

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF OVIA NORTH EAST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA IN EDO STATE**

BY

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UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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**A RESEARCH WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was done by **PRAISE CHIAMAOKA OKAFOR** with the matriculation number **SSC2010471** under the supervision of **DR ROLAND UKHUREBOR** and to also certify that the work done is adequate for partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.SC) degree in the University of Benin.

DR. ROLAND UKHUREBOR
PROJECT SUPERVISOR

DATE

PROF A.O. DOKPESI
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE

DEDICATION

I am dedicating this project work to my Mum and Dad in one, MRS. PROMISE OKAFOR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported me throughout the course of my graduate program.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Roland Ukhurebor, for his invaluable guidance, encouragement, and insightful feedback. Sir, your expertise and support have been instrumental in shaping this project. I also wish to extend my appreciation to my Head of Department, Professor A.O Dokpesi, for his teachings and fatherly love, through these years.

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Finally I can say “I came, I saw and I conquered”!

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to investigate Human trafficking in Nigeria: A study of Ovia North East L.G.A in Edo State. It used Ovia North East as the Area of study. The study used a sample of 20 respondents and five objectives. The study's findings underscore the critical role poverty plays in facilitating human trafficking in Ovia North East Local Government, Edo State. Poverty creates a vulnerable population that traffickers exploit, perpetuating a cycle of exploitation and poverty.

The underdevelopment of Benin City, Nigeria, and Africa at large, drives migration through illegal routes, aligning with the push-and-pull theory. This highlights the need for sustainable development and economic opportunities to reduce the allure of illegal migration.

Notably, NGOs and NAPTIP are actively engaged in rehabilitating returnees, providing psychological and economic support. However, the study reveals a concerning trend: some returnees, despite rehabilitation, choose to reengage in trafficking. This underscores the complexity of the issue and the need for comprehensive, long-term solutions. The study recommends the Implementation of policies to reduce poverty and unemployment, particularly among young people, to reduce their vulnerability to trafficking, the strengthening of law enforcement to enhance law enforcement capabilities to combat trafficking, including training for officials and increased resources for investigations and prosecutions and provision of support services that will establish and fund support services for victims of trafficking, including counseling, healthcare, and economic empowerment programs.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background of the Study

Trafficking in humans is a hidden, dirty, and dangerous exploitation that has become a global crime (Usman, 2020). The issue of human trafficking is a global phenomenon that affects people from every part of the continent. This includes its impact on the victims, their families, communities, and their country. Its magnitude and impact have been a major issue for governments for over three decades now. Many nations have enacted laws against human trafficking. International organizations, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) sponsor various projects in order to curb the problem of human trafficking and modern slavery. According to Tania (2019), international efforts to address human trafficking are not new but the rapid expansion of counter-trafficking programs and initiatives over the past two decades is significant. The adoption of the United Nations Trafficking Protocol in 2000, made many countries enact criminal laws against trafficking. This increased the number of governmental and non-governmental organizations and other agencies addressing the problem of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is also termed modern-day slavery, as it is defined in the same way as slavery. Human trafficking deviates from our historic view of slavery, making it hard to conceptualize. However, slavery is as much alive today as it was 200 years ago (Tomskey,2014). Trafficking in persons is a threat to national security and human lives (Aronowitz 2009). Slavery is an illegal practice since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), which states, “No one shall be held in slavery or in servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all forms” (1948, cited in United Nations 2015).

Despite this, children, and women are still being exploited, forced to work and never get to experience freedom. According to Ellen (2018), modern slavery can be described as an international concern. It exists in different forms, including but not limited to bonded labour, child labour, forced labour, forced begging, forced adoption, forced participation in armed conflict, serfdom, debt bondage, sexual slavery, domestic slavery, child soldiers and organ and tissue harvest. Slavery is believed to no longer be an existing phenomenon because of its abolishment. However, trafficking in persons particularly women and children is a disguised form of modern-day slavery. It deprives people of their human rights and exposes them to physical and psychological violence (Njoku, 2021). United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (2000) described trafficking for the purpose of female prostitution as severe.

The international community have our point that trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights. Therefore, enslavement of women, children and men is infringing on their fundamental rights. Despite the fact that the majority of global countries have signed the anti-trafficking protocol, exploitation is still ongoing at an alarming rate (international labour organization, 2018). Trafficking of women and children in Africa is a serious international crime. It can only be curbed by proper enforcement of national and international trafficking laws and the eradication of cultural traditions that are harmful to women (Msuya 2017). Many countries in Africa have adopted legislative, administrative, and institutional measures to curb trafficking in human beings. The formulation and implementation of both national and regional plans to provide for comprehensive interventions, are some of these measures. Despite these anti-trafficking measures, Africa women and children are still trafficked in mass annually all over the world for the purpose of forced labour, sexual exploitation, or domestic servitude. In addition, women and children

are trafficked within their country from rural to urban areas. Taking people especially women and children from villages to cities for forced labour, sexual exploitation, or domestic servitude. African countries have joined global efforts to curb human trafficking since 1981 by ratifying the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR). This charter prohibits slavery and human trafficking (Thipanyane, 2015). The Africa Union (AU) equally have two bodies that provide protection for women and children against slavery. They are, The African Charter on the Welfare and Right of the Child of 1990 (ACRWC) and The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Right on the Rights of Women in Africa of 2003. They are equally sub-regional efforts to combat human trafficking, these include among others, the Joint ECOWAS/ECCAS Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2006-2009) and the Economic Organization of West African States (ECOWAS) initial plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003). In addition, many African countries have established dedicated anti-trafficking agencies such as the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) of Nigeria (UNODC, 2012). However, notwithstanding these international, national, and regional measures to combat human trafficking, levels of human trafficking remain high in many African countries (Thipanyane, 2015).

Several action plans have been adopted to curtail trafficking in persons, especially for women and children and even with these plans, the practice of human trafficking is still prominent in African countries. Thousands of African women and children are annually trafficked from West Africa to Western Europe to be subjected to forced commercial sex work (UNDOC, 2014). Nigeria in particular is reported to be the largest single source of

trafficked women in Europe and the Middle East (Thipanyane, 2015). The 2014 global slavery index shows that South Africa is estimated to have had 106,000 victims of modern slavery while Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo have an estimated 834,200 and 769,900 similar victims respectively (Thipanyane, 2015). There is also widespread evidence of internal trafficking for domestic work in East African countries (IMO, 2008). Trafficking takes place at different levels, within, outside, and into countries for reasons of exploitative labour, domestic work, and sexual exploitation of women and young children (Msuya, 2017). Due to the weak border control, human trafficking has become a lucrative business in Nigeria (Irele, 2020). It is therefore no surprise that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has identified Nigeria as one of the top eight countries in the World that is involved in human trafficking (Ohonba et al. 2019; Cherti et al. 2013). Human trafficking is a crime against humanity, it dehumanizes the Victims and they lose their freedom (Irele, 2020). Human trafficking is also a sort of Forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour, debt bondage, and voluntary Servitude and this makes the victims lose their humanity (Irabor, 2019). Human trafficking is a serious issue in Nigeria, with the country being both a source and transit point for trafficked persons. Nigeria is recognized as a major source country for human trafficking, particularly for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, illiteracy, and weak law enforcement are seen as major contributing factors. The majority of identified Nigerian victims of trafficking are subjected to sexual exploitation, both within Nigeria and in other countries (UNODC, 2015). Nigerian women and girls are usually lured with promises of employment, education, or marriage, but end up being forced into sexual exploitation. In recent years, there have been efforts by Nigerian Civil Society Organizations, and

International Partners to combat human trafficking. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is the main government agency responsible for combating human trafficking in Nigeria. NAPTIP focus on prevention, prosecution, protection, and partnership in its efforts to address trafficking.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria. Limited resources, corruption, inadequate legislation, and a lack of coordination among relevant agencies continue to hinder progress. Edo state is the epicenter of human trafficking in Nigeria (Irabor, 2019; Ohonba et al, 2019; Dunmoye et al, 2019; and Braimah, 2013). Edo State is a place where young girls are recruited and trafficked to various places in the world (Nwokeoma et al. (2019). According to UNICRI, (2003) The irregular and perilous migratory route utilized by traffickers takes victims from Edo state, through Kano in Northern Nigeria, through Niger and the Sahara desert into Libya, and ultimately into Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. Although human trafficking cuts across Nigeria, majority of victims hail from Edo state which is located in South-South Nigeria. Over 90% of women and children trafficked to Europe hail from Edo State (pathfinders' justice initiative, 2019). Edo state has been recognized as the hub of human trafficking in Nigeria. It is labeled as the most trafficked destination in Africa. According to a report on a field survey carried out in Edo state, virtually every Benin family has one member or the other involved in trafficking either as a victim, sponsor, beneficiary, madam or trafficker (Adepitan, 2020). Edo state is among the 36 states in Nigeria, it is located in the southern part of the country it comprises 18 local government areas with Benin City as its administrative center. Benin City is made up of 3 local government areas they are Oredo, Ovia North East , and Ikpoba Okha. Our main focus in this study will be on Ovia North East Local Government Area as it is among

the ten local governments with a high trafficking rate from 2004-2017 as indicated by NAP TIP. In this study, our focus is on the socioeconomic impact of human trafficking using Ovia North East Local Government as case study.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The poor economic living conditions of families in Edo state have resulted in most families having their members traveling abroad in search of greener pastures. This has led to a high number of indigenes being trafficked to different countries of the world. Although various research have been carried out on human trafficking in Edo state, this research will focus on how human trafficking affect the economic conditions of families in Ovia North East Local Government area. This work will be conducted qualitatively to describe how human trafficking relates to the economic condition of families. The study hopes to understand how the family acts as a factor that prompts human trafficking and the effects and causes of human trafficking in the family. Although works have been done on human trafficking, little focus has been given to the psychology of the victims and the family. This work explores some traditional practices in Edo State that have made women and children vulnerable to human trafficking. Also it focuses on the reintegration of victims and their families by agencies in charge.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. What factors lead to human trafficking in Ovia North East local government?
- ii. How does human trafficking affect the socio-economic conditions of families in Ovia North East Local Government Area?

iii. What is the major push factor of human trafficking in Okada and other major towns in Ovia North East Local Government Area?

iv. What is the aftermath effect of human trafficking on the psychological, socioeconomic, and health conditions of these victims?

v. What are governmental institutions doing to eradicate human trafficking and in rehabilitating the trafficked victims and are these measures properly monitored?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the Socio-Economic impact of Human trafficking in Ovia North East local government area, Edo State, Nigeria.

Specifically, the study will seek to:

i. Investigate factors that lead to human trafficking in Ovia North East local government.

ii. Ascertain how human trafficking has affected the socio-economic conditions of families of victims.

iii. Find out the major push factor of human trafficking in Okada and other major towns in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

iv. Examine the aftermath effect of human trafficking on the psychological, socioeconomic, and health conditions of these victims?

v. To investigate the role of governmental institutions in eradicating human trafficking and in rehabilitating the trafficked victims.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This work will provide an understanding of the impact of human trafficking on the economic conditions of the family. It will act as a source of reference to other educational work related to human trafficking. It will equally act as a guide to the anti-trafficking agencies [government and non-governmental] in managing the issues of human trafficking and it will provide possible solutions to curb this act. It will also help to create a path to understanding the factors facilitating the act of modern slavery for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and harvesting of organs amongst others. The outcome of this research will also help to impact policy and practice in curbing human trafficking.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of Study

This study will be carried out in and Ovia North East local government will be the major focus of this study. Statistics from NAP TIP show that Ovia North East has a high rate of trafficked victims from 2004-2017. This study will focus on victims of human trafficking and their families resident in this Local Government Area.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Human Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, coercion, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for labor, sex, or other purposes.

Impact: The effect or influence of an event, situation, or action on something or someone.

Socioeconomic: Relating to the interaction between social and economic factors, such as income, education, and occupation, which affect the well-being and quality of life of individuals or groups.

Migration: The movement of people from one place to another, either within a country (internal migration) or across international borders (international migration), often in search of better living conditions, economic opportunities, or to escape conflict or persecution.

Remittance: A payment or transfer of money sent by a person working abroad to their family or others in their home country, often to support their livelihood or cover expenses.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature pertinent to the current research investigation. The primary objective of this literature review is to systematically integrate and synthesize the prevailing body of knowledge with the findings of the present study. In alignment with the research objectives, the discussion will delve into the most relevant themes and subthemes, providing an in-depth examination of the current state of knowledge in the field. Many literatures will be reviewed in this chapter which include:

- Definition of Trafficking in Persons and Human Trafficking
- Historical Development of Human Trafficking
- Human Trafficking, a modern form of slavery
- Migration and trafficking
- Human Trafficking, a crime
- Human Trafficking in Nigeria
- Causes of human trafficking
- Concept of Madam in trafficking
- Voodoo practice in human trafficking
- Impact of trafficking on the socio economic conditions of families
- Socio-cultural practices and beliefs contributing to trafficking in Edo state.

- Effects of Human trafficking on its victims
- Theoretical Framework

2.1 Definition of Trafficking in Persons/ Human Trafficking

Human trafficking comprises a grave threat to the security of individuals and is a major humanitarian issue across the world. The most universal definition of human trafficking or trafficking in persons was drafted on 15 November 2000; is the United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women, and Children (hereafter referred to as the TIP Protocol). It defined it 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 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 of organs. (United Nations, Treaty Series, 2000). There are three necessary elements in order for a situation to be categorized as trafficking according to the above definition it includes the action, the means, and the purpose (Aronowitz and Peruffo, 2004). The actions required for committing it (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people). The means used (the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, 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). Also the purpose (exploitation of another person).

Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Law Enforcement and Administration Act of Nigeria (2003) in section 50 further defines trafficking to include; All acts and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation, within or across Nigerian border, purchase, sales, transfer, receipt or harbouring 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 involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in force or bounded labour or slavery like conditions'. Human trafficking is the exploitation of people, usually through coercion or the use of force and threat for the purpose of exploitation either for sexual purposes, forced labour or domestic servitude.

2.2 Historical Development of Human Trafficking

Historical records relating to sexual exploitation date back to ancient times which was prevalent in most nations (Thompson, & Haley, 2018). It was common after a conquest to enslave the defeated population, as evident from Biblical records and among many other ancient nations. A significant distinction between trafficking and slavery rests on the fact that slavery was a legitimate enterprise recognized by the states, while trafficking is not. Several scholars argued that the first indication of human trafficking on the planet showed up a hundred years, as far back as the trans-Atlantic slavery or slave trade (Bravo, 2007; Davidson, 2017; Munck, 2010). Other scholars who view trafficking as exploitation, express that the starting points of contemporary trafficking in humans are historically traced to the late nineteenth century (Doezema, 2002; Eliot, 2019; Newman, 2017). The international

trafficking of young women for sexual exploitation gained momentum in the late nineteenth century. While slavery is centered on the exploitation of labour, young women were trafficked out of Africa to Europe to fill in as mine workers, wives, or prostitutes. At the same time, numerous African young girls were trafficked to Europe and a lot of them were oppressed as prostitutes (BryantDavis, & Tummala-Narra, 2017). However, England was the primary or leading state behind the stoppage of trans-Atlantic slavery. Under the banner and concern for humans, the English parliament prohibited the slave trade with the Slave Act in 1807 which became effective first of January 1808 (Lee, 2013). England, utilizing its naval power, diplomats, and armies, continued to nullify slavery and in 1833 through her colonies, territories authorize the abolition of the slavery policy throughout the globe (Andreas & Nadelmann, 2008).

In this case, in the mid of the nineteenth century, the development around white slavery became widely known as the abolitionist stands, which started in Britain and other Western European nations. Also, the United States was against human trafficking (Lusk & Lucas, 2009). Due to the attention of the media, different institutions were set up to fight the issue of human trafficking and likewise, prostitution, International and national policies were enacted to end slavery. The international convention for the Repression of the Persons for Slavery 1904 dealt with deceitful and coercive recruitment especially white women for prostitution. This agreement characterized trafficking for prostitution as an ethical issue. And it was planned to address the internalization of European women into different parts of prerevolutionary colonies for prostitution. The 1904 agreement demonstrated to a great extent its insufficiency to combat human trafficking. Its scope was widened in the year 1910 to incorporate the trafficking of girls and young women within and across the country's

borders. Then again, in 1921 the trafficking of young boys was additionally consolidated into the agreement. That is the international convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children. This treaty attended to issues related to human trafficking human trafficking.

2.2.1 Human Trafficking a Modern Form of Slavery

Ngwe and Elechi (2012) emphasized that human trafficking is slavery because it describes the situation where one individual exploits the labour of other individuals. However, unlike the ancient form of slavery where an individual can own another individual legitimately, today's slave owners do not have legitimate rights over the slaves. However, they are able to control and determine their fate. Bales and Cornell (2008), argued that people in slave-like situations cannot walk away, and cannot make decisions about anything in their lives. This is as a result of the complete control that is held over them. It is usually backed by violence and they lose their ability to exercise their free will. Craig, et al (2007), argues that physical violence does not necessarily have to be present for it to constitute slavery. However, the nature of the relationship determines if its slavery or not. It was noted that where the housing or working condition for the victims of human trafficking is deplorable and not fit for a human being, then it is a slave-like condition. In modern slavery, the liberty and movement of the victims are restricted either by the withholding or by confiscating of their travel documents like their passports, visas, and so on. Intimidation, deceit, or other forms of abuse of power are used in controlling individuals.

According to Bales and Cornell (2008), modern slavery differs from ancient slavery in that it cost much less to acquire slaves today. Slaves are not owned for life like in the past, they are

owned for a limited time some last a few years while others can last for just months. Also another major difference between modern slavery and ancient slavery is that the former is globalized. Bales and Cornell (2008) argued that the change from ancient slavery to modern slavery could be traced to the change in the world's economy after the Second World War. Laurel Fletcher, a Human Rights Professor at the University of Berkeley, California, argued that "slavery is a problem the public thinks was solved long ago, but, in fact, it's alive and well, however It has simply taken on a new form". Sexual slavery or sexual exploitation is the most common form of modern slavery in the world today. It involves women and children who are forced into prostitution. Some are deceived with promises of a good job and are then forced into prostitution. iAbolish (2008) notes that this form of modern slavery is also prevalent in Southeast Asia. Most of these women are trafficked to North America and other European countries for prostitution and they are equally used for entertainment in the entertainment industry. People from different parts of the world fall victim to sexual slavery, both in developed and developing countries. Forced labor is also a form of modern-day slavery. Its victims are recruited and forced to engage in such services as domestic work, and construction Abolish (2008).

2.2.2 Migration and Trafficking

Migration is the movement of people from a place of origin to a place of destination with the intention of settling permanently or temporarily for an interval of one year. It is a prospective and courageous decision by movers to take their destiny into their hands to overcome poverty, disadvantage, and sundry adversities and live a better and more fulfilling life (Okolocha, 2019). Individuals, families, or groups migrate for different reasons

specifically but not limited to economic reasons. Due to the tightening of migration into industrialized countries, an illegal form of immigration has become a dominant form of migration over the years. Even with the forces of globalization at play which accelerates migration, nations however continue to tighten the noose on foreigners. Previously conducted research has argued that migration and trafficking are closely linked together and should be looked at interchangeably. We have seen a rise in interest in scholarly research about human trafficking over the last few years. However, there is a gap in our knowledge, so examining literature on migration will be helpful. There is more opportunity for human trafficking and other organized criminal activities in a situation where more people than possible want to migrate.

Omar Mahmoud and Trebesch (2010) noted that there is high rate of trafficking in areas where there is high level of migration. Many victims of human trafficking leave their country voluntarily, but then end up being exploited in their country of destination. The false promise of a job as a waiter in another country, and the hard reality of being trapped as a sex worker, is well known and unfortunately too common (Aronowitz 2001). The wish or desire to migrate puts the victim in a position where he can be exploited. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to being victims of forced labor. This is because the organized criminal groups that traffic them can move them from place to place with ease. Many victims of forced labor were deceived with promises of better jobs or other opportunities in their country of destination (Ngwe and Elechi, 2012). Poverty and wealth are relative concepts that leads to both migration and trafficking. Victims move from conditions of extreme poverty to a condition of less poverty. Therefore wealth is a pull factor and poverty is a push factor of both trafficking and migration.

2.3 Human Trafficking, a Crime

Human trafficking is one of the largest growing types of transnational crime in the world today. This practice is a gross violation of human right of which some of its victims are subjected to sexual exploitation, domestic labour, forced labour, or debt bondage. Hence many view human trafficking as another modern form of slavery. Most of the victims of human trafficking are usually recruited from developing countries, while the destination for most trafficked victims is the developed countries of Western Europe and North America. Human trafficking is a lucrative business. It is believed however that human trafficking is likely to surpass drug and arms trafficking within the next ten years, unless something urgently is done to arrest the situation. World leaders perceive transnational crime as a major threat to global peace and security. It is capable of undermining the economic, social, political, and cultural development of the international community. The re-emergence of the slave trade which was officially banned in the 1880s is bothersome and is viewed as one of the major challenges confronting many governments in the 21st century (Ngwe and Elechi, 2012). Other forms of transnational/organized crime include drug trafficking, trafficking in firearms, trafficking in stolen vehicles, trafficking of human body parts, smuggling of migrants, kidnapping for purposes of extortion, and a variety of crimes against the environment, cybercrime, money laundering, and terrorism. The large profits generated from these criminal acts are the main driving force for people to engage in transnational crime.

Human trafficking alone generates more than \$11 billion annually according to Bales (2000). These transnational criminals take advantage of the expansion of global trade and improved communication and transportation technology to carry out their notorious businesses. They

usually operate in poor countries and equally in countries with weak and corrupt governments, where the rule of law is lacking, and where there is political and social conflict. According to Ngwe and Elechi (2012), one major characteristic of organized criminal groups is their extensive use of violence, employment of bribery, and corruption of government officials, especially law enforcement agents and judicial officials in their operations. Due to the spread of transnational crime, the United Nations created the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in September 2003. The goal of this organization was to empower nations and enhance international collaboration in dealing with transnational crime. It also works to raise global awareness and develop preventive measures against human trafficking and other transnational organized crimes. Because of the hidden nature of human trafficking, there is lack of a reliable statistics. Its victims are usually reluctant to report their victimization or to cooperate with law enforcement agents. Also most of these victims do not know they are protected by the law. Some victims of human trafficking are forced into prostitution while others are coerced into domestic labour, farming, and so on. Wukman (2009) states that about 96% of victims of human trafficking are women and female children and about 3% are boys, he further notes that more than 70% of female victims of trafficking are forced into the commercial sex industry.

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking; educated and illiterate, male or female, citizens of developed or developing countries (Ngwe and Elechi 2012). Human trafficking is a threat to global economic and political order. It is capable of destroying the already fragile economies and government of the poorer or developing countries of the third world, especially Africa. Also, countries in Africa are major sources, destinations, and transit for trafficked persons (Ngwe and Elechi 2012).

2.3.1 Human Trafficking in Nigeria

Human trafficking has become a cankerworm in Africa, particularly in Nigeria (Ibrahim and Omorebe, 2020). Nigeria is considered a major source, destination, and transit for the victims of trafficking. Ngwe and Elechi (2012) asserts that the destinations of Nigerian victims of human trafficking are, Europe, mostly Italy, the Middle East, and North America. Usually for the purpose of prostitution, domestic and agricultural labor, and the sale of human body parts. The Nigerian government is not unaware of the problem of human trafficking. It recognizes that the crime of trafficking in persons is a major threat to Nigeria's development and stability. To show the seriousness attached to the problem, it created an institution to deal with the problem of human trafficking known as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), this agency came into effect through Act No.24 of 2003. This Act made human trafficking a crime. It imposes punishment for any individual or group of individuals involved in the trafficking of persons, particularly women and children, and other related offenses. NAPTIP has the authority and responsibility to investigate and prosecute perpetrators or culprits. It is equally responsible for the counseling and rehabilitation or reintegration victims of trafficking. They are equally given the mandate to provide protection for trafficked persons, informants, and other information as may be necessary during the course of any investigation relating to the trafficking in persons. The Nigerian Tide Newspaper of July 10, 2007, reported that the destinations of some of the victims of human trafficking from Nigeria are Spain, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, and the Netherlands. Women and girls primarily from Edo and Delta states subjected to forced prostitution are trafficked to Italy mostly (Olunjuwon, 2008), but equally to Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland,

France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Russia(Ibrahim and Omoregbe 2020). Trafficking of young women from Nigeria to Europe for the purpose of sexual exploitation is one of the most persistent trafficking flow as it is well organized and difficult to detect (UN Global Report, 2014). Victims of the sex trade and forced labour are also transported to North Africa (Libya, Algeria, and Morocco), the Middle East (Saudi Arabia), and Central Asia (ILO 2006). The European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) reports that about 60% of street girls in Italy are Nigerians. The report also mentions that about 13,000 Nigerian victims of human trafficking were stranded in Libya. Cameroon, Benin, Gabon, and Niger are used as transit points for Nigerians trafficked to foreign countries.

The high level of trafficking for prostitution in Edo State and Benin communities demands local legislation. On May 23, 2018, The Edo State Governor, Godwin N. Obaseki, signed into law the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Prohibition bill. In signing of the bill, he reaffirmed that the State was no longer living in denial because available records revealed that Nigeria accounted for over 60% of illegal migration to Europe (Alechenu, 2018). NAPTIP in 2007 noted that most of these criminal barons were women who are commonly referred to as “Madam”.

2.3.2 Causes of Human Trafficking

Muhammed (2004) was of the opinion that human trafficking began as a simple strategy adopted by families desperate for a reprieve from the biting economic hardships. Ibrahim and Omoregbe (2020) opined that some factors contributing to human trafficking are factors

such as poverty, level of ignorance, and family size. According to World Bank, over 45% of Nigeria's population lives below the poverty line. This has made families in Nigeria to be vulnerable to human trafficking. Also, most of the victims of trafficking are ignorant of the fate that awaits them in their country of destination. As a result of little or no education or enlightenment they are carried away easily by the pictures painted by their patrons and sponsors of good life in their places of destination. The size of the family particularly in Nigeria where they are large concentration of polygamous families. With little or no source of sufficient income to cater for the needs of the children, due to the cumbersome life the children may experience, they look for solace outside the home, making them easy targets of traffickers. Some factor that led to human trafficking in the world today according to Bales and Cornell (2008), is the rapid increase in the world's population after the second world war. This population explosion occurred especially in developing nations (Ngwe and Elechi, 2012). This led to a stretch in the already fragile economy and infrastructure of the poorer countries. Thereby rendering people to be vulnerable to trafficking. This explains why human trafficking is more prevalent in developing countries. Most of these victims are from poor countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa while rich countries like the countries in North America and Western Europe are the destination of the victims of human trafficking. Bales and Cornell equally added that the rapid change in the global economy has equally contributed to the growth of human trafficking.

Equally, colonialism changed the economy by changing the economic activities from the production of food crops to the production of cash crops for exports to meet the need of the industries of the colonial master's country. Wars for independence from colonial masters and internal conflicts like the Nigerian civil war led to the hampering of the economy of

Africa. The new economic order introduced by the colonial regime changed the land ownership system thereby displacing people from rural areas to the cities or urban areas. The high level of unemployment in the cities rendered many vulnerable to human trafficking. Also, the economic policies put by the developed countries put the developing countries at a disadvantage. Such that these policies promote the free exchange of goods, but restrict the free movement of labour seekers which is against the economic interest of the developing worlds. They profess and promote free trade but adamantly refuse to allow for the free movement of labour. Ngwe and Elechi (2012) attest that free trade makes it possible for developing countries to export the raw materials the industrialized countries need, but does not afford them the opportunity to export their surplus labour too. Also, farmers in developed countries receive subsidies from their governments which put them in a more competitive position against their counterparts in developing countries (Ngwe and Elechi, 2012). Corruption equally contributes to the widening gap between the rich and poor it undermines government policies and affects the morale of the people. This has led to challenges in administration and development thereby making the citizens of these places vulnerable to human trafficking. The high level of bad leadership and corruption has resulted in the high level of unemployment in Nigeria. So people chose to migrate in search for labour or sex work because of the realization that Europe and Western nations have a valued currency hence labour and sex work will be profitable (Ibrahim and Omoregbe 2020) Victims of human trafficking have diverse educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.

However individuals who are more vulnerable are those of low economic conditions, and they are more prone to becoming victims of human trafficking. The high rate of poverty, unemployment, low standard of living is another critical marker of human trafficking.

Igbinomwanhia (2021), opined that poverty is a collaborative factor that creates the enabling spectrum not only for vulnerability of victims but equally for the sustainability of the practice in community and regions. The high rate of unemployment of individuals in regions increases the poverty level which reduces the standard of living of the people thereby making them vulnerable to traffickers and their exploitation. Economic conditions has some bearing, but they are other indicators according to Cassells, (2017) which include; Female adolescents, Absent or inattentive fathers, Neglect or parental dysfunction, Parental substance abuse/addictions, Abuse: emotional, physical or sexual, Depression or other mental health issues, Social difficulties/lack of stable peer relations, Developmental challenges, Use of drugs/alcohol by the young person, Estrangement from family, including homelessness and foster care. From this, we can understand that the family is equally a major contributing factor to the problem of human trafficking. A person's environment will determine how they think, act, and react to things from their environment and their peers. Equally a person's state of mind or mental state, for example if the person is addicted to any substance or if he's faced with any emotional problems such as depression. They are many common risk factors that make individuals vulnerable to human trafficking they include; gender (women and girls are more exposed to the risk of trafficking in persons), age (young people between the age of 15-25 are usually the target of these traffickers) and socioeconomic conditions (poverty and position in society) illiteracy also is a factor. However there's no one determinant to define who would likely be a victim of trafficking, but as stated by Riutort, Rupnarain & Masoud, "To understand fully the status of an individual, multiple determinants impacting the individual must be recognized".

2.3.3 Concept of Madam in Trafficking

Madams are female Africans that are the traffickers. They act as the sponsors and patrons of the victims. According to Monzini (2005) in research conducted in Italy, it was discovered that principal traffickers in Western Europe are women. It was also discovered that women are the pioneers of international prostitution. They coordinate the recruitment of victims and manage the victims of prostitution. She also connives with corrupt officials who provides passage for the victims and equally arrange stolen or false passport and also make other travelling documents available (Carling, 2005). They are the organizers, traffickers, recruiters, and exploiters who make use of threat and violence to the vulnerable victims. They usually work hand in hand with the voodoo priest. While the madam holds physical control over the victims, the priests holds psychological control over the victims. Madams are women in their 30s and have experience in prostitution and they have discovered that it's a lucrative trade that is easy to do. They believe they could earn money if they continue to recruit African women into Western Europe (Usman et al, 2018). According to Carling (2005), the madam works with male associates which she called "black boys". Van & Gijssels (2004) the black boys play the role of messengers, guides, money couriers, debt collectors and recruiters. Some are victims forced into prostitution or forced labour but have gained independence and have joined the exploitative industry and become offenders or well-known as madam boys (Evelyn & Chukwuka, 2017). However, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that: "Nigerian traffickers have established a mafia-like organization in their country of destination. They operate in cartels, have well-connected networks, and are usually difficult or risky to infiltrate. They are callous and will sacrifice anyone to cover their tracks and remain hidden. They use special codes for communication within themselves. They do not always operate in

groups as some engage in solo operations (UNESCO, 2018). The victims see the trafficker as a helper and they are willing to stay faithful in return for an expected better job or a good life and they usually agree to pay the unbelievable debt incurred. Thus, the victims are bonded to the debts for a long time, and when they are unfit to pay the debt, they are made to remain in the prostitution industry until the point when their trafficker has no use for the victims (Bales, 2000).

Madams are equally breeders; once the victim has served or reached the years stated, in their contract and have paid their debts, the victims gain some sort of freedom. It could also be extended depending on the decision of the madam. The prostituted victim is now a close associate of Madam, as she has adhered to all the Madam needed, has repaid all incurred debt to Madam, and followed her wishes. The victim then serves as a supervisor to other victims or become a madam black boy in the prostitution trade on behalf of the madam. She gains experience on how the work is managed and then transforms into a new madam through the said process and starts her own recruitment. (Carling,2005). Hence, madams are not just leaders of trafficking but are people who train a criminal that breeds more criminals. This continues to aid, sustain, and keep international prostitution to flourish.

2.3.4 Voodoo Practice in Human Trafficking

Nigerian trafficking system is characterized by the use of charms by traffickers or threats of voodoo curses to control victims and force them into prostitution (Siddhert, 2015). The voodoo oath is part of an important attribute of the victim's recruitment process. It is a so-called agreement between the trafficker and the victim who is subjugated to dubious activities. It includes numerous acts at the shrine for rituals both at home and abroad (May,

2017). To complete the deal after arrangements for the victim's trip abroad are ready, traffickers seal the deal by taking the victims to shrines of voodoo priests, for oath-taking. Oviasuyi, et al (2011) defined a voodoo oath as a "situation where absolute loyalty or adherence to the certain agreement and conditionality is prescribed and administered to the beneficiaries of the agreement, and the exercise is usually fetish". However, Jenny is of the opinion that bias is connected to investigating the issue of voodoo, as it has been given a negative picture in viewing African culture. Juju as the vast majority in Western Africa calls it, shapes some portion of Africa's traditional belief, that is practiced in various societies and towns. The young women are taken to the shrine, to meet a juju priest who is usually in a bush or a forest while others utilize a room in a community. Body parts such as pubic hair, fingernails, or blood are collected. The victims are made to swear an oath to never report the situation to anyone especially the security forces, to repay their debts, and to never reveal the identities of their patrons or sponsors to anyone. This makes the victims have extreme fear, because they are threatened with death or madness if the oath is broken. The voodoo priest ignites fear, intimidation, and threat to these victims. The fear of breaking the oath is so strong that it creates a powerful hold over the victims and prevents them from seeking help. Victims usually cannot run away due to the fear of being hunted. They are also worried about the consequences of breaking the oath they had taken and therefore remain under the control of their traffickers.

According to the Nigerian National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons about 90% of girls that have been trafficked to Europe are taken to shrines to take "oaths of secrecy" (Wilmot, 2012). This oath-taking is not just destructive to the trafficked women, but also hinders anti-trafficking measures, particularly for policy implementers. The fear and worry

that voodoo has a strong hold on them becomes an obstruction to investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting traffickers. Victims who have experienced this voodoo taking believe that if they reveal their experiences and provide evidence against their madams, will be left to face and encounter numerous calamities. These tragedies may involve being killed, psychological illness and disaster, or torment to their family through sickness or death, Agazue (2013). The victims are mentally enslaved. Hence, they may frequently not tell the truth about their experiences with regard to the oath so as to protect themselves. Victims who could not give necessary evidence as a result of voodoo are more in number. That is an overall effect in protection and assistance, halting the implementation of NAPTIP trafficking policies. It is however important to understand voodoo as a significant factor that has sustained trafficking in Africa. It prevents prosecution, and this is a major setback to the protection of victims of human trafficking.

2.4 Impact of Trafficking On The Socio Economic Conditions of Families in Benin City

The slow economic growth in Nigeria has led millions of families to be faced with the endemic problem of poverty. Poverty is therefore seen as the major cause for the prevalence of human trafficking in Edo State. The major impact of trafficking on the socioeconomic status of families in Ovia North East Local Government can be best viewed in the term remittances. Remittance is the sending home of goods, money, or services of a migrant from his place of destination to his place of origin, usually to family, friends, or relatives. It is the money transferred by a foreign worker to people in his or her home country. According to Lopez-Ekra et al.(2011)(69), remittance was said to be the second largest source of external revenue for developing countries and it has been accepted by governments and international

organizations as important in the reduction of household poverty and in the enhancement of development. However, they are considered unproductive this is because it fuels consumption and it also encourages wasteful expenditures, and leaves people in their place of origin dependent on imports.

Scholars like Osezua (2013) often argue that many Benin women who were successful in trafficking (that is women who migrate for the purpose of cross-border sexual transactions) usually become the center of authority and point of reference in important family decision. This is due to the remittances sent to the family by them thereby making them the breadwinner of the family. Families who are direct beneficiaries of their daughter's sexual exploitation abroad now have access to resources that were previously inaccessible to them, thereby increasing the economic and social status of the family. These remittances are now seen as investment capital in the country of origin. Ohonba and Egafona(2019)(4), asserts that Nigeria is the single largest recipient of foreign remittances in Sub-Saharan Africa, receiving between 30% and 60% of flows into the region. Nigeria is therefore described as, the largest receiver of remittances in sub-Saharan Africa, and the sixth largest receiver of remittances in the world, receiving a total of \$34.8 billion in 2015. The countries which contribute are the United States and the United Kingdom which are the most lucrative destinations for Nigerian migrants. Nigerians receive a total of \$5.7 billion from the US and \$3.7 billion from the UK in 2015 (Ohonba and Egahafona, 2019). A news report estimated that over \$10 billion dollars are transferred annually through the First Bank of Nigeria and the Western Union Money Transfer. It has also been confirmed that Western Union in Benin City is the busiest in the whole of Nigeria with parents and relatives of these migrants

strolling in to collect hard currency from their female children abroad. The high ranking of remittances in Benin City indicates the prevalence of human trafficking in Edo state, the city is known to be the leading supplier of trafficked women. Poverty and unemployment as a result of economic recession have made those in the lowest level of the economic pyramid fall into the hands of traffickers.

2.4.1 Sociocultural Practices and Beliefs That Contribute To Trafficking In Edo State

Cultural Beliefs like the Benin customary inheritance law/primogeniture. The law of primogeniture is a rule of inheritance where the first male child inherits his father's entire property. The traditional Benin family structure, kinship, and lineage are patrilineal. Descent is traced through the father's bloodline and based on primogeniture. This cultural practice shows the strong importance placed on male children. They also practiced polygynous marriages where the man marries more than one wife and male children born to women in these marriages were seen as “gates”. Ohonba and Egafona (2019) argued that the law of primogeniture often creates financial distress on siblings who are then left to fend for themselves. This encourages deprived women to go abroad to earn money so as to cater for themselves. Ohonba and Egafona (2019), asserts that before colonial rule, women were not allowed to own landed property as she was seen as the property of her husband and his family. These laws of primogeniture are traditional inheritances and are still widely practiced by Benin indigenes. However, when female children that are trafficked become successful they are respected over the male members of the family. As accessed by Osezua, Benin women migrating for the purpose of sexual exploitation observe the changes in the

traditional Benin family structure as a result of the remittances sent to their families. These women are seen as breadwinners in their families as they are able to provide for the upkeep of the family members. Records have shown that Benin women build houses, and structures for businesses, buy lands, and construct boreholes for commercial and personal usage, for themselves and their family members. They have also given financial support or funding to their families to start up a trade. They pay for education or skill development training for their children, younger siblings, and family members.

Benin City is also known as the home of artwork and bronze casting. Their heritage of artwork can be traced as far back as A.D.940. The guild system was used to organize various professionals and craftsmen under royal patronage to produce their services in a structured manner. The guild system in the pre-colonial and colonial eras was majorly dominated by male indigenes with different professions, either farming, hunting, and art or craft work. Currently however, farming, craftwork, and other traditional economic activities are no longer common as they are now limited to the outskirts of the city. Edo state is now known as a civil service state with very few industries, this has resulted therefore in an increased rate of unemployment thereby leading to a high rate of poverty. This has contributed to the vulnerability of families to human trafficking. These remittances are used to elevate families from poverty.

2.4.2 Effects of Human Trafficking on its Victims

Human trafficking is a global issue that causes damage not just to the country of transit or destination but also to the victims caught up in this act. Traffickers target vulnerability. They look for people living in poverty, without educational opportunities, those desperate for

success, people looking for ways to escape violence, and those without a legitimate job option. Morero(2020), revealed that the majority of victims of trafficking grappled with physical as well as psychological scars. Medical treatments are given, in an attempt to rehabilitate victims and to restore their health and relieve them from the traumatic experience. However even after their bodies heal, they usually struggle with psychological or emotional wounds which take a long time to heal. In some cases, some victims never get to experience total healing. Morero further argued that they are also faced with psychological challenges like nervousness, panic disorders or attacks, dejection, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), stigmatization, and for some Stockholm syndrome. These victims fight a losing battle, as most of them have been addicted to illicit drugs that were introduced to them by their traffickers, in an attempt to gain compliance for them. Also, most of these victims are treated as criminals by law enforcement agencies. This has contributed to their trauma thereby making them feel coerced to cooperate. These victims suffer in the hands of the traffickers, the law enforcement agencies who display negative attitudes and treatment towards them, and the community itself where these victims are stigmatized against. They are often called the name 'bad girls' or 'Ashowo', thereby reducing their self esteem.

Most of these victims are not offered protection during the sex trade. They are not offered condoms or other birth control means. This exposes them to the risk of problems such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gynecological problems that can affect a woman's fertility, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, miscarriages and so on. These victims are raped, forced to use illicit drugs, and made to sleep with different men without proper food or medication.

The family is not left aside here they suffer traumatic experiences because of the fear of loss of a loved one. The victim's recovery is a mission for the family members and this may override the family and suspend the normal way of life of family members. As victims may suffer from PTSD, such as nightmares, hallucinations, depression, negative change of mood, or isolation. Also, most families are devastated by the possibility that a loved one's organs might have been harvested who may have been the breadwinner. This puts the family in ruins thereby subjecting them to financial and emotional loss. Trafficking experience creates an atmosphere of anxiety and stress in the family (Kiss, Pocock, et al., 2015). Moreover, most children of Victims of trafficking are often prone to display anxious behavior, aggression, and behavioral problems at school. These victims are often overprotective, demanding, and controlling of their children. This places the children in a constant situation of stress and anxiety (Kiss & Zimmerman, 2019).

2.5 Theoretical Framework

In this section, theories are used to provide a contextual framework for this research, some of these theories shows the foundation of the causes of human trafficking in modern era.

2.5.1 Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural functionalism is one of the macro theories in sociology not acclaimed by one scholar but by a series of them like Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Robert Merton, and Emile Durkheim Talcott Parsons. This theory is gotten from the English naturalist Charles Darwin in his book titled “Origin of Species”. His theory talks about survival of the fittest and how organisms have survived through adaptation over time. Spenser used this analogy

in discussing his social Darwinism. Where he argued that just as an organism has parts such as the eyes, nose, leg, and hands that ensure its proper functioning and these parts have the various roles they play. So also does the society have various parts or structures these parts are called social institutions such as the family, economy, political, religion, health and so on. These institutions play various roles in ensuring that the society is functional. He argued that when one part is dysfunctional the other parts adapt or adjust by finding a new equilibrium. Any part that has stopped performing its functions will cease to exist. These social institutions work together in harmony to ensure that society is at equilibrium they serve the function of maintaining solidarity and stability of the whole. Functionalist theory contrast conflict theory because it operates on the premise that humans are inherently cooperative and caring, each playing their role in maintaining the harmony and equilibrium of the society (Schriver, 1998). The functionalist theory is criticized on the ground that, it focuses too much on stability thereby ignoring the inequalities of class, gender, and race that are often the creators of conflict (Parillo, 2012).

The functionalist perspective asks the question of why and how trafficking is able to occur. It examines the utility of human rights violations and their place in maintaining equilibrium. For example, Talcott Parsons argued that gender roles exist because of the role they played in systematically meeting the needs of society with men engaging in labour for wages and salaries while women engage in homemaking and nurturing tasks. In terms of trafficking it is important to note and identify how these violations of human right plays a role in maintaining a system within the society. There is a need for a change in the already existing system and move to a new system that is free from these violations. The question therefore is if human trafficking is a crime what function does it play. Durkheim asserts that although

crime is a dysfunction because it disturbs social order, however, it is functional because it points the wrong in society to people so they know what type of behavior to avoid.

Human trafficking fulfills the need for cheap labor to create more profits. Sex trafficking meets the demand for sex from johns and provides money or other things of value to pimps. Child soldiers play various roles in meeting the needs of militant groups during armed conflict. Also organ trafficking supplies a limited resource to an ever-growing list of needy recipients. Human rights violations as a whole can always be examined from the perspective of the function they play. These functions according to R.K Merton can be manifest or latent. Human trafficking as a whole can also be examined from the perspective of the function they play however to prevent these acts, scholars, professionals, governments, and law enforcements should understand the needs that human trafficking fulfills and intervene to prevent the need for trafficking to occur.

2.5.2 Theory of Motivation; Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory is one of the theories of motivation. This theory is analyzed using a pyramid to showcase the importance of needs being met in order to reach the maximum state of well-being. Physiological and safety needs make up the bottom tiers and act as the components of fundamental and basic needs. Social/love and esteem needs are the components of psychological needs. Finally, self-actualization tops the pyramid as the component for self-fulfillment needs. To reach self-actualization, the most basic and fundamental of human physical and psychological needs must be met first. If fundamental needs like food and shelter are not met, the body will focus on finding these things and the mind will not be able to focus on things of personal interest until basic needs are met. This

theory is criticized on the ground that the model is too simplistic, and fails to account for cultural norms and drives. Additionally, few things in life are linear, and the hierarchy implies a linear route to self-actualization.

In terms of human trafficking, Maslow's hierarchy of needs can help scholars, law enforcement, and government understand why victims are drawn to and controlled by traffickers. Factors like homelessness, poverty, and abuse, lack of housing, food, clothing, safety, and financial security is the fundamental need according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Traffickers offer these things meeting their needs for socialization and love. In addressing the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims, law enforcement, government, and individuals equally must work effectively; by addressing basic and fundamental needs like housing, clothing, food, and a sense of security and safety from their trafficker (Hopper, 2016). Once basic needs have been met, psychological needs can be addressed through group settings, therapeutic secession, and a sense of accomplishment in healing. Then survivors, according to Maslow, will be on track to reach self-actualization.

2.5.3 Push and Pull Theory of Migration

Ernest Ravenstein (1834-1913), published a book on the "law of migration" where he referred to these laws as the push and pull factors. While he argued that the push factors represents the unfavorable conditions in the place of origin and the pull factors are the favorable conditions in the place of destination. Everett Lee also opined that the push factors are more critical that is, it is the main reason why people migrate. He specifically argued that certain intervening variable such as physical and political barriers, distance, family ties, and having dependents as well as educational status and knowledge of the external

environment influence migration, adding that sex, age, and social class also tend to determine the reaction to the push and pull factors (Okolocha, 2019).

In human trafficking, people fall victim to the traffickers and decide to migrate because of the favorable conditions and pictures presented by the traffickers, these makes them want to migrate. The push factors may include poverty, unemployment, insecurity, war, conflict, natural disasters and so on. They are the unfavorable factors that make people migrate. They want to move to places that have attractions or favorable conditions. The pull factors are opposite of push factors they include better security, better job opportunities, higher standard of living and so on. The quest for a better life makes people especially the poor to become vulnerable to traffickers to victims, which draws them to traffickers and makes it difficult to leave (Hopper, 2016). They equally offer friendship and relationships to victims though it is usually temporary thereby meeting their needs for socialization and love. In addressing the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims, law enforcement, government, and individuals equally must work effectively; by addressing basic and fundamental needs like housing, clothing, food, and a sense of security and safety from their trafficker (Hopper, 2016). Once basic needs have been met, psychological needs can be addressed through group settings, therapeutic secession, and a sense of accomplishment in healing. Then survivors, according to Maslow, will be on track to reach self-actualization.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design is the blueprint of the research methodology. In this work, the exploratory type of research was used which involves field work. The research was a qualitative research. This research design was chosen by the researcher because it was the best to bring to limelight a hidden social phenomenon in the society that people knew little or nothing about.

3.2 Population of Study

The population of study was centered on the people who were victims of human trafficking and their families in Ovia North East Government Area. Also agents from government and non-governmental organizations were equally interviewed. This was because they are in a better position to have more information on cases of human trafficking. Due to the nature of the population, there is no recorded statistics of this superstitious population because it is a special population.

3.3 Sample Size

The sample size that to be used for this work were twenty people. They will include two victims, three victim's family, nine NGO officers and six NAPTIP officers.

3.4 Sampling Technique

The sampling technique is the way by which a researcher arrives at a sample size. For this research, the snow balling method of non-probabilistic sampling was used, because only few

respondents are known to me and these respondents acted as a guide for me in getting other respondents. Also, the purposive sampling technique was used because of the availability of the participants and there were no time and distance restrictions. Many of the respondents were gotten from NAPTIP and NGOs.

3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

In conducting the qualitative research, face to face in-depth interview was the instrument used for data collection and the in-depth interview guide was used. Open ended questions were equally used for the research.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

Data will be collected from respondents through face to face means. And a survey method was used for data collection from participants.

3.7 Reliability and Validity

To ensure that this research was valid, all forms of personal biases will be avoided during the course of this work. The suitable method of data collection, data analysis, and tools for data collection was used to ensure that this work was valid and reliable. Also ethical principles was adhered to during the field work.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The data and responses from the field work were discussed and analyzed qualitatively using content analysis. Data and findings were thematically analyzed.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The focus of this chapter is on reporting findings of the field work done; data analysis and discussion of findings in line with the research Questions.

4.1 Analysis of Responses in Accordance to the Research Objectives

4.1.1 Objective One : Investigate factors that lead to human trafficking in Ovia North East local government.

"Single parenthood is a contributing factor, baby mama things. A single mother having a child who is a single mother to cover the shame they are trafficked so as to become rich... it plays underground and people don't know it's another thing people are doing now [IDI 1, NGO]

"Ok if you ask me I'll say peer pressure especially the youth, when they see their peers traveling out without finding out to know if they are going through the legal way they just still want to take that route to do what their friends are doing. We talk about another one poverty, the poverty level is high and the youths see this route as a means to escape from poverty they believe that they'll meet greener pastures then the quest to want to make it in life some of them believe they can't make it in Nigeria so they want to travel out by illegal means [IDI 8, NAPTIP]

"People usually tend the causes of human trafficking to poverty, that the government is not helping people and even after they graduate they can't get a job so they prefer to travel and they say they rather die there than to suffer here [HTF16 NAPTIP]

"I'll also add that lack of education despite the fact that poverty is a major factor, but if you are educated someone cannot come and deceive you because I have knowledge of it someone cannot just come and brain wash me [IDI 2, Victim]

"Peer pressure is also noted as an important factor. Young people see that their friends have made it and they want to be like them. Friends encourage each other to engage in it as it would be a way for them to climb the social ladder. Poverty appears to be a basic factor that makes families and individuals vulnerable to trafficking. The poor are faced with narrow choices when it comes to making life better. They end up making decisions which may impoverish them further or continuously trap them in the poverty cycle"(IDI 4, NGO)

"Inequality is also a cause of human trafficking, you'll hear things like women and men are not equal and because the women are left with nothing, this makes them vulnerable to traffickers and is a major contributing factor of trafficking" [IDI 10, NAPTIP]

"The men are seen as the dominant group who oppresses and exploits the women who are minority. In a quest for the women to become better they end up in the hands of the traffickers. They who come up with different ways of making them feel that they will gain economic power if they travel through these means. People keep having the perception that the western world is better than ours [IDI 5, NGO]

"Some victims are women who run away from their husband as a result of constant abuse. This is more common among the older victims of trafficking. However they still go there and suffer worse conditions from their traffickers. In a polygamous home, the quest for one's children to be better than their fellow wife makes mothers force their children to engage in human trafficking. [IDI 9, NAPTIP]

"As a kid in a family raised by one parent, I felt the weight of responsibility on my shoulders to support my family since I was the oldest. And when I couldn't find work, my church member offered me a job opportunity that seemed too good to be true. But I wasn't thinking, all I wanted was to earn a living to take care of my younger ones and my mom. I'm sure my desperation led me to my disaster." (IDI 2, Victim)

"My lack of education and limited job opportunities left me feeling trapped. When a friend mentioned an opportunity to work in Italy, I saw it as my ticket out of poverty. I failed to ask questions. Really not all that glitters are gold(IDI 3, Victim)"

"I was misled and influenced by a trusted a family friend who pledged to assist me in securing employment in the city. I never imagined in my dreams it would lead to trafficking(IDI 4, Victim)".

"My family is poor, my father died at a very young age, and we couldn't afford basic things and needs, my mother was an old widow who really didn't have anything to do to make money. So personally, I think that my sister travelled out to find ways to make things better for us. But I guess things did not work out as we all thought, God knows the best." (IDI 6, FAMILY OF Victim)

"I believe my daughter's vulnerability stemmed from the financial strain our family faced after her father's passing. As a single mother, I struggled to provide for my children, and seeing her take on the burden of responsibility at such a young age pains me deeply."(IDI 7, FAMILY of Victim)

"As her parent, I blame the lack of educational and job opportunities in our community for pushing my daughter into such a dire situation. Poverty robbed her of opportunities, leaving her vulnerable to exploitation."(IDI 11, FAMILY OF Victim)

“I never imagined that our family friend, whom we trusted, would exploit my niece’s vulnerability in such a heinous manner. It’s a betrayal that still haunts us.”(IDI 10, FAMILY OF Victim)

4.1.2 Objective Two: Ascertain how human trafficking has affected the socio-economic conditions of families of victims.

"Human Trafficking has more of negative impact than the positive. Negative in the sense that no parent will be proud to say his or her daughter has been trafficked outside the country. When we talk about trafficking, it is illegal migration no parents will be proud to say my daughter or my son has illegally migrated. It brings stain in the family’s name. If we are talking about positive for me it is positive in the short run because some of them that succeed they send money to the family however the society look at them as people spending money that was illegally acquired and that their children are prostituting and selling their bodies for them" (IDI 11, NGO)

"The family’s social standing is affected. Their social status may drop as people see them as people who their children are selling out their bodies for money. Many families in the research area cannot proudly come out to say their children travelled through the sea. Statistically there’s no positive impact when we look at it in the long run, what is the effect of it, yes of course the person will send money home but it will make the people they are sending money to become lazy because they have the mindset that someone is sending money to us they don’t aspire again, they don’t even want to develop themselves and you see they start aspiring to take that route and for the person that is the victim, they are not psychologically balanced it tells on the person in different ways [IDI 12, NGO)

"This makes the family members become lazy. They wait or depend on remittances. They do not work on themselves and usually would want to take the footsteps of the other family members abroad. Let me tell you the story of my mother's last born we didn't know when somebody trafficked her she has already given birth to two children... I don't know maybe because her husband died... somebody just cajoled her, so all of a sudden we did not see her again ooo. My mom called me because me I was in my husband's house that she did not see Uyi o(not the real name) I asked her for how many days, she said for a week now and she has gone to the police station and has reported and that the police said e don run follow e friend go abroad (she has left with her friend abroad) we said which abroad... the next thing six months passed we looked for her she na called my mom with Mali's number, she was in Mali, she has not even gotten to Europe... I said ehhhh my mom said you people should bundle her go and bring her back, who told her to go there for what, I told her to send the number, I tried calling but the number was no longer connecting. After my mom was crying Uyi what kind of nonsense, because my mom have the belief that its dogs that have sex with them, so my mom just have that mentality. I said don't worry we are going to look for her, the next thing she na still called my mother with another number that she was coming, my mummy na said thank God o... Before we knew it they called my mom that she has died... we didn't believe until they sent her picture till today my mom is still crying about her even myself... that one is a great loss to us... she was the last born the two children now I am the one taking care of them... she died there in Mali we didn't even see the dead body... that one was a great loss to my family, she was so talented, till today we have tried and tried we don't even know who trafficked her (IDI 6, family of Victim).

"Death in the part of the family at the detriment of the victim" (IDI 11,NGO)

Especially death, they loss their loved once [IDI 10, NAPTIP].

"After losing their loved ones, the family is usually left to cater for the children of a member. This puts pressure on their own finances which may continually increase the level of poverty in the family. It continuously traps the family in poverty. Stigmatization is there; the moment a family is being stigmatized against they may not even find any job [IDI 1, NGO].

"Unemployment is another thing they say things like they've heard this person have been trafficked before how are you sure if you employ this person, this person will not be frolicking with everybody. So that automatically spoils the image of that household and nothing is coming in [IDI 5, NGO].

"It's difficult for them to get job you discover that these survivors, when they come back it is difficult to reincorporate them into the family it's difficult [IDI 10, NAPTIP].

"Also you find out that in most family depression sets in this makes the person to not be able to work or gain anything, some of them move from cities to villages due to unemployment It takes the grace of God for them to bounce back on their feet again [IDI, 10 NAPTIP].

"As a result of the mental issues that members of the family or the victim go through, the family is usually no longer productive. This on the long run affects the economic standing of the family and also the social standing of the family. This goes a long way in affecting their social relations in the society. As it may encourage some family members to engage in some social vices in the society as a result of wanting to fend for their needs. Emotional trauma it affects the productivity of family members [IDI 1, NGO]

"This my sister that I was telling you about, my mother said there was one number that kept calling her and telling my mother to come and pay big money [IDI 13, victims family]

"They keep disturbing the family to bring money and the person is not even getting anything or the person is dead" [IDI 1 NGO].

"You'll see some they even threaten to use juju on the family and they are exploiting the family and even the person. Most times the person is already dead but they'll still be collecting money from the family, bring money bring money... those ones will now go and borrow money from LAPO some will even sell all their properties[IDI 16 NAPTIP]

"Many of these families suffer threat from the traffickers who make the family members sell their properties or take loans in fear of what may happen to them. Many of these victims may be dead but the traffickers still collect huge amount of money from their family. This does not just include death on the part of the family. It also leads to decline on the family's economic conditions and thereby increases the poverty rate in the family. (IDI 5, NGO)

4.1.3 Objective Three: Find out the major push factor of human trafficking in Okada and other major towns in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

"The consistent development of the western world continues to make it attractive for people. The underdevelopment of Africa continue to make people see reason to migrate through these routes. This agrees with the push and pull theory that argues that people move from places of deprivation to places of attraction."(IDI 8, NAPTIP)

Some states they will tell you there are no jobs that it's just government establishment and even the government establishment it is difficult to get the job, because when they do the vacancy you don't know you only hear people have been employed... if you look at Edo State most of the things you find is just government offices and the ones you see they hardly

employ people from Edo because of that people tend to feel that they can only get a job outside the country or outside the state and if you even go outside the state they start asking which local government and state are you from then they'll start telling you the quota they give to people from that state or local government. Because of that people chose to move out and most of them through trafficking [IDI 1, NGO].

"Another factor according to the study is unemployment in the State and Nigeria. Edo state is filled with just government establishments. A few who can pull some strings can have access to these jobs. School leavers and university graduates are left on the streets with no work to do these increases the level of poverty and continually make them vulnerable to traffickers. Because equal opportunity is not given to people someone who went to school because they do not know the corridors of power they are not appointed or given jobs you hear the government telling you if you don't get jobs go into agriculture which does not play well [IDI 5, NGO].

"Jobs and opportunities are not provided for people to earn a living. There's also a case of a woman with two kids who suffered abuse from her husband and that was how she was approached by a trafficker and these traffickers are usually nice when they approach you. They trafficked her, somebody that said they were beating her saw worst beating. She said they will tie her legs and one man will be putting his finger inside her Virginia the other one will be having sex with her in the anus" [IDI 1 NGO].

4.1.4 Objective Four: Examine the aftermath effect of human trafficking on the psychological, socioeconomic, and health conditions of these victims?

"The few women who succeed at this stage are usually those who become madams. In addition some of these victims are imprisoned while others are repatriated. Some families sell their lands and houses while some families borrow money just to send their children. At the end these children end up dying in some cases they come back suffering from one mental illness or the other [IDI 10, NAPTIP].

"The money I would have used for myself I now use it to Cater for my sister's children, assuming she did not leave she she would have been taking care of her children now they are on me because I would not want to see the children go wayward [IDI 13, victims family].

"The trafficker will still be collecting money from the family... family that don't have money oo... especially families that are easily afraid then they start borrowing money and then they are on debt before you know BP will hold them then they will die... dead body go dey join dead body [IDI 16 NAPTIP].

"Even when these victims eventually die, there were cases according to the research were the traffickers blackmail the family for money. This leaves the family that is already poor to start taking loans thereby leaving the family indebted. This increases level of poverty in the family. In cases where the threats from the traffickers become unbearable, most people with a weak heart end up dying. Let us assume a case where the bread winner dies as a result of the constant pressures on him. This further traps the family and may move the family from being relatively poor, to being absolutely poor. Someone who everybody calls the bread

winner at home now is gone they'll need to look for somebody else to pilot the affairs of the home. It tends to throw the family off balance [IDI 1 NGO].

They pass through a lot especially in the part of sexual exploitation [IDI 5, NGO].

"The madam collects the money gotten and she pockets it and leaves the victims with nothing. They are made to work while the madam collects the money that they work claiming that they are indebted to her. These men don't even shave their armpit and pubic hair and they come and sex hell out of these women and they give the money to the madam who uses the money to take care of herself and eat big big chicken and good food[IDI 1 NGO].

"Some develop health challenges while they were there because they abuse and torture them[IDI 11, NGO]

"These health challenges are gotten from both physical and psychological abuse. There are cases of sexually transmitted infections and mental health issues. There were also conditions that happened to some of these victims that are considered to be rare. One had issues with her Virginia anytime she's sick water would be gushing out from her Virginia... it was after series of treatment in UBTH that she got a little better[IDI 8 NAPTIP].

"There is a victim who is now psyching... they hit her on her head; the trafficker... hit her, beat her on her head when she refused to have sex with a man that's how she had issues with her brain... even with her situation, men still took advantage of her and got her pregnant in her condition[IDI 9, NAPTIP].

"There's a victim called Beauty (not her real name) they call her beauty ecause she was so pretty... when we rescued her she was already seven months pregnant [IDI 1, NGO].

"My boss had no pity on us, even when we are menstruating, we still have to work she gives us cotton wool to insert in our vagina and tells us to have sex with the men. There was a time it got to I started noticing that I started having bad breath even the customers started telling my boss that I smell like corps at a point my boss sent me out of her house that was how I was eventually recued. It was after I was taken to a hospital in Nigeria that the doctor discovered that it was the cotton wool that was used in blocking the blood that decayed in my stomach and that was what caused the smell and then it was flushed out from my stomach [IDI 3, VICTIM].

"As a counselor I meet lot of victims that when you talk to them they literally cry because they keep remembering what they have had to pass through some get pregnant and are forced to abort through harsh procedures [IDI 7, NGO]

"These victims are faced with different challenges some are not offered protection during sex trade either in form of condoms or birth control. This exposes them to STIs, unwanted pregnancy, unhealthy and forced abortions, gynecological problems that may affects a woman's fertility. They are equally not properly fed by these madams or given proper medications or treatments when they are sick" (IDI 16, NAPTIP)

4.1.5 Objective Five: To investigate the role of governmental institutions in eradicating human trafficking and in rehabilitating the trafficked victims.

According to the study in the area, these organizations provide different programs in order to reintegrate victims into the society. They start with building their mental or psychological

capacity before going out to empower them economically. They are equally continuously monitored by these agencies usually on a weekly or on a monthly base.

"Our organization do things to help them grow we give them start up park that will help them we believe and have passion for making sure illegal migrants are settled into the society [IDI 1, NGO].

"We impart them we build their self-esteem and give them skills that will actually help them develop and be integrated into the society again [IDI 5 NGO].

"My organization has done series of counselling and empowerment for these victims not only them but their families also we help them with little things like money to add to their business. Various supports have been given to these people particularly in rural areas [IDI 11, NGO].

"If the person needs health support we first of all take care of that aspect before asking them what they need... We don't leave them like that we empower them and also monitor them. (IDI 16, NAPTIP)

"We have empowered and trained a lot of people who till now do not want to go back and want to use the skills they've gotten to better their life. Most of them do not want to go because they do not want to be dehumanized anymore [IDI 11, NGO].

"Many of them have been grateful for the empowerment and they are happy and they invest well in their trade, however they are some that still run away and say na there they want, they will sell the equipment or things that were used to empower them and return back again [IDI 14 NGO].

"Most times most of them want to go back... you find out that some of them even after reincorporating them; they still want to go after empowering them while they are some of them who say that what they've gone through they would not want to go through that again and they work to be better[IDI 5, NGO].

"Government has put different empowerment in place for them most of them are usually ashamed because they came back with nothing this may make them want to go back again [IDI 2, victim].

4.2 Discussion of Findings

According to the findings, it shows that poverty is indeed a significant factor contributing to human trafficking. It creates a vulnerable population that traffickers often exploit. People living in poverty may be more susceptible to the false promises of traffickers, who offer them opportunities for a better life, employment, or education. Unfortunately, these promises are often deceptive, leading to situations where individuals are forced into prostitution or hard labour with little or no pay, trapping them in a cycle of exploitation and poverty.

The consistent development of the western world continues to make it attractive for people. The underdevelopment of Africa continue to make people see reason to migrate through these routes. This agrees with the push and pull theory that argues that people move from places of deprivation to places of attraction. Another factor according to the study is unemployment in the State and Nigeria. Edo state is filled with just government establishments. A few who can pull some strings can have access to these jobs. School

leavers and university graduates are left on the streets with no work to do these increases the level of poverty and continually make them vulnerable to traffickers. Because equal opportunity is not given to people someone who went to school because they do not know the corridors of power they are not appointed or given jobs you hear the government telling you if you don't get jobs go into agriculture which does not play well. The study indicates that frustration out of being jobless encourages these young women to engage in this act or make them vulnerable to traffickers.

As Ibrahim and Omoregbe (2020) argued that some factors contributing to human trafficking are, poverty, level of ignorance, and family size. So it can be concluded from this study that various factors contribute to human trafficking. Another major factor is the issue of broken home. It was discovered that mostly girls from broken homes were victims. This is as a result of negligence from parents as they hardly focus on their children. Also corruption especially from government officials has been seen as another major contributing factor. It continues to widen the gap between the rich and the poor and this has increased the rate of inequality. With continuous decline in the Nigerian economy, the family on the other end continues to equally experience decrease in the economic condition. This sustains the practice of sex trafficking by making the family continuously vulnerable to the exploitation of the traffickers. According to Igbinomwanhia, O.G. (2021), he posits that another key factor is the vulnerability of young girls to family pressure which made it very easy for traffickers and parents in many cases to facilitate the trafficking of the girls under a kind of mutual arrangement.

The study revealed that sex trafficking is an act that affects the family in a long run negatively. Only a few people who are trafficked make it. However, even after making it, the money sent to their families in form of remittances are not properly utilized and it encourages laziness and overdependence.

From the field report, a lot of families and victims are exploited by the traffickers. Many respondents agreed that the families do not gain much from this act because out of ten people that left, only about three of them succeeds. This means that the gain is not much and out of these three, the chances of these money coming on a long run is slim as most of these victims may encounter obstacles such as death. However for the women, they get to an age where they are no longer attractive and these men may not want to patronize them.

From this we can analyze that trafficking leads to poverty trap in the family. The money that other family members may use to cater for their own immediate family, is now used to cater for the members of the family of those who might have lost their lives to trafficking. This therefore leaves the family to being trapped in poverty for several generations.

The study discovered that these victims are rehabilitated psychologically and economically into the society. While those that have some health related problems are given proper health care services. However it was discovered that some of them even after rehabilitation still chooses to go back to being trafficked. It begs the question of why?

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

It is expedient to do a review of the five chapters this project work is comprised of. The first chapter of the work is the introductory part which also includes the objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study and the significance of the study. The second chapter reviewed some existing literatures that are relevant to the subject matter and also discussed some theories related to the topic. The third chapter stated the "science of how" which is the methodology, consists of the research design, population of the study, sample size and sampling method, it guided the researcher on how the research was to be conducted. Chapter four of the research is analysis and data presentation, the researcher analyzed the data collected from the respondents thematically using content analysis while the socio demographic characteristics were presented the data in tables, frequencies and percentages.

The study was carried out to investigate Human trafficking in Nigeria: A study of Ovia North East L.G.A in Edo State. It used Ovia North East as the Area of study. The study used a sample of 20 respondents and five objectives.

5.2 Conclusion

The study's findings underscore the critical role poverty plays in facilitating human trafficking in Ovia North East Local Government, Edo State. Poverty creates a vulnerable population that traffickers exploit, perpetuating a cycle of exploitation and poverty.

The underdevelopment of Benin City, Nigeria, and Africa at large, drives migration through illegal routes, aligning with the push-and-pull theory. This highlights the need for sustainable development and economic opportunities to reduce the allure of illegal migration.

Notably, NGOs and NAPTIP are actively engaged in rehabilitating returnees, providing psychological and economic support. However, the study reveals a concerning trend: some returnees, despite rehabilitation, choose to reengage in trafficking. This underscores the complexity of the issue and the need for comprehensive, long-term solutions.

5.3 Recommendations.

Based on the research findings, the study recommends:

Recommendations for Policy Makers to do the following:

1. Address poverty and unemployment: Implement policies to reduce poverty and unemployment, particularly among young people, to reduce their vulnerability to trafficking.
2. Strengthen law enforcement: Enhance law enforcement capabilities to combat trafficking, including training for officials and increased resources for investigations and prosecutions.
3. Provide support services: Establish and fund support services for victims of trafficking, including counseling, healthcare, and economic empowerment programs.
4. Promote education and awareness: Launch public awareness campaigns to educate people about the dangers of trafficking and the importance of reporting suspicious activities.

Recommendations for Community Leaders to the following:

1. Mobilize community action: Organize community-based initiatives to prevent trafficking, such as awareness-raising events and support groups for victims.
2. Provide alternative livelihoods: Offer alternative livelihood opportunities for young people, such as vocational training and entrepreneurship programs.
3. Strengthen family support systems: Provide support for families affected by trafficking, including counseling and economic assistance.

Recommendations for NGOs and Service Providers

1. Provide comprehensive services: Offer comprehensive services for victims of trafficking, including counseling, healthcare, and economic empowerment programs.
2. Collaborate with government agencies: Work with government agencies to ensure a coordinated response to trafficking and to provide support for victims.
3. Conduct research and monitoring: Conduct research and monitoring to better understand the scope and dynamics of trafficking and to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-trafficking initiatives.

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INTERVIEW GUIDE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA.

Dear Respondent,

I am Okafor Praise, an undergraduate student of the department of sociology and Anthropology, University of Benin, Benin City. I am conducting a research on Socio-Economic impact of Human trafficking in Nigeria: A study of Ovia North East L.G.A, Edo state. This research work is purely for academic purpose as it is part of the requirements for the award of Bachelors (BSC) degree in sociology and Anthropology. Every information gotten in the course of this study will be handled with strict confidentiality. Thank you for agreeing to be part of this exercise.

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

- Age: 16-21 () 22-27 () 28-33 () 34-39 () 40-46 () 47 and above ()
- Sex: male () female () widowed ()
- Marital status: single () Married () divorced () separated ()
- Occupation
- Educational qualification., No formal education () primary school () SSCE () graduate () MSc () Ph.D () others ()
- Income level: less than 30, 000 () 30,001–50,000 () 50,001-70,000 () 70,001 - 90,000 () above 90,000.
- Religion: Christianity () Islam () African religion () others ()
- Ethnic group.....

SECTION B: ISSUES THAT BORDERS ON RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The following questions will be used in the course of this field work; these questions are in line with the research question and research objectives.

1. What do you think can make someone become vulnerable to human trafficking in Ovia North East Local Government?

a) How do cultural and societal factors contribute to the economic vulnerability of families at risk of trafficking?

b) Are there any relationship between the economic status of a community, region or country and the prevalence of human trafficking?

c) How does human trafficking intersect with other socioeconomic issues, such as poverty, education and social inequality?

d) Do you think the population of Nigeria is a contributing factor of human trafficking?

e) Is global inequality a contributing factor to human trafficking?

f) In your opinion, has colonial past been a major contributing factor to the decline in the economic conditions of the family which has thereby led to trafficking of its members?

g) Can you tell a little story about your life and how you found yourself in the hand of traffickers (life history)?

2. How does human trafficking affect the economic conditions of families?

a) What are the economic consequences experienced by families affected by human trafficking?

b) How does human trafficking affect the income earning potentials of individuals who have been trafficked?

c) What are the long term financial implications for families who have experienced human trafficking?

d) Are there any differences in the economic impacts of human trafficking based on factors such as gender, age or geographic location?

3. What is the aftermath effect of human trafficking on the psychological, socioeconomic, and health conditions of these victims?

a) What are the challenges faced by survivors of human trafficking when trying to rebuild their psychological and health conditions?

b) What strategies or interventions that can be implemented to mitigate the economic impact of human trafficking on families

c) How does the loss of a family member to human trafficking affect the overall financial stability of the remaining family me?

d) Do you think there is a stigmatization against victims of human trafficking?

4. What are governmental institutions doing to eradicate human trafficking and in rehabilitating the trafficked and are these measures properly monitored?

a) Are there any government or non-governmental initiatives aimed at supporting the economic recovery of families affected by human trafficking

b) How can improved economic conditions or opportunities and support system help

prevent human trafficking or assist in the rehabilitation of survivors?

c) Can you discuss any success stories or best practices in terms of empowering

survivors of human trafficking to achieve financial independence?

5. How have traditions and cultural practices in Edo State increase the trafficking of women?

a) Do you think cultural practices like primogeniture promote human trafficking?

b) Does the size of the family (polygamous family) make women and children vulnerable to traffickers?

c) Apart from the above what other cultural practices do you think promote trafficking?

d) Do you think gender inequality makes women vulnerable to traffickers?