

## Child trafficking in Nigeria: Causes, consequences and the way forward

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### Abstract

The paper focuses on the scourge of child trafficking in Nigeria as a risen factor despite numerous efforts put in place by the Nigerian government to fight against the menace. Apart from the fact that Nigeria is a signatory to many international and regional instruments set out to fight against child trafficking, there exist also some domestic laws enacted by the government to fight the practices. This notwithstanding, the effects and consequences of child trafficking in Nigeria is still having its toll on children, who are indeed the future leaders in their family and the society at large. The aim of the paper is to discuss the child trafficking, causes, consequences and a solution to the issues. It also forms the aims of the paper in discussing the combination of the causes such as Poverty, ignorance, greed, peer pressure and manipulation of religion among others have been identified as the major causes of child trafficking in Nigeria, but very little attention has been given to these important factors. The methodology of the paper adopted is doctrinal and non-doctrinal, wherein relevant literature have been analysed. The findings of the paper reveal that the causes are quite enormous and rich that have underscore the natural obligation in the social and moral context of humanity within the national law and the entire global Covenants and further recommends that the government should view this causes and its resulting effect as a catalyst to the development of a nation and its laws of humanity.

**Keywords:** child, child trafficking, factors: pulls-push, forward.

### Introduction

The paper focuses on the child trafficking, causes and consequences resulting from the practices and seeking for the progressive resolutions in addressing the menace in the country. The present legal responses to the problem of child trafficking often reflect a deep reluctance to address the socio-economic root causes of the problem. Since child trafficking is perceived as an act of violence, most responses focus predominantly on prosecuting traffickers and protecting trafficked children.<sup>1</sup> However, child trafficking is a multi-dimensional social problem caused by socio-economic challenges as well as demand for the exploitative use of children. There is a reason behind the emphasis on poverty as one of the fundamental causes of child trafficking, simply because most victims are trafficked from poor countries to rich countries. It is important to mention that for child trafficking to continue, there should exist some socio-legal environment which encourages the menace.<sup>2</sup> It is for this reason that all aspects contributing to the vulnerability of children to trafficking recruitment must be looked at. To this end, the factors that facilitate child trafficking are extremely complex and inter-connected but can be divided into two, namely: the push and the pull factors.<sup>3</sup> The paper will therefore make an

attempt to examine these factors right from the bud and come up with more practical suggestions that will go a long way in fighting the scourge of child trafficking in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the list provided above cannot be said to be exhaustive, other causes include traditions such as the placement of children away from their homes, violence and lack of education are of equal impact.<sup>4</sup> The impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic produces its own legacy of widows or orphan-headed households.<sup>5</sup> While, the demand for cheap manual labour and the high demand for paid sex in destination countries, the lack of information on the risks involved (ignorance), together with parents offering or selling their children for financial advantage, nourish the pull factors or purposes of trafficking in children.

### Definition of a Child

The word "Child" has been defined specifically in both the local and international instruments dealing with the rights and welfare of the child. In Nigeria, there are different types of definition given to a child depending on which law and for what purpose. A child is statutorily defined as a person under the age of 14 years, while a young person is a child under the

<sup>1</sup> Chuang Byond, "A Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy", *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, (2006), vol. 13 No. 1, at 137.

<sup>2</sup> Nima, Mollema "Combating Human Trafficking in South Africa: A Comparative Legal Study", (2013), Ph.D thesis submitted to University of South Africa, at 85.

<sup>3</sup> UNODC document, available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/July/unodc-marks-first->

<http://www.citizen.co.za>, accessed on 10/12/2014.

<sup>4</sup> Human traffickers thrive in Mozambique' available at <http://www.citizen.co.za>, accessed on 10/12/2014.

<sup>5</sup> Kamidi, Rino, 'Legal Response to Child Trafficking in Africa' (Unpublished) LL.M. Dissertation, Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa, (2007), at 22.

age of 17 years but who has attained the age of 14.<sup>6</sup> This age ceiling in Nigerian law is lower than the age standard in the relevant international instruments. A child under International Instrument is every human being below the age of 18 years.<sup>7</sup>

The problem with age-based definitions is that they are always arbitrary and indeed risk the possibility of being rendered obsolete by modern perceptions, and findings on children in a very recent study has shown where traffickers lie about the age of trafficked victims to beat security agencies.<sup>8</sup> Other definitions include:

- (a) A child under seven (7) years is not criminally responsible for an act or omission; however, there is a rebuttable presumption that under twelve (12) years cannot commit a crime.<sup>9</sup>
- (b) Juvenile Justice: The Children and Young person's Law differentiates between the child and young person. It is below 14 years for the former, while the latter is not to exceed 17 years.<sup>10</sup>
- (c) Voting Rights: The age is fixed at 18 years.<sup>11</sup>
- (d) Marriageable age: This depends on the type of marriage being contracted e.g. under the Matrimonial Cause Act 1970;<sup>12</sup> As at common law is 16 years; under the Customary and Islamic law, it varies from place to place.<sup>13</sup>
- (e) Right to acquire land: the minimum age is 18 years.<sup>14</sup>
- (f) Contractual age: The Infant Reliefs Act 1874<sup>15</sup> and Infant Reliefs law defines infant as any person below the age of 21 years.
- (g) Right to be member of Limited Liability Company: If the members are not more than two it is fixed at 18 years.<sup>16</sup>

Be that as it may, the Child Right Act defines a child as a person under the age of eighteen (18) years. And age of majority means the age at which a person attains the age of eighteen.<sup>17</sup> For all intents and purposes therefore, a child as envisaged in this article is simply refers to a person who is below the age of 18 years.

### Child Trafficking

Trafficking encompasses the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or

use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power 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.<sup>18</sup> At a minimum, exploitation implies 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.<sup>19</sup> This means that for an act to constitute trafficking, the following three elements must cohabit.<sup>20</sup> Viz;

1. The Act (What is done) Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons
2. The Means (How it is done) Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim
3. The Purpose (Why it is done) For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

### Push Factors

These are factors that make children to migrate elsewhere in search of better opportunities. It usually drives people to leave a region in search for better life somewhere else.<sup>21</sup> The destination of that migration is usually into bigger cities.<sup>44</sup> The rural areas of Nigeria, where the bulk of the population resides, are not industrialized. There are few job opportunities or institutions of higher learning. Consequently, even when the children do receive some education up to secondary school, there are no jobs at the end of their schooling nor additional institutions for them to attend. The economic situation is such that most parents are unable to care and properly feed their families. Parents subject their children to various forms of labour, including trafficking for economic gains. The factors include but not limited to bad economic condition such as poverty; unemployment; broken homes; peer pressure; lack of infrastructure; weak legal frame work; insecurity; restrictive immigration policies and law enforcement mechanisms are also contributors.<sup>22</sup>

### Pull Factors

Under this heading, unlike the push factor where children are pushed out of their homes to another destination in search of better condition of life as a result of poverty, unemployment, peer pressure among others, pull factor involves a situation where children are on their own attracted to leave their homes to a destination with less-extreme poverty. This may be due to the need for low skilled labour, high profit, law risk etc. In that context, the rapid expansion of broadcast and telecommunication media, including the Internet, across the developing world may have increased the desire to migrate to

<sup>6</sup> See Ladan, M.T., "Rights of the Child in Nigeria: An Overview", being a paper presented at a two day workshop on Human Rights, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> August 1997. See also Section 2 of the Children and Young Persons Act, Cap. 32 Laws of Nigeria and Lagos, 1958.

<sup>7</sup> Article 2, Organization of African Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, also According to Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<sup>8</sup> Ladan, op. cit. p. 5.

<sup>9</sup> Section 30 of the Criminal Code Act Cap.38 Laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004; however, it is 10 years under section 50 of the Penal Code Cap 38 and 41 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

<sup>10</sup> Section 2, Children and Young Person Law Cap 25 Lagos; Cap 22 Oyo; Cap 21 Ogun; Cap 21 Northern Region of Nigeria.

<sup>11</sup> See Section 12(1) (b) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Electoral Act 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Section 3 (i)-(e) only states age of majority which is 21 years.

<sup>13</sup> Some custom specify 12 or 13 years.

<sup>14</sup> See Section 7 of the Land Use Act Cap. 202, Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990.

<sup>15</sup> A Statute of general application but, Ondo, Ogun Oyo and defunct Bendel state has passed their own Infant Laws.

<sup>16</sup> See Section 20 of the Company and Allied Matters Act, Cap 59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria

1990.

<sup>17</sup> Section 277 of the Nigeria Child right Act, 2003.

<sup>18</sup> Marsh, K., et tal, 'An evidence assessment of the routes of human trafficking into the UK', March 2012, Occasional Paper 103; retrieved October 29 2015, available at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/115923/occ103.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115923/occ103.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations office on Drugs and Crime available on <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html> accessed on 13/10/2015.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

developed countries and, with it, the vulnerability of would-be migrants to traffickers. The push factors are those conditions conducive for trafficking of children which fall in the broader context.<sup>23</sup>

### **Causes of Child Trafficking In Nigeria**

The factors that facilitate child trafficking in Nigeria are extremely complex and inter-connected but can be divided into two, namely: the push and the pull factors.<sup>24</sup> The push factors are those conditions conducive for trafficking of children which fall in the broader context. It usually drives people to leave a region in search for better life somewhere else.<sup>25</sup> The factors include but not limited to bad economic condition such as poverty; unemployment; broken homes; family size; greed; peer pressure; mental disorder or imbalance; weak legal frame work; insecurity; restrictive immigration policies and law enforcement mechanisms are also contributors.<sup>26</sup>

### **Poverty**

Poverty is a major factor responsible for child trafficking in Nigeria. It cannot be denied that abject poverty, unpleasant economic environment, unemployment, massive retrenchments, under employment and poor quality of life has made parents who would otherwise, have been most caring and loving, to neglect and even some times, abuse their children. Some families are living from hand to mouth as a result of insufficient income to cater for their families. They are out of job or business either as a result of retirement or insufficiency of the income to settle the children school fees, rents and feeding. That is a perfect situation of parents and children to fall victim of bogus promises of a good time abroad with the prospect of earning foreign exchange that will convert into tons of naira (Nigerian currency) back home in Nigeria.<sup>27</sup> Although Nigeria has enormous natural and human resources as well as the largest oil producer in Africa and the eleventh largest in the world,<sup>28</sup> it is rated as one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP per capita of about US \$1,000 for a population of about 150 Million.<sup>29</sup> With about two-third of its population living in rural areas without basic social amenities such as electricity, road, hospital, schools, good drinking water etc and earning less than \$1 per day<sup>30</sup>. There is massive youth unemployment and a general lack of opportunities for economic ventures, low standards of living and devalued local

currencies; these results in the failure to meet the health, food, housing and security needs of the people.

It has been observed that population living in political and economic instability often seek to migrate elsewhere in search of better opportunities. The destination of that migration is usually into bigger cities.<sup>31</sup> The rural areas of Nigeria, where the bulk of the population resides, are not industrialized and characterized with lack of electricity, access road, hospitals and insecurity caused by Boko haram Islamic sect among others. There are few job opportunities or institutions of higher learning. Consequently, even when the children do receive some education up to secondary school, there are no jobs at the end of their schooling nor additional institutions for them to attend. The economic situation is such that most parents are unable to care and properly feed their families. Parents subject their children to various forms of labour, including trafficking for economic gains.<sup>32</sup> It is also submitted that, poverty has a hand in child prostitution and sexual abuse.

In Nigeria<sup>33</sup> it can't be denied that some female children that are engaged in child labour such as hawking, domestic servant are sexually abused. The women unit of the Federal Ministry of Education portrayed the situation, thus, a report in the magazine 'Ladies Home Journal' estimates that sexual abuse of young girls is four times commoner than rape of adult women. The abuser is likely to persuade and pressurize the child, using all built-in authority of an older person. Children who hawk wares for their parents fall easy victims. They are coerced or bought with gifts. They are thereby prevented from telling their parents or even close friends about the incident. When parents are financially incapacitated to provide the basic necessities of life such as a comfortable house, food, clothes and sound education for their children, the children are sent into the labour market.<sup>34</sup>

### **Illiteracy**

Illiteracy generally tend to increase individual vulnerability to child trafficking as it makes one not to benefit from any practical step taken to address the menace. Nearly a billion people entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century unable to read and write.<sup>35</sup> In Nigeria, there are about eight (8,000,000) Million children who are vulnerable to trafficking and have no access to education.<sup>36</sup> If one is educated he is enlighten and this will make him to understand the nature of any event or occurrence. In most countries including Nigeria where child trafficking is rife, illiteracy is a common cause of child trafficking. Statistics have

<sup>23</sup> Victoria, Nwogu "Anti Trafficking intervention in Nigeria and the principal agent aid model. Available at <http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/64>, accessed on 19/12/2015.

<sup>24</sup> UNODC, available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/July/unodc-marks-first-human-trafficking-day-with-call-for-countries-to-step-up-fight-against-this-crime.html?ref=fs1>, accessed on 10/12/2014.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Monica, Imam "Human trafficking and HIV/AIDS" A paper presented at a 5 days sensitization/ awareness campaign in Five local government areas of Taraba state on 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April (2006), at 2.

<sup>28</sup> Available at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/rankorder/2173rank.html>, accessed on 29/11/2014.

<sup>29</sup> Available at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ni.html> accessed on 11/11/2014.

<sup>30</sup> S. Abdulrahman and Oladipo A. R., "Trafficking in Nigeria: A hidden health and social problem in Nigeria" (2010) International Journal of sociology and Anthropology Vol. 2 No. 3 at 35.

<sup>31</sup> This poverty factor also explains in part human trafficking and exploitative migration from less endowed countries such as Togo, Benin to Nigeria. The same economic factors have driven Chadians, Malians and people from Niger to Nigeria and Nigerians to Europe, Middle East and other neighbouring African countries.

<sup>32</sup> "Human Trafficking in Nigeria: Root causes and recommendation" United Nation Policy Paper, (2006) No. 14.2 (E) p. 34.

<sup>33</sup> Abdulrahim Oputu Shaibu (Director legal and prosecution National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking In Person, National Headquarters, Abuja- Nigeria) Interview by Author Abuja: Abuja Nigeria, Date 7th August, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> Hon. Justice H.N. Donli, Socio-Legal Consequences of Child Abuse in Women and Children under Nigerian Law, at 135-136.

<sup>35</sup> Unicef the state of the world children 1999. Available at [www.unicef.org/sowc99/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/sowc99/index.html), accessed on 4/1/2015.

<sup>36</sup> Kongnyug, E., Kongnyug, A. and E. Richler "child labour in Cameroun" (2007) the internet journal of world health and societal politics Vol.5 No. 1 at 1.

also shown that fewer school age children are enrolled into school, and most of them will drop out of school before the completion of the primary grade.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, due to high level of illiteracy among the rural dwellers in Nigeria, family planning is not adopted hence people reproduce children recklessly without planning for their education and general welfare, the end result being having more children than they can support hence the willingness to give out their children to agents of trafficking.<sup>38</sup> This practice is mostly found in Northern part of Nigeria where many parents can neither read nor write while their children are attending fourth rate schools, where they learn next to nothing. As a result, both group are easily deceived by fairy tales of milk and honey flowing bountifully in Europe and Saudi Arabia where people simply pick hard currency off the street.<sup>39</sup>

### Unemployment

Lack of employment is one of the greatest factors which force many people in Nigeria to pursue insecure and unreliable employment in other places. Somebody who has no economic resources can easily be lured by the dream of better livelihood and may easily be trapped by traffickers. Unaware of the possible consequences such people will often consent to travel through undocumented migration routes to affluent cities and countries and are in the process caught up either domestic or International child trafficking. Unemployment in Nigeria has always been on high. Every year many young people graduate from secondary and high school institutions with no employment. After years of working the street in search of non-existent jobs they are ready to go anywhere to do anything, just as long as they can be gainfully employed. The negative impact of unemployment is far worse for those young Nigerians who have or no academic qualification.<sup>40</sup>

### Corruption

The high level of corruption in Nigeria makes it possible for unscrupulous persons to use official channels to secure bogus travel documents for new recruit into prostitution abroad. Sometimes there is corruption even within the foreign missions themselves making it possible for criminal minded persons to procure visa for a fee.<sup>41</sup> Nigeria has attained a global status in corruption.<sup>42</sup> This submission found its support from a recent report by transparency international which tagged Nigeria as the 38<sup>th</sup> most corrupt nation in the global rating.<sup>43</sup>

### Greed

This is an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one need or desires, especially with respect to material

wealth.<sup>44</sup> It can also be described as being controlled by material things such as power, food, cloth, money etc.<sup>45</sup> Due to greed and the quest for better lifestyles, young people easily fall prey to traffickers who promise them better jobs away from home.<sup>46</sup> Poverty precedes other causes of child trafficking because it relate and inter connected with all other causes of child trafficking which make parents to go as far as selling their children. But a close look at a situation where parents sale his/her child cannot be said to be due to poverty alone. Because there are parents who are steamily poor but will not sale his/her child. Merchandised of children is not synonymous with poverty. Some people are by their nature so greed and so found sale of babies and children profitable. To them once there is profit, it does not matter what article of trade is involve. They can therefore be distinguished from ritual killers who use other human being to make money. The driving force here is not poverty but greed. Money or what money can buy is the god they worship.<sup>47</sup> This god blesses its worshipers with power to influence other in society and prestige that comes with wealth. Father who sold their so- called "lazy" or "disobedient" child into slavery were not forced to do so by poverty, they wanted a life of luxury. Also, there are women who go abroad for purposes of prostitution and fully aware of what they were going into. This category of people can best be described as greedy people who want to make a huge of money and live beyond their means. They believe they can do that by earning hard currency in Europe or Saudi Arabia which they can then convert to a lot of local currency to satisfy their greed.<sup>48</sup> Therefore in child trafficking, parents do not sell their children because they want to escape starvation but because of their greed. They ignored the value of life for which Africa people are known for.

There are reported cases in Nigeria where parents or guardians sell their children for money. One good example of this is the case of Jennifer Ogbonna from Aba area of Abia state of Nigeria. The report has shown that Jennifer was sold by her sister to one Ismail Yusuf, a man from Abeokuta, Ogun state of Nigeria, for the sum of one hundred thousand Nigerian naira (N100, 000).<sup>49</sup> This incidence was confirmed by the victim, where she stated "I was sold by my sister in Aba for the sum of N100, 000 naira and brought to Abeokuta by the trafficker. I don't know that they had already paid money on my head. I only got to know in Abeokuta when I overheard the trafficker and her husband talking about me."<sup>50</sup> In as much as poverty causes Child trafficking in Nigeria, greed also play very

<sup>44</sup>The Free Online Dictionary. Available on <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/greed>. Accessed on 24/11/2014.

<sup>45</sup> Abdulrahim Oputu Shaibu (Director legal and prosecution National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in person, National Headquarters, Abuja- Nigeria) Interview by Author Abuja: Abuja Nigeria, Date 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.

<sup>46</sup>Ahmed Tijjani Umar, at 23.

<sup>47</sup>Euckay U. Onyuzugbo "Child trafficking, a new slave trade: why it thrives in Africa" (2011) Afro Asian journal of social science. Vol.2 No.2.3, at 8.

<sup>48</sup> Monica Imam "Human trafficking and HIV/AIDS" paper presented at a two days workshop organised by NAPTIP/UNDP (2010) on the danger of child trafficking in Nigeria at Zaranda hotel Bauchi, Bauchi State

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Naij.com online Nigerian Newspaper of 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. Available at: [://C:/Users/Flex%20/Dropbox/Research\\_Staff/CHAPTER%20%20THREE/How%20My%20Sister%20Sold%20Me%20With%20Pregnancy%20For%20N100,000%20E2%80%94%20Victim.htm](http://www.naij.com/News/2014/04/08/How%20My%20Sister%20Sold%20Me%20With%20Pregnancy%20For%20N100,000%20E2%80%94%20Victim.htm). Accessed on 24/11/2014.

<sup>37</sup>See Gray and Wouters "Country profile on women in development/Gender development in Cambodia (1999), at.13.

<sup>38</sup>Ahmed Tijjani Umar, "Policy framework for combating human trafficking and forced labour activities in Kano State" paper presented at a workshop organised by women development network, Kano in collaboration with the United Nations International labour Organisation and the prohibition against trafficking in west Africa (PATWA) (2006) at Daula Hotel Kano Nigeria

<sup>39</sup>Monica Imam, "Human trafficking and HIV/AIDS" paper presented at a two days workshop organised by NAPTIP/UNDP (2010) on the danger of child trafficking in Nigeria at Zaranda hotel Bauchi, Bauchi State.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ejike Ejike Leadership Newspaper of 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.

important role in child trafficking. This may get its roots from the olden days when African leaders (Chief and elders) sacrifice African traditional value for life on the altar of the new god i.e money, power and prestige and since then Africa has never been the same and this spread across most African countries which Nigeria is not an exception.<sup>51</sup>

### **Peer group pressures**

Peer group pressure is also one of the factors that influences child trafficking in Nigeria. Children fall victim to child trafficking because of peer pressure and lack of alternative opportunities within their impoverished home communities. They often seek out traffickers on their own initiative and are thus recruited.

### **Demand for female prostitution**

One of the factors that drives child trafficking is the readily available market for customers of a trade in humans for sexual purposes. It is obvious that child trafficking would not have been on the rise if there exist no increase demand for it. Traffickers are kept in the business of child trafficking because there is high demand for it, and demand in supply of every product is associated with profit. When there is demand, the supply increases.<sup>52</sup> This is usually associated with a situation where there is abundant male demand for sex but insufficient supply has resulted in aggravating commercial sex industry.<sup>53</sup> A good example of this type of situation is the influx of American soldiers in South-east Asia in the 1960s which led to a sudden and rapid increase in the demand for commercial sexual services.<sup>54</sup>

### **Broken Home**

A broken home is a serious and recurrent issue emanating from the home environment and as well, facilitates the trafficking of children in the contemporary societies like Nigeria. Thus, the issue nowadays requires much attention and further investigation in order to tackle the escalation of child trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking in the society. Profiles of trafficked children interviewed revealed that most of the trafficked children were products of broken homes and/or orphaned children.<sup>55</sup> An estimate reveals that from Northern part of Nigeria alone, about 9.5 million children; who are between the ages of 6 to 15, and who are mostly orphans and are not exposed to western education, are said to have been trafficked from one place to another.<sup>56</sup> Broken homes and lack of fix place of abode always make

children vulnerable to traffickers. In the past, parents cared for their children regardless of marital status. However, today, many parents abandon their children when the marriage ends in separation. The divorce of the child's parents and the broken home environment are contributory factors to child trafficking. In some polygamous family, where a husband takes another wife, some step wives are cruel to children of the estranged or former wife and would not hesitate to abuse such children.<sup>57</sup>

### **Family size**

Child trafficking is more likely to occur in a crowded home with a large family. The size of the family may therefore, be a potential source of child trafficking especially where the family is large and poor.<sup>58</sup> Demographically, the growth rates and the densities are of such magnitude that available social amenities cannot go round or are too expensive for the average families. When the family cannot afford the basic necessities of life, either as a result of income insecurity due to unemployment or retirement, the children will be asked to engage in some form of work such as hawking, begging, domestic servant. Although the purpose of this is to make up for this shortage, the child is likely to fall victims of trafficking.<sup>59</sup>

### **Mental disorder/imbalance**

Mental disorder/imbalance is one of the factors leading to human trafficking in Nigeria. It should be noted that psychiatric illness is used here loosely and not in its technical sense. This submission found base when it was stated in a report that over 70% of Nigerians are mentally ill.<sup>60</sup> This stemmed from the recent survey carried out in the country, that only 16 out of 56 Nigerians were free from disorders of social living.<sup>61</sup> Of course, this should not be detached from the economic deterioration in the country. The current economic situation has indeed taken its toll on the mental stability of Nigerians. The people are depressed, no jobs and no money. The stressful environment has also contributed to this unpopular situation. To this end, it is important to note that mental disorder is not limited to only people with mental infirmity but also those who found themselves in an unconducive atmosphere can be affected. Therefore, it is not only those who go naked in the streets that are mentally ill.<sup>62</sup> The implication of this factor is that the parents and the victims would be frustrated hence may not be in the position to appreciate the danger or nature of what they are being pushed into, as such traffickers and the child exploiter capitalize on that and make fortunes.

The pull factors on the other hand include among other things as follows: need for low-skilled labour; and ignorance or lack of information. The pull factor creates the demand for particular forms of labour. It drives people to leave a region in

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<sup>51</sup> Euckay U. Onyuzugbo. P. 9.

<sup>52</sup> Torry and Dubin "Demand dynamics: The forces of demand in global sex trafficking (2003) at. 60: The root cause of trafficking is demand for commercial sexual services, without which trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation would dissolve.

<sup>53</sup> Yen- Ovice and Men, 'A new approach to eradicating sex trafficking by reducing male demand through educational programme and abolitionist legislation', (2008) *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 98 No. 2 at. 653.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Husseini Musa (a 9 years old Almajiri found begging for arms at custom area of Maiduguri, Borno State) interviewed by Author Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria on 10/6/2014.

<sup>56</sup> Kuni, Tyessi "Northern Governors and Almajiri Education" *Leadership Newspaper* of 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. It can also be found from a joint report of new orphan estimates and a framework for action, at [www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_22212.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_22212.html), accessed on 20th October, 2014.

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<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Hon. Justice H.N. Donli: *Socio-Legal Consequences of Child Abuse in Women and Children under Nigerian Law*, at 140.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ayo Binitie "Outcome of neurotic disorders in Africa patients" (2007) *Acta psychiatrica scandinavica*.

Vol.63 No.2 at. 141

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ayo Binitie "Outcome of neurotic disorders in Africa patients" (2007) *Acta psychiatrica scandinavica*. Vol.63 No. 2, at 141.

search for a better life somewhere else.<sup>63</sup> To this end, the need for low-skilled labour pulls people to go for it. The sudden growth in technology and the increase level of child trafficking in Nigeria is the “underside of globalization.”<sup>64</sup> Globalization has created powerful market demand for cheap, low-skilled labour in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, construction, domestic service, labour-intensive manufacturing, sex work, and the service sector in general.<sup>65</sup> Such demand exists in both industrialized and developing countries. The types of work where trafficked labour is used tend to be located in sectors where it is easier to maintain with highly exploitative working conditions that are characterized with gross violations of human rights and labour standards, which are usually located in areas that are difficult to monitor. Whether child trafficking is for labour or sexual purposes, it is obvious that the supply would cease to exist unless there is a constant demand in the market and vice versa. Demand encourages supply to grow as profit increases because of high demand.<sup>66</sup>

### High Profits

High Profits accrued in human trafficking, especially trafficking of children and women also pulls them into it. That is to say, child trafficking thrives because of its profitability. The UN estimates it to generate US \$7-\$10 billion annually, the third largest profits behind arms dealing and narcotics. It is also easier to move human cargo across borders than drugs or weapons which are seized when found. Human beings can be constantly re-used and re-trafficked – not so for drugs. Child trafficking is, by definition, a complex, clandestine, underground business, constantly changing and evolving both in response to demand and to remain sufficiently flexible to elude arrest and prosecution.

### Low risk

Another pull factor to the child trafficking is the low risk that is involved in the process, especially when compared with other cross-border crimes which contain high level of risk. However, by its very nature, child trafficking is secret and dangerous, which helps explain the inadequacy of reliable information. Victims of trafficking are normally lured by the traffickers right within their families and villages (which often provided the funds for the journeys they anticipated and take the child to a job that could help support the family), and because of the stigma of prostitution, Fear and mistrust of police, the lack of documentation and fear of complicity also play a part in maintaining the victim’s silence.<sup>67</sup> Most victims are poor, illiterate, from marginalized populations and are ignorant of their rights. Traffickers exploit not only bodies but the deepest

anxieties and disadvantageous life conditions of the victims. This and many other factors made child trafficking with low risk as the whole business in conducted in secrecy and victims of child trafficking compound the issue by being unwilling to provide useful information about their traffickers, this may not be unconnected with the oath of secrecy victims are subjected to at the point of trafficking.<sup>68</sup>

### Consequences of Child Trafficking In Nigeria

According to Webster Pocket Dictionary of the English language, the term “consequences” means something that logically follows an action, in other words, its effect.<sup>69</sup> The effects of child trafficking in Nigeria, transcends personal injury to the victim of child trafficking alone, as it also affects the family and society at large. Whatever the level it partakes, child trafficking has the following consequences:

#### Disease and death

Disease and death are twin evils that may result from child trafficking. This is likely to be a product of malnutrition, poverty, ignorance, child abandonment, therapeutic abuse and ritual killing. According to Adedoyin, of the 39 diseases surveyed in Lagos in 1985, malnutrition and starvation were found to be the main cause of death among children.<sup>70</sup> In addition, studies that are particularly focused on child agricultural workers in Nigeria have recognized a high incidence of injury, inferior living conditions resulting from substandard housing, poor access to clean water and food, poor sanitation, and low wages. And the end result is sickness and death.<sup>71</sup>

#### Unwarranted pregnancies

One of the effects of trafficking on the child is unwanted pregnancy. This comes from unprotected sexual intercourse. One of the dangers of child trafficking is that they are subjected to all forms of exploitation, which include but not limited to rape, prostitution, etc. Women and young girls are impregnated in the course of forced prostitution. Naturally where this pregnancy is not wanted the person may want to abort it at all course even to her detriment. In the case of *Attorney General of the Federation V. Ganiyu Ishola*<sup>72</sup> a 13 years old pupil was impregnated by an herbalist who detained her for 40 days. The accused was tried and sentenced to two years imprisonment.<sup>73</sup>

Victims who are mostly young girls may be ashamed of carrying the pregnancy or the newly born baby before the general public. This is because; these children so given birth to are called with different names like bastards or illegitimate children. This in most cases brings very serious problem in

<sup>63</sup>See “women ‘burden: counter geographies of globalization and the feminization of survival” (2002) Nordic Journal of International law. Vo. 71 No. 8 at. 255-257.

<sup>64</sup> Stopping Forced Labour: Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 89th session 2001, ILO Geneva.

<sup>65</sup> Taran and Moreno-Fontes (2002) Getting at the Roots. Stopping Exploitation of Migrant Workers by Organized Crime, Paper presented at an international symposium on The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime: Requirements for Effective Implementation, Turin, Italy. 22-23 February 2002, ILO.

<sup>66</sup>Mina Mollena “Combatting human trafficking in South Africa: a comparative legal study” (2013) unpublished Ph.D thesis submitted at the University of South Africa at. 92.

<sup>67</sup> UN, Human trafficking in Nigeria: Root causes and recommendation” United Nation policy paper (2006) No. 14.2 (E), at. 36.

<sup>68</sup> There are also cases of churches in Benin, city (Edo State of Nigeria), which revealed that persons intending to be travelled to Italy (called italios) visit to pray against repatriated, and for protection against violent customers. CF Grace Osakwe and Bisi Olateru Olagbegi, (1999) A primer of trafficking in women, the Nigeria case.

<sup>69</sup> Webster’s standard Dictionary (2006) edition, Trident Reference Publishing at 405.

<sup>70</sup> Adedoyin, M.A.: “Child Health in Nigeria” being a paper presented at Annual Conference of ANPPCAN at Jos in October 1988.

<sup>71</sup> Anyanwu, S.O. (1993) “The girl-child: Problems and survival in the Nigerian context.” Paper Presented at The Bienna Conference of the Nigerian Association of Universities’ Women (NAUW).

<sup>72</sup> (Unreported) charge No. KwS/6c/2006, High Court of Justice, Ilorin.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

families as it leads to stigmatization in some cases. Most victim of unwanted pregnancy run away to distant places for fear of being killed by their parents or community as the case may be. Some victims who summon courage to come home to their parents are rejected and consequently disliked. This lead to untold hardship on the victim, as the cost of rearing the new born become challenging. This may further lead the victim to other anti-social behaviours. The new born baby also stands the risk of being killed or abandoned in hazardous places by the mother. Many children in motherless homes in Nigeria are product of this type of pregnancy.<sup>74</sup> In some instances, young girls sell their babies for a token fee of between 150 to 200 thousand naira. This is as a result of unwanted pregnancy.<sup>75</sup> It is our submission that, child trafficking have done untold havoc to women and young girls in Nigeria and this call for the amendment of anti-child trafficking law in Nigeria so that those who enjoy in the violation of these rights are adequately and effectively prosecuted and punished.

### Psychological trauma

Psychological trauma is a mental condition or conditions of the mind caused by unpleasant experience that make one upset or unhappy.<sup>76</sup> This is one of the identified effects of child trafficking. The process trafficked children undergo before they arrive their destination countries coupled with their sorrowful sexual experience is unimaginable. Most victims are forced into oath taking in deadly shrines across Nigeria.<sup>77</sup> The oath involves a blood covenant capable of eliminating the victim and his entire family if not observed.

The potency of this oath on victims who are mostly between the ages of 16 to 25 years is undoubtedly serves as an inevitable source of physical, psychological and spiritual trauma. A bondage that imperatively makes one feel doomed especially when the victims who are mostly young are confronted with the horrors of sex and other forms of exploitations. The shock of job description also sends harmful signal of impending calamity. These girls are sometimes made to sleep with house pets like dogs and monkeys and this will psychologically make them to feel devalued and worthless, a condition that condemns one's conscience and renders one hopeless.<sup>78</sup> Child trafficking is so characterized by endless human right abuses, exploitation, and dehumanization till the victim dies, rescued or deported.<sup>79</sup>

Another psychological trauma associated with child trafficking is that, the victims are deprived of their earnings, exposed to deadly diseases and treated like slaves. It is therefore clear from the discussion that child trafficking comprises a lot of nefarious acts that traumatize victim and therefore should be squarely tackled with the provision of adequate and effective law on counselling, rehabilitation and integration opportunities for victims.

### High school drop outs

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<sup>74</sup> See scroll magazine Nigeria.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> See scroll magazine, at 12.

<sup>77</sup> See Dagin, S. *the exodus of Nigerian women and girls to Italy*, Shukura house katakojunction, Jos, Nigeria 2005) p. 40.

<sup>78</sup> See Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Orakwe, Arinze African Independence Television programme "Kaakaki" of 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.

A child victim of trafficking are subjected to all form of labour exploitation and this causes a decline in the acquisition of human capital. In Nigeria, children have been exploited and forced to work in highly hazardous conditions around pesticides, chemicals, heavy machinery and in dangerous mines.<sup>80</sup> They work for about nine (9) to sixteen (16) hours per day, having no time or day for rest.<sup>81</sup> This will therefore, no doubt make the child to remain uneducated and have low productivity as an adult. child labour diminishes adult productivity.<sup>82</sup>

Illiteracy and school drop-outs are the products of child trafficking resulting from poverty and parental ignorance. Some children drop out of school because of financial difficulties. Others are unable to attend, largely because of the abject poverty of their parents and are therefore constraint to work in order to support their family. due to ignorance, some parent do not believe in sending their female children to school, while others withdraw them from school for early marriage.<sup>83</sup>

Most children in rural area in Nigeria are trafficked through the assistance of their parents or guardian and this has resulted in low school enrolment and in turn perpetuates the institution of child trafficking.<sup>84</sup> Child trafficking involves the movement of school age children from a familiar environment to an unfamiliar environment. The movement of these children either for sexual exploitation or other exploitative purposes have multiple effects on the children, as their movement are curtailed and at times made to work for between 9 to 18 hours a day. Child trafficking contributes to low enrolment in school and increases high school dropout rates. In Nigeria children of school age between the ages of 6 to 16 years are mostly target of trafficking, and when trafficked they will be deprived of so many of their rights including right to acquire education. Child trafficking also amount to reduction in population of children as most of these trafficked children either died in transit or due to diseases like HIV/AIDS in the destination country.

### Bad International image

Bad international image ranks one of the most palpable effects of child trafficking. Owing to the high degree and alarming rate of child trafficking engaged by Nigerians within and across the globe, there have been unprintable reports that portray Nigerian reputation in very bad light. In the case of *Attorney General of the Federation V. Sylvester Idubor*<sup>85</sup> the accused person was sentenced to two years imprisonment for organizing foreign travel which promotes prostitution contrary to section 15(a) and 16 of the NAPTIP Act, 2003. Such reports tend to lower our good image before the international community and portray us in a very bad light. This makes every Nigerian a suspect wherever he or she goes. Consequently, we are faced with harsh immigration laws and in some cases, the most sophisticated security gadgets are used in screening us at different international borders and embassies. So many times

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Pigou, A. C. *The Economics of Welfare*, London Macmillan and co. 1932) at 242.

<sup>83</sup> Ofuoku, A.O. p. cit, at. 70.

<sup>84</sup> Eswaran, M. "Fertility, Literacy and the Institution of Child Labour: (1996), Discussion Paper Dp No. 36, at. 58 Mimeo University & British Columbia.

<sup>85</sup> (Unreported) Charge No. FHC/S/27c/2008, Federal High Court, Sokoto.

visa is denied Nigerians. It has been stated that about 50,000 Nigerian women and children are trafficked to Italy.<sup>86</sup> This indeed portrays Nigeria in a very bad light internationally. Hence, we are branded promiscuous and people of low morals that can do anything to earn a living, even sleeping with dogs and monkeys and as a result, our people are held in disdain and treated like animals. In Nigeria, children have been exploited and forced to work in highly dangerous environment which is hazardous to their wellbeing as children and human being.

In the light of the above therefore, there is the need for all stakeholders in the fight against child trafficking in Nigeria to collaborate so as to identify emerging phenomenon employed by traffickers to perpetrate the crime of child trafficking with a view to adequately captured in our anti child trafficking legislation, for the outright celebration of its demise in our country, Nigeria.

Child trafficking will have consequence not only to the child but also to the victim's family. The children families may suffer physical injuries as a result of their trafficked children. The children are normally engaged in the sales and service sector of the labour market and this makes them to encounter problems related to their mental well-being. Stigmatization from the public, feelings of disheartenment, stress, personality disorders and alienation and isolation from their family have been identified<sup>87</sup> Nigerian children aged 10 to 14 years are engaged in economic activity.<sup>88</sup>

Other consequences of child trafficking that has to do with the victim's family *inter alia* include: the emotional imbalance, delinquency, deviance, trauma, depression, frustration and host of other behavioural problems. Emotional disturbance can lead to low esteem and lack of confidence within a victim's family.<sup>89</sup> This situation brings about an increment in the number of lay about, mentally demented, and stunted persons in society and spells doom for the society. Furthermore, infection is one of the most terrorizing consequences of child trafficking. The rampant and rapid spread of sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) today in Nigeria is indeed a tragic phenomenon of great human concern. The activities of child trafficking are responsible in the spread of these diseases. child trafficking is highly liable to these devastating sexually transmitted diseases such as Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, etc. HIV/AIDS is a deadly disease which is transmitted through sexual intercourse. It is described as a biological weapon of mass destruction. It kills astronomically and has the capacity of wiping out the entire human race if not checked. The unprotected conditions under which victim of sex work are subjected to, expose them to these diseases. HIV/AIDS ravages all the nooks and crannies of the society irrespective of age, tribe, colour, status etc. Children who are affected with HIV/AIDS are mostly stigmatized and abandoned by their families. According to the 2012 statistic of people living with AIDS/HIV in Nigeria, there are 3,400,000 Nigerians living

with AIDS/HIV.<sup>90</sup> It further maintained that Nigeria ranked second to South Africa in the world.<sup>91</sup> The devastating effect of child trafficking as a result of sexually transmitted diseases especially HIV/AIDS in Nigeria is enormous and therefore must be fought with all sense of determined seriousness in order to eradicate it from our country Nigeria.<sup>92</sup>

Having looked at the consequences of child trafficking on the child, and his family, it is equally important to see what effects does it have on the society at large; Child trafficking has far reaching social, political and economic consequences on the society and the consequences of these repercussions of child trafficking are frightening and capable, if not checked, of mortgaging the future of a nation and its citizens and societal self-destruction. It is time bomb.<sup>93</sup> Youth crime and the breeding of street children are the direct result of child trafficking. The cases of youth social deviant, crimes of children's pick-pocketing, smuggling, stealing and robbery are order of the day. Some of the children are forced or coerced to participate in these crimes as a survival means created by poverty. Expectedly, members of society, who are at the receiving end, are feeling the pinch of these crimes committed by the children. Apart from crimes, child trafficking has produced a new class of juveniles in Nigeria, they live in the street, under bridges and any available space.<sup>94</sup> To this end, De-Goshie observed that, cases of armed robbery, theft and violence by our youths are on the increase. It is no longer a pride or pleasure to ride in a brand new or flashy car.<sup>95</sup>

### Measures Taken by Nigeria Government to Fight Child Trafficking

Apart from the fact that Nigeria is a member and signatory to many International Labour Organization (ILO) instruments, and has adopted Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, there are existing laws in Nigeria which are supposed to protect children from trafficking, such as the Child's Right Act of 2003, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, the Children and Young Persons Act 1959, the Immigration Act 1990, the criminal code 1916 and the penal code 1960 respectively. These laws jointly prohibit child trafficking; despite these greatly increased legislative and policy attentions by Government, it still appears to be making very little impact on the scourge of child trafficking in Nigeria. The effect of child trafficking on the social and economic development of the Nigerian state and people cannot be overemphasized. Child trafficking has proved to be a serious problem to the Nigerian nation and has evaded all attempts by government and even international organizations and partners to bring it to an end. Howsoever difficult it may seem however, there is the urgent need to put an end to the scourge of child

<sup>86</sup> Nigerian Daily Trust Newspaper of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, at 5.

<sup>87</sup> Demeji Togunde. and Arielle Carter "in their own words: consequences of child labour in urban Nigeria (2008) Journal of Social Science vol. 16 No. 2 at 79.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Kaushik Basu, 1999. "Child Labor: Cause, Consequence, and Cure, with Remarks on International Labor Standards," (1999) Journal of Economic Literature, American Economic Association, vol. 37, No. 3, at 1083-1119.

<sup>90</sup> Available on line at <http://www.avert.org/hiv-aids-nigeria.htm>, accessed on 8/12/2014.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ofuoku, A.O., "Human Trafficking n Nigeria and its Implications for Food Security" International Journal of Rural Studies 17, No.1 (April,2010), at 1., <http://www.vri-online.org.uk/urs/April2010/human-trafficking-in-Nigeria-and-its-implications-for-food-security.pdf> accessed on 15/12/2014.

<sup>94</sup> Onyemachi Thomas, ' Children, Status and the Law in Nigeria', An International Multi-disciplinary Journal, Ethiopia, Vol. 4, Issue 3a, 2010, at 378.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

trafficking in Nigeria to safeguard the future of the Nigerian child and the country at large.

In tackling the menace of child trafficking in Nigeria, government has made efforts at promulgating laws that will help bring the problem to a conclusive end. These laws as enumerated above, have in various ways attempted to legally address the problem of child trafficking in Nigeria by criminalizing child trafficking in all its ramifications. From the early days of the general criminal laws like the criminal code (apply in southern part), penal code (apply in northern part), children and young persons' Act, up to the more specific laws under the NAPTIP Act which specifically aims at criminalizing human trafficking, the aim has been the same: putting an end to the menace of child and human trafficking.

### **The Problem and the Way Forward**

Notwithstanding the legislative and policy framework put in place to curb the menace of child trafficking in Nigeria, the trend has only progressed over the years. Only recently, Nigeria has been downgraded from its previously improved position as it relates to child and human trafficking to a worse position. This is worrisome and indeed disturbing as the future of Nigerian child threatened by this monster called child and or human trafficking. Thereby subjecting children to all forms of exploitation and as a result forgo their God giving rights. The paper was able to identify inability of the Nigerian government to address the root causes of child trafficking in Nigeria by not providing a more deliberate and practical means of eradicating poverty, provision of employment, education opportunities among its teaming youth, as well as amending all the legal and institutional framework aimed at fighting child trafficking to cover new trend of child trafficking such as baby harvesting among others are identified as factors responsible for the continue raise in child trafficking in Nigeria.

### **Findings**

The findings of the paper reveal that child trafficking is a practice of trafficking human beings, particularly children who are openly vulnerable to the world. Such practices as reveals by the paper highlighted a contributory factors which led to the causes as the most important factors that surrounded the phenomena and thereby resulting an end in a detreating future of a child in an environment. The paper finds that the relative importance of a child cannot be overemphasized; nothing can be further from the truth that protection of a child is a moral, spiritual and social obligation; their vulnerability nature must be protected for a better generation and world. Further, the paper reveals that the act of child is supported by inhuman act of coerced, abduction, fraud, deception and other forms of luring that may assist the trafficker and thus defines the right-criminal mind. The findings also reveal that, the consequences led to the loss of lives, spread of infectious, dangerous and viral diseases which creates a glitch in the wellness of the society in a nation community, lack of accessible education and destruction of reputation. This has been the result which throws a country in a dilemma in trying to control the unprepared expanses. In addition to the findings, that government concentrates on the prosecution of traffickers and rehabilitation of victim of trafficking whereas the factors are unattended sufficiently. The paper therefore recommend for an immediate deliberate steps aim at nabbing the root causes of child trafficking such as poverty, unemployment, free and

compulsory education to both male and female child from the bud, as well as harmonisation and amendment of all law on child trafficking in Nigeria to cover all forms of emerging trend of child trafficking such as baby harvesting among others. Further recommends that the government should strengthen its commitment in the fights of menace and ensures the free hands in an immediate amendment or review of provisions where necessary for effective implementation of the law.

### **Conclusion**

Child trafficking has been identified as both a crime and disease which have eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigeria society with diverse consequences both on the victim and the society at large. This is despite numerous institutional and policies frame work put in place by the Nigerian government to fight the menace. The paper was able to identify that the growing rate of child tracking in Nigeria is basically not because government is lacking in its responsibilities in addressing the menace, but that these efforts were only restricted towards prosecution and rehabilitation of trafficked victims thereby neglecting to address the root causes of child trafficking. In order to effectively fight the menace of child trafficking in Nigeria, the government most extend measures put in place to fight child trafficking beyond prosecution of traffickers and rehabilitation of trafficked victims to include a concrete and practical steps toward napping the root causes of child traffics from the bud.

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