

# Women Participation in Politics and Poverty as Determining Factors for Reduction of Children and Women Trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District: A Perceptual Study of Women in Politics

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## Abstract

Children and Women Trafficking have been a contemporary social issue. It is fast becoming a trade which is defiling concerted efforts to resolve. This study investigated the influence of participation in politics and poverty as determining factors for the reduction of children and women trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted to carry out this study. One hundred and ninety five educated women selected through simple random sampling technique from ten out of 64 registered political parties in Ogun East Senatorial District took part in the study. Data were collected using a self-constructed instrument which has items on perceived influence of participation in politics and poverty on the reduction of children and women trafficking. Simple percentage and goodness-of-fit Chi square statistics were used to analyse the data collected. Result indicated among others that; women participation in politics can reduce children and women trafficking ( $\chi^2 = 39.974; p < .05$ ). (ii) Poverty is a cankerworm and one of the causes of children and women trafficking in Nigeria ( $\chi^2 = 37.923; p < .05$ ). It was recommended amid others that: (i) States and governmental organizations should note and take care of the factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, including inequality, poverty and all forms of discrimination and prejudice (ii) Qualitative education should be freely provided, and (iii) youth should be engaged in profitable jobs which will invariably enhance and refrain the citizen from children and women trafficking.

**Keywords:** Participation in Politics; Poverty; Children and Women Trafficking;

## INTRODUCTION

Conceptions about these forms of trafficking are different in Europe compared with Asian and African countries. In some countries, trafficking is not a criminal offence and may be practiced by “travel agencies”. In others, trafficking has been criminalized and anti-trafficking legislation is in place (Williams, 1997). Trafficking in women and children is a crime that is increasing in scope and complexity. Globalisation has significantly influenced the development of the organised crime. Technological advances in communications, travel and infrastructure increase the opportunities for criminal activities of organised groups. Alongside the trade in illegal drugs, global markets for other illicit products trafficking in women and children have been developed (Hemeldonck, 1998).

In the receiving and transit countries, the prostitution market is demand-driven. The demand comes from owners of brothels, clubs or bars who pay the suppliers and put women to work. Procurers and other intermediaries enhance the demand in the receiving and transit countries by advertisement in the mass media (daily papers, magazines, on TV during the late night showings) and by use of mobile telephones. Corruption and the attitude of state and society also play an important role (Grant *et al.*, 1997).

Private and public agents are involved in children and women trafficking. Private agents include shippers, taxi, drivers, cyclist (rick show and truckers). They can participate in recruiting, in concert with owners or independently. The communications media are method for recruiting through classified aids and radio announcements. Internet services are being used to stimulate demand through Web pages that offer sexual tourism and fraudulent marriages. Attorneys have been implicated in trafficking for falsifying documents to allow minors to travel without authorization. In Nicaragua, for example, it has been reported that 15 attorneys have been sanctioned for producing fraudulent document, the same problem has occurred in Panama, where fraudulent marriage are used to recruit Dominican women.

Owners of nightclubs, brothels, Gabarets, bars, motelsetc participate in the process of recruiting and exploitation. They receive and control the victims earnings and hold their documents ensuring a positions of power over them and a high degree of impurity. Immigration and police officers and other public officials help the trafficker's cases have identified of fraudulent births documentation falsifying ages and identities for crossing borders and destruction of documents to protect the owners of brothels and bars, in order to impede investigation and continuation of court proceedings

Without clients, trafficking for sexual exploitation would disappear. The demand in the region is basically for

prostitution and strippers. Cabarets demand is concentrated in areas where it is tolerated such as tourist areas ports, locations along international routes and certain agricultural area where migrant workers are primarily men. Increased tourism and the massive opening of casinos in the region have opened up in a growing international market. These intermediaries bar and brothel owners, taxi drivers, hotel managers, sales men and pimps all serve client demand on several occasions, we receive information that drugs and alcohol are also used to control women and minors. They are used not only to induce dependency on the owner but also to increase the victim's debt to him.

The absence of public policies against trafficking and legal gaps or the inapplicability of existing legislation contribute to the impunity of the traffickers and do not provide the victim with the services they need, The scarcity of human, technical and financial resources in alarming the efforts often falls to a single person in most of the region's countries police and immigration to personnel work without essential equipment (computers, vehicle, video cameras, recorders, telephones, fax machines) with limited or man existent technology activities such as monitoring borders and discovering or detecting trafficking operations are extremely difficult and even dangerous. There is a lack of specification in the investigative police including the police gender unit prejudicing the appropriate handing of victims and resulting in the absence of changes due to fear of the authorities and lack of confidence in the justice system.

The reasons for the increase in trafficking are many. In general the criminal business feeds on poverty, despair, war, crisis and ignorance. the globalization of the world economy has increased the movement of people across borders, legally and illegally, especially from poorer to wealthier countries, international organized crime has taken advantage of the freer flow of people, money, goods and services to extend its own international reach.

Other contributing factors include: the continuity subordination of women in many societies as reflected in economic, educational and work opportunity disparities between men and women, many societies still favour sons and view girls as an economic burden. Desperate families in some of the most impoverished countries sell their daughters to brothels of trafficking for the immediate payoff and to avoid having to pay the dowry to marry off daughters; the hardship and economic dislocation caused by the transition following the collapse of communism in the former society union and Eastern Europe as well as the war in the former Yugoslavia.

The lack of opportunity and the eagerness for a better life abroad have made many women and girls especially vulnerable to entrapment by traffickers. With the weakening of law enforcement in post-communist societies, criminal organization have grown and established themselves in the lucrative business up international trafficking, the high demand for sex tourism, sex workers, cheap sweet, shop labour and domestic workers. Traffickers are encouraged by large tax free profits and continuing income from the same victims at very low risk

No country in the region has legislation against all forms of trafficking in person or specifically against trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. However, they all have laws in their criminal codes that punish the act of facilitating entry for purposes of prostitution. The crime of trafficking as such is not explicitly defined in the legislation. Moreover, the enforcement of existing laws against pimps and facilitators is practically non-existent.

The achievement of the Ogun East Senatorial District, Ogun State, Nigeria has been tremendous in the following areas such as

- Gender and Children's Policies Formulated.

- MOWAC Strategic Implementation Plan 2005-2008 in place.

- Formulated the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (ECCD) for implementation.

- Developed Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Policy (OVCP).

- Engendered the strategic Focus of GPRS I& II.

- Facilitated the implementation of the Affirmative Action Policy (AAP) that led to the establishment of Gender Desk Officers (GDOs) in all MDAs and some districts.

- Continuous collaboration with MDAs, MMDAs, DAs, NGOs and CBOs to implement Gender, Women and Child related programmes and projects.

- Coordination of sector policies for the advancement of gender, women and children at national sector and district levels.

- Dissemination of government policies at grass root levels to enhance participatory approach to development and good governance.

- Affirmative action to achieve gender parities in Girl-child Education.

- Carried out sensitization programmes to create health awareness for women (Reproductive Health and Right Issues, Family Planning and Safe motherhood).

- Collaborated with relevant government agencies to implement policies on free pre-natal and delivery services for women.

- Facilitated the registration of more than 1000 Kayayei under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

- Extended Micro Credit to women engaged in economic activities with a view to reducing their poverty

levels and vulnerability.

Trained over 17,000 women in the informal sector on financial management skills

Mothers of trafficked children supported with micro credit to carry out small skills business to support their families.

Organised women durbars at regional and district levels to disseminate information on government policies and potential impacts on women and to receive feedbacks for possible policy review.

Initiated consultative process towards the passage of Property Right of Spouses Bill.

Organized consultative Fora with key stakeholders to deliberate on issues of maternal mortality and strategies to curb the incidence.

Sensitized public especially women and vulnerable groups on HIV/AIDS.

Organized International Expert Forum to deliberate on strategies to increase women's participation in decision-making positions.

Provided policy inputs on women and children's concerns for incorporation into national and sector plan e.g.:

(i) Energy Sector Policy, (ii) Land Administration Policy, (iii) Social Protection Strategy Policy etc.

Developed an effective Gender M&F Framework to track Progress and Evaluate outcomes and impacts of Gender related programmes and projects

Women's political participation encompasses a wide range of actions and strategies. It includes voting and voter education, candidacy in national and local elections, lending support to candidates who carry gender-sensitive agenda, campaigning against those who have policies that are 'anti-women's rights', and advocating for the integration of a women's rights agenda in the platforms of candidates and parties (Bello, 2003).

Political participation strategies include mechanisms that enhance women's political participation. Examples of these are gender quotas that allot 30 to 50 percent of decision-making positions for women; gender mainstreaming strategies that promote a culture of gender sensitivity in government; national machineries for women, which have the primary role of leading and monitoring gender mainstreaming strategies of governments; gender or women's budgets that allot a percentage of national budget for gender mainstreaming and affirmative action for women's advancement (WLP's Political Participation and Economic Facts and Figures, 2002).

In legislatures of some democratic countries, women's sectorial representatives have been appointed on terms and capacities at par with elected representatives. A more recent mechanism that provides a leeway for women's political participation is the party list system where women's groups can bid for seats in the legislature (Bello, 2003).

Quota systems have significantly increased women's participation and representation in both elective and appointive political decision-making positions. Quotas have been viewed as one of the most effective affirmative actions in increasing women's political participation (WLP's Political Participation and Economic Facts and Figures, 2002). There are now 77 countries with constitutional, electoral or political party quotas for women. In countries where women's issues had always been relegated to least priority, the increase in number of women in decision-making positions helps put women's agendas at a higher priority level. The visibility of women leaders gives a higher profile to women's rights in general. Quotas for women in politics make possible changes in attitudes about women's roles and abilities such that they open up more education, work and other opportunities for women (DAWN Internet, 2003).

Women have been able to participate in political decision-making through legislative advocacy by drafting and proposing laws that, in turn, are coursed into the formal law-making process through elected representatives in the legislature. Women intervene in the law-making process by gathering mass support for or campaigning against a proposed law, and advocating amendments to or repeal of an existing law (UNDP, 1999).

Especially at the level of local elections, non-governmental women's groups have pursued 'win ability' training for women who intend to run for public office. Among women officials and advocates, women's groups have also been conducting training on law-making, e.g., how to draft an ordinance informed by women's realities and needs (UNDP, 2000). Aside from campaigns for balanced gender representation in political decision-making positions, an integral part of the core of strategies for women's political participation is building women's agendas for change (Gender Mainstreaming, 2000).

Women's political leadership should further be strengthened in terms of realizing the agenda of people-centered and sustainable development; and, working towards the elimination -in law and in reality- of discriminations based on gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, caste, descent, work, lifestyle, appearance, age and others. Women political leaders, few or many they may be, can only make a difference if they are able to translate their political power into political, social, economic and cultural advancement of women and other marginalized groups (UNDP, 1999).

Women who have been able to access formal political power are faced with multiple challenges. These challenges include pursuing a people-centered sustainable development in the context of the current trend of globalization that has resulted in the increased influence of free market forces and the accompanying loss of autonomy of the State. Increasing debt, poverty and skewed distribution of wealth remain challenges for many

countries coupled with Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) and the agenda of economic liberalization pushed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. SAPs have resulted in the forced reduction of basic social services as well as for government expenditures in general, including national machineries and programs for women (UNDP, 2000).

Women political leaders have to overcome identity politics, local elite politics and control by family dynasties, which in many developing countries have been the same forces that have allowed women to access positions of political power in the first place. Women are also faced with the challenge of tearing down cultural restrictions on how women should look, speak and act while, at the same time, transforming the political culture into a genuinely gender-fair environment (Cecilia Ng, 2003). A gender-fair environment estimates women's capabilities not on how well they imitate 'male-speak' or how well they compete but on their capacity for collaboration, vision and leadership (Cecilia Ng, 2003). Moreover, there is also the continuous need to resist and fight against the propensity of the state to homogenize its citizens. The state's propensity for homogenization is made apparent through policies and standards that claim equality in application but discriminate and marginalize in reality (Colleen Lowe Morna, 2000).

Aside from increasing women's access to decision-making positions in government, enhancing women's capabilities in implementing international mechanisms and instruments on women's rights at the national and local levels should continuously be pursued (Judy Aita, 2003). International instruments that are in place, particularly the opportunities provided by the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) should be maximized; strategies to implement them such as advocacy, policy reforms, special measures and affirmative actions, accountability and evaluations systems, and other means should be explored. Women in government should continue to invest on sharing of strategies and information resources, as well as forming networks and strengthening linkages with other women in government and non-government women's groups and experts (Hanadi Loubani, 2003). They should continue to study the increasing complexities in politics and economies brought about by globalization. At the national and local levels, understanding and coming up with concrete ways to resist and fight against 'dirty' or corrupt politics is one of the biggest challenges for women who carry a feminist agenda (Feminist Daily News Wire, 2003)

While women's global activism, especially at the level of the United Nations, has instituted mechanisms for increased representation of women in politics, the assessment made by the United Nations Development Program for the Beijing Plus Five verifies that women are still greatly under-represented in political and bureaucratic posts around the world. The UNDP reported that women "are nowhere near half of the decision-making structures. The threshold of 30 percent advocated by the UNDP Human Development Report, as a prelude to the 50 percent is still a dream for most women" (UNDP, 1999). The Inter-Parliamentary Union's monitor pegs at 15.2 percent the total number of women in parliaments. Thus, campaigns for balanced gender representation in government such as the 50/50 Campaign of the Women's Environmental and Development Organization remain one of the most strategic moves to increase women's political participation.

To participate in the political processes, women need to enjoy the full exercise of their civil and political rights. Democratic freedoms such as expression, media, opinion, peaceful assembly, association, and others are necessary vehicles for women's full political participation. In countries where the freedom of association is limited, women find themselves under constant surveillance and sometimes under threat by their own governments. In countries where religion and culture impose numerous social restrictions and impinge on state laws, women experience more difficulties in accessing education and engaging in the public political space. The fulfilment of basic survival and social needs, economic independence, and freedom from family and community violence are equally crucial requirements in women's realization of their political potentials.

The purpose of this study is to examine the position of women participation in politics as a determinant factor for reduction of children and women trafficking. To participate in the political processes, women need to enjoy the full exercise of their civil and political rights. Democratic freedoms such as expression, media, opinion, peaceful assembly, association, and others are necessary vehicles for women's full political participation. In countries where the freedom of association is limited, women find themselves under constant surveillance and sometimes under threat by their own governments. In countries where religion and culture impose numerous social restrictions and impinge on state laws, women experience more difficulties in accessing education and engaging in the public political space. The fulfilment of basic survival and social needs, economic independence, and freedom from family and community violence are equally crucial requirements in women's realization of their political potentials. Therefore, the study was aimed at examining the perception of women participation in politics and poverty as determinant factors for reduction of children and women trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District. The following questions were raised from the study:

Can women participation in politics reduce child and women trafficking?

Can poverty be the cause of child and women trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District (OEST)?

## METHOD

### Sample

The multistage random technique was used in the selection of study sample. First, three Local government Areas were sampled through the simple random sampling technique from the nine Local Government Areas of Ogun East Senatorial District of Ogun State. From each of the three sampled Local Government Areas, a sample of 70 educated women from the registered parties was used for the study which made up to 210 sample size. However, 195 returned and completely filled out questionnaire protocols were used in the analysis.

The ages of the women ranges between 30-50 years to give a concise responds so that the study would reflect the impact of women in politics and how it can be drastically reduce children and women trafficking for qualitative education in Ogun East Senatorial District. Among the women 33.3% were single, 54.4% were married while 12.3% were divorced. This invariably shows that women who are married involved more in practicing politics irrespective of being engaged to their husband or jobs while some take it as their hobby. The age range of these women are; 43.6% were between 25-30, 38.9% were between 31-35, while 17.5% were between 36-40 years. This indicated that there are more middle age women at 30s in politics in Nigeria.

### Measures

The instrument used for the study was a researcher-designed questionnaire. The questionnaire is a self-rating scale consisting of two major sections. The first part of the questionnaire required the women of their social or personal information which include sex, age, marital status, position, party, senatorial area and educational qualification while the second part consists of the questions to be answered and ranked in order of importance.

There are four question items on "Can women participation in politics reduce child and women trafficking?" An example item is *Trafficking in women and child could be as a result of behaviour and attitudinal changes with our cultural set up*. There are five items on "Can poverty be the cause of child and women trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District (OEST)" An example items is *Poverty is a cankerworm and one of the causes of child and women trafficking in Nigeria*. The sealing of the questionnaire was scored based in the following ratio: Strongly Agree = 4 points, Agree =3 points, Disagree =2 points and Strongly Disagree =1 point, in Likert Scale format.

The questionnaire was given to the researcher supervisor and other three experts in research methods to determine their content validity.

### Procedure

The questionnaires were distributed among the women at their political meetings. The information gathered from the questionnaire given to the respondents was analysed using frequency count and simple percentage techniques.

## RESULTS

The analysis above represents the responses of women on poverty over children and women trafficking.

Table 1

*Frequency counts, percentages, mean standard deviation and chi-square values of respondents' opinions on causes of children and women trafficking.*

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Std. dev.	$\chi^2$	p
	Women participation in politics can reduce child and women trafficking.	14 (7.2%)	47 (24.1%)	61 (31.3%)	73 (37.4%)	2.99	0.95	39.974	< .05
	Child and women trafficking is an ideal and approved business in Nigeria of today.	67 (34.4%)	74 (37.9%)	40 (20.5%)	14 (7.2%)	2.99	0.92	46.251	< .05
	The advocacy of women in politics has no singular effect on child and women trafficking.	85 (43.6%)	74 (37.9%)	26 (13.3%)	10 (5.1%)	3.20	0.86	81.451	< .05
	Trafficking in women and child could be as a result of behaviour and attitudinal changes with our cultural set up.	20 (10.3%)	78 (40.0%)	51 (26.2%)	46 (23.6%)	2.63	0.96	34.764	< .05
	Poverty is a cankerworm and one of the causes of child and women trafficking in Nigeria.	5 (2.6%)	27 (13.8%)	53 (27.2%)	110 (56.4%)	3.37	0.82	37.923	< .05
	Child and women trafficking is apparently caused by abject poverty and indiscipline.	24 (12.3%)	83 (42.6%)	41 (21.0%)	47 (24.1%)	2.57	0.99	73.656	< .05
	Hardship and economic dislocation serves as the source of child and women trafficking.	6 (3.1%)	44 (22.6%)	55 (28.2%)	90 (46.2%)	3.17	0.89	126.292	< .05
	Purdah system (i.e house seclusion of women) inhibit women's participation in politics especially in the Northern part of Nigeria.	45 (23.1%)	72 (36.9%)	35 (17.9%)	43 (22.1%)	2.39	1.07	15.933	< .05
	The general cultural belief that woman's place at home is in the kitchen can be tantamount to slavery.	30 (15.4%)	44 (22.6%)	56 (28.7%)	65 (33.3%)	3.34	0.82	14.169	< .05

The results in table 1 revealed that respondents (n = 61; 31.3%) disagreed that women participation in politics

can reduce child and women trafficking whereas 134 respondents (68.7%) agreed. A significant difference was indicated in the responses of the study sample. ( $x = 2.99$ ; std. dev. = 0.95;  $\chi^2 = 39.974$ ;  $p < .05$ ). One hundred and forty one respondents (72.3%) disagreed that children and women trafficking is an ideal and approved business in Nigeria of today. Fifty four (27.7%) disagreed. Significant differences however existed in the responses ( $x = 2.99$ ; std. dev. = 0.92;  $\chi^2 = 46.251$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Respondents, 159 (81.5%) disagreed that the advocacy of women in politics has no singular effect on child and women trafficking while 36 (18.4%) agreed to the statement. It was observed that significant differences existed in the respondents opinion on the statement ( $x = 3.20$ ; std. dev. = 0.86;  $\chi^2 = 81.451$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Trafficking in women and child could be as a result of behaviour and attitudinal changes with our cultural set up as disagreed to by 98 (50.2%) of the respondents whereas 97 (49.8%) agreed. significant differences was observed ( $x = 2.63$ ; std. dev. = 0.96;  $\chi^2 = 34.764$ ;  $p < .05$ ). In all, it was agreed that children and women trafficking could be reduced by women participation in politics.

It was disagreed to by 32 (16.4%) of the respondents that poverty is a cankerworm and one of the causes of child and women trafficking in Nigeria. However, 163 (83.6%) agreed. Significant differences was observed in the responses ( $x = 3.37$ ; std. dev. = 0.82;  $\chi^2 = 37.923$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Respondents ( $n = 107$ ; 54.9%) disagreed that children and women trafficking is apparently caused by abject poverty and indiscipline whereas 88 (45.1%) agreed. Significant differences existed in the responses ( $x = 2.57$ ; std. dev. = 0.99;  $\chi^2 = 73.656$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Results showed that 50 (25.6%) of the respondents disagreed that hardship and economic dislocation serves as the source of children and women trafficking while 145 (74.4%) agreed to the statement. Significant differences was observed in the responses to the statement ( $x = 3.17$ ; std. dev. = 0.89;  $\chi^2 = 126.292$ ;  $p < .05$ ). It was revealed that 117 (60.0%) of the respondents disagreed that Purdah system (i.e house seclusion of women) inhibit women's participation in politics especially in the Northern part of Nigeria whereas 78 (40.0%) of the participants agreed. Significant differences was observed in the responses of the study sample ( $x = 2.39$ ; std. dev. = 1.07;  $\chi^2 = 15.933$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Results indicated that 74 (38.0%) of the respondents disagreed that the general cultural belief that woman's place at home is in the kitchen can be tantamount to slavery. However, 121 (62.0%) agreed to the statement. significant differences existed in the responses of the study sample ( $x = 3.34$ ; std. dev. = 0.82;  $\chi^2 = 14.169$ ;  $p < .05$ ). On the whole, it was agreed that poverty is a determinant of children and women trafficking in Nigeria.

## DISCUSSION

This study investigated participation in politics and poverty as determining factors for reduction of children and women trafficking in Ogun East Senatorial District. Findings revealed that children and women trafficking could be reduced by women participation in politics and that poverty is a determinant of children and women trafficking in Nigeria. This result is not disappointing as such trend was expected.

There is no gain saying in the fact that the prospects of Nigerian women in politics are quite bright. The 1991 census figures show that women are almost now numerically at par with men. Moreover, some of the obstacles are already being removed. For example, the number of educated women in Nigeria has increased over the years. Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, Josephine Anenih, Florence Ita-giwa, are few of the many women who have, in one way or the other, made vital contributions to the nation's political scene. Also, the number of girls admitted into schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities has increased phenomenally. In some states in the eastern part of Nigeria (e.g. Abia, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and Anambra), there are now more females than males in schools.

In the northern part of Nigeria, a quite but significant social revolution is now taking place among women. It may not be very long before education reaches the corridors of the purdahs. Even nomadic men, women and their children (including females) are now receiving formal education, which is invariably a source of political, economic and social power. Through the involvement of women in politics, it is not enough in Nigeria to curb women and child trafficking, as trafficking affects all regions and the majority of countries in the world. Both men and women are victims of trafficking, but the primary victims worldwide are women and girls, the majority of whom are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Traffickers primarily target women because they are disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination, factors that impede their access to employment, educational opportunities and other resources. The situation described in this paper shows that trafficking is a violation of fundamental human rights. Women and children trafficked are not only economically exploited, but are also subjected to sexual abuse, violence, maltreatment and other violations. The human rights of women include the right to have control over, and decide freely on, matters relating to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health – free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

Trafficking in women for sexual purposes and in children for the commercial sex industry or for forced labour as beggars (and often both) are a serious abuse of their human rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child considers that trafficking in children is exploitative and a violation of their human rights. A struggle is needed in order to deal with the miserable reality, to abolish the factors creating trafficking in women and children.

Thousands of women and children today live in EU countries under conditions of real slavery, sexual exploitation and degradation. If there exist a social area in modern Europe where the meaning of human rights has lost its significance, it is the area where women and under-age girls and boys are victims of trafficking. Young foreign immigrants, including children who are prostituted by force, suffer new forms of violence and financial exploitation. New systems of indentured labour generate large benefits for agents, procurers, customers and for governments in the countries of origin who are keen to earn foreign exchange. The findings regarding the extent of violence hidden behind trafficking in women and children are tragic. The unfortunate women who left their homeland either with the hope of a better future or who were deceived, misled or worse still who fell victims of kidnapping live a day nightmare. At 35 years, if they survive, they are old. This situation constitutes the violation of elementary rights of mankind in the modern slave markets.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Trafficking in women and children is a complicated phenomenon with many forces that affect women's decisions to work abroad. Perhaps the strongest factor is the desperate economic situation, which impacts the availability of satisfactory employment in many countries for women more severely than men. Women may become victims of trafficking when they seek assistance to obtain employment, work permits, visas and other travel documents. Traffickers prey on women's vulnerable circumstances and may lure them into crime networks through deceit and false promises of decent working conditions and fair pay. As stated by the former Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Radhika Coomaraswamy, "trafficking in persons must be viewed within the context of international and national movements and migrations that increasingly are being undertaken owing to economic globalization, the feminization of migration, armed conflict, the breakdown or reconfiguration of the State, and the transformation of political boundaries."

A comprehensive strategy for combating trafficking must consider the safety of the victims. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and state agencies that work with repatriated victims of trafficking should also address the multiple difficulties women face when they attempt to reintegrate. Victims of trafficking face a range of needs including physical and mental health care, job training and employment issues, housing issues and, possibly, childcare.

States and governmental organizations should take into account the factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, including inequality, poverty and all forms of discrimination and prejudice.

Prevention of trafficking in women requires examining the factors that contribute to the problem as well as providing education to potential victims. Both government and non-governmental programs should identify women who are at risk for trafficking and provide them with the tools necessary to find work abroad without putting themselves at risk. At the same time, more far-reaching programs that address gender inequalities in the labour market are needed to combat trafficking in women and child trafficking.

Education and engaging idle hand to work in the government availability jobs which will invariably enhance and retrain the citizen on that job will reduce women and child trafficking. Not only that our country Nigeria should involve in massive production in order to create massive employment.

Since women and child trafficking has been an international phenomenon or issue and greatly affected by our citizen, it could be better to further find out:

- The effect of inflation on goods and services as it enhances increase in women and child trafficking.
- What impact will creation of employment to men and women have on women and child trafficking?

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