JOURNAL OF PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
JPSDS 3(1), 1-14, September (2024)
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OPEN ACCESS
ORGINAL ARTICLE

Revisiting the Nexus between External Trafficking in Persons and Security Threat to Destination Regions

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Abstract
Trafficking in persons is a global problem that has inconclusively received national, sub-regional, regional and global attention. This study investigated the security threat of external trafficking in persons to destination regions as well as the treaties and conventions' efforts to address the challenge. The study is anchored on the combination of Dependency theory and Systems theory on social work, while adopting qualitative mechanisms of data collection and analysis. The findings of the study, among other things, show that external victims of trafficking in persons constitute serious security threats to destination regions, especially after the 9\11 attacks and the December 25th, 2009 attempted suicide attacks on the United States which was carried out by a Nigerian, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. The study, therefore, recommended strategic action plan by both the source and destination regions of victims of trafficking in persons in addressing the identified human insecurity and unemployment that are prevalent in the source region of the victims. It also recommended the need for authorities of destination regions to make genuine efforts towards addressing the huge development gap between the developed and developing regions within the global system through various technical, financial and economic aids.

Keywords: External Trafficking in Persons, Security Threat, the Western Mediterranean Route, Eastern Mediterranean Route and Destination Regions.

INTRODUCTION

External trafficking in Persons as a global social problem provides avenue or channels for criminals and potential terrorists to immigrate into other Countries and carry out attacks against the recipient countries. Citing the 9\11 terrorist attacks, Koslowski (2004) posits that the nineteen (19) hijackers in the attacks entered the United States on tourist and students visas under false pretenses and used the same modalities of travel document fraud and visa abuse characteristics of illegal migration to the United States to commit the act. Victims of trafficking in persons, indeed, pose very real dilemmas for destination regions with threats to the sovereignty of destination countries (Koser, 2005). According to Witteler-Stiepelmann (2009), the extremist and radical victims of trafficking in persons and other illegal migrants abuse the privilege offered by recipient countries in hosting them, and see destination countries as safe havens and opportunities to recruit and plan military assaults against their host countries. Furthermore, Cessou and Azmanova (2017) note that after the 9\11 attacks on the United States, the country and its allies failed to come together to defend global practices, norms such that citizens were consequently under attacks. Some of these practices and norms include democracy, rule of law and the justice.

The resultant invasions and wars against terror have exposed the United States and her allies inability to militarily contend even weak countries such as Afghanistan, Libya and Syrian (Cessou & Azmanova, 2017). Also, Vaquero (2008) and Lahav, Messina and Vasquez (2007) acknowledge the fact that foreign network border control began to dominate discussions on global scale, thereby perceiving victims of trafficking in persons as potential terrorists. Vaquero (2008) notes that international trafficking in persons is an extremely complex phenomenon. In the same vein, Ismaila (2022) draws attention to the fact that trafficking in persons is among other socio-economic, political and environmental issues associated with regional security threat, adding that the conventional view on regional security which hitherto focused on the military weaponry has been broadened since the end of the cold war to include other threats like trafficking in persons and other transnational crimes. It also against this background that Fauser (2006) associates terrorism and organized crime to trafficking in persons. To this end, the securitization policies of many advanced countries and major recipients of migrants are being expanded to trafficking in persons and irregular migration, which previously was not the case. It is this fact that have sustained interest in the trafficking in persons crime and rendered the debates therein inconclusive.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is anchored on the combination of Dependency Theory and Systems Theory in Social Work. The theory emerged in the 1950s in reaction to Modernisation theory, an earlier theory of development. Based on Marxist School of thought, dependency theorists hold strongly the view that the way the poor states are integrated into the world system impoverishes them while the rich states are enriched the more. The Dependency theorists strongly posit that resources flow from the poor and underdeveloped countries to the rich and developed countries. Hans Singer and Raul Prebisch two of the foremost proponents of dependency theory observed the deterioration of the terms of trade of underdeveloped countries when compared to their developed counterparts, and further posit that, increases in the wealth of the developed nations appeared to be at the expense of their poorer counterparts. The observation and ideology of these scholars became popular and came to be known in the field of economics as the Prebisch-Singer hypothesis/theory.

Walter Rodney (1972), a Guyanese Marxist historian and a strong proponent of Dependency theory, in his classical book: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* gave a detailed account of how the conscious exploitation of Africa by the European imperialists led to the contemporary underdevelopment of the continent. This assertion, no doubt, is traceable to the renowned Brazillian economist, Theotonio dos-Santos, who strongly opined that dependency refers to a situation in which the economy of a certain country is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy to which the former is subjected. It suffices, therefore, to say that global inequalities are as a result of colonialisation and economic dependency of underdeveloped countries on their developed counterparts. Furthermore, the prevailing underdevelopment and extreme poverty status associated with most colonised countries of Africa have been linked to the push factors of irregular migration to developed countries. In the view of Tausch (2010), poverty and backwardness in the periphery and semi-periphery are caused by the very peripheral or quasi-peripherial position that these nations or regions always had in the international division of labour since the beginnings of the world system in 1492. In other words, the asymmetric socio-economic relationships with the Europeans and other developed countries were not only as a result of poverty, backwardness, and underdevelopment of many African countries, but are, to a large extent, responsible for the continuing high poverty rate and peripheral position of the African continent in the world system.

Linking the theory to the major push factors of external trafficking in persons by source regions, reveals that the West Africa, and indeed the entire continent of Africa remain the poorest part of the globe. According to the 2021 World Population Review, while the global poverty graph is being flattened in recent decades, about 696 million people still live in extreme poverty, surviving below the internationally acceptable rate of $1.90 per day. Similarly, underdevelopment in Africa has been attributed to many factors, including poverty, illiteracy, slave trade, colonialisation, repressive political leadership, corruption, armed conflicts, and unending political crises.

Another theoretical perspective of the study is the Systems theory in social work, an aspect of Systems theory, which is an interdisciplinary, multi perspective, and trans-disciplinary academic framework. It helps in the study of systems as well as to predict or determine behavioural changes of individuals. Systems Theory is applied in many disciplines as well as in the works of researchers like Ludwig Von Bertalanffy (Biology), Bela H. Banathy (Linguistic), Talcott Parsons (Sociology), Howard T. Odum, Eugene Odum (Ecology), Fritjof Capra (Organisational theory), Peter Senge (Management), Richard A. Swanson (Human Resources Development), and Deborah Hammond and Alfonso Montuori (Education). Nevertheless, the origin of the theory has been traced to Ludwig Von Bertalanffy. Chirot (2001), Ludwig (2015), Montuori (2011), Newman, B. M. and Newman, P. R. (2011), Schneider (2011), Sheriden (2010), Stichweh (2011), and Wilkinson (2011) are in agreement that the biologist, Ludwig Von Bertalanffy first introduced Systems theory in the 1940s, to enable interaction with other systems or environment outside of the systems as against closed systems that do not encourage such interaction.

Systems theory in social work, therefore, is among the many social work theories. In this respect, attention is focused on how the theory offers a unique way of addressing human behaviour in a multi-layered relationships and environment. The theory is predicated on the fact that an effective system is anchored on the needs, rewards, and expectations of an individual as well as the attributes of the people constituting the system. The idea that human behaviour is influenced by several other factors that work together as a system gave rise to systems theory in social work.

Ludwig (2015) posits that when behaviour analysts began to consider human behaviour in the context of a system, they came up with this brand of Systems Theory which is referred to as Behavioural Systems Analysis (BSA). It follows that the factors that influence human behaviour and actions in a system include family, social settings, environment, friends and economic class. Contextually, the adverse socio-economic and environment conditions prevalent in Africa which constitute part of the global system serve as stimuli to external trafficking in persons. In other words, the high poverty rate, underdevelopment, socio-political problems and adverse effect of climate change bedeviling many African countries, no doubt influence the behaviour, actions and decisions of victims of trafficking in persons to embark on the lethal journey across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea.

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative approach was applied in this study for data collection and analysis. Data were collated from secondary sources and through documentary method of data collection. Content mechanism was applied for data analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Trafficking in Persons and Global Efforts to Combat it

Trafficking in persons is a global menace that has received global attention in several dimensions, particularly in the establishment of conventions, laws, treaties and protocols dealing with human trafficking (Goliath 2008, U.S Department2018, 2019, 2020, ILO, 2020, IOM, 2020, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC, 2018). The primary purpose is the reduction of TIPs which affects the national development of the source regions, arising from the number of persons who died on transit and sundry causes such as depletion of the productive forces and as well constitutes serious security threat to destination countries such as organized crime, terrorism, social unrest, health risks, economic strains, national security, border security, corruption, human right abuses, etc, .Prominent among these international treaties are the United Nations convention of the universal declaration of Human rights established in1948 and the United Nations Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women of 1979. There is also the Bill of Rights for Women, otherwise known as the United Nations convention on the rights of the child of 1989, the international labour organization convention on

forced labour and minimum wage, the United Nations optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child, especially on the sales of a child, child prostitution and child pornography of 2002, the United Nations convention against transnational organized crimes(Palermo protocol) which was adopted on 15th December 2000, and it become effective on 29th September2003. However, this protocol popularly known as the "Palermo protocol or Trafficking protocol was in line with Article 3 of the United Nations convention against transnational, organized crime'' (OSCE, 2010). The Palermo protocol of 2000 already has 189 parties as at July26, 2018 (UNODC, 2018), and Nigeria as a case of study is signatory to the above international legal instruments against trafficking in persons. Additionally, the protocol clarifies that even where the child (any person under the age of 18) may have given consent to exploitation, this should be regarded as irrelevant and that the recruitment and so on of children for the purposes of exploitation is also to be considered as trafficking in persons. Article 34 of the 1989 UN convention on the Rights of the child also concerns the child's right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse, including for prostitution and pornography. Article 35 requires states to make every effort to "prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children for any purpose or in any form".(Aronortz., 2003, Barber&Crainge,2004). Furthermore, Alliance Anti-Trafficking of 2007, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST of 1989), Amnesty International (AI) of1961, and International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA, 1944), etc remain part of the efforts aimed at addressing the problems of trafficking in persons and other related crimes globally (Enaikele & Olubayo, 2011; Arum & Janet 2018; Ezeobi, 2022).

In line with a supreme effort to curb the menace which has dented the global and national image, Arum & Janet (2018) posit that the protocol has three supplementary, such as Protocol to Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The second Protocol is the protocol against Smuggling Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The third is the Protocol against the Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms.

In Nigeria as a point of departure, governments, individuals and non-governmental organizations have made concerted effort to mitigate trafficking in persons, resulting in the establishment of Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF,1999), Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON,1997). Even 1999 constitution provides for the respect and dignity of human persons. It provides in section 34(1) that no person shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or held in slavery or required to perform compulsory labour. Among these organizations, the most and influential, powerful and well-focused was WOTCLEF founded by Mrs. Amina Titi Abubakar, wife of the former vice president of Nigeria, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. WOTCLEF initiated and sponsored the Anti-human trafficking and child labour bill which was passed by the national assembly and subsequently signed into law by the former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo on July 14, 2003 (Njoku, 2015). The legislation provides for the establishment of the National enforcement and administration to be known as National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP). According to Enaikele and Olutayo, (2011), there are several provisions (sections 11 to 29, 32 and 46) of the anti-human trafficking act of NAPTIP prescribing different punishments ranging from one year to life imprisonment for serious offences such as exportation or importation of girls under the age of 18 years for prostitution, forced labour, servitude or removal of organ. The current case of Ike Ekweremadu in UK, a former Deputy President of the Senate is a good example of the means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception.

In line with this unpalatable increased rate of trafficking in persons, *Essien (2013)* regrettably argues that *t*he prevalence of human trafficking in the Nigerian society raises a lot of philosophical questions: for instance, one may ask about human beings and what they are. Are human beings like marketable commodities? Does it not indict human rationality when man exploits another man and treats him as a means to an end, namely, profit? Do ethical questions not arise in the business of human trafficking? Should profit constitute the only motivation for business? Is it not both rational and wise that moral consideration should be followed when deciding to practice

trade? From the above postulation, Odigie and Patience (2008) aver that trafficking in women and children is not only on the increase but also a degrading trade that may be seen as profitable.

Despite all these anti-trafficking mechanism put in place by government and Non-governmental organizations to checkmate the spate of trafficking in persons which constituted a serious threat to Nigeria's national development, the menace keep thriving to the extent that it has become systemic phenomenon. According to Ukegbu (2019), most of the Nigerian victims fall within working age. Furthermore, most of the victims die on transit which affects Nigeria's manpower or human resources development while crossing the Mediterranean, or while trying to evade the border police in charge of controlling passports, for fear of being apprehended and deported back to the port of departure (Fargues, 2017). The thesis of the argument is that the high spate of trafficking in persons is responsible for the problems of National Development in Nigeria. This creates an impression that the country (Nigeria) is incapable of providing for the comfort of her citizens, especially the youths who venture into it. It also debases Nigerian womanhood as many Nigerian girls get recruited into the underground sex industry in Europe (Njoku, 2015; Arum & Janet, 2018). Moreover, trafficking in persons frustrates the efforts towards achieving the country's sustainable development goals (SDGs) objectives that replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015, especially with respect to education as many Nigerian children engage in child labour within and outside the country are without prospect of benefitting from formal education.

The Nexus and implications of External Trafficking in Persons to Destination Regions

External trafficking-in-persons-based menace has a link with organized crime groups in destination countries which can lead to increased violence, corruption and instability in host community. As reported by Osaretin and Ajebon (2021), the diplomatic row between Nigeria and the United States of America over the listing of Nigeria among the 14 terrorist countries generated a lot of ripples. As a result of this development, the U.S imposed Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as a new security measures on passengers travelling from or through nations that were considered as State sponsoring of terrorism or other countries of interest which include Nigeria, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Cuba, etc will be required to go through an enhanced and random security threat-based screening (Vincent and Dada, 2022). It is against this background that Akinterinwa(2018) opined that trafficking in persons is a security issue is a major threat to national and international security, especially in destination countries. Fauser (2006) asserts also that the global security is threatened by the activities of trafficking in persons when he imports that today, our nationally-bound societies are increasingly being confronted with diffuse threats associated with trafficking in persons, terrorism or organized crimes, many of which are related to transnational movement to name but a few. In this context, the traditional concept of security is expanded through the securitization of policy areas previously alien it, including trafficking in persons and drug trafficking. The destination regions or countries, today are being confronted with security threats such as organized crime and terrorism which are allegedly associated with trafficking in persons. This, therefore, has brought about the securitization policies on trafficking in persons.

Victims of trafficking in persons across borders contributed to the increase number of people living with HIV/AIDS in destination regions due to sexual exploitation by traffickers and their agents in source and transit countries. Some of them contract and spread deadly sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, etc to destination regions. However, since sex constitutes an important source of transmitting Human Immune Deficiency Virus syndrome (HIV/AIDS), external trafficking in persons has increased the number of HIV/AIDS patients and other pandemic in destination regions. A study on the impact of the reintegration programme of the ALNMA (Albania Nigeria Morocco) project of TAMPEP (transnational Aids, STI prevention among migrants prostitutes in Europe project) in Nigeria showed that most of the women and girls trafficked to Italy were in fact shocked by the nature of the job they had to perform there (UNICEF,2003). Furthermore, the news in 2018 that Sub-saharan migrants which comprised the victims of trafficking in persons, were sold at slave markets in Libya for about $400 each sparked off international outrage as well exposed the trafficked person's horrendous threat to human

security (Ezeilo, 2019). According to Adeniyi (2019), the travails and deaths of many of the victims of trafficking in persons along the Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea, where only few survive the journey and majority of them either end up as slave or commercial sex workers in Libya, Mali, or Mauritania while many of those who travel further perish in the sea. The argument here is that there is sexual exploitation on transit of victims of TIPs to abroad within the West and North African Countries, which has contributed to the increase of HIV/AIDS as well as sexually transmitted diseases, in destination regions.

Trafficking-in-persons networks have a link with terrorist organizations thereby posing security threats to destination regions. According to Jamile and Vogelstein (2021), terrorist use victims of trafficking in persons to terrorize the hosting community. Fauser (2006) argues that the securitization of migration has been in existence long before now, but the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States by nineteen (19) Islamic fundamentalists which killed a total number of 2,977 people in New York City, Washington, DC and outside of Shanks Ville, Pennsylvania heightened security-trafficking nexus. Another good example of terrorism was failed December 25th 2009 attempted suicide attack that was carried out by a Nigeria, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab on United States. The calls for, or policies for restrictions along national borders mitigate to a large extent, the openness, required by globalization and its attendant free movement of people and trade. A security threat from external trafficking in persons has provoked a response of global securitization.

External trafficking in persons lead to social tensions and unrest, as local or host communities feel threatened by the presence of trafficked persons. Trafficking in persons across borders put a strain on local economic, as victims may require significant resources for healthcare, education, law enforcement, social services, etc. from the host countries. External trafficking in persons compromises national security by allowing criminals to exploit vulnerabilities in border control and immigration system. The relationship between Nigeria and the West, especially USA had been a strong one since 1960. The U.S has actively supported Nigeria in terms of direct financial aids, grants, assistance in security World Bank loans and supply of military equipments and personnel to Nigeria. However, Nigeria's diplomatic relations with the U.S and her allies become strained or row due to trafficking in persons activities, insurgency and failed December 25th, 2009 attempted suicide attack that was carried out by a Nigeria, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab on United States. As a result of increased cases of trafficking in persons and insurgency in Nigeria, Donald Trump administration on January 27, 2020, included Nigeria in the list of thirteen (13) countries that would no longer be allowed to migrate to the U.S. permanently but only on temporary visas, such as tourists, students and foreign workers (Narea, 2020). According to Stephanie Grisham, the former United States' white House Press Secretary cited in Narea (2020) on the speech delivered immediately after the visa ban, argued that it is fundamental to national security and height of common sense, that if a foreign nation wishes to receive the benefits of immigration and travel to the United States, it must satisfy the basic security conditions outlined by America's law enforcement and intelligence professionals. The implication of this measure on Nigeria can be analyzed in two ways, that Western /developed Countries would be extra-cautious in dealing with Nigerians on their arrival abroad as they would not want their image or reputation to be battered by countries under a tier 2 and 3-watch list of countries involved in trafficking in persons and terrorism sponsoring state. The prevalent of trafficking in persons cum insecurity in destination regions must have attracted the attention of the U.S. and her allies which resulted to the decisions on the immigration ban list of countries with weak intelligence and security on has to tackle external trafficking in persons and other transnational border crime which constituted security threats to destination countries.

Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria

Despite the efforts of Nigerian leaders to prevent trafficking in the country, especially after political Independent and abolition of slave trade, certain reasons remain the main causes of trafficking in persons. For instance, pull factors are those favourable and attractive living conditions, such as good governance, democracy and rule of law, respect for human rights, improved infrastructure, enormous jobs and opportunities as well as good standard

of living available in the recipient regions and advanced countries of Europe and North America which lure people to those regions. Poverty is the greatest cankerworm that erodes the social fabrics of our society today. Poverty is a major cause of trafficking in persons in Nigeria because when there is abject poverty in the land and in a bid to survive, the people are ready to do anything, both as an agent and as victims of traffickers. In this regard, Frank et al (2002) imports that living in abject poverty in some of the African countries is the main reason women accept any kind of job in the West and this is closely connected to trafficking in persons. In the same vein, Steve (2001) maintained that the bitter reality of the Nigerian situation is not just that the poverty level gets worse by the day, but that among every ten Nigerians, more than four lives in conditions of extreme poverty, earning less than $320 per capita income per month which barely provides for a quarter of the nutritional requirements for healthy living.

From the above submission, Audu (2014) posited that Nigeria has earned about $400 billion from oil, between 1970-2000 and under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (2010-2015) Nigeria earned #51 trillion from crude oil and yet, the number of Nigerians living in poverty – less than a dollar a day has risen to 70% from 36% and per capita income Gross Domestic Product has fallen to $1,084 from $1,113 in purchasing power parity terms. In 2002, the Heritage Foundation of Washington DC ranked Nigeria 125 out of 155 poorest countries. After 20 years of this unpalatable report on poverty rate in Nigeria, the World Bank Group on December 26th, 2022 imports that Nigeria and the rest of sub-saharan Africa missed 2022 poverty reduction target due to pandemic and insufficient funds to satisfy the medium to long term goals of poverty. In its new study titled Africa's pulse: An analysis of issues shaping Africa's economic future, the Washington-based bank reported that poverty reduction trends which had already been disrupted by the pandemic. The pandemic has had a persistent influence on long-term growth, mainly impacting the poorest individuals and increasing extreme poverty. However, the above reports from World Bank indicates that Nigeria falls within countries with extreme poverty with over 75 percent of the population living below 1.25 dollars (N200) or less per day. In the same vein, Witterler Shepelmann(2009) imports that 41% of Africans still live on less than one dollar per day and 487 million labourers don't earn enough to feed their families, yet another 1.3 million earn less two dollars a day, they need to work under humiliating conditions with no labour rights and social standards to protect them. As a result of this ugly trend, 55% of Nigeria's street children and hawkers are trafficked persons (Osibanjo, 2015) cited in Shedrack (2016:24). These are children who are from poor backgrounds and, so due to lack of opportunities at home and with or without their consent are trafficked.

Another reason for high migration and refuge numbers in Africa are wars.40% of all wars of the last decade was fought in African Multiple inter and intra-state conflicts witnessed forced displacement, so-called ethnic cleansing and severe violation of human rights (Witterler-Shepelmann, 2009. Trafficking in persons thrive in war zone due to massive displacement of people and refuge in neighbouring countries. According to Kashim Shettima, the former Governor of Borno State from 2011-2019 and current vice president of Nigeria avers that Boko Haram insurgency displaced about two million, one hundred and fourteen thousand persons in Nigeria as at December 2016 and that in Borno State alone, they have an official record of 52,311 children who become orphans and victims of human trafficking in persons through the activities of Boko Haram insurgency. (Tukur, 2017) cited in Arum and Janet (2018). More so, some people in a war zone like Ukraine might take refuge in another country and only to end up being trafficked in their countries of refuge.

Greed is the excessive desire to acquire money, material things, power and other possessions for the sake of acquiring them, and more to the detriment of others. According to Ukegbu (2019:92), most people who fall victims to this social problem are those who have strong desire to amass wealth at all cost. In this regard, the report of former Director General of NAPTIP, Mrs. Julie Okah-Donli cited in Ezeamala (2015) posits that greed rather than poverty and unemployment are the real cause of trafficking in persons. Julie further imports that some victims sell their father's houses and pay money to well-known traffickers who usually promise them lucrative jobs abroad. However, if not for greed, they could easily invest such money in some business ventures in Nigeria

which could have yielded some good money. Trafficking in persons continue to thrive in Nigeria due to human greed for money and wealth. Corruption is the moral breakdown of the societal values and norms. However, a wrong thing is done in place of the right thing because of personal interest or gain. Nigeria as a major sources, transit and destination country for women, girls and children to forced labour and sex trafficking in Africa and other part of the world cannot be over emphasized because all the parties involved such as the trafficker, the trafficked and all the channels of the business are corrupt. A country where the entire system is corrupt will find most of her citizens being involved in trafficking in persons. In this regard, corrupt practices among the immigration and police officers at the borders encouraged trafficking in persons because these officers collect bribes and allow the traffickers and victims to go. Moreso, Jonson (2019) examines how corruption among the police affects the incentives for others to engage in human trafficking. Jonson's study showed that countries with more police corruption also experience higher rates of trafficking outflows. It is truism because police corruption lowers the costs for traffickers to engage in recruitment and transportation in the source regions. Police corruption hamper legal and administrative rules in Nigeria, even when rule of law exists to punish the traffickers or offenders, there is lack of political will to implement such laws because of corruption among the judges in law courts, especially under president Buhari administration.

Political, economic and social instability is another cause of trafficking in persons because when a country is politically, economically and socially unstable like ours, it is a pure sign of poverty, unemployment, low standard of living, underdevelopment, etc. all these enumerated problems breed trafficking in persons. According to Muhammed and Nilufar (2022) on the impacts of political and economic instability in Ukraine and other neighbouring countries, imports that the effects is the global issue because of the region's significant contribution to food and energy supplies. It is truism because Russia and Ukraine are prominent players in global trade of food and agricultural products according to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2022). The above background contributes to trafficking in persons because people will be moving out of the country for greener pasture and they will definitely need assistance which the traffickers will readily offer in disguise.

Sixty percent of those forced into sex industry in Europe are women from West Africa and a good number of them are Nigerians (UNODC, 2018). However, Arum and Janet (2018) avers that the debasement of women in West Africa including Nigeria makes women to be vulnerable to the traffickers. It is truism because in African setting, women are perceived to be inferior to men thereby encouraging gender discrimination. From the foregoing, Anaikele and Olutayo (2011) argues that trafficking in persons is majorly a gender biased phenomenon since most of their victims are women and girls. According to Ukegbu (2019: 93), the discrimination against women and blacks in some countries is the push factor of trafficking in persons. Similarly, Patterson and Zhou (2018:248) posited that women move within their countries to engage in exploitative work in domestic services and sweatshop operations, and they make up the majority of the millions of international migrants across the globe, a significant number of who end up in forced labour situations. However, when there is such discrimination, the women and the black people involved are seen as not important or worse still, less human and could be easily trafficked.

Youth unemployment is another push and pull factor of trafficking in persons because many of the unemployed youth and adults as well are desperately looking for jobs and greener pasture in foreign countries due to economic hardship in their home country. As they go for those non-existing jobs outside the country, they easily fall victims of human trafficking. However, the inability of the government to provide enabling environment for manufacturing increases in our dependent on finished products imported from other countries and as well increased the number unemployed youths who become prey to traffickers. For example, in 2015 recession in Nigeria, 8 out of 100 persons were unemployed, subsequently, in 2018 the population of unemployed and underemployed persons rose to 20.9 million (Innocent, 2019). Lack of job opportunity, which is unemployment, is the reasons why people rush out of their countries for greener pastures.

The failure of the federal government both present and past administrations to meet the yearnings and aspiration of the citizens is another factor that is responsible for trafficking in persons in Nigeria. Leadership failure is responsible for problems of political development in Nigeria. According to Audu (2014) cited in (Steve, 2001), African droughts and famines are neither sudden natural disasters nor are they simply caused by a lack of rainfall. They are the end results of a long deterioration in the ability of Africans to feed themselves, a decline caused largely by mistakes and mismanagement both inside and outside the continent. It is also said that if other countries are afflicted with natural disasters, Nigeria's own disaster is leadership failure. This metaphor may be exaggerated, but it is certainly not too far from the truth. Bad government creates rooms for elected leaders to embezzle the public funds contributes to problems of trafficking in persons in African continent especially in Nigeria.

Traffickers usually approach illiterate parents who do not know the implications of releasing their wards to be taken away as long as money will enter their pockets. According to Nwagbo (2010), there are examples of women who have been promised a job abroad in a supermarket and they end up as prostitutes because they did not know that they cannot work in a supermarket if they cannot speak the local language. However, the majority of trafficked person are unaware of the forms of labour to which they will be subjected to. Most people trafficked to Europe for prostitution did not foresee entry into the sex industry. Ignorance is lack of knowledge or information about the activities of human trafficking or what is all about. There is also an ignorance of the health dangers lying at the core of trafficking in persons as it increased the number of HIV/AIDS in the country. In similar vein, weak law enforcement and porous nature of our borders contributes to trafficking in persons in Nigeria. The law enforcement agents manned our borders compromised by accepting bribe from traffickers. However, trafficking in persons is a crime against all known laws. It contravenes both natural and sacred laws. Moreso, in order to suppress these practices and bring perpetrators to justice, the response at national, regional and international levels have put in place a number of laws, treaties, conventions and protocols dealing with human trafficking, yet the ugly phenomenon still persisted.

Consequences of Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria

Trafficking in persons has severe and wide range of consequences in Nigeria. The increase number of Nigerians who died on transit to destination regions have affected country's image globally and national development as well. In line with this, the former Speaker of House of Representative, Yakubu Dogara cited in (Adeniyi, 2019), avers that we cannot continue to open our eyes seeming our youths the hope of our country, losing their live while embarking on a dangerous journey with little or no hope of reaching their destinations. The risky and illegal nature of the business of trafficking in persons exposes both the traffickers and the victims to death. The victims often die of communicable and sexually transmitted diseases. Some die after a long period of inhuman treatment, some of them of trauma, some also die in detention in their trafficked country where they are seen as illegal migrants.

Most times, trafficked persons are exposed to all sorts of illness and diseases on transit to Europe as some of them contract and spread deadly sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, Ebola virus, monkey pox, etc. Trafficking in persons has contributed to the increase of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in source and destination regions. According to Chairman of NAPTIP, Kano State Zone, Bello Ahmed cited in Yunus and Rabiu (2016) avers that over 60% of victims of human trafficking repatriated into the country tested HIV positive. In corroboration, the Kwara State Ministry of Health Coordinator for HIV/AIDs, Mr. Salimot Lawal cited in Arum and Janet (2018) estimates that there are 1,800,000 AIDs orphans living in Nigeria. These children however become vulnerable to traffickers since they do not have somebody that could send them to school. The deported victims spread HIV/AIDs which tarnishes the image of the country.

Trafficking in persons is a complex development issue. It is an economic problem as the vast majority of women seeking to escape poverty are lured into trafficking by the false promise of economic gains. Trafficking is a health problem as trafficked women and children are at risk of HIV infection. It is also a gender problem, as unequal power relations reinforce women's secondary status in the society. Lastly, it is a legal problem, as its victims are stripped of their human rights and lack any access to redress the crimes committed against them. It suffices to say that, victims of trafficking in persons are at risk of HIV/AIDS and other deadly sexually transmitted diseases to destination and source regions. Most victims of human trafficking fall within working force/working age force, and so the country of origin of the trafficked suffers a huge loss of manpower or human resources. Trafficking in persons affects national development because the country of origin of the victims suffers a huge loss of manpower or human resources that are supposed to contribute to the national development of their country. According to Ukegbu (2019) on the loss of manpower, most victims of human trafficking fall within working age. In collaboration, Fargues (2017) avers that between 2000 and 2017, 33,762 migrants which comprise the victims of trafficking in persons (TIPs) are missing or dead in Europe's Mediterranean border. Majority of the victims are from Africa Nigeria inclusive. Furthermore, the international organization for migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) on July 4, 2019 reported and condemned in a strong term the air strike that was launched on the detention camp wherein, not less than six hundred (600) migrants and refugees, including women and children were kept. According to the report, Nigerians were among the forty (40) victims of TIPs who were killed while another thirty-five (35) sustained injuries. Mbugua (2006) argues that often times, many of the trafficked persons do not make it to their destinations "as they often drown in the sea, die of dehydration or are intercepted by police. Williams (2014) and Attir (2012) aver that victims of TIPs risk sever or death in the course of the journey to Europe. In collaboration, Okorie(2007) posits that the great number of these unfortunate Nigerians die on transit as they are stolen, packaged and sent to sex industry in Europe.

Organ harvesting have refers to the sale or forceful removal of vital organs like heart, kidney etc from the body of trafficked persons in order to make money. According to Jamille and Rachel (2021), the cost of kidney is (80,000) eighty thousand dollars while heart or lung is (290,000) two hundred and ninety thousand dollars. For example, armed and extremist groups such as Boko Haram employ this method of trafficking in persons to generate money to acquire arms and ammunitions and as well use the kidney, heart, lung, etc to treat their injured fighters. Another good example of organ trafficking is the recent case of Senator Ike Kweremadu, the former Deputy President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who was involved in organ trafficking in order to treat her daughter who required kidney transplant in the U.K. In other cases, the victim's organs are removed without his or her knowledge (usually when the victim is treated for another medical problem/illness). Migrant workers, homeless persons and illiterate persons are particularly vulnerable to this form of exploitation. This places the trafficked in a big risk, health wise. Such victims are prone to health hazards of various types. Sadly, most trafficked persons end up mentally ill, due to physical, emotional and psychological trauma they passed through on transit to Europe, arising from debasing and dehumanizing treatments meted to them.

CONCLUSION

Organized crime, HIV/AIDS pandemic, terrorism, economic strains, social unrest, national security and battered diplomatic relations remain the effects of external trafficking in persons in destination regions. These problems adversely affect the image of source regions including Nigeria which is the major source in bad light. To this end, it is imperative that the source countries give a humane face to their poverty alleviation programmes especially for women rural dwellers by creating opportunities for income generating, needs attainment, and improvement in wellbeing. They should also address the issues of insecurity that lead to internal displacement of persons. This is predicated on the fact that he 2019 UNSD (United Nations Statistics Division) report reveals that 6 percent of the world's population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.

Also, the destination regions government should implement the memorandum of understanding signed between the source and transit countries. This will go a long way to minimize the number of deaths across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea and as well reduce external trafficking. This is apart from the fact that the source regions should set up policies to create jobs for young graduates and school dropouts in Nigeria. The skills acquisition programmes of the government must be designed to meet the needs of the Nigerian people. Create resource centers for the skills acquisition of rescued trafficked persons. It is there that this study shall not end up in the archives. It should be critically read and applied by all and sundry so that traffickers' activities and its negative impacts on state image would be reduced to the barest possible minimum. Other measures include the need to create anti-trafficking watchdog committees in rural areas across source countries. Such efforts should require the co-operation of community based organizations and law enforcement agents such as the police and immigration department. Equally, source regions should co-operate with UN agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF to implement the Universal Basic Education programme, which mandates free and compulsory education for every child up to junior secondary school level.

There is an urgent need for the authorities in the source regions of migrants as well as the international financial institutions and foreign development partners to address the continuing growth of poverty rates in the African region. African leaders should address unending political crises and civil wars which result in social upheaval and displacement of people, leading to refugee crisis and trafficking in persons. This could be achieved by strengthening of democratic governance, respect for human rights and rule of law by instituting free, fair, and credible electoral processes, with a view to eliminating authoritarian leadership, repressive regimes, and agitations among the citizens, which often lead to political crisis and civil wars with attendant forcibly human mobility or external trafficking. The authorities and development partners in Africa should promote and invest in education and human capital development as well as create employment opportunities and enabling environment for businesses to thrive among the citizens, especially the youths. The sure way to achieve the above recommendation is by formulating and legislating policies on compulsory education as well as ensuring the establishment of schools, colleges, universities, and skill-acquisition centers to enable the citizens, especially the youths to acquire adequate education, training, and skills that would enable them find hope at home. This is necessary, considering the fact that the illiterate and unskilled youths constitute the greatest numbers of external trafficking across the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea, in their guest to enter Europe for a better standard of living.

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