

## Women Trafficking, a Humanitarian Cancer in Edo State: A Profiling Survey of Factors From Non-Governmental Perspective

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### Abstract

The Palermo Protocol established human trafficking (including women trafficking) as a global humanitarian crisis, as well, proposed the scope of intervention to include collaborative non-governmental networks. In Nigeria context, activities of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in one of the Nigerian hotbed states of women trafficking, Edo State, are more pronounced especially in the area of reintegration and rehabilitation. Despite these interventions, activities of women traffickers have not been significantly curtailed, in view of this, it was assumed that relevant NGOs in the state might be treating symptoms instead of causes of the scourge. An exploratory descriptive study was conducted to re-profile factors enhancing the hydra-headedness of the menace in the state. Data were collected from 129 field operators of relevant anti-women trafficking NGOs selected from the capital city of the state, Benin City. Factors identified as drivers of women trafficking in the state include but not limited to poverty, weak institutions, easy access to internet, globalisation, and greediness of victim's family. In the end, it suffices that finding lasting solution is more to addressing the women exploitation in state, it goes beyond reintegrating and rehabilitating victim of women trafficking. Government at all level should redesign their approach to favour social and economic policies as the key instruments of state intervention against women trafficking.

**Key words:** Women Trafficking; Edo; Non-governmental networks; Factors; Palermo protocol

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### INTRODUCTION

The attainment of globalization and information age, no doubt have produced series of desirable and undesirable realities in the world. On a good note, globalization enhanced communications and economic growth as the world becomes one global village where businesses are conducted freely. Just like a coin with two sides, the world today also battles with a number of criminal activities such as illicit transfer of fund, global terrorism, internet fraud, illegal dealings and transfer of arms and human trafficking (Human Right Watch, 2019). Human trafficking continues to resonate at national, regional and international conferences across countries, according to Iroanya (2018) human trafficking is a social issue that penetrates countries irrespective of boundaries or level of development.

According to 2016 Global Slavery Index over 45.8 million individuals across the globe are currently enslaved. An estimate of 6.25 million individuals is enslaved in Sub-Sahara Africa. This makes up to 13.6% of the total global population of modern slavery. Nigeria is ranked number 23 in the world's modern slavery with an estimate of 875,000 people enslaved which is 0.48% of the population (Global Slavery Index, 2016). Human trafficking is a major predicament in Nigeria. Humans are trafficked within and outside the shore of the country for various purposes such as forced labour, forced prostitution, organs implantation among others.

From international response context, the popular Palermo Protocol preached collaboration between

government-based organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) precisely in Article 6(3), Article 9(1), Article 10(2), Article 6(2), and Article 10(1), in order to promote collaborative mechanisms in the area of victim supports, prevention of human trafficking, cooperation with law enforcement agencies (LEAs), providing victims with necessary legal and administrative supports, and identification of victims of human trafficking respectively (Schloenhardt and Hunt-Walshe, 2012) - these ultimately gave platform upon which anti-women trafficking NGOs intervened in combating women trafficking.

In Nigeria, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations have implemented a series of intervention and rehabilitation programmes for victims of women trafficking in Nigeria, yet available statistics show that women's trafficking in Edo State has been on the increase. For instance, the report of NAPTIP indicated that in 2016, 28.4% of the victims of women trafficking were from Edo State. The implication of these statistics is that trafficking in women still persists in Edo State despite the activities of NGOs in preventing the scourge. This suggests that intervention of state organizations and NGOs in preventing trafficking in persons are not optimally productive in the state.

Efforts of NGOs have been directed to rehabilitation and rescue missions of victims in the state with little attention on advocacy against main factors promoting women trafficking in the Edo state (Human Right Watch, 2019). In view of this, this study investigates factors responsible for the perpetual resurgence of women trafficking in Edo state.

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

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The study, drawing from the need to understand the administrative terrain being navigated by the NGOs in dealing with women trafficking in Edo State, is set out to investigate factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo State.

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## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

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Attoh and Okeke, (2012) in their work submitted that, the phenomenon of human trafficking in Nigeria as examined by scholars has been linked to the Structural Adjustment Programme, a recommendation conditioned by World Bank and International Monetary Fund (WB, IMF) for countries who are into indebtedness as means of having economic restoration. On the other hand, the policy made several demands for cutbacks in several social areas that can be of benefit to the citizens such as Employment, Food, Education, and Agriculture among others. Similarly, Makinde (2016) affirmed that the trafficking of humans in Nigeria is a problem affecting moral standard in society both in the country and internationally. Even though the practice can be seen as a variant of slave trade in the

pre-colonial era, nevertheless, the export and import of humans (in the form of young men and women) as against goods and services has been of alarming concern.

Regardless of domestication of international laws, the passage of child right acts in 2003 and constitutional law of Nigeria, human trafficking has remained a good source of income, creating almost 10 billion dollars a year (Hassan, 2012). A report confirmed that the gain accruable from the trade has been more compared to the loss (UNICEF, 2006). Ajagun (2012) was of the opinion that Nigeria remains the centre of the illicit human trade, while the report that emanates from the airports, borders and seaports reveals that the problem of human trafficking is unsolvable in the country. Salt (2000) submitted that trafficking of human beings is one venture is highly rewarding most especially trading in women and children. He also maintained this can be on the level of comparison with drug trafficking and smuggling in arms. This submission is actually in line with the submissions of Hassan (2012) and Ajagun (2012).

In a related position, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in July 2017 stated that Nigeria "remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, for purposes of sexual and labour exploitation", with "internally displaced women and girls as well as women living in poverty" being vulnerable to trafficking (CEDAW, 24 July 2017). In an article distributed January 2017, the Guardian alluded to insights by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) demonstrating a multiplying of the number of Nigerian ladies who gone by vessel from Libya to Italy in 2016 (Nigeria: COI aggregation of Human Trafficking, 2017). The IOM accepted roughly 80% of the 11,009 Nigerian ladies enrolled at landing focuses in Sicily in 2016 were dealt, and will proceed to carry on with an existence of constrained prostitution in Italy and different nations in Europe. The figure is twice that of 2015 when 5,600 ladies were enlisted by the IOM. The 2016 figures speak to a practically eightfold increment from 2014, when 1,450 Nigerian ladies were enrolled at landing focuses in Sicily." (The Guardian, 12 January 2017).

In a domesticated report in May 2017 addressing the first quarter of 2017, NAPTIP revealed that 90 suspected traffickers have been apprehended. Ninety (90) suspected traffickers were arrested for their suspected involvement in different offences of human trafficking. This consisted of forty (40) females and fifty (50) males. The offences of Forced Labour in Nigeria have the greatest frequency of apprehended suspects with 17 (18.9%) persons. The other crime alleged include Exporting persons for Prostitution in which 16 (17.8%) were arrested by the Agency as suspected offenders.

Studies previously conducted in line with women trafficking and effort to curb the menace by government and non-governmental bodies have concentrated more

on aftermath phenomenon, which has been more of prosecution of culprits, rehabilitation of victims and underlying causes (Women's Health and Action Research Centre [WHARC], 2002; Osakue and Okoedion, 2002; UNICRI/UNODC, 2003; Onyeonoru, 2003). On the other hand, there have been little empirical data on the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in prevention of women trafficking in Nigeria. This study, therefore, focused on the role of NGOs in preventing women trafficking in Edo State.

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## SUPPORTING THEORY

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### Radical Feminism

The ideology of radical feminism is developed as part of the liberation movement of the women. It developed mainly as a result of the influence of the civil rights movement, that gathered momentum in the 1960s, and majority of the women who took up the cause of radical feminism had previously experience protest in the struggle against racism. Historically, it can be seen in the context of second-wave feminism that began in the early 1960s (Gamble, 2001). The theorist of radicalism included Shulamith Firestone, Kathie Sarachild, Ti-Grace Atkinson, Carol Hanisch, and Judith Brown.

The main concern of radical feminism focused on the agreement among the proponents of the theory on the structure and systematized operation of male dominance in many human societies. This is orchestrated and made possible by the ideological, economic, legal, emotional and social structures in these societies. The system is organized in such a manner that it places women at a disadvantaged point, from where they barely resist male dominance and oppression both at the group level and sometimes at the individual level, when this, a number of times is tied to economic reasons. Resulting from this, women are generally seen as objects of sex, created to satisfy the uncontrollable sexual desires of men. In another sense, they are viewed as ornamental signs of man's status and power (Ritzer, 2000).

The relevance of radical feminism lies in the argument of Radical feminists who asserted other degrading practices that places women as inferior creations. Radical feminist thinking has analyzed trafficking of women as a cornerstone of patriarchal domination and sexual subjugation that most ladies who become commercial sex workers are constrained into it by a pimp, human trader, and illicit drug use, for example, children sexual maltreatment. Radical women's activist are of the supposition that women from the least financial classes, ruined ladies, ladies with a low degree of instruction, ladies from the most hindered racial and ethnic minorities are over-spoken to in prostitution everywhere throughout the world and of women that impacts negatively not only on the women and girls in vulnerable situations but on all women as a group.

This is because engagement of women in situations of vulnerability continually affirms and reinforces patriarchal definitions of women as having a primary function to serve men sexually. They argued that "subjugation of women and equality for women cannot exist simultaneously" and to eradicate violence against women, we must seek ways to use words and law to end the abusive selling and buying of girls' and women's bodies for men's sexual pleasure. It is in this light that the role of NGOs became necessary to assume the positions of institutions that are actively involved in the process of ending abusive selling and buying of women and girls for men's sexual pleasure.

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## METHODS AND DESIGN

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### Study Location

This study was conducted in Edo state, located in southern Nigeria. The State is bounded by Kogi State in the north, Delta State in the south, and by Ondo State in the west. The State was created on August 27, 1991. From the then Bendel State, languages such as Edo, Estako, Akoko-Edo, Ijaw, Okpameri and Okpella are prominent in the state. Most ethnic groups in the state traced their origins to the ancient Benin kingdom. Edo state is subdivided into 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) which Estako East, Estako Central, Estako West, Owan West, Akoko-Edo, Egor, Esan Central, Esan North-East, Esan South-East, Esan West, Igueben, IkpobaOkha, Oredo, Orhionmwon, Ovia North-East, Ovia South-West, Owan East, and Uhumwonde . The state has a tropical climate alternating between rainy and dry seasons. The study was carried out in Edo State office of NAPTIP and registered NGOs located in the capital city of the state that deal with issues relating to women trafficking.

### Design and Data

This study was based on descriptive research design. Survey method was employed to gather data with the aid of questionnaire and interview guide. The instruments were structured in line with the study objectives with a view to accessing the roles of non-governmental organisations in preventing women trafficking in Edo state. Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were employed for the study. The primary data for this study was sourced through the use of questionnaire and interview guide. These instruments were viewed to be suitable for the study since the descriptive research design was used while the secondary data were sourced from relevant textbooks, unpublished thesis, academic journals, internet materials and report of NAPTIP. Data collected were analysed using appropriate descriptive statistics such as tables, frequency distribution, relative impact index and percentages. Narrative analysis was used to review responses from the interviewees to draw submissions.

### Target Population and Sample

The study population comprised the staff of actively registered NGOs that dealt with anti-women trafficking movement in Edo state. The study population was 129 respondents comprised staff of active registered anti-women trafficking NGOs enumerated in Table 1. The study employed purposive sampling in selecting actively registered anti-women trafficking NGOs in Edo State. The active registered NGOs were selected because they have direct involvement in anti-women trafficking programme in Edo State. The sample size was 129 representing 100% of the target population. This sample size was employed owing to the smaller nature of the study population.

For the interview, three NGO representatives who made themselves available constituted interview participants, and were coded as NGP 1 (Idia Renaissance), NGP 2 (Nosa Erhumwunsee), and NGP 3 (Salvation Army).

**Table 1**  
**Study Population (Registered NGOs on Anti- Women Trafficking in Edo State)**

S/N	NGOs	Location	Strength	Sample (100%)
1.	Idia Renaissance	Benin City	28	28
2.	Nosa Erhumwunsee	Benin City	01	01
3.	Committee for the Support of Dignity of Women (CUSODOW)	Benin City	29	29
4.	Salvation Army	Benin City	12	12
5.	Firm Foundation	Benin City	17	17
6.	House of Duchess Foundation	Benin City	26	26
7.	Full Life Foundation	Benin City	16	16
Total				129

Source: Preliminary survey, 2018

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Survey Results

This section provided analysis on the factors contributing to women trafficking in Edo State. Responses were gathered from the respondents using Likert scale measurement which ranges from Strongly Agree (4) to Strongly Disagree (1) as presented in table below. In summary, the responses were categorized into Agreement (%) and Disagreement (%) in order to make inferences pertaining to each of the items raised in this section of the research instrument. For instance, if aggregate of Agreement (AGR.in %) is *greater than* the aggregate of Disagreement (DGR. in %), the researcher reported the item as substantial and if otherwise the item is assumed inconsequential. The computation of RII was used to rank those factors that contributed to women trafficking in the state.

The assertion of the high level of poverty as a major factor that fuels incidence of women trafficking in Edo State showed respondents agreement of 78.2% (93) while the respondents' disagreement of 21.8 % (26) were recorded as regards the assertion posited. The result (78.2% > 21.8%) agreement greater than disagreement indicated that high level of poverty is one of the major factors that made incidence of women trafficking in the state substantial. The RII showed that the high level of poverty was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the factors contributing to incidence of women trafficking in Edo state, this indicated that high level of poverty has contributed substantially to the incidence of women trafficking in the state.

The study also reported that increased access to information through electronic media contributed to the incidence of women trafficking Edo state as 79.9% (95) of the respondents signified that they are in total agreement with the assertion as against the 20.1% (24) of the respondents who showed disagreement with the assertion. The increased access to information through electronic media has substantially contributed to the incidence of preventing women trafficking in Edo state as agreement of 79.9% is greater than disagreement of 20.1%. RII indicated that the increased access to information was 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list of factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in the state.

Inadequate employment opportunities encouraged women trafficking in Edo state was refuted by the respondents with 95.8% (114) disagreement as against the agreement of 4.2% (5). The result, disagreement greater than agreement (95.8% > 4.2%) showed that inadequate employment opportunities could not be linked to women trafficking in Edo state. The RII ranking also affirmed this result with 9<sup>th</sup> rank, which indicated that inadequate employment opportunities could not be regarded as a major factor contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state.

Ninety-three percent (111) of the respondents affirmed disagreement with the assertion that the increased demand for foreign workers is one of the factors contributing to women trafficking in Edo state while the respondents with the agreement were very infinitesimal with 7.3% (8). The disagreement greater than agreement (93.3% > 7.3%) which indicated that the assertion is not a substantial factor that contributes to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state. The use of RII as well confirmed this with 8<sup>th</sup> order rank among the eleven factors considered. This means that the increased demand for foreign workers could not be considered as one of the substantial factors fueling women trafficking in Edo state.

Weak institutional frameworks contributed to the growing rate of women trafficking in Edo state was affirmed by the respondents. The result showed that 79.9% (95) of the respondents were in agreement to the claim raised by the researcher as against 20.1% (24) of the sampled NGOs that negated the claim, with the agreement

result greater than disagreement (79.9% > 20.1%). This factor was ranked fourth among other factors identified by the study. This means that weak institutional frameworks contributed to growing rate of women trafficking in Edo state. Therefore, this implies that the assertion is substantial among the factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in the state.

The respondents asserted that uneven access to education is a causal factor of the prevalence of women trafficking in Edo state with 61.4% (73) agreement to the assertion, as against the 38.6% (46) disagreement with assertion. Uneven access to education is a substantial causal factor of prevalence of women trafficking in Edo state, with agreement greater than disagreement (61.4% > 38.6%). It is sufficed to conclude that the assertion is among the major factors that contribute to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo State with the RII rank of 6<sup>th</sup> order in the eleven factors considered.

The result revealed the role of globalisation as a contributing factor for the prevalence of women trafficking in the state, and this assertion enjoyed a greater affirmation with 85.7% (102) agreement as against the disagreement of 14.3% (17). The agreement greater disagreement (85.7% > 14.3%), this indicated that globalisation is a substantial contributing factor for prevalence of women trafficking in the state. The RII of 1<sup>st</sup> order rank in the eleven-factor considered showed that globalisation is the major contributing factor for prevalence of women trafficking in the state. This implies that globalisation contributes substantially to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state.

Majority of the respondents disproved this claim that institutionalised corruption is a contributing factor to the prevalence of women trafficking in Edo state with 90.0% (107) disagreement as against the 10.0% (12) agreement with the claim. The statistical result indicated that the assertion is not substantial as it regards the factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state with disagreement figure greater than agreement (90.0% > 10.0%). The RII ranking of 7<sup>th</sup> in the order of eleven-factor considered affirmed the insubstantial nature of the assertion respectively.

The claim that greediness of family member is another factor which contributes to women trafficking in Edo state was also affirmed by 74.8% (89) of the respondents who agreed with the claim as against the 25.2% (30) of the respondents who disagreed with the claim. The greediness of family member has substantially contributed to women trafficking in Edo state as statistical result showed, with agreement greater than disagreement (74.8% > 25.2%). The RII rank of order 5<sup>th</sup> in the eleven-factor considered also avowed the assertion. Therefore, it is sufficed to conclude that greediness of family member is among the major factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state.

The disagreement with the claim that the effect of civil war is a contributing factor to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state enjoyed the statistical support 98.4% (117) of the respondents who refuted the claim as against the miniature agreement of 1.6% (2) of the respondents. The claim is not substantial as the disagreement is greater than agreement (98.4% > 1.6%). The RII rank of order 11<sup>th</sup> in the eleven-factor considered showed that the effect of civil war is not a substantial factor that contributes to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state.

The study also considered gender discrimination as another factor that fuels the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state. The respondents' responses to this assertion showed an agreement of 5.0% (6) as against the disagreement of 95.0% (113). The disagreement is greater than agreement (95.0% > 5.0%), this implies that the assertion is not substantial among the factors considered. The RII rank of the order 10<sup>th</sup> in the eleven-factor considered indicated that gender discrimination is an insubstantial factor among the factors that contribute to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state.

### **Narrative Analysis of Interview**

Report from interview conducted among selected representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that deals with anti-women trafficking in Edo-State were narrated in this section. This will allow to further validate or invalidate findings generated in the quantitative survey. The view of the interviewees were sought on factors contributing to the prevalence of women trafficking in the state. Responding to this query, a sizeable number of the interviewees primed reoccurrence nature of this menace on variety of factors. Their responses are narrated in the following paragraph.

A number issues can be linked with women trafficking for instance, given the economic situation in the country, poverty, low income, unemployment, and what have you correlate possibility of young's people being trafficked. There are still other social issues that will aggravate the temptation of being a victim (NGR 3).

This extract showed that economic constraints that are be dwelling Nigerians is a major factor that made women trafficking a prevailing societal issue. Another representative of an NGO remarked:

The younger generation is faced with different challenges that make them ready-made victims of women trafficking. You look at issues such as illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, quest for better living. Also lack of awareness among the rural communities made the worst. The perpetrators go as far as grassroots to fetch local persons for their illicit trade (NGR 1).

Another commentator, a representative of an NGO, looked at the issue of gender inequality. The interviewee cast fault on the socio-cultural practices being operated in Nigeria, where the female child is seen as home

appendage, who is billed to carry out routine activities such as looking after the children and caring for the entire family as a result of this social imbalance, the girl child and young lady are vulnerable to the activities of women traffickers. In all three variables frequently appeared across all the responses gathered during the interviewed sessions. These include poverty, Illiteracy and unemployment. This submission suggested that the factors promoting these anomalies are socio-economic ridden. That is, the social status and the economic strength of average citizen play prominent roles in falling a victim of women trafficking. The government should focus on how the social and economic imbalances in the state are put on right track by formulating balancing policies that will provide basis for

equal chance for self-actualization of the citizens.

Also among the factors identified in the interview session was low-income rate. This is linked with the burning quest for greener pasture among Nigerians. He jokingly remarked during the interview session that “the pasture here is becoming less green, then people want a greener pasture to feed on (NGR 2).” He said even people that are employed but underpaid beacon on the news of opportunities to leave the shore of the country without ascertaining veracity of the source of the opportunities offered. This means that poor working conditions create the indulgence of the victims of human trafficking into sharp practices for migration purpose.

**Table 2**  
**Factor Contributing to the Incidence of Women Trafficking in Edo State**

Items	Agreement					Disagreement					RII	R
	SA		A		Σ(%)	D		SD		Σ(%)		
	f	%	f	%		f	%	f	%			
High level of poverty	61	51.3	32	26.9	78.2	15	12.6	11	9.2	21.8	3.2	2nd
Increased access to information	49	41.2	46	38.7	79.9	19	16.0	5	4.1	20.1	3.1	3rd
Inadequate employment opportunities	2	1.7	3	2.5	4.2	48	40.3	66	55.5	95.8	1.5	9th
Increased demand for foreign workers	3	2.5	5	4.2	7.2	62	52.1	49	41.2	93.3	1.6	8th
Weak institutional frameworks	38	31.9	57	48.0	79.9	18	15.1	6	5.0	20.1	3.0	4th
Uneven access to education	19	16.0	54	45.4	61.4	32	26.8	14	11.8	38.6	2.6	6th
Globalisation	69	58.0	33	27.7	85.7	15	12.6	2	1.7	14.3	3.4	1st
Institutional corruption	6	5.0	5	5.0	10.0	62	52.1	45	37.9	90.0	1.7	7th
Greediness of family member	27	22.7	62	52.1	74.8	26	21.8	4	3.4	25.2	2.9	5th
Civil war	1	0.8	1	0.8	1.6	32	26.9	85	71.4	98.4	1.3	11th
Gender discrimination	1	0.8	5	4.2	5.0	35	29.4	78	65.5	95.0	1.4	10th

Source: Fieldwork, 2019. R (Rank) RII (Relative Impact Index)

### Discussion of findings

This section provides a synchrony of quantitative, qualitative and literature findings in order to further establish the dynamics of factors promoting women trafficking in Edo State. The study revealed that high level of poverty has contributed substantially to the incidence of women trafficking in the state which is not new in the chain of factors affecting Nigeria as a country. When people find it difficult to survive in life they engage in activities, whether moral or immoral, legal or illegal, that will keep them alive, at least, to eat, cloth and shelter. This factor, poverty, is widely acclaimed to be one of the major fuel to the prevailing frequency of the incidence in Nigeria in literature (Onyeyekwe, 2005; Fayomi, 2013), meaning strategies installed by government is not working in tandem with the goal of reducing poverty.

Another finding was that the effect of civil war has substantially contributed to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state. This collaborated views of Lawal

(2013). The Nigeria-Biafra war (1967-1970) left serious health, psychological and physical effect on young women and girls who were raped and sexually assaulted during the war (Lawal, 2013). Some of the young women and girls were shunned by their own husbands and family members after the war. This has made it possible for easy manipulation by the perpetrators as they are open to series of fake advances and promise of greener pastures oversea.

The study revealed that weak institutional frameworks contributed to the growing rate of women trafficking in Edo state. This exposed the institutional capacity and frameworks to the concern of inadequacies in the resources invested by the government, more specifically, in term of legal structure and regulatory networks. This was result finds support in the work of Hassan (2012) which raises doubt on the sincerity of government and other related actors towards curbing the menace. The qualitative finding also tallies with this position as some of the interviewees who pointed out condemnable activities

of some NGOs who are mainly interested in getting grants from government and international donor agencies. Just like Emanemua (2016), Fayomi (2009) and Hassan (2012), greediness of family member was revealed by the survey conducted and interview conducted as one of the major factors contributing to the incidence of women trafficking in Edo state. This act has been identified, most often, in the body of knowledge. This despicable act is not unconnected with dwindling of the social and moral values in the Nigeria state, which is not limited to any cultures.

The study also confirmed that asserted that uneven access to education is another causal factor of prevalence of women trafficking in Edo state. This result once again established the strategies line education occupies in the development of a country. A country that relegated education of her citizens has opened channel for creeping of all sort of ideologies of which women trafficking is among. UNODC report of 2004, and Osimen, Okor and Ahmed (2014) also primed illiteracy as one of the prime predictors of human trafficking generally. Globalisation was identified as another factor that contributed the unabated nature of women trafficking in the state. Similar to what Onuoha (2016) and Osezua (2016) considered in their studies respectively. This globalising wave has made transfer of persons legally or illegally less cumbersome due the continuous bridging of boundaries due to the advancement in information technology.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This article sided with the opinion that state intervention against women trafficking should not be left alone in the hand of government machineries. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also needed for tackling the menace, a positioned nodded by the Palermo Protocol. As the state machineries and NGOs combated women trafficking, it continue to head among development issues confronting Nigeria. Operations of non-governmental networks towards eradication of women trafficking in Edo State, being one of the primed source, have failed to significantly de-incentivise people from involving in women trafficking. Borrowing from a popular saying that it pays to treat the cause than symptoms of an ailment, it was assumed that there is need to re-profile factors enhancing the hydra-headedness of the menace.

Factors identified include but not limited to poverty, weak institutions, easy access to internet, globalisation, and greediness of victim's family were reported as drivers of women trafficking activities in the state. In the end, it suffices finding lasting solution is more to addressing the women exploitation in state, it goes beyond reintegrating and rehabilitating victim of women trafficking. For instance, reduction of women exposure to poverty fall under the purview of social and political governance

of a state. By implication, the article submitted that government at all level should redesign their approach to favour social and political policies as the key instruments of intervention against women trafficking.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings from the field data, the policy options are suggested to focus on the following areas:

i. Poverty eradication interventions and other social equity programmes of the state should be skewed in favour of the vulnerable women in order to discourage from these illicit activities.

ii. Institutional redesign, anti-human trafficking institutions should be reconfigured to consider addressing women trafficking from the perspective of root causes.

iii. There is need for government to regulate activities of internet users especially those engaging in unscrupulous use of cyber space to harness their unsuspecting victims.

iv. Criminalisation and scaling up of enforcement against of relative involvement in the process that lead to victim being trafficked. This should include family member or relative that receive financial or non-financial benefits directly or indirectly as proceed of women trafficking.

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