific roles in getting the girls and facilitating their trips to Europe. Among these are recruits, trolleys, passport racketeers some of whom are believed to include embassy staff, immigration officials, law enforcement agents and even pettish priests whose job is to administer fearsome oaths on the victims to bind them perpetually to the ‘Madam’.¹⁷

In some cases, the agents cajole desperate poor and greedy parents to sell off totally, valued family property such as a house or a parcel of land to finance their daughter’s trip overseas usually unaware of the predicament awaiting their children overseas. Before these victims are taken from the shores of the country, they are made to swear to certain fetish oaths of secrecy, allegiance to the ‘Madam’, and a commitment to

pay back the funds used for their trips which usually turn out to take several years due to frequent manipulations. In this way the victims are held spellbound to their madam and become easily controlled and continually intimidated for escaping. Experience has shown that the girls are conveyed through long and tortuous routes mainly through Sahara Desert to the coastal waters of North African countries, notably, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya from where they are made to embark on the journey in small unsafe boats to arrive the European shores of Spain and Portugal, amongst others. It should be noted that Europe has very long borders, especially on the sea and it is very easy for traffickers to rent small boats, and reach the European shores at night.¹⁸

In most cases, these victims travel through the Sahara desert and cover long distances by road. They stop over in one or two transit countries. The duration of the unknown journey may last for two to eight months. The girls are exposed to several risks along the routes such as: Restriction of movement at transit camps, sexual violation, pregnancy, hunger, thirst and sandstorms in the deserts drowning at high sea and repatriation before arrival at destination.¹⁹

History of NAPTIP

National Agency for prohibition of Traffic in persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) came into being on the 8th of August, 2003 with the appointment of its pioneer Executive Secretary/Chief Executive.¹ The Agency which is the creation of Trafficking in persons (prohibition) law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 is the Federal Government of Nigeria's response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons in

Nigeria and its attendant human abuses in its entire ramification.²⁰ It is also a fulfillment of her international obligation under the Trafficking in person's protocol supplementing the United Nation's Transnational Organized Crime Convention (TOC).

Nigeria became signatory to the Transnational organized crime convention and its trafficking in persons protocol on the 13th December, 2000. Article 5 of the said trafficking protocol enjoins state parties to criminalize practices and conducts that subject human beings to all forms of exploitation which includes in the minimum sexual and labour exploitation.³ The Bill to implement this protocol in the national penal legislation was sponsored as a private member bill by women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), a non-governmental organization initiated and founded by Mrs Titi Abubakar.²¹

The Bill was subsequently passed by the National Assembly on the 7th of July, 2003 and presidential assent given on 14th July, 2003 by President Olusegun Obasanjo. From that day, the law took effect and became operational throughout the country.²²

Law Setting Up NAPTIP

In order to discuss the laws setting up NAPTIP it is pertinent to outline the functions of NAPTIP. The functions are:

- a. To coordinate all laws on trafficking in person and related offences.
- b. To adopt measures to increase the effectiveness of eradication of trafficking in person.
- c. To adopt witness protection measures

- d. To enhance effectiveness of law enforcement agents to suppress traffic in person.
- e. To establish proper communication channels, conduct research and work on improving international cooperation in the suppression of traffic in person; by land, sea and air.
- f. To reinforce and supplement measures in bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions on traffic in person;
- g. To work in collaboration with other agencies or bodies that may ensure elimination and the prevention of the root causes of the problem of traffic in any person.
- h. To strengthen and enhance effective legal means for international cooperation in criminal matters for suppressing the international activities of traffic in persons.
- i. To strengthen cooperation between the Attorney General of the Federation, Nigerian Police, Nigerian Immigration Service Nigeria Prison Service, Welfare officials and all other agencies in the eradication of traffic in person.
- j. To take charge, supervise, control and coordinate the rehabilitation of trafficked persons.
- k. To investigate and prosecute traffickers (NAPTIP Law enforcement and Administration Acts, 2003.²³

By these functions, the agency became the country's focal point in the fight - against trafficking in person and its associated social problems.

There are about 21 penal provisions (section 11-29, 32 and 46) of the law prescribing different punishment ranging from 12 months for attempts, to live imprisonment for serious offences such as slavery exportation or importation of girls under the age of 18 years for prostitution, etc. the definition of trafficking in person by the law in its section 64 as amended is in line with united Nations definition in article 3 of the trafficking protocol. Exploitation is the key element of the offence which is found in all the penal provisions of the law.²⁴ To enhance the effectiveness of NAPTIP, the Agency works with other Government Agencies such as WOTLEF, UNICEF, UNODC, IOM, ILO e.t.c. There is a donor group headed by UNICEF. In the month of July, 2006 a regional conference was jointly organized by ECOWAS and ECCAS in Abuja, with active participation of NAPTIP supported by UNICEF, ILO, IOM and the office of the special adviser to the President on trafficking in persons, especially women and children was signed by 15 member states from both ECOWAS and ECCAS. Under section 64 of the NAPTIP act a section was devoted to definition of number of terms.²⁵

The term human trafficking is defined as “all acts and attempted act involved in the recruitment, transportation with in or across Nigerian borders, purchase, sell, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person involving the use of deception, coercion or dept bondage for the purchase of placing or holding the person whether for or not involuntarily servitude (domestic or sexual reproductive) in forced or bonded labour or slavery-like condition”. The definition of human trafficking in person’s under this applies to any person irrespective of gender, age, place of origin or nationality.²⁶ The definition

of trafficker also covers attempt as well as participation and abetment, since the same provision has defined the word “trafficker “as a person or any entity that intends to commit, aids, abets or acquiesces to an act of trafficking. According to Shansari. The definition of trafficking under the NAPTIP act has the following elements:-

1. Acts, in the form of recruitment, transportation, purchases, sale, transfer, receipt or harbouring;
2. Means, in the form of deception, coercion or dept bondage;
3. Purpose in the form of placing or holding involuntarily servitude forced labour, bounded labor or slavery-like conditions.²⁷

Organization of NAPTIP

NAPTIP has seven zonal offices, namely; Lagos, Kano, Benin, Sokoto, Maiduguri, Uyo and Enugu with its Headquarters in Abuja. The NAPTIP organization has a part-time Governing Board referred to as NAPTIP Board. The Board is responsible for supervising the activities of the Agency and for the formulation of its policies and shall also superintend generally, the affairs of the Agency, promoting the interest, object and purposes of the Agency. The Board consist of a chairman, 12 other members and they shall hold office for a term of four years and can be eligible for re-appointment for another term and no more. The NAPTIP Organization also has the office of the Executive Secretary.²⁸ The secretary is the chief executive and accounting officer of the Agency, it shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the secretariat; keep the books and records of the Agency; and be subject to the supervision and control of the Board of

the Agency. For the effective conduct of the functions of the Agency, NAPTIP has the following departments:

- Investigation and Monitoring department
- Legal and Prosecution department
- Public Enlightenment department
- Counseling and Rehabilitation department.
- Administration and finance, and
- Research and program department

The investigation department Liaise with the police for the prevention and detection of offences in violation of the provisions of the Act of Agency, and works in collaboration with the immigration service, custom service and other relevant security agencies. The public Enlightenment department collaborates with the Federal ministries of information and National orientation Agency, women and Youth development, employment, Labour and productivity and be responsible for campaigns, seminars and workshops aimed at educating the public on the problem of trafficking in any person, thereby stimulating interest in and awareness about the problem.²⁹ The counseling and Rehabilitation department collaborates with the Federal Ministries of Women and Youth Development employment, Labour and Productivity, culture and Tourism, and are responsible for counseling after care rehabilitation social re-integration and education of persons, counseling and the promotion of the welfare of convicts.³⁰

The administration and finance department, responsible for staff administration and remuneration, the account deals with finance for the expenditure of the Agency. Research and program department, carries out field research and set up programmes for the Agency to the public.³¹

Analysis of NAPTIPS Financial Report

Funding is a very vital tool for the implementation of the objectives of any organization. However, as important as funding maybe the proper management and appropriation of the funds generated makes an organization more effective especially in the achievement of its desired goal and objectives. NAPTIP is an agency created by an act of parliament on 14th July, 2003; therefore, it receives funds from the government for its operations.³² This is a discrepancy between amount to be released by the government and the section shall focus on the funds released and how it is managed by the agency, using the financial report of various years. Starting from the period of research, it is evident that there amount releed.³³ For example the personnel cost for 2004 budget 106, 837, 322.00, whiles the amount released is 92,701,524.00 indicating a short fall of 14, 135, 808.00. Also the overhead cost which is 37,500,000.00 has a short fall of 7,500,000.00 with the release of 30, 000, 00. The NAPTIP 2004 budget also reflects the overconcentration of the funds on personnel cost and overhead cost of the expense of capital cost. It is pertinent to state that overhead expenditure such as telephone bills, international travels, local travels, printing, office materials and supplies, etc receives

more funds than capital budget that is meant for rehabilitation materials and equipment, purchase of shelter for victims.³⁴

In the 2004 NAPTIP budget 106, 837, 332.00 was appropriated while just N5, 000,000 was appropriated to capital cost. This is capable of affecting the rehabilitation of victims of traffickers by NAPTIP. In 2005, the capital budget received a boost from N5, 000,000 to 243,040,000 and there was a cut down on personnel cost. Despite this boost, the difference between the overhead cost and capital cost is 8, 969, 377, 8. The emphasis here is that capital cost should carry the bulk of the funds. This will enable NAPTIP to achieve the rehabilitation of victims especially in the provision of vocational programmes. There was a change in the appropriation of funds in 2006 budget.³⁵

The budget reflects a departure in the concentration of funds from personnel and overhead cost to the capital cost. Although the margin is not much but NAPTIP was able to achieve some major steps especially in the rehabilitation of victims and provision of shelters. NAPTIP was able to purchase shelter for victims at the rate of 40,000,000.00 and the furnishing of shelter received 8,420,000.00. This indicates a performance in the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking by NAPTIP.³⁶

One of the objectives of NAPTIP is to coordinate the rehabilitation of victim. The idea behind their habilitation of victims is to prevent the root cause of trafficking, in essence, when the trafficked victims are provided with vocational programmes, they can be empowered to solve their needs when they leave the shelter. Therefore the budget appropriation should reflect more funds for capital expense than the personnel and

overhead cost. It will also shift the focus of NAPTIP from mainly investigation and prosecution to rehabilitation and economic empowerment. In the year 2007 the amount released is 387,713,647.03 for overhead expenditure, while the capital expenditure received 134,066,200.00 and personnel expenditure was 192,145,403.00.³⁷

This indicates a reversal from concentrating more funds on the capital expenditure to the personnel expenditure. In the 2007 budget travels and transport, materials and supplies, maintenance, miscellaneous such as refreshments and meals received more funds than the purchase of shelter in Kano. Also in the overhead expenditure victims development / rehabilitation received 1,182,770.00 and the food stuff supplies for feeding victims and suspected traffickers received 12, 855,091.70 while uniform, Toiletries and other clothing for suspected traffickers and victims received 5,769,227. This means that out of the 357,166,516.52 rehabilitation of victims received a little sum of 19,807,088.70. This is capable of shifting focus from rehabilitation of victims into staff remuneration and prosecution of traffickers.³⁸

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. 73 victims rescued and counseled in 2004, 337 victims rescued and counseled in 2005, 348 victims rescued and counseled in 2006.³⁹

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. The NAPTIP Shelter in Lagos was setup 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 equipment's 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.⁴⁰

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.⁴¹

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.⁴²

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CHAPTER THREE

NATIP AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EDO STATE

Introduction

Edo State, the "Heartbeat of Nigeria," has been labeled "as the most endemic source of human trafficking in Nigeria." As a result of this negative label, a number of international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations have intervened to combat sex trafficking in the region.¹ Every year, the Nigerian government and the agencies responsible for curbing human trafficking in Nigeria, develop policies, sanctions and other control mechanisms in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution in an attempt to abate the current human trafficking problem in Nigeria. It is on this backdrop, this chapter examines the impact of NAPTIP in the fight against human trafficking in Edo State.

Manifestations of Human Trafficking in Edo State

In a its bid to tackle the scourge of human tracking, Federal government human trafficking, federal government as established NAPTIP, with national office in federal capital territory and seven zonal offices. The Benin Zonal Office of NAPTIP comprises of Edo and Delta state and was the first zonal office to be unexpected as a report has it that the zone has the highest record if human trafficking in Nigeria.² The Benin zonal office was temporarily located at the federal secretariat complex Aduwawa, Benin City. The first zonal head of NAPTIP was Barr. (Mrs) A. O. Abiodun who took several steps to get the office to a good start even with the limited resources at her disposal.

There were several challenges which started the effective functioning of the office in its face. There were no furniture, no computer sets, no gadgets etc. but in the face of the challenges, the office handled a trafficking case between AGF Sarah Okoya (suit No b/ISC / 2004) at the state high court Benin City. The agency prosecuted and got Judgment in its favour and on Movement 19, 2004, the first human trafficker to be prosecuted by the office was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment by Ho, Justice Momoh, the then chief judge of Edo State. As a result of the need for expansion and more effective and efficient functioning the Benin zonal office of NAPTIP relocated to its present location at No.47, Adesuwa Road, GRA, Benin City. The zone has tried to meet up with the mandate of the agency to prevent, suppress and punish offenders involved in trafficking in person.³

Cases of NAPTIP War on Human Trafficking in Edo State

In conducting a research on the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State, the researcher engaged in an extensive interview with the management and staff of NAPTIP in Benin City. According to the researcher, asserts that, “the first time I went to NAPTIP, the staff welcomes me and gave me another appointment and which I interviewed about four management team of NAPTIP. They narrated several case study of how NAPTIP help in curbing human trafficking in Edo State and beyond. Some of the cases collected in NAPTIP are identify below.

The very first zonal head was Barr. (Mrs) Abiodun pioneered many initiatives to stem the tide of human trafficking, for instance under the leadership of Mrs. Abiodun, community dialogue in human trafficking was initiated. It engages communities to stop

human trafficking three selected communities to stop human trafficking which are Urhoniobe, Emendokhian and Avielle in the south, Central and North Senatorial district of Edo State respectively were sued for the pilot project.⁴ “The programme served as an eye-opener to the organization and people in that it afforded grass-root opinion leaders to brainstorm on the root causes of trafficking. It also solicited useful information and recommendations from traditional rulers, formers, market women, youth leaders, religion leaders and other leaders of thought”.⁵



Photo showing with Stephen Selewo, The Manager of NAPTIP of Benin Zone with researcher.

On the 8th of December, Mrs. Ebiniga Cordelia Olucho took over the affairs of the zonal office. Her background as a lawyer placed her in a good position to pilot the affairs of the agency. A number of department were put in place to see to it that the zone

is effective in its work which include arrest of suspects, investigation of suspects, and investigation of case and ensure that assets are recovered.⁶ The legal and prosecution unit capture the number of cases received, legal opinions and number of convictions in addition to assets forfeited and number of cases pending. There is also the counseling and rehabilitation unit are in charge of taking care of the victims, train them and possibly unite them with their family members or relatives.

The public enlightenment unit service as a bridge between the agencies and the society they also carry out sensitization programme press and public relation activities serves as the eyes of the agency. On assumption of office, Mrs. Ebiringa Cordelia Ohuchi declared war on traffickers stating that the trade is evil in every sense. She made the statement while addressing staff of the zone. She promised to tackle the trend, strengthen prosecution embark on aggressive sensitization and advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders as well as ensuring adequate protection of victims among others. The success in the operations of the agency is coming just a few weeks after assumption.⁷

Firstly, the judges of the Federal high court 2 Benin City, Justice Ayokwu in the case *Age vs Nasser Juliet* (FHC/B/17c/2013) found one Mrs. Nasser Juliet guilty of the offence of procurement for prostitution deceitful inducement to travel to foreign country and equally organizing foreign travel which promotes prostitution. The accused who hailed from Esan North East Local Government of Edo State was accordingly sentenced to two years imprisonment with no option of fine. Few days later, in another case carried out by NAPTIP in Benin City, a federal high court, Warri, Delta state, presided over by

Justice Mohammed Shittu Abubakar, convicted another set of three traffickers for their roles in trafficking activities.⁸

In the case with suit no FHC/WR/52C/2013, formerly FHC/ASB/26C/2010, the court convicted Alex Chidamen, male, 31years old, from Esan south local government area of Edo state, Kingsley Uzoma, male, 41 years old from Nyaba Local government area of Imo State and Ehijoba Favour, female, 46years old, Esan South Local Government Area of Edo State of deceitfully inducing the victims and trafficked them to the republic of Mali from Warri in Delta state for prostitution purposes.⁹ They were accordingly sentenced to five years imprisonment each with no option of fine. Commenting on the conviction, the Benin zonal commander of NAPTIP, Cordelia Ohuchi Ebiringa expressed satisfaction with the judgment saying that the zone was working assiduously in line with the vision of the executive secretary of the agency which declared a renewed fight against traffickers in the zone. She called on the people of Edo and Delta States to join hands with the agency through useful information that could lead to the arrest and prosecution of human traffickers in the zone.¹⁰

Apart from the success in getting justice for victims, there is also the recovery of assets of traffickers. Assets investigations have become a common feature and a desk has been created in the Benin zone for that purpose. So far, several millions of naira in cash has been recovered and paid into the victims of trafficking trust fund (VTTF). In addition, a duplex and adjoining building, two trucks, household equipment such as refrigerator, TV sets, DVD etc. which have been traced to proceeds of trafficking have been recovered.

The agency is also involved in the welfare of victims as they are being supported to realize their potentials through a well-planned and co-ordinate integrative process. Most victims especially those in foreign lands have been rescued through subtle pressure mounted on suspects. This process was initiated by Barr. (Mrs) A. O. Abiodun the first zonal head of NAPTIP and has succeeded in rescuing over 15 victims from Libya.¹¹



Photo showing with Mrs. Joan Ojiewa, The Staff of NAPTIP of Benin Zone

Impact of NAPTIP in Curbing Human Trafficking in Edo State

The Benin zonal office of NAPTIP which comprises of Edo and Delta state has carried out sensitization campaign to reduce trafficking in sexual exploitation. The campaigns are targeted at the following.

- University graduates

- University Undergraduates
- Secondary school students
- Community leaders
- Youth organizations
- Farmers, market women
- Religions leaders e.t.c

Channels Employed in Campaigns:

- Interactive sessions
- Direct campaigns and sensitization
- Lectures, symposia and workshops
- Print and electronic media

In an attempt to get to the grassroots through its campaigns, Benin zonal office of NAPTIP collaborates with the following:

- Edo state NGO coalition against human trafficking
- Blin Nigeria NGO cooperation against human trafficking
- Delta State ministry of Education
- Edo State ministry of women affairs
- School teacher students/pupils community representative's traditional rulers.¹²

Joint International Investigation (Operation Koolvis)

This was the first joint international criminal operation undertaken by eight (8) countries in conjunction with NAPTIP and USA as an observer in 2007. This operation

led to the arrest of fifty-seven (57) suspected traffickers who were responsible for trafficking 10 young Nigerians girls to Netherland.

In November 2011, the Agency carried out a rescue mission in the republic of Mali code named operation Timbuktu in which a total of 104 Nigerian citizens many of whom were either trafficked or smuggled were evacuated; about half of these were from Edo State. The figure above present a picture of the extent of the problem that the country faces, young people especially female are taken from Nigeria to Europe to b exploited sexually.¹³ Even internally children are trafficked for cheap labour and street begging. In combating Human trafficking the federal Government adopted the following approaches;

- Identification, rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of trafficked victims.
- Investigation by identification and arrest of trafficker who are subsequently prosecuted
- Confiscation of suspect is asserts.
- Advocacy and public sensitization to prevent and suppress trafficking in human beings.
- Building of partnership national and international for collaboration against trafficking.
- Research, planning and training including the creation of a database to serve as a monitory centre.¹⁴

Also, NAPTIP has signed some agreement to enhance repatriation of victims trafficking in persons, there is the joint plan of action of the conference of ministers from

ECOWAS countries put together for the purpose of combating trafficking. It is made up of 26 countries of the member states. It came into existence in July 2008, article 10 of the JAP enjoined members to exchange detailed information on the identity of victims of trafficking, traffickers their accomplices, current repatriation sites and operation as may be necessary for the success of the overall effort in combating trafficking in persons in west and centre Africa.¹⁵

Article II Enjoins the Country of Origin to Undertake to:

- Facilitate the return of the victim by the best position means available and within a reasonable time frame.
- Involve the community of origin of the child woman or young inclusive of parents, siblings, children and schools, associations, administrative and political as well as customary and religions authorities, technical and financial partners in the action of combat trafficking in persons.

The Protocol also Enjoin Destination Countries to:

- Organized the repatriation of a trafficking victims, in the best condition possible in collaboration with the authorities and communities of the country of origin due regard shall be paid to the situation of the child victim.
- There is also the memorandum of understanding on cooperation to prevent suppress and punish trafficking in prevent suppress and punish trafficking in persons between Nigeria and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which came into existence on the 17th of November, 2004. One of the

objectives of the memorandum is to protect victims of trafficking and to provide them with assistance to enable re-integration into their original environment.

- The government also enjoins both countries to facilitate and accept without undue delay the return of trafficking in person to their country or origin having due regard to the safety of the victim.¹⁶

There is also the protocol between Nigeria and the republic of Benin which enjoins the participants repatriating victims of trafficking in persons to have due regards to the safety and human rights and the well-being of such victim, these will allow the victims subject to the provision in legislation relating to proceeding of crime to return with their property or possession. Attempting to get to the source of voodoo priests who make of difficult for victims to provide information about traffickers, the agency raided two juju shrines in Edo, arrested Priests and confiscated charms and other items including photographs of trafficked victims. In collaboration with the antihuman trafficking units and other security agencies, NAPTIP has successfully intercepted teams of traffickers and their victims within Nigeria and across the Sahara desert. Even though the NAPTIP does not provide micro-credit schemes, it works closely with relevant federal government poverty alleviation agencies such as the National Directorate of employment, NDE, or the National program for t the eradication of poverty, NAPEP, to ensure that rehabilitated female victims of trafficking can access funds to set up shop, while the rehabilitation division of NAPTIP collaborates with anti-human trafficking units of the immigration

service as well as local and international NGOs to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of human trafficking.¹⁷

Evident in NAPTIP's collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, (IOM) and ALNIMA (an NGO), was the successful rehabilitation of 18 repatriated victims and the reuniting of 14 with their families between December 2013 and January 2015. NAPTIP has also been active in the area of cooperation and collaboration with a number of countries both within the West African sub-region and in other parts of the world. This is particularly so with source, transit and destination countries. The agency has in place a Memorandum of understanding (MoU), with England and Northern Ireland, in May 2004 the agency signed a memorandum of agreement with the Italian government while the kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Spain and the Netherlands have been cooperating in the areas of intelligence sharing and prosecution.¹⁸ The recent submission of the names of traffickers with their addresses to Interpol for investigation is an example of the useful cooperation on going between Nigeria and Spain. Despite the three-prong approach adopted by NAPTIP to nip the trafficking of women on the bud, the business is extremely difficult to eradicate due to the number of other small enterprises' which depend on it can service it. These include forgers, disreputable and even fake lawyers who set up contacts" between the first and the traffickers, self-styled "evangelists" who pray for them, traditional voodooists who hold the victims to their promises or undertaking, customs and immigration officials who receive bribes to look the other way when regular streams of young women with no

visible support are escorted out of the country, and in some cases, corrupt embassy officials who facilitate the issuance of visas.¹⁹

Challenges in Fighting Human Trafficking in Edo State

There are several challenges that affect the smooth running of NAPTIP and these challenges also hindered the fight against human trafficking in Edo. These includes;

Funding: This is an internal challenge faced by NAPTIP. The organization struggles with funding challenge which is intertwined with the inability to train staff of the organization. Externally, the NGOs and other funders in diaspora delay in reviewing the proposal of NAPTIP. The qualification process for accessing grants is tedious. There is also a stiff process whereby the external funders want European standard for awarding grants. They want a very rigid accountability for the projects which are carried out by NAPTIP. For instance, they would request for receipts for transportation, but in Nigeria the transportation system does not issue receipts to the passengers for day- to- day use of buses. They want documentation of even trivial details like consumables which are used in the course of the project, they refuse to domesticate the process. If the report does not meet the European standard then they will not be awarded funds for another project.¹⁹

Other Nongovernmental organizations: The challenge faced by NAPTIP in their relations with other nongovernmental organizations is the presence of mistrust and withholding valuable information from the organization. When two organizations cooperate, the impact is stronger than when it is done individually. However, bringing

NGOs together is sometimes difficult because of competition and this less to distrust which act as an impediment to the goals of the project

Human trafficking is a crime with low risk and very high profits and it violates the basic human rights of victims it is a complex and difficult issue to tackle. So many factors have encouraged this menace in our society. Internal trafficking was fueled by urbanization and economic crisis. Families in rural areas gave out their children to more fortunate members of their families to take to cities. The desperation and ignorance of these rural families were exploited by the urban settles over time trafficking to cities is predominantly for exploitative domestic work, farm labour and prostitution. Nigeria is also a transit country, for distribution of trafficked person to West Africa. As a destination country, Nigeria receives Togolese women, young girls and children from Benin, Liberia, Mali and Burkina Faso. European countries like Italy, Belgoum and Spain are distinctive countries for Nigeria.²⁰ The Nigerian government is involved on the fight o stop human trafficking but it has not succeeded due to several changes that exist. It is in the light of these, that this chapter seeks to address the challenges faced by the government agencies in combating or curbing the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria. The major challenges include lack of adequate and effective legislation, challenges of law enforcement agencies challenges of investigation and prosecution of cases, they are:

- Lack of adequate and effective legislation
- Challenges of law enforcement agencies
- Challenges of investigation and persecution of cases.

Lack of Adequate and Effective Legislation of Human Trafficking

The federal Government of Nigeria, in its effort to stem the rising tide in human trafficking in Nigeria, passed into law the trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law enforcement and administration Act 2003: While this law is important in the fight to bring an end to human trafficking in Nigeria, there are, however, some areas of the Act which are inadequate.²¹

Some of these inadequacies include the fact that the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons Act recognizes the problem of trafficking, but fall short of the standards set in the United Nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in person, especially women and children, which Nigeria Zealously ratified but has not domesticated and falls short of the various international human rights obligation and standards for the treatment of trafficked persons.

Article 3 of the UN protocol defines trafficking as: “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring 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 payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal or organs.”²²

The trafficking in persons (Prohibitions) Law enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 in section 50, however defines trafficking as: "Trafficking includes all acts and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across Nigerian, borders, purchases, sale, transfer, receipt or harboring of a person involving the use of deception, coercion or debt, bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person whether for or not in voluntary servitude (domestic, sexual or in slavery-like condition)"²³

An analysis of the definition of human trafficking under the Nigerian Anti-trafficking act, 2003 shows that there is a fundamental lacuna because of the absence of the phrase " for the purpose of exploitation" as entrenched in the UN protocol. This phrase qualifies the offence. It then, becomes difficult for prosecutors to gain convictions because of the absence of the vital ingredients of the offence which qualifies that acts and means of trafficking. No exploitation no trafficking.

The protocol enjoins state parties to criminalize alternates. This has been replicated on the Anti-trafficking law in Nigeria, so how do you prove that someone has attempted to exploits a victim, it will be difficult in practice not theory because prosecutors will be put to the strictest proof of such intention to exploit which is why they don't even attempt to charge attempt. In the case of attorney-general of the federation V. Sarah Okoya, the accused procured a total of six girls whom she induced to travel with her to continuous in the republic of Benin under the pretext that they were going there enroute to Spain where they were to work for her as hair dressers and shop-assistants in her saloon and shops. She collected various sums of money from them supposedly to

procure traveling documents and plane tickets and took them before a native doctor in shine to administer oaths of allegiance and faithfulness in their dealings, with their ‘Madam’ after their arrival in Spain.²⁴ Upon their arrival in contour, however, the accused stationed them in a hotel and told them point blank that they had to prostitute themselves for their substance. The girls ganged up and rebelled against the accused and with the help of the hotel manager, they fled to the Nigerian Embassy in Cotonou. At the close of the case, the learned trial judge found the accused guilty of the offences charged under section 19(1) (b) kidnapping from guardianship), but not guilty of the offences charged under section 15(a) (procurement of any person for prostitution, pornography) and section 16 (foreign travel which promotes prostitution) of the Act; father the court found the accused guilty of attempt to commit the offences charged under sections 15(a) and 16, under section 27(1) of the Act.²⁵

According punch newspaper dated 7th June 2018, on the court case; in the view of Olushola Odeyinde²⁶ stated that the offence of preoccupation for prostitution to be complete, the prostitution for which girls were procured or offered must have taken place. Since the girls repulsed and aborted the prostitution intended by the accused, the accused will only be liable for attempting to procure will only be liable for attempting to procure or use them for the act, she will therefore be liable to conviction for an attempt by victure of section 27(1) of the Act’. It is difficult to understanding the interpretative given to the provisions of section 15(a) and 16 of the Act by the learned judge. The court itself explicitly admits that the only reason why prostitution purposes for which the accused

procured the girls and organized their foreign travel to Cotonou failed because the girls refused to cooperate with the accused. It is submitted that the refusal of the girls to help actualize the purpose of the accused does not detract from the fact that the offences had been committed. The provision of section 15(a) and 16 of the Act do not require that the prostitutions must actually take place but that the reason for procuring and organizing the foreign travel is for prostitution purposes.

From the judgment given by the learned judge in the above case, encouraging the criminalization of attempt will only not actually deter traffickers from trafficking, victim only escaped being violated per chance. It is hoped that the reasoning in this case could not be a precedent for future cases. This also, attests to the facts that the conviction rate of traffickers remains very low and punishment do not reflect the seriousness of the crime. Human trafficking is a crime with low risks and very high profits and it violates the basic human rights of victims. There is no comprehensive coverage of the offence of human trafficking in the Anti-trafficking Act of 2003. In Nigeria, issues that relate to human trafficking can be found in the criminal code, penal code, labour act, immigration Act, child rights Acts and some recent state laws prohibiting prostitution. There is however, an imperative need to tackle the problem of scattered legislation on a holistic basis, taking into account its various dimensions.²⁷

Challenges of Law Enforcement Agencies

Law Enforcement Agencies have the responsibilities to protect citizens and enforce their fundamental human rights. Their response to trafficking in persons in Nigeria appears slow. These efforts extend across national boundaries because Nigeria is a signatory to various International Agreements which prohibit human trafficking. These agencies are made up of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Police, Nigeria immigration service, ministry of Justice and the courts. The Nigeria Immigration service usually hands over victims and traffickers intercepted at entry and exit points to NAPTIP for further action, whilst the police on conclusion of investigation hand over case files and suspects for prosecution. This is because NAPTIP has lawyers who work in the NAPTIP legal department. While, there have been a number of convictions, quite a number of cases have been successfully investigated and are presently on court, law enforcement agents/agencies still encounter repeated difficulties in actually identifying victim of human trafficking, providing them with needed services and assistance, prosecuting traffickers and enabling environment for combating human trafficking.²⁸

Challenges in Investigation and Prosecution

Investigation is very important if we are to succeed in the fight against human trafficking as initial actions taken in investigation are crucial to the ultimate success of prosecutions. Without a proper investigation there would neither be discovery nor evidence to indict traffickers. Investigation could be termed as probing into the cause of

an action. It takes one into the root of the truth and unravels hidden things, making one to know the causes, reasons and means of action take. Investigation especially for legal action is purely an affair of such agency(ies) given the statutory right or authority to carry out such assignment. In relation to human trafficking, the Act empowers any police, customs, immigration or chairman of the agency or any officer of the agency authorized by regulation on that behalf to arrest any person whom he has reason to believe has committed any of the offence in the act.²⁹

We have found out a lot of challenges faced by these law enforcement agencies, when investigating cases of human trafficking, include:

Victims Cooperation:-

Gaining the cooperation of victims as witnesses can be challenging. Often, because of their distrust of police in their home countries, trafficking survivors fear, law enforcement agents are concerned that they will be treated as criminals, incarcerated or deported.

In court, a victim of human trafficking is a relevant witness in a criminal trial against his/her trafficker. Apart from the fact that he/she is the relevant evidence of exploitation against the traffickers. The challenges in getting the victim to testify in court are quite enormous some victims have for the fear of appearing before an “awesome” judge, clad in wig and gown and/or standing before the public in an open court to have their ‘sordid’ experiences refuse to cooperate with investigators even when they feel bitter against their traffickers, some for the fear of the effect of voodoo or visitation of the

consequences of the blood oath they were forced to swear to before a shrine. This is due to strong belief in the blood oath of secrecy. The oath is meant to intimidate the victims of obedience, subservience and “loyalty” to their master, to ensure full exploitation of the victims without fear of detection by the law enforcement officers. The items of this oath usually before a shrine, includes in most cases the fingernails clippings of the victims, the last menstrual smears, public hair strand, nude picture of the victims and sometimes a piece of kola nut soaked in victims blood and eaten by the victims. A victim so bonded will not even, under pains of detention or imprisonment, expose their traffickers for the fear of the consequences of the visitation of the blood oath. Fear of reprisal attack from traffickers: Victims, after they had been rescued, fear the traffickers believing in their awesome power to decapitate at with it seen to be co-operating or helping in the investigation of the case against them. For this reason, victims are usually scared to help investigators.³⁰

Fear of stigmatization by the victims or their parents: In most cases and usually in sexual exploitation cases, victims once rescued would prefer to lick their wounds in secret rather than to bare it in public in the subsequent trial in public for the whole world. The perceived shame and stigmatization thereafter deter victims or their parents to cooperate with law enforcement officers in the investigation and prosecution of the traffickers.

Lack of Knowledge of Trafficking Issues:

The lack of knowledge of trafficking issues exhibited by some law enforcement prosecutors, and judge hearing cases made identifying cases, bringing them t trial and prosecuting.

Ineffective Communication:

Language barriers and victims unwillingness or in ability to talk about their traumatic experience may hamper investigation and prosecution of cases. Investigators who are fluency in the language of the person they are interviewing and have cultural affinity with the person may have more success. Investigators and prosecutor can gain the trust and cooperation of victims and witness by showing compassion and making them feel comfortable.³¹

Lack of Funding:

The limited availability of funding and personnel resources on the part of law enforcement officers to investigate cases and gather evidence and on the part of prosecution to prepare for and prosecute cases was noted earlier, as a significant challenge. Additionally, the limitation on resources available to provide needed services to victims is also a challenge that has direct impact on the issue because unstable victims are not able to effectively contribute to the prosecution of cases.³²

Conclusion

It has been observed that Nigeria has acquired the reputation of a key player in human trafficking as internal and cross-border trafficking exists in the country cutting

across all the six geo-political zones. Nigeria's borders are porous; law enforcement agencies/agents are insufficiently trained and equipped to respond adequately to the complex nature of human trafficking; victims are not adequately catered for and traffickers are not adequately prosecuted. In response, the federal Government put in place legislative measures and organizational devices, such as the trafficking in person (Prohibition) law enforcement and administration act and National agency for the prohibition of trafficking in person. (NAPTIP). There also exist law enforcement agencies who are involved in the struggle. Nevertheless, trafficking in person is still a social malaise and highly organized crime perpetrated and perpetuated by and through powerful and clandestine syndicate at national and international levels. Despite these measures, human trafficking is still rampant in Nigeria. Therefore, government and non-governmental organization need to network constantly with regional and international organizations to combat trafficking.

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CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary

This study has provided a comprehensive examination of the historical context, underlying factors, and consequences of human trafficking in Edo State and the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria, from 2003 to 2019. The findings of this research have highlighted the complexities and nuances of human trafficking in the state, and have underscored the need for a multifaceted approach to combating this scourge. The study's examination of the historical context of human trafficking in Nigeria and Edo State has provided valuable insights into the evolution of the phenomenon over time. The research has also identified poverty, lack of education, and unemployment as key factors contributing to the vulnerability of individuals to human trafficking in Edo State.

Furthermore, the study has assessed the efforts of NAPTIP and other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups to combat human trafficking in Edo State. While these efforts have been commendable, the research has highlighted the need for greater collaboration and coordination among these stakeholders to ensure a more effective response to human trafficking. Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations have been made to improve the response to human trafficking in Edo State. These

recommendations include the need for increased funding and resources to support anti-human trafficking initiatives, the establishment of a state-level task force to coordinate anti-human trafficking efforts, and the provision of training and capacity-building programs for law enforcement officials and other stakeholders. Ultimately, this study has contributed to the existing body of knowledge on human trafficking by providing a nuanced and context-specific understanding of the phenomenon in Edo State, Nigeria. It is hoped that the findings and recommendations of this research will inform policy and practice in the state, and contribute to the development of more effective strategies for combating human trafficking in Nigeria.

Human trafficking is a complex and multifaceted issue that affects millions of people around the world. It is a form of modern-day slavery that involves the use of force, coercion, or deception to exploit people for labor or commercial sex. The root causes of human trafficking are diverse and complex, and include economic, social, and political factors. This research has highlighted the importance of understanding the historical context of human trafficking, including the transatlantic slave trade and its ongoing impacts on communities of African descent. It has also emphasized the need to address the root causes of human trafficking, including poverty, lack of education, and unemployment, as well as

corruption, increased militarization, and weakness of social protection. The study has also examined the various forms of human trafficking, including forced labor, commercial sex, child trafficking, organ trafficking, and trafficking for forced marriage, begging, and illegal activities. It has highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing human trafficking, including prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Ultimately, combating human trafficking requires a sustained and collective effort from governments, civil society organizations, and individuals around the world. It requires addressing the root causes of human trafficking, protecting victims, and holding perpetrators accountable. By working together, we can create a world where human trafficking is no longer tolerated and where all people are treated with dignity and respect. This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge on human trafficking by providing a comprehensive analysis of the issue. It highlights the importance of addressing the root causes of human trafficking and provides recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and individuals who want to make a difference. By understanding the complexities of human trafficking, we can work towards creating a world where all people are free from exploitation and can live with dignity and respect.

This research has provided an in-depth examination of the complex issue of the role of NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria. The study has explored the historical context, socio-economic factors, and consequences of human trafficking in the state, as well as the responses of the government and other stakeholders. The findings of this research have highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking in Edo State. This approach must address the root causes of human trafficking, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. It must also strengthen the laws and policies that govern human trafficking, and provide support for victims of human trafficking. NAPTIP has made significant strides in combating human trafficking, including the establishment of the NAPTIP Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (NTAHT) and the implementation of programs to support victims of human trafficking. However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of human trafficking and to strengthen the laws and policies that govern human trafficking.

Therefore, this research recommends that the NAPTIP continues to work with other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, businesses, and community leaders, to develop and implement effective strategies to prevent human trafficking and to protect victims of human trafficking. The government must also strengthen the laws and policies that govern human trafficking, and

provide more support for victims of human trafficking. In addition, this research recommends that the federal government of Nigeria provides more support to states like Edo, which are heavily affected by human trafficking. This support could include funding for programs to prevent human trafficking, as well as technical assistance to help states develop and implement effective strategies to combat human trafficking.

Conclusion

This research has provided an in-depth examination of the complex issue of human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria. The study has explored the prevalence and patterns of human trafficking, the governmental response to the issue, and the challenges and gaps in addressing human trafficking in the state. The findings of this research have highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking in Edo State. This approach must address the root causes of human trafficking, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. It must also strengthen the laws and policies that govern human trafficking, and provide support for victims of human trafficking.

The research has also emphasized the importance of awareness and education in preventing human trafficking. Many people in Edo State are unaware of the risks and consequences of human trafficking, and may even be complicit in

the trafficking of others. Therefore, it is essential to raise awareness about human trafficking, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities. Furthermore, the research has highlighted the need for greater resources and capacity to combat human trafficking. The Edo State government and other stakeholders must invest in programs and services that prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. In addition, the research has emphasized the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in combating human trafficking. Human trafficking is a transnational issue that requires a coordinated and collaborative response from governments, NGOs, and community leaders around the world.

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