



POLAC ECONOMIC REVIEW (PER)
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY, WUDIL-KANO



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

Omaku Bala Egwa Department of Sociology, Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Danladi Hadiza Ovenada General Studies Unit, Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna-Kaduna State
Danyawo Musa Adamu Department of Sociology, Federal University of Lafia

Abstract

Human trafficking is global phenomenon. This study was carried out with the main objective of assessing the challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. The study sampled three (3) Local Government Areas, one (1) from each of the three (3) Senatorial Districts of the State. Akwanga LGA (North), Lafia LGA (South) and Keffi LGA (West) with estimated population of 901,214. The sample size of this study is 407. 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 and 7 staff of the NAPTIP office in Nasarawa State who participated as key informants. Quantitative questions were formed using Likert scale. The paper 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 forced labour, involuntary domestic servitude, baby factories, and children exploited for commercial sex are the types of human trafficking that are found in Nasarawa State. It was also found that globalization, lack of mobility, inadequate funding, inadequate penalty, lack of shelter, traditional system as well as shortage of personnel are challenges faced by NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarwa State. The paper recommends among others; provision of vehicle to NAPTIP, construction of shelter for the rehabilitation of survivors of human trafficking, and increase in budgetary allocation to NAPTIP in Nasarawa State for effective service delivery.

Key words: NAPTIP, Challenges, Human Trafficking, Control, Nasarawa State

1. Introduction

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 Third World Continents with the goal of 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 stress and causing loss of freedom and personal dignity.

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 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 and other law enforcement agencies in Nigeria lack adequate information on traffickers and the movement of victims, and at the same time, the public is not willing to provide useful information (Adesina, 2004). This is so may be as a result of valid data base of all citizens in the country as obtainable in the developed countries of the world. Again, the fear of the public to provide useful information about the traffickers to NAPTIP may be connected of the fear of being attacked by the traffickers or their collaborators.

Human trafficking is a global, continental, and national and Nasarawa State in particular phenomenon. There are cases of different of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. For example, kidnapping. In Azome Clinic in Agwatashi, Obi Government Area of Nasarawa State, one of the staff of the said clinic has been kidnapped more than two years now, all efforts by community youths, police stationed in the community to get her back prove abortive. As the researcher is writing this study, nobody heard about her

both alive or death. Again, there are many cases of rural female children and youths who are deceived by their traffickers that they are going to be given better education and job in the town, they are later kept for commercial sex, house maid, gardeners, etc. These forms of human trafficking are going on in Nasarawa State unabated without strong institution of government to check-mate them. This rises the moral of this researcher to carry out this study on what are the challenges facing NAPTIP which is statutorily charged with the responsibility of control and prevent of all forms of human trafficking in Nasarawa State.

In a study on challenges facing NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nigeria. Adesina, (2014) & USDS, (2019) revealed lack of adequate information on traffickers' movement of victims and as the same time, the public is not ready to provide useful information to NAPTIP, lack of funding, unwarranted delays associated with the prosecution of suspects of human trafficking, and lack of cooperation and collaboration among government agents and civil society. This study did not investigate on globalization, lack of shelter used to resettle the survivors of human trafficking and traditional system of people in the reportage of human traffickers. Therefore, this study includes these variables. Again, study on challenges of NAPTIP may have taken place elsewhere, but there is little or no evaluation of challenges facing NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nasarawa State. This study was carried out to bridge these gaps in knowledge.

Research Questions

- i. What types of human trafficking exist in Nasarawa State?
- ii. What are the challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State?

The main objective of this study is to examine challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State.

- i. To identify types of human trafficking that are taking place in Nasarawa State.

- ii. To determine the constraints faced by NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Issues

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 avanche of crimes and human rights abuses with the recruitment, movement and selling of people into exploitative condition.

Types of Human Trafficking

The hidden nature of operations of human trafficking in persons prevent accurate count of the number and types of victims around the world, however, available research data indicate that, when trafficking within a country's borders is included in the count, more people fall victim to forms of labour or forms of trafficking than sex

trafficking. All trafficking in persons' issues, victims of both forms of trafficking often share a common denominator, trafficking ordeal started with migration in search of economic alternatives. Human trafficking is a transnational organized crime that does not only affect the victims but the society as a whole. The phenomenon is negatively impacting security and national security (Adepelumi, 2015). There are two types of human trafficking as transnational organized crime. The first is smuggling that includes importation of people into a State through evasion of immigration law. This also involves bringing in unlawful alien or foreign people, illegal transportation and illegal harbouring foreigners already in the country. On the other hand, the second type is the human trafficking which involves luring of victims from their homes for sex (Ogwu, 2002).

According to U.S Department of State Diplomacy in Action (2009-2017), there are eight types of human trafficking which include: involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, bonded labour, debt bondage and involuntary servitude, forced labour, sex trafficking prostitution, children exploited for commercial sex, and child sex tourism.

Challenges Facing National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons

There are many challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking. In a study by Hanafi (2013) in his work on challenges by NPTIP officials in the control of child labour and human trafficking in Lagos State, Nigeria revealed. The study used qualitative approach and six staff of NAPTIP were interviewed revealed: Traditional system: Nigeria is so attached to family relationship. This could be nuclear or extended family relationship. Therefore, a family (main) can decide to strengthen a family tie with another family (host) by allowing their child to stay with other family. On the other hand, the socio-economic situation of the other determines the fate of the innocent child. If the hosting family is not buoyant enough economically, there is a high chance that the child could be exposed to what is known as domestic (internal) or international trafficking. Internal or domestic trafficking refers to the home forms of human trafficking in a country or society. As countries

differ from one another in the areas of culture, development and size, the challenges associated with human trafficking in these regions are virtually the same. The commonest example of domestic trafficking are child soldiers, cultural trafficking, religious trafficking, agricultural and forced labour, pawning and debt bondage, cultism, forced marriage. Again, religious activities are very conspicuous in the country. There are Traditional worshippers, Christians, and Muslims that Nigerians give prime respect in their relation with their leaders or heads of these religious bodies as it is perceived that they are divine representatives of God on earth. Therefore, children are involved in religious activities that are contrary to TIP, and therefore the religious heads should be prosecuted under the law.

Globalization is a major challenge faced by NAPTIP officials in the control human trafficking. Globalization may have its positive impacts, however, human trafficking could be regarded as one of the shortfall of globalization. This is because the crime of human trafficking in person could not be committed in isolation as the case of other crimes such corruption, money laundering, illicit drug trafficking. Human trafficking is a crime committed in conjunction with other traffickers who may be in the same country or different countries. Globalization has affected trafficking in persons with both push and pull factors. Poverty, overpopulation, unemployment, greed and impoverishment are push factors that make people to look for ways to improve their socio-economic condition, therefore, engaging in human trafficking. On the other side, the pull factor is the breakdown of Soviet Union which leads to the creation of small unstable European countries and introduction of Schengen Visa programme have contributed the process of trafficking in persons from Nigeria to European countries. Also the ECOWAS free Visa system among West African States has made trafficking within the sub-region, which have porous borders and the traffickers used this for their illicit trade.

Inadequate funding: the respondents pointed out that NAPTIP and its staff suffered the challenge of inadequate fund to purchase equipment and hire personnel to conduct patrol across borders and sustain proactive investigation. It was largely responded that their units do not have

copies of the new anti-trafficking law and other relevant laws currently used because the organization do not sufficient funds to provide them in large quantity. "We are experiencing lack of sufficient funds for our operation for example campaign, training of staff, buying of equipment and rehabilitation". Furthermore, financial allocation from Government to NAPTIP for its annual budget is not adequate therefore causing shortage of number of employed personnel. This adversely affect NAPTIP the opportunity of getting adequate information on the phenomenon of human trafficking.

More so, slow judiciary and inadequate penalty: The NAPTIP needs to be encouraged and supported through speeding judicial process. The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Administration Act 2003 came into effect since 2003, however, the number of convicted offenders is very low compared to the large number of suspects reported in the country. Furthermore, as contained in the Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003 as amended in 2005 to increase penalties for human trafficking offenders prohibits all forms of human trafficking. The law prescribed a penalty of five years' imprisonment or fine not exceeding ₦120,000 (equivalent to £1,980) or both in lieu of prison term for human trafficking or attempted trafficking offences. The law prescribes penalty of 10 to 15 years' imprisonment for sex trafficking offences and a fine of ₦190,000 (equivalent of £3,135) or both. However, sentences that only focused on fine penalty are not adequate to prevent reoccurrence of trafficking in persons.

In a related development, Lack of cooperation, collaboration and coordination among various government agencies and civil society groups constitute as challenges to NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking Nigeria. In a study by Adesina, 2014; Foua & Diriwai, 2020; Ifeakandu, 2019) they opined that no serious collaboration, coordination, networking among the law enforcement agencies. Civil society, and other relevant stakeholders combating trafficking in persons in Nigeria. There was a lack of coordination and cooperation among federal ministries and State governments; and equally, there were no cooperation and collaboration between State governments and civil society groups in the

country-and this has affected the implementation of many human rights policies.

Lack of funding is another challenge preventing NAPTIP from meeting its statutory and social obligations towards the victims of internal human trafficking (Adesina, 2014; USDS, 2019). NAPTIP does not have enough resources to withstand the demand associated with trafficking and domestic work in the country (USDS, 2019). This agency does not have adequate funds to provide the needed proactive anti-trafficking operations, and most of the time, NAPTIP officers often concentrate their operations within the state capitals a development that hinders the investigation and identification of trafficking in rural areas (USDS, 2019). In the same vein, the violation of human rights is increasing in rural areas because the enforcement of legal provisions is becoming a challenge (Ifeakandu, 2019).

Inadequate information on traffickers and the movement of victims, and the same time, the public is not willing to provide information to NAPTIP (Adesina, 2014). Relevant data and up-to date research on human trafficking are not readily available (Adesina, 2014; Bello & Olutola, 2017). The federal Government of Nigeria, States Governments, NAPTIP concentrate more on international human trafficking and combating internal trafficking less effectively (Adesina, 2019).

The unwarranted delays associated with the prosecution of criminal matters in the country judicial system working stem coupled with the endemic corruption in the Nigerian security and legal systems are the factors working against NAPTIP and the collaborating efforts of many NGOs (Akpomera & Omoyibo, 2016). The complicity of guardians and parents of trafficked children has also thwarted the ant-trafficking efforts of NAPTIP in the country (Foua & Diriwari, 2020). Ignorance of victims is another barrier against the anti-trafficking efforts-some victims and their families do not see trafficking as expiation, and they consider their experience as opportunities for employment or empowerment (Foua & Diriwari, 2020).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The 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 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 challenges facing NAPTIP. Hence, there are occurrences of human trafficking related acts in Nasarawa State.

3. Methodology

The location of this study is Nasarawa State. Nasarawa State is situated in the North-central geo-political zone of Nigeria. The state was created on 1st October, 1996 out of Plateau State with the capital in Lafia. The total population of Nasarawa State base on 2006 result was 1,869,377. Today, this population is projected to be 2,934,307 using 3% annual population growth (NPC, 2023). The State share borders with Kogi State to the east, Benue State to the south, Plateau and Kaduna States to the north-east, 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 70° and 90° North and longitude 70° and 10° East. The State is made of thirteen (13) local government areas. That is Akwanga, Awe, Doma, Karu, Keana, Keffi, Kokona, Lafia, Nassarawa, Nassaraw-Eggon, Obi, Toto and Wamba. Christianity and Islam are the dominant religious practices alongside African traditional religion in State. The predominant occupation of people of Nasarawa State is farming (Inyang, 2016). The study sampled three (3) Local Government Areas, one (1) from each of the three (3) Senatorial districts of the State. Akwanga LGA (North),

Lafia LGA (South) and Keffi LGA (West) because they are the urbanizing LGAs in the State. The total projected study population was 901,214. That is, Akwanga LGA 180,097, Lafia LGA 575,871 while Keffi LGA 145,246 (NPC, 2023). Using Yemane (1967) sample size determination formular, the sample size of this study is approximately 400. The sampling distribution was proportional as Akwanga LGA 115, Lafia LGA 189 and Keffi LGA 96. 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 size and 7 staff of the NAPTIP office in Nasarawa State as key informants. Quantitative questions were formed using Likert scale of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Undecided, Disagreed, and Strongly Disagree. The paper used descriptive statistics to analyze quantitative data while data sourced from key informants (qualitative data) were analyzed using content analysis in order to compliment quantitative data.

4. Results and Discussion

Out of 400 questionnaire administered, 392 representing 98% were completely filled and returned. The results of the completed and returned questionnaire were presented below.

4.1 Section A: Socio-demographic Data of Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Socio-demographic data of Respondents N =392

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (Years Range)		
15-19	29	7.4
20-24	77	19.6
25-29	123	31.4
30-34	82	21.1
35-39	54	13.8
40 and above	27	6.9
Sex		
Male	224	57.1
Female	168	42.9
Religion		
African Traditional Religion	11	3.7
Christianity	184	46.1
Islam	197	50.2
Marital Status		
Married	259	66.1

Single	111	28.2
Divorced	10	2.6
Widow/widower	12	3.1
Educational Qualification		
Non-formal education	29	7.4
Primary	126	32.1
Secondary	131	33.4
Tertiary	106	27.1
Occupation		
Farming	128	32.7
Trading	138	34.3
Civil service	129	32.1

Source: Field Survey, 2024

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 challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. 20.7% were 35 years and above while 7.4% constituted respondents of ages of 15-19 years. In terms of sex, male dominated female (57.1% vs 42.9%) in this study. Still female particularly are prone to sexual exploitative trafficking while male may suffer forced labour. Islam and Christianity shared fair distribution (50.2% vs 46.1%) in this study area. This occurs because people of Nasarawa State that are from the same womb (mother) are more likely some can be Christians while others Muslims alongside with our Traditional religion which constituted 3.8%. 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 are being trafficked mostly in the areas of child labour and sexual exploitation. 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 maybe divorced (2.6%) while others may have 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 end as human traffickers or the trafficked. While non-formal and tertiary were 7.4% vs 27.1%. Trading (34.3%) 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 was 32.7% while civil service 32.1%.

4.2. Section B: Types of Human Trafficking that Exist in Nasarawa State

Table 2: Distribution of Types of Human Trafficking that exist in Nasarawa State N = 392

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Involuntary domestic servitude	122	31.1
Sex trafficking	96	24.5
Forced labour	134	34.2
Children exploited for commercial sex	11	2.8
Baby factory	29	7.4

Source: Field Survey, 2024

As shown in table 2, the commonest type of human trafficking found in Nasarawa State is forced labour (34.2%). This is the type of labour that the person

performing is not willing to perform the work but due to socio-economic conditions that are beyond his or her control made her or him to engage in such work. It then

followed by involuntary domestic servitude (31.1%). Sex trafficking was also given attention as respondents reacted with 24.5%. However, baby factory and children

exploited for commercial sex were given less attention as responded in these order (7.4% vs 2.8%) in Nasarawa State.

Table 3: Respondents' Rating Challenges Facing NAPTIP in Human Trafficking Control in Nasarawa State N = 392

Variable	Rating (Frequency/Percentage)				
	SA	A	UD	D	SD
Globalization	116 (29.6)	158 (40.3)	14 (3.6)	61 (15.7)	43 (10.1)
Inadequate funding	175 (44.6)	89 (22.7)	2 (0.5)	59 (15.1)	67 (17.1)
Inadequate penalty	179 (45.7)	89 (22.7)	1 (0.3)	36 (9.2)	25 (6.4)
Lack of shelter	201 (51.1)	142 (36.2)	3 (0.77)	32 (8.2)	14 (3.6)
Lack of cooperation among government agencies	19 (4.8)	84 (21.4)	12 (3.1)	90 (23.1)	187 (47.7)
Traditional system	211 (53.8)	72 (18.4)	1(0.3)	65 (16.6)	43 (10.1)
Inadequate personnel	115 (29.3)	49 (12.5)	2 (0.5)	117 (29.8)	109 (27.8)

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3 showed that respondents in this study acknowledged that globalization is one of challenges facing NAPTIP in her quest in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State as Agreed stood at 40.3%, Strongly Agreed 29.6%, Disagree 17.1%, Strongly Disagree 10.1% while Undecided was 3.6%. This suggests that ICT made the world as a global village. In terms of inadequate funding, it was given desired attention as challenge facing NAPTIP as Strongly Agreed was 45.7%, Agreed 22.7%, Disagreed 17.1%, Strongly Disagree 17.1% and Undecided 0.3%. In in the area of lack of shelter, it was responded that Strongly Agreed 51.1%, Agreed 36.2%, Disagree 8.2%, Strongly Disagree 3.6% while Undecided 0.77%. This implies that lack of fund NAPTIP cannot function well. Inadequate penalty of perpetrators of human trafficking was elevated as a challenge facing NAPTIP in control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State Strongly Agreed 51.1%, Agreed 36.2%, Disagree 8.2% while Strongly Disagree 3.6%. This suggests that human traffickers are not deterred from the crime. Lack of cooperation among government agencies was not accepted as a challenge to NAPTIP in

the control of human trafficking in this study as revealed Strongly Disagree 47.7%, Disagree 23.1%, Agreed 21.4%, Strongly Agreed 4.8% and Undecided 3.1%. In terms of traditional system, it was acknowledged by respondents that it is a challenge facing NAPTIP in human trafficking control in Nasarawa State as revealed Strongly Agreed 53.8%, Agreed 18.4% Disagree 16.6%, Strongly Disagree 10.1% and Undecided 0.3%. This suggests that community members are interfering in the work of NAPTIP in the State. Inadequate personnel were given fair rating in this study as a challenge affecting NAPTIP in human trafficking control in the study area as Disagree 29.8%, Strongly Agreed 29.3%, Strongly Disagree 27.8%, Agreed 12.5% while Undecided 0.5%. This suggests inadequate coverage of the State by NAPTIP to adequately control human trafficking.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

National Agency for the Prohibition Against Trafficking in Persons is a statutory government agency that is established with the major objective of curbing trafficking in persons in Nigeria. This study identified the following

types of human trafficking that exist in Nasarawa State. Forced labour and involuntary domestic servitude. This means that people are forced to do the work that they are not willing to do due to economic reality and the reward is not commensurate with the work done. Many of the domestic services such as house maids, home security, gardeners etc. These people work like slaves and their masters or madams hardly take proper welfare of them. The study also identified sex trafficking, baby factories and children exploited for commercial sex. It means many particularly female are being trafficked for sexual exploitation without their consent. It is found that baby factories exist in Nasarawa State. The baby factories are places where women give birth to children and sell to the traffickers for ritual purpose. Many children were trafficked for the purpose of making money. They are kept in a particular place and being deceived with mega money and exposed to sex which result to sexual transmitted infections.

These findings agree with that of US Department of State Diplomacy in Action (2009-2017) which identified forced labour, involuntary domestic servitude, sex trafficking, and children exploited for commercial sex as types of human trafficking.

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

There are baby factories in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Where women give birth to children and sell to human traffickers for ritual purpose. In Nasarawa State we have cases of spousal battery; where husbands beat their wives to the extent of injure them (KII with NAPTIP Staff, 42 years, Female).

In a similar way, a respondent has this to say:

There are cases of children that are being exploited for commercial sex. We received cases of people keeping female children as commercial sex maid. The traffickers give them mega money and bring men who have sexual intercourse with them while the traffickers are heavily paid by their collaborators (KII with NAPTIP staff, 29 years, Female).

The main objective of this study is to assess challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. It is found that globalization is one of the challenging facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. This is so because crime of human trafficking can take place by traffickers' conspiracy in different location as a result of the development of Information Communication Technology (ICT) which makes the world a global village. Inadequate funding is also found as challenge facing NAPTIP in curbing human trafficking in Nasarawa State. Inadequate monetary allocation is a cancan worm that affect almost all security organizations in the developing countries. This is the reason why it has office only in Lafia the State capital. The study also revealed that penalty administered to the perpetrators is not adequate to deter the offenders. This is the reason why the menace of human trafficking is on increase in Nasarawa State. It was also reported that there is no shelter for rehabilitation of survivors of human trafficking in Nasarawa State. The survivors are kept in the Correctional Centres in Nasarawa State for rehabilitation. The study revealed that the lack of cooperation among government security agencies is not found in Nasarawa State. As a result of cooperation among government security agencies, the survivors of human trafficking are rehabilitated in the Correctional Centres in the State. The study also revealed that traditional system is a problem of NAPTIP in the study area. This is a situation where relations of the suspects of human trafficking make request to settle the matter of human trafficking outside the NAPTIP hands. This is the reason why the menace of human trafficking is on increase in Nasarawa State. Finally, it was found in this study that there is shortage of personnel to curb menace of human trafficking in Nigeria. This is the reason why there are not Local Government offices of NAPTIP in Nasarawa State.

These findings agree with the earlier work by Hanafi (2013) on the study of the challenges by NAPTIP officials in the control of child labour and human trafficking in Lagos State which revealed traditional system, globalization, inadequate funding, and inadequate penalty are the challenges facing NAPTIP officials in Lagos. However, the finding on lack of cooperation among

government security agencies which was revealed in the works of Diriwa & Foua. 2020; Adenisa, 2014, Ifeakandu, 2019) as a challenge facing NAPTIP in curbing crime in Nigeria was rejected in this study.

These findings are in line with revelation of key informants as one of them said:

The major challenge facing NAPTIP in Nasarawa State is mobility. If there is any reported of human trafficking to us, we lack vehicle we can quickly response to that reportage. We have to hire vehicle which most time, waste time and before our arrival the suspects will not be found again. More so, we lack shelter (accommodation) where survivors of human trafficking in Nasarawa State can be rehabilitated. We have to take them to correctional centre for rehabilitation which is not right (KII with NAPTIP Staff, 48 years, Female).

In related development another key informant had this to say:

NAPTIP in Nasarawa State is facing with the challenge of traditional system. A system Where people after reportage of human traffickers or dictation by NAPTIP staff, the family of both trafficked and the traffickers come to NAPTIP and request to settle the matter at home. This is why the menace of human trafficking is on increase because the perpetrators are not suffering for act committed. Furthermore, we do not offices in the local area across the country. The is the reason for poor coverage of our work (KII with NAPTIP staff, aged 42 years, female).

5. Recommendations

Base on the findings on the challenges facing NAPTIP in the control of human trafficking in Nasarawa, the paper

came up with the following suggestions which will be of help to improve the work of NAPTIP in Nasarawa State.

- i. There should be network checker surveillance that will monitor the communication in order to track the communication by the traffickers in Nasarawa State and Governments, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations and spirited individuals should help in the provision of vehicle to NAPTIP for quick response to distress calls and patrol on human trafficking in Nasarawa State.
- ii. Federal government should increase budgetary allocation to NAPTIP so that it can purchase the modern trafficking surveillance in Nasarawa State and penalty against the perpetrators of human trafficking should be so severe so that it will deter traffickers and the potential traffickers from engaging in human trafficking in Nasarawa State.
- iii. Governments and other spirited bodies and individuals should build shelter (accommodation) where survivors of human trafficking can adequately be rehabilitated in Nasarawa State and there should be more deployment of staff with the creation of Local Government offices of NAPTIP for effective coverage of human trafficking related cases in Nasarawa State.
- iv. Community members should be enlightened on the dangers of human trafficking so that they can stop interfering in the work of NAPTIP by begging for the settlement of human trafficking related matters at home in Nasarawa State.

References

- Adenisa, (2004). *Modern day slavery: Poverty and child trafficking in Nigeria*. Do1 10.1080/14725843.2014.881278. Retrieved on 15th August, 2024.
- Adenisa, 2014, Foua & Diriwai, 2020; Ifeakandu, 2019). *Cultural and legal perspectives in child protection in the context of child trafficking in Nigeria*. <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=97662>. Retrieved on 25th August, 2024.
- Adepelumi, P. (2015). *The root causes of human trafficking in Nigeria*. African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development in Nigeria.
- Aronowitz, A. A. (2009). *Human trafficking, human misery*. Westport, CT. Praeger Publishers
- Burke, M., & Brujin, B. (2017). *Human trafficking interdisciplinary perspectives*. Edited by Mary C. Burke. New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4334/9781315679990>.
- Hanafi, Z. O. (2013). *The challenges by NAPTIP officials in the control of child labour and human trafficking in Lagos State*. Otaniemi, Laurea University of Applied Sciences.
- Igbo, E. M. (2008). *Routine activity theory in Aetiology of crime*. Enugu, New Generation Books, Suite 51, Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium Shopping Mall (Pp 183-4).
- Inyang, M. (2016). *Public perception on Youths restiveness in Lafia Metropolis*. An Unpublished Dissertation, Department of Sociology Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria.
- Newton, P. J. (2008). *Finding victims of human trafficking. National opinions rescue centre*. University of Chicago Press: <http://doi.org/10.1037/e540892008-001>.
- Ogwu, U. J. (2002). “*Human trafficking: The emerging threats to Nigeria’s security and development*” Keynote address delivered at the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA), Women Day Seminar, Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos.
- Okech, D., Hassan, N., Howard, W., Anarfi, J,K, & Burns, A. C. (2018). Social support, dysfunctional coping, and community reintegration as predictors of PTSD among human trafficking survivors. *Behavioural Medicine Journal*. 44 (3), 209-218.
- Okeshola, B. F. (2007). “*Assessment of trafficking in persons for labour purpose in West and Central Africa especially children and women (Nigeria-Cameroon trafficking assessment)*” A research conducted for National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP).
- Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Nigeria) (2003).
- U.S Department of State Diplomacy in Action (2009-2017). *Major forms of trafficking in persons*. Archive Content available on State.gov.website. Retrieved on 17 August,2024.
- UNESCO (2006). Human trafficking in Nigeria
- UNICEF, (2001). *The state of the world’s children*. Available on www.unicef.org/solveg/report.
- United Nations (2017). United Nations office of drug and crime
- United Nations Palermo Protocol (2000)