JOURNAL OF FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT

LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
I B A D A N

AN INVESTIGATION INTO PUSH FACTORS SUSTAINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

By

Abiodun M Geshinde, Ph.D
abigesh@yahoo.co.uk

&

Ayotunde Elegbeleye
ayotunde_2003@yahoo.com
Department of Psychology
Covenant University, Ota

Abstract
Human trafficking is mostly recognized as modern day slavery and as such it is not historically new. However, the dimensions of its operations across the globe call for urgent measures that would arrest its multifaceted devastating effects. This paper therefore delved into sustaining push factors of human trafficking in Nigeria with a view to recommend methods of curbing them. Participants are Four Hundred and Five Nigerians (males=325 females=445) selected through multi-stage from the three major zones of the country (West, East and North). "Questionnaire on Causative Factors of Children and Women Trafficking" (QCFCWT) developed and validated by the researcher was employed to generate data. One research question and two research hypotheses were posed and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The findings indicated that at mean decision point of 3.00 inability to meet the basic needs of life is most potent factor sustaining human trafficking in Nigeria (x= 3.41). This is closely followed by having children more than one can cater for (x = 3.13) and lack of information about realities and dangers of trafficking (x= 3.12). Further analysis showed that there was significant difference on gender basis while no significant difference existed on age basis. On the basis of this findings, it was recommended among others that governments should practically improve the economic base of all families through tested and viable economic policies.

Key Words: *Push Factors, Human Trafficking, Nigeria.*

Introduction
In an attempt to make life more bearable people engage in lawful and criminal activities all over the world. Dignity of human beings is sometimes not respected when desperate attempts are made to make ends meet. Human beings are bought and sold just like goods and services in diverse parts of the world. UNESCO (2006) asserted that girls and women trafficking are not new historically but it has taken new worrisome dimensions in recent times. Ellis (2011) equally recollected that trafficking in women is an ancient enterprise that

dates back nearly to the beginnings of civilizations. During this period female slaves were often highly valued in the ancient nations for use as prostitutes, concubines, or to breed more slaves. Kapstein (2006) argued that it is erroneous to probably assume that slave trade was eliminated during the nineteen century because human trafficking practices have shown that slavery and the global slave trade continue to thrive to this day. In fact, it is likely that more people are being trafficked across borders against their will now than at any point in the past.

This illicit trafficking of human beings across different nations of the world has received considerable attention from political and religious leaders as well as non government organizations. Polaris Project (2006), for instance, demystifies the concept of human trafficking through the provision of the following information:

1. Human trafficking encompasses both transnational trafficking that crosses borders and domestic or internal trafficking that occurs within a country.

2. Human trafficking is not synonymous with forced migration or smuggling. Instead, human trafficking is more accurately characterized as "compelled service" where an individual's will is overborne through force, fraud, or coercion.

There are many fundamental differences between the crimes of human trafficking and human smuggling. The legal definition of trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force. Psychological means of control, such as threats, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime.

The United Nations (2002) defined trafficking in persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The prevalence of human trafficking in different nations of the world is alarming. It has been estimated by the United States that 2.5 million people from 127 different countries are being trafficked to 137 countries for the purposes of forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced marriages (Wikipedia, 2010). According the United Nations, child trafficking is an enormous industry that may involve more than one million children and generate tens of billions of US dollars (USD) per year. Most of the children involved come from developing nations, with the largest proportion believed to be from Southeast Asia (Ellis,

2011). The magnitude of human trafficking around the world is made much worrisome when UNWOMEN (2002) quoted the following as statistics from different nations:

The US Department estimates that a minimum of 700,000 people are trafficked each year and that the number may exceed 2 million;
According to the US State Department, there are an estimated 225,000 women and children who have been trafficked in South East Asia;
ILO-IPEC estimated that 80,000 women and children have been trafficked to Thailand for sex trade since 1990. The highest number are from Myanmar, followed by the Yunuah Province of china and Laos;
According to ILO-IPEC an estimated 500-1000 Cambodian children work as child beggars in Thailand.

Although accurate statistics of those that have been trafficked in Nigeria is currently unavailable UNESCO (2006) reported that Nigeria is the leading Africa country in human trafficking and trafficking in human beings is the third largest crime after economic fraud and drug trade. It further stated that states that tend to provide more trafficked persons included Akwa-Ibom, Cross-Rivers, Edo, Balyelsa, Delta, Imo, Ebonyi, Kano, Ogun, and Oyo, and Lagos. Trafficked persons from these states are taken to Cote d'ivore, Equitorial Guinea, Mali, Cameroon, Gabon, Benin Republic, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Germany. There are different types of human trafficking in Nigeria. David-Odigie identifies these to include:
(1) Internal trafficking of women and children from rural to cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, Calabar, Warri, and Port-Harcourt.
(2) Trafficking for organized begging exists mostly in the northern part of Nigeria where disabled are lured into begging business in cities like Kano and Kaduna.
(3) Baby harvesting where nurses/doctors keeps teenagers or single mothers unwanted pregnancy for the purpose of selling off the baby after birth in states like Abia, Ebonyi, and Lagos.
(4) Cross border trafficking to countries such as Cote d'ivore, Equitorial Guinea, Mali, Cameroon, Gabon, Benin Republic, Libya, Algeria, and Morroco.

The devastating effects of human trafficking have received considerable attention of scholars. For instance, Ellis (2011) reported that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has found out that trafficked children are frequently subjected to sexual and physical abuse, lose all contact with family members and a stable environment, receive little or no education, and may suffer serious health problems and a high risk of early death. Similarly, health officials insist that trafficking in women causes significant health risks to the general public, especially in terms of sexually transmitted diseases because women sold into

prostitution are often discouraged or forbidden from using contraceptives such as condoms, and thus become high-risk candidates for the spread of diseases. David-Odigie (2008) also pointed out that human rights are violated while talent and human resources are pushed out of Africa.

Attempts to minimize if not completely eradicate human trafficking have led to identifying factors responsible for its occurrence. Aetiology of human trafficking has been broadly divided into push (supply) and pull (demand) factors (Gesinde, 2009). Push factors are factors resident in the victim of traffickers as well as the environment of the victim which tends to push him/her out of his/her present location while pull factors are factors resident in the projected location which tend to attract the victims (Gesinde, 2009). Since the focus of this paper is on push factors the following are some of the factors that have been documented in the review of relevant literature. Adepoju (2005) submitted that poverty and deterioration in the living conditions of persons in sub-Saharan Africa are the major factors sustaining human trafficking. David- Odigie (2008), on the other hand, in addition to poverty recognized illiteracy, unsafe and uniformed migration, unemployment, decline in traditional and cultural values, laxity of security agents, porous borders, and greed and quest for quick money. Attoh (2009) in a qualitative study of 30 women (aged between 15 and 25) who had been deported back to Nigeria from Europe and other parts of Africa found that education, globalization, unemployment, poverty, and family values and size were the push factors responsible for women trafficking in Nigeria. UNwomen (2002) postulated that demand factors of women trafficking would not exclude:

Unequal access to education that limits women's opportunity to increase their earnings in more skilled occupations;

Lack of legitimate and fulfilling employment opportunity particularly in rural communities;

Sex-selective migration policies and restrictive emigration policies/laws, instituted often as a "protective" measure limit women legitimate migration;

Less access to information on migration/job opportunities, recruitment channels, and a greater lack of awareness of the risks of migration compared to men;

Disruption of support system due to natural and human created catastrophes;

Traditional community attitudes and practices which tolerate violence against women.

Gesinde (2009) in a comprehensive assessment of push factors of human trafficking enumerated twenty-five probable factors sustaining human trafficking in Nigeria. These included inability to meet basic needs, culture of mandatory support for families by children and women, lack of education, laziness, urban

centre development, lack of information, and non-implementation of trafficking laws among others. UNESCO (2006) highlighted poverty; perversion of cultural traditions; manipulations of religious rituals; harmful cultural and social realities; lack of information; peer pressure; HIV and AIDS, AIDS orphan; weak legal framework; restrictive migratory policies as factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Human trafficking is globally recognized to be a form of modern slavery. The illicit trade has not only being found to be increasing on yearly basis but it has also become one the most criminal and health problems of the entire world. Documented evidences showed that internal and external trafficking in children and women occurs in virtually all the countries in Africa. Nigeria is presently recognized as the foremost country in Africa leading the illicit trafficking in children and women. Despite the fact that Nigeria ratified the United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish human traffickers and enacted trafficking in person's law enforcement and administration Act 2003 the rate at which children and women are transported to the developed nations continue to escalate. The UNESCO, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), The Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), The Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) efforts to eradicate children and women trafficking in Nigeria have only yielded inconsequential success because of certain internal and external factors militating against their efforts. Despite the fact that human trafficking is a humanitarian problem of global scale Mahmoud &Trebesch (2010) asserted that quantitative researches on the issues barely exist. There is therefore the need to empirically verify theoretical postulations on aetiology of human trafficking most especially in Nigeria where there astronomical increase in the illicit trade.

Purpose of the Study

This paper consequently investigates some of the pull (internal) factors sustaining human trafficking in Nigeria with a view to give direction to the development of blueprint for combating human trafficking in Nigeria.

Research Question

(i) To what extent would Nigerian agree or disagree that the following push factors are accountable for human trafficking in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

(i) There is no significant difference between male and female in their perception of push factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria

(ii) There is no significant difference in the perception of Nigerians on push factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria on the basis of age?

Methodology Research Design

The descriptive survey design was employed for this study.

Participants

The participants were Four Hundred and Five Nigerians (males=325 females=445) selected through multi-stage from the three major zones of the country (West, East and North). The age range of the sample was from 19 to 59 years with a mean age of 37.53years while their years of working experience range from 1 to 34 with a mean of 10.99 years.

Instrument

The instrument used to gather data for the study was "Questionnaire on Causative Factors of Children and Women Trafficking" (QCFCWT) developed by Gesinde (2008). The instrument was sub-divide into two parts. Section A requested the participants to supply demographic information on gender, age, years of working experience, educational qualification, and state of origin. Section B of the instrument consisted of 25 items on push factors and 12 items on pull factors of human trafficking. This study utilized data collected on the 25 item under push factors. The respondents are to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement on a 4-point Likert scale of SA=4; A=3; D=2; SD=1. The split-half reliability index of the instrument through Pearson Product Correlation Coefficient Moment was 0.94.

Procedure for Data Administration

The researcher with the assistance of six research assistants administered and collected the questionnaires in all the participating zones of the country. A total of four hundred and five questionnaires appropriately filled were used for the analysis of data.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistic of mean, standard deviation were used to analyse the research question while t-test statistics and analysis of variance were used to test the two formulated research hypotheses at .05 level of alpha.

Results

Table 1: Mean, Standard Deviation and Rank orders of Respondents to Push Factors of Human Trafficking in Nigeria.

Items	Mean	SD	Decision	Remark	Ranking
1. Inability to meet basic needs of life	3.41	.707	2.50	Agree	1st
2. The culture of mandatory support for families by children and women.	2.43	.890	2.50	Disagree	23rd
3. The need to escape from violence, war, poverty, e.t.c.	2.73	1.040	2.50	Agree	14th
4. Disintegration of family due to parent(s) death.	2.86	.912	2.50	Agree	10th
5. Lack of education on the part of victims of trafficking.	2.91	.902	2.50	Agree	6th
6. Laziness on the part of the victims of trafficking.	2.54	1.008	2.50	Agree	20th
7. Monopoly of certain jobs by men.	2.22	.903	2.50	Disagree	25th
8. Belief that higher standards of life exist somewhere.	3.05	.961	2.50	Agree	4th
9. Regional imbalances in the distribution of resources.	2.54	.905	2.50	Agree	20th
10. Development of urban centres at the expense of rural areas.	2.90	.933	2.50	Agree	7th
11. Unequal distribution of political appointments between men and women.	2.36	1.009	2.50	Disagree	24th
12. Feminization of poverty.	2.56	.977	2.50	Agree	17th
13. Lack of information about realities and dangers of trafficking.	3.12	.886	2.50	Agree	3rd
14. Marginalization of the poor majority of whom are children and women.	2.68	.894	2.50	Agree	15th
15. Women are confronted with higher rate of unemployment, fewer career and lower wages.	2.54	.945	2.50	Agree	20th
16. Having number of children that one can cater for.	3.13	.915	2.50	Agree	2nd
17. Porous borders which gives room for illegal migration.	2.93	.934	2.50	Agree	8th
18. Restrictive migration evident in harsh conditions for legal migration from one country to another.	2.55	.885	2.50	Agree	19th
19. Citizens' population which is more than available resources.	2.78	.998	2.50	Agree	12th

20. Early and late marriages.	2.66	.979	2.50	Agree	16th
21. Political instability.	2.77	.924	2.50	Agree	13th
22. Corrupt practices in higher and low places.	2.89	.947	2.50	Agree	8th
23. Inability of regions to control their resources.	2.56	.917	2.50	Agree	17th
24. High rate of organized crime.	2,85	.898	2.50	Agree	11th
25. Non-implementation of human trafficking laws.	3.02	.974	2.50	Agree	5th

Table 1shows the mean, standard deviation, and rank order of push factors promoting human trafficking in Nigeria. From the table, it is evident that inability to meet the basic needs of life is most potent factor sustaining human trafficking in Nigeria (x= 3.41). This is closely followed by having children more than one can cater for (x = 3.13) and lack of information about realities and dangers of trafficking (x= 3.12). Responses of the participants further indicated that culture of mandatory support for families by children and women (x = 2.430); unequal distribution of political appointments between men and women (x = 2.36); and monopoly of certain jobs by men (x= 2.22) in that order were below the decision mean point of 2.50.

Table 2: Mean, Standard Deviation, Degree of Freedom and t-value of male and female respondents to push factors of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Df	T–Cal	T.Cri	Sig	P
Male	134	65.69	10.54	403	-4.34 NS	-1.96		.040
Female	271	70.12	9.18					

*Significant @ 0.05

Table 2 above presented the calculated means, standard deviation, and t-value on gender basis. The computed t-value of -4.34 did not validate the predicted null hypothesis that there is no significant difference on gender basis because it was greater than the critical t-value of -1.96. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance result comparing respondents' responses on the basis of Age

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	282.049	3	94.016	.966	.409
Within Groups	39025.245	401	97.320		
Total	39307.294	404			

*Significant @ 0.05

The result of one way analysis reported in table 3 indicates that the F-calculated value of .996 is lesser than the critical F-ratio of 3.00. Consequently, the predicted hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the perception of Nigerians on push factors responsible for human trafficking in Nigeria on the basis of age is accepted (F= df 3/404 =.996; p > 0.05.

Discussion

Trafficking in human beings has become a global challenge. One of the ways of overcoming this challenge is to explore scientific means of collating data on it with a view to determine causes and practicable solution. This paper in response to this sought the views of Nigerians on factors sustaining the illicit trade of human trafficking and found out that the most pressing factors in order of importance are inability to meet the basic needs of life, having children more than one can cater for and lack of information about realities and dangers of trafficking. These findings led credence to Adebayo (2005); David-Odigie (2008), Attoh (2009, and Gesinde (2009) who had earlier predicted the intervening roles of these factors. Inability to meet basic needs of life is caused by abject poverty.

Most families in developing countries of the world, of which Nigeria where this study was carried out, are living below poverty line. It is so bad to the point that some look for what to eat from refuse dumb. It is therefore not surprising that such people will quickly jump on an imaginary or real offer to migrate to where basic needs of life will be met. Similarly, the population of Nigeria is conservatively put at almost 150 million people which suggests that the rate at which children are born is very high. Evidence from the qualitative research work of Attoh (2009) indicated that 25 out of the trafficked but deported participants in his study were not only from polygamous homes but from family size ranging from 15-25. No wonder that one of the participants commented in pidgin English that:
My papa marry four wives. I be first for my mama side and ten for my papa.

I no go school and I no learn work wetin make I do? As I no fit thief na him I decide
to do ashewo since i fine help to my family. Wetin come be the wahala inside. You
wan make I make hungry kill my mama children (p170).

The outcome of research hypothesis one which established significant difference on gender basis did not spark a surprise because Osakue and Okoojion (2002) and Ngban, Maliki, Asuquo (2009) study had earlier showed that significance difference existed in the perception of human trafficking of male and female. It is also evident from prevalence statistics that more women and children are victims of trafickking.

Conclusion and Recommendation
Human trafficking practice is inhuman and real in our society. Its negative consequences should be curbed in order to preserve the dignity of man. Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. Strong and concerted efforts should be made by governments to practically improve the economic base of all families through tested economic policies.
2. It is important for govemment and non government agencies to reinforce awareness campaign against human trafficking through dissemination of detail information via media resources.
3. Apart from government creating more employment opportunities for job seekers, there is the urgent need to create enabling environment for private organization participation in job creation.
4, Primary and secondary education school be made compulsory for school aged children.

References

Adepoju, A. (2005). Review of research and data on human trafficking in Sub-Saharan African. *African International Migration*, 43 (1/2), 75-98
Attoh, F. (2009). Trafficking in women in Nigeria: Poverty or value or inequality. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 19(3), 167-171
David- Odigie, C. P. (2008). Human trafficking trends in Nigeria and strategies for combating the crime. *Peace Studies Journal*, 1(1), 63-75.
Ellis, J (2011) What is child trafficking? Retrieved 30th Jan., 2011 from http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-child-trafficking.htm
Gesinde, A. M. (2009). Children and human trafficking in Nigeria: Issues, causes, and prevention. In H.O. Nwagwu, O.A.

Moronkola, & D.O.Akintunde (Eds.), *Women issues in Nigeria* (pp243-252).Ibadan: Royal People (Nigeria) Ltd.

Kapstein, E. B (2006). The new global slave trade. Retrieved 30th Jan., 2011 from http://www.foreignaffairs.com/author/ethan-b-kapstein

Mahmoud, T. O. & Trebesch, C. (2010). The economics of human trafficking and human migration: Micro evidence from Eastern Europe.

Ngban, A. N. Maliki, A. E., & Asuquo, P. N (2009). Demographic variables and perception of human trafficking in South-South zone of Nigeria. *Study Home Community Science,*3 (2), 127-130.

Osakue, G & Okoojion, E (2002). Trafficking in girls: The way forward- Report of research in Edo and Delta States. Benin : Girls Power Initiatives (GPI) Nigeria.

Polaris Project (2006). Common myths and misconceptions of human trafficking in US. Retrieved 31st Jan. 2011 from http://www.restoretheinnocent.org/Restore_the_Innocent/Advocacy_Group_File/Common%Myths%and%20Misconceptions.pdf

UNESCO (2006) . Human trafficking in Nigeria: Root causes and recommendations. Policy paper No 14. 2(3)

Wikipedia (2010). Human trafficking. Retrieved 30th Jan., 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking