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NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (NAPTIP) AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONTROL IN NASARAWA STATE-NIGERIA

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Abstract

Human trafficking or modern-slavery has become a global phenomenon with adverse effect on individual victims and their families, communities and countries. The study was guided by two specific objectives. The study sampled one Local Government Areas from each of the three senatorial districts of Nasarawa State viz; Akwanga LGA (North), Lafia LGA (South) and Keffi LGA (West), with an estimated total population of 923,848. The sample size of this study is 400. The paper used simple random and purposive sampling techniques to select the respondents. The study used primary data type through questionnaire and Key Informant Interview to generate data from 400 sampled respondents, three youth leaders and five staff of the NAPTIP office in Nasarawa State participated as key informants. Quantitative questions were formed using Very High, High, Undecided, Low and Very Low. The study used descriptive statistics to analyze quantitative data while data sourced qualitatively were analyzed using content analysis in order to compliment quantitative data. It is found that poverty, corruption, lack of education, lack of legitimate economic opportunities, high unemployment and large family size are the causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. It was also found that NAPTIP is ineffective in the areas of public awareness campaign, investigation of human trafficking cases, prosecution of suspects of human trafficking, and reorientation of victims of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study recommends that government at all levels should create economic enabling environment so that youth can learn skills and there should be establishment of NAPTIP offices in all the local government areas for effective coverage on human trafficking cases in Nasarawa State.

Keywords: NAPTIP, Human, Trafficking, Persons, Control

1. Introduction

United Nations (2017) defines trafficking in persons as “recruiting, transporting, transferring, accepting, or receiving persons through the use of blackmail or force, or other ways and forms of violence, fraud, misconception, or by using power or utilizing a state of vulnerability, or giving or taking of money or benefits in order to achieve the goal, to have control over the person, that the person is exploited”. The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination

(IMAAFD, 2019) defines trafficking in human beings as “recruiting, kidnaping or other means of abducting a person to be transmitted across international borders where during this process traffickers receive economic and other benefits by means of fraud and other forms of exploitation under conditions that violate fundamental human rights. Okech et al (2018) opined that human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receiving of persons improperly (such as

abduction, force, fraud or coercion) for improper purpose including sexual exploitation and forced labour.

According to Article 3 of the UNICEF Nigeria Fact Sheet (UNICEF, 2016), there are two types of trafficking: internal (domestic) trafficking and external (international) trafficking. Internal trafficking involves the recruitment and transportation of humans from rural and remote communities to urban centres. On the other hand, external trafficking cross-border (external) trafficking involves crossing the country's borders into another country. Internal trafficking (IT), cross-border (ET) trafficking, and transit point trafficking are three dimensions of trafficking in person violates a range of human rights and in a long run may affect the victim physically, psychologically, causing loss of dignity and human freedom. Domestic trafficking comes in four different ways: rural-rural, urban-urban, urban-rural, and urban-urban trafficking (Okesola, 2007). NAPTIP conducts awareness campaigns in Public places including schools, churches, mosques, and transit parks, and expands its media coverage via radio and television to eighteen people on the identification and dangers of trafficking in persons in in Nasarawa State. The extent at which these roles have helped in the control of human trafficking in the study area is the main objective of this study.

Human trafficking or modern-slavery has become a global phenomenon with adverse effect on individual victims and their families, communities and countries. Aronowitz (2009) stated that trafficking in person is a threat to national security and human lives. Human trafficking is a complex problem that is influenced or driven by economic, social, cultural, political factors. In this way, children, women and even men are engaged into unpaid labour, forced military, sexual slavery as large numbers every time. The victims are exposed to forced marriage, organ and some social vices. It is common in the Third World Continents that traffickers aimed at forcing mostly women and children into economic and sexual exploitation and abuse for the benefit of the traffickers. These traffickers violate a range of human rights and in the long run may affect the trafficked physically, psychologically and causing loss of freedom and personal dignity. A lady in her father's

house was kidnapped in Agaza Ward of Keana Local Government Area, Nasarawa State for over three weeks under captivity. The father of the lady is the Local Government Chairman of All Progressive Congress (APC). All efforts by security agencies including local vigilante groups to regain her freedom proved abortive until ransom was paid before she was released. This informed the researcher to embark on this study to uncover the extent at which National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has helped in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State.

Research Questions

- i. What are the causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
- ii. To what extent has National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons helped in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess the role of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in human trafficking control in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

The specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
- ii. To determine the extent at which National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons has helped in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

Human Trafficking

UNESCO (2006) defines human trafficking as a process which involves the exploitation of a vulnerable person through recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other types of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception

and abuse of power. On the other hand, The Trafficking in Persons' Law Enforcement and Administration Act (2003) states that human trafficking as all and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across nation's borders, purchase, sales, transfer, receipt, transportation, harbouring, of a person involving the use of deception, coercion or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the persons whether for or not involuntary servitude (domestic, reproductive or sexual) in forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like condition. Article 3 (a) of the United Nations Palermo Protocol (2000) conceptualizes human trafficking as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, and receipts of persons, by means of threat, use of force, other forms of coercion. It also entails use of abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. In a similar vein, Newton (2008) observes that human trafficking has been employed to address an avalanche of crimes and human rights abuses with the recruitment, movement and selling of people into exploitative condition.

Causes of Human Trafficking

There are many factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria. These factors are categorized into push and pull factors or supply and demand factors. Many scholars (Adesina, 2014; Trade, 2014, Alkali et al., 2015, Inyang & Ebirien, 2015, Nnachi, 2017, Ifeakandu, 2019) identified poverty, high unemployment, illiteracy and ignorance, large family size, bad governance and corruption, conflicts, and increasing demand for cheap labour in the cities as some of the factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria. Other factors include the existence of the local market for children in the labour and sex trade (Ali & Muhammed, 2014; Salihu & Chutiyami, 2016), the urge to migrate from the rural communities to the cities, especially among the youths, low risk and high profitability, and zero conviction of complicit government officials.

Poverty, according to the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, defined poverty as state of being poor while 'poor' was defined as having little money. Poverty

however, does not only include the lack of money, but also the lack of the basic amenities of life like shelter, clothing and food. Poverty causes educational disadvantage and gender discrimination and these potent factors could force people into domestic help. Furthermore, it has been stated that there is link between poverty and mental health. Many scholars (Adesina, 2014; Ali & Muhammad, 2014, et al) identified poverty as the main factor responsible for house help in third world countries including Nigeria. In Nigeria, victims of human trafficking are from poor family background with no economic opportunities. Most of the families are from rural communities-where many people are unemployed or small-scale farmers with no access to basic amenities. Aibangbe (2015) pointed out that some of the people release their children or wards for trafficking in the expectation that their action would amount to economic relief to the rest of family members.

Corruption: Corruption is a problem that result to many illegal activities. These include among others, human trafficking in Nigeria. Many traffickers succeeded in human trafficking as a result of collaboration with some law enforcement officers. In spite the massive investment of resources by Federal Government of Nigeria against all forms of trafficking in the country, human trafficking is on increase. For example, internal child traffickers continue to thrive because there are less chances of being arrested by law enforcement agents (Tade, 2014). The traffickers operate within the fluid network of corrupt law enforcement agents to complete their illegal and inhuman trafficking process (Akpomera & Omoyibo, 2016; Okesola & Adenugba, 2018. Bello, cited in Bello, 2018) stated that the corruption of law enforcement institutions, especially the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), has helped to fuel human trafficking in Nigeria. This is an impediment to the criminal justice system in Nigeria (Bello, 2018). Human traffickers often exploit this challenge in law enforcement to evade arrest, especially while transporting their victims from sources to various destination points in the country (Bello, 2015, as cited in Bello, 2018)

Lack of Education: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights lists education as a human right in article

26. “Everyone has right to education”, the text reads. It goes on to stipulate that education should be free (at least in the elementary and fundamental stages) and compulsory, while technical and professional education should be made “generally available”. “Higher education should be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit”. When people do not get education, it negatively impacts their lives and the lives of their families. Income potential is a big reason why. It is much harder to escape poverty without education. Additionally, the types of jobs that tend to not require academic education-like agricultural work, mining, fisheries, construction work, and domestic service-have higher rates of trafficking. Good education helps people get better work and avoid the conditions that lead to exploitation.

Lack of Legitimate Economic Opportunities: No one wants to be trafficked and exploited, but a lack of legitimate economic opportunities can drive people into dangerous situations. They are more likely to take risk if they have no better options. COVID-19 caused an increase in unemployment, especially among women and youth workers, who are already at a higher risk for trafficking. People from low-income countries with high unemployment and the most vulnerable groups in wealthy nations are the most vulnerable. Stabilizing economies and improving economic development give people more legitimate economic opportunities, so aren’t driven into risky situations by desperation.

Roles of NAPTIP in the Control of Human Trafficking

NAPTIP conducts awareness campaigns in Public places including schools, churches, mosques, and transit parks, and expands its media coverage via radio and television to eighteen people on the identification and dangers of trafficking in persons in Nigeria (NAPTIP, 2020). The agency also engaged each of its nine zonal commands and Abuja headquarters to execute outreach campaigns once a week to raise awareness on trafficking in persons (NAPTIP, 2020). NAPTIP conducted its outreach campaigns in Benue State and Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps to educate persons displaced by rural violence and mass flooding (NAPTIP, 2020). There are hotlines with staff

who speak English and relevant local languages in each of the nine zonal commands and headquarters of NAPTIP (NAPTIP, 2020).

Investigation: NAPTIP has been charged with the responsibility so far of investigating suspected cases of human trafficking in Nigeria. In the Federal Capital Territory, cases of investigation have been seen and result has been seen from investigations carried out in the location. Just of recent, the agency arrayed a medical doctor based in Abuja for a suspected house help molestation case (Vanguard News, February, 2024)

Prosecution: NAPTIP also has responsibility of prosecuting people if found guilty of any trafficking offence or any of house help rights violation. This therefore authenticate the responsibility of the agency as to how to go about tackling trafficking and related crime in Abuja and any other part of the country. Reorientation and education of victims: when victims are rescued from the danger and harm of trafficking, NAPTIP are charged with the responsibility of having the victims educated and are given orientation so as to help them know their rights and also enlighten on how to go about such type of situation when next they find themselves or any other person.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study adopted routine activity theory. Routine activity theory was popularized by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felcus. Routine activity theory by definition is an approach to crime which explains crime as a product of the combined result of three essential elements namely: a. potential offenders or persons who are motivated to commit crimes b. suitable targets, that is, the presence of things that are of socio economic value which can easily be transported, c. absence of capable guards or persons who can prevent a crime from taking place. Scholars who adopt the routine activity approach to crime contend that crime takes place on increases when these three critical elements converge in space or time, crime tends to be prevented or inhibited. Its main preoccupation or concern is to emphasize how ordinary or normal lawful. Conventional, routine activities of individuals increase the probability of criminal activities.

One of the examples of the situation that has been given is the issue of women's increasing entrance and participation in the labour force. This is a phenomenon which has resulted in the reduction in the number of women who stay at home during the day time. Routine activity theorists would argue that women's absence of capable guards who would 'police' the home. That is, their absence increases the probability of criminal activity, as potential offenders who are sufficiently motivated to commit crime find suitable crime targets are present and there is no capable guard in the home to stop their criminal incursion.

Another scenario is the situation whereby some families with dual or even multiple income earners (bread winners) become more probable target of crime because such families have greater spending power and can acquire a greater stock of valuables that are easily suitable targets of crime. The main point of routine activity theory is that whenever or wherever the elements of 'presence of suitable targets' and 'absence of capable guard' co-appear together, it takes the presence of likely offenders for criminal activity to take place.

This study adopted routine activity theory because many potential victims of human trafficking do not have capable guards like NAPTIP to prevent traffickers in persons from perpetuating their criminal acts as a result of ineffectiveness NAPTIP. Hence, there are occurrences of human trafficking related acts in Nasarawa State.

3. Methodology

The study is located in Nasarawa State. The State is situated in the North-central geo-political zone of Nigeria, Nasarawa State was carved out of Plateau State on 1st October, 1996 with Lafia as its headquarters. The total population of Nasarawa State based on 2006 result was 1,869,377. The State population is projected to be 3,022,029 as of 2024 using 3% annual population growth (NPC, 2024). The State shares borders with Plateau and Kaduna States to the north-east, Kogi State to the east, Benue State to the south, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to the north-west and Taraba State to the south-east. The land mass of Nasarawa State is 120,000 square kilometers with geography of latitude 7° and 9°

North and longitude 7° and 9° East. The State is made of thirteen (13) local government areas. That is, Awe, Akwanga, Doma, Karu, Keffi, Keana, Kokona, Lafia, Nassarawa, Nassarawa-Eggon, Obi, Toto and Wamba. Islam and Christianity are the dominant religious practices alongside African traditional religion in State. The predominant occupations of people of Nasarawa State are farming, mining, fishing, trading and civil/public service (Inyang, 2016). The study sampled one Local Government Area from each of the three senatorial districts of Nasarawa State viz; Akwanga LGA (North), Lafia LGA (South) and Keffi LGA (West), with an estimated total population of 923, 848. That is, Akwanga LGA 187,849, Lafia LGA 584,001 while Keffi LGA 151,998 (NPC, 2024). Using Yemane (1967) sample size determination formula, the sample size of this study is approximately 400. The sampling distribution was proportional as Akwanga LGA 111, Lafia LGA 185 and Keffi LGA 104. The paper used simple random, systematic and purposive sampling techniques to select the respondents. The study used primary data type through Questionnaire and Key Informant Interview to generate data from 400 sampled size, 3 youth leaders and 5 staff of the NAPTIP office in Nasarawa State as key informants. Quantitative questions were formed using Very High (VH), High (H), Undecided (UD), Low (L) and Very Low (VL). The study used descriptive statistics to analyze quantitative data while data sourced from key informants (qualitative data) were manually ascribed in order to compliment quantitative data.

4. Results and Discussion

Out of 400 questionnaires administered, 389 representing 97.3% were completely filled and returned. The results of the completed and returned questionnaire were presented below.

Section A: Socio-Demographic Data of Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Socio-demographic Data of Respondents N =389

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (Years Range)		
15-19	28	7.2
20-24	76	19.5
25-29	123	31.6
30-34	81	20.8
35-39	54	13.9
40 and above	27	7
Sex		
Male	222	57.1
Female	167	42.9
Religion		
African Traditional Religion	11	2.8
Christianity	182	46.8
Islam	196	50.4
Marital Status		
Married	257	66.1
Single	110	28.3
Divorced	10	2.6
Widow/widower	12	3.1
Educational Qualification		
Non-formal education	29	7.4
Primary	124	31.9
Secondary	131	33.7
Tertiary	105	27
Occupation		
Farming	125	32.1
Trading	138	35.5
Civil service	129	33.1

Source: Field Survey, 2025

As shown in table 1, the age distribution showed that more than 70% of the respondents were from the ages of 20-34. This shows they were at the ages to provide adequate information needed on the extent of roles of NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. 20.9% were 35 years and above while 7.2% constituted respondents of ages of 15-19 years. In terms of sex, male dominated female (57.1% vs 42.9%) in this study. This suggests that females are prone to sexual exploitative trafficking while male may suffer forced labour. Islam and Christianity shared fair distribution (50.4% vs 46.8%) in this study area. This occurs because people of Nasarawa State are relatively homogeneous in nature more likely some can be Christians while others

Muslims alongside with our Traditional religion which constituted 2.8%. In the area of marital status, married (66.1%) constituted the highest frequency in this study. It is the married who suffer from the scourge of human trafficking as their wards and spouses are being trafficked mostly in the areas of child labour and sexual exploitation, so they are in better position to provide useful information on the role of NAPTIP in human trafficking control in the State. The single (28.3%) was also acknowledged in this study. They are the most vulnerable group as they can easily be deceived and fall in the hands of the perpetrators of human traffickers for sexual exploitation. As a result of the canals of human trafficking, some married may be divorced (2.6%) while

others may lost their lives (widow/widower, 3.1%). In educational qualification, more than 60% of the respondents in this study have acquired primary and secondary education. These are set of people who suffer blockage from further education and may innovate ways of achieving social goals as human traffickers or the trafficked. While non-formal and tertiary were 7.4% vs 27%. Trading (35.5%) was given the topmost priority in

this study. It may be true as people who engage in one business or the other are at the risk of being deceived of better business opportunity elsewhere and fall in the hand of human traffickers. The farming were 32.1% while civil service 33.1%.

Section B: Causes of Human Trafficking in Nasarawa State

Table 2: Respondents' Rating the Causes of Human Trafficking in Nasarawa State

Variable	Frequency (%)				
	VH	H	UD	L	VL
Poverty	203 (53.2)	109 (28)	2 (0.5)	44 (11.3)	31 (8)
Corruption	115 (29.6)	196 (50.4)	1 (0.3)	32 (8.2)	45 (11.6)
Lack of education	116 (29.8)	103 (26.5)	3 (0.77)	70 (18)	97 (25)
Lack of legitimate economic opportunities	102 (26.2)	97 (25)	2 (0.5)	113 (29)	75 (19.3)
High unemployment	221 (56.8)	82 (21.1)	1 (0.3)	64 (16.5)	21 (5.4)
Large family size	132 (34)	92 (23.7)		34 (8.7)	131 (33.7)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

As shown in table 2, poverty was rated very high and high (53.2% vs 28%) is the cause of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. On the side, low and very low (11.3% vs 8%) while undecided stood at 0.5%. This suggests that as a result of poverty victims of human trafficking becomes vulnerable to their perpetrators. Corruption was also elevated as a cause human trafficking in the study area as high and very high (50.4% vs 29.6%). Still very low, low and undecided were 11.6%, 8.2% and 0.3% in that order. This suggests that security agencies charged with the responsibility of mitigating the menace of human trafficking are playing fawn game in the process. It was also reported that lack of legitimate economic opportunities had divergent opinions as a cause of human trafficking in Nasarawa State: low 29%, very high 26.2%, high 25%, very low 19.3% while undecided was 0.5%. This report suggests that lack of legitimate

economic opportunities may not be adequate justification of engaging in human trafficking in Nasarawa State. However, high level of unemployment was given priority as cause of human trafficking in the state as very high and high (56.8% vs 21.1%). On the other hand, 16.5%, 5.4% and 0.3% rated low, very low and undecided respectively. This suggests that both the perpetrators and the victims of human trafficking may hide under the umbrella of unemployment to engage in this evil act. In terms of family size, there were divergent responses in this study because very high 34%, very low 33.7%, low 23.7%, low 8.7%. This suggests that whether small or large size may or may not be the reason to engage in human trafficking in Nasarawa State.

Section C: Roles of NAPTIP in the Control of Human Trafficking in Nasarawa State

Table 3: Respondents' Rating Roles of NAPTIP in the Control of Human Trafficking in Nasarawa State

Variable	Frequency (%)				
	HV	H	UD	L	VL
Public awareness campaigns	87 (22.4)	69 (17.7)	3 (0.77)	113 (30)	117 (30.1)
Investigation of human trafficking cases	78 (20.1)	93 (24)	2 (0.5)	121 (31.1)	95 (24.4)
Prosecution of human trafficking suspects	42 (10.8)	32 (8.2)	9 (2.3)	201 (51.7)	105 (27)
Reorientation of victims of human trafficking	69 (17.7)	77 (19.8)	6 (1.5)	86 (22.1)	151 (38.8)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

As shown in table 3, respondents in this study may not be happy with the way National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons is doing her work in Nasarawa State. To support this position, on the side of creation of awareness on the danger of human trafficking, very low and low (30.1% vs 30%). On the other hand, very high, high and undecided were given less attention as 22.45, 17.7%, and 0.77%. This suggests that NAPTIP is not doing its statutory responsibility of creating awareness as expected. In terms of investigation of human trafficking cases in the state, it was responded that very low and low (31.1% vs 24.4%). However, high and very high (24% vs 20.1%) while undecided was 0.5%. This suggests that many suspects of human trafficking escape from investigation. In the area of prosecution, it was revealed that low and very low (51.7% vs 27%), very high, high and undecided (10.8%, 8.2% vs 2.3%). This suggests that NAPTIP is not performing optimally in prosecuting of human trafficking cases in Nasarawa State. Lastly, reorientation of victims of human trafficking by NAPTIP is considered inadequate in this study as very low and low (38.8% vs 22.1%). Still, high and very high (19.8% vs 17.7%) while undecided was 1.5%.

4.1 Discussion of Findings

One of the objectives this study is to examine the causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. Poverty and corruption were elevated as the causes of human trafficking in the study area. As the high level of poverty, the victims of human trafficking become vulnerable to the perpetrators of human trafficking. This suggests that parents who are unable cater for the needs of their children, send these children on hawking (selling of pure water). On the side of corruption, many security agencies compromise their duty in the investigation and prosecution of the suspects of human trafficking in the study by collecting kick-back and allow suspects escape the wrath of the law. Lack of education and lack of legitimate economic opportunities were also acknowledged as a cause of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. Lack of education is one of the social ills to humanity. Many victims of human trafficking fall in the hand of traffickers as a result of education. There is a lack of legitimate economic opportunities available for the youth in the study area. This may be the reason why perpetrators of human trafficking see it as alternative business venture. Also, high level of unemployment and large family size were identified as causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa. As reported in this study, the level of unemployment among youths which exposed these youths to engage in human

trafficking as means of surviving or as alternative jobs. Polygamous marriages are prevalent in the study area hence the existence large families in which the heads of households find it difficult to provide the needs of their family members. This difficulty may make the family members vulnerable to human trafficking.

These findings are in line with that one of the key informants as:

To me, the major cause of human trafficking in this place is corruption. The security agencies that are saddled with the responsibility of check-mating these criminal behaviours are not doing their work as expected. They go to the extent of compromising with the perpetrators of human trafficking. Another cause of human trafficking is poverty. Many people cannot meet up with their family needs, therefore they push their female children on hawking which makes vulnerable to rape (KII with youth leader, aged 38years, male).

In a similar vein, another key informant responded as:

Family size is one of the causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. The State is predominantly polygamous. Many parents cannot take care of their 20, 25, to 30 children. The only option at their disposal is to send particularly female wards for hawking. This makes these children vulnerable to perpetrators of human trafficking. In a related development, lack of education is another cause of human trafficking. There are cases of wife's battery, as a result of lack of education, it is considered as normal act for husbands to assault their wives (KII with NAPTIP staff, aged 42years, female).

The second objective of this research was to uncover the extent at which National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has helped in trafficking control in Nasarawa State. It was acknowledged in this study that NAPTIP is not well in the areas of public awareness on the danger of human trafficking and investigation on the cases of human trafficking. As reported in the study, NAPTIP is not effectively disseminating information to public to the public on their roles. This may be so because, many residents do not have access to mass media facilities like radio, television newspaper, internet and other mass

media tools. On the side of investigation of cases of human trafficking, given top priority was not there. This may be so because, most of the cases of human trafficking are not reported in the study area, they are settled at home. It is also reported that prosecution of suspects of human trafficking and reorientation of victims of human trafficking were given low acceptance. NAPTIP has only one office in the state at headquarters (Lafia), so it may be difficult for NAPTIP to have wider coverage of prosecution of the suspects of human trafficking in the state. It is expected that NAPTIP reorient victims of human trafficking so that they can take measure against re-victimization. However, it was reported that, it is not doing in such direction.

These findings are supported by key informant responses as one has this to say:

How many people even know the existence of NAPTIP in this place? Very few. NAPTIP is not doing well in the area of creating awareness on the danger of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. Many people that fall in the hands of traffickers is because of lack awareness. The reason the rate on trafficking in persons is going on unabated is because NAPTIP has failed in prosecuting the perpetrators of human trafficking (KII with Youth Leader, aged 42years, male).

In another interview, a key informant responded as:

We are always on-air creating awareness on the dangers of human trafficking. We partner with all television and radio stations in Lafia aimed at intimating with people on the way leave safely against human traffickers. Human trafficking cases brought before us and the ones dictated by us are strictly investigated. Furthermore, after our investigation, we ensure we timely prosecute suspects before the law court (KII with NAPTIP staff, aged 45years, male).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study concludes that poverty, corruption, lack of education, lack of legitimate economic opportunities, high unemployment, and large family size are causes of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. The effects of these are the rate of criminal behavior as far as human trafficking continues

unabated in the study area. Again, the study concludes that the efforts of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons is inadequate in providing public awareness campaigns, investigation of cases on human trafficking, prosecution of suspects of human trafficking, and reorientation of victims of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. As long as the NAPTIP is not adequately performing its statutory duties, human trafficking will continue in the study area. The therefore study recommends the following:

- i. Government at all levels should provide avenues through job creation or skill

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- ii. There is a need for the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons to have offices in all local government areas of the state. This will go a long way to enhance their effectiveness in creating awareness using local information dissemination media. The agency should also intensify their efforts in investigating and prosecuting suspects of human trafficking in Nasarawa State.