

## **CHILD TRAFFICKING: IMPLICATION TO HEALTH**

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### **Abstract**

*This paper examines the implication of child trafficking to health. The paper x-rays forms of exploitation such as all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery and the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities among others. The paper further revealed the factors that contribute to child trafficking which among others include: poverty, manipulation of religious rituals and broken homes/orphaned children. This paper also posited that the implication of child trafficking to public health include sexual exploitation, abuse of substance, extreme emotional stress and development of mental health problems by victims. In a bid to curb child trafficking, legislative measures were taken by the government to prohibit all forms of trafficking in persons and to protect*

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*the children against criminal network. Following from the above, it was concluded among others that because there are developing economic powers in the world today who benefits largely from the use of child labour, it is recommended among others that the legislative measures should be enforced and whoever is guilty should be indicted irrespective of his or her economic and political power.*

**Key Words: Child, Trafficking, Exploitation, Force, Fraud, Intimidation.**

### **Introduction**

Trafficking in human beings, especially children, is not new. Historically, it has taken many forms, but in the context of globalization, it has acquired shocking new dimensions. It is a complex multifaceted phenomenon involving multiple stake holders at the institutional and commercial levels. It is a demand – driven global business with a huge market for cheap labour and commercial sex often confronted with insufficient or unexercised policy framework or trained personnel to prevent it (Olagbegi, Aminu, Afolabi, Zechariah, Ezekwem & Mirikiti, 2006). Underlying the heinous crime of trafficking in humans is the fact that globalization has created inequalities and the inequalities have resulted in the migration of the poor to the rich regions of the world (Agbu, 2010). Nigeria has acquired a reputation for being one of the leading African countries in human trafficking with cross border and internal trafficking. Trafficking of persons is the third largest crime after economic fraud and drug trade (UNICEF, 2007 & Olagbegi et al 2006). A child considered to be merchandize can be moved from one country to another or within a country's own borders.

The International Labour Organization (2007) estimated that 15million children are engaged in child labour in Nigeria with 40 per cent of them at the risk of being trafficked both internally and externally for domestic and forced labour, prostitution, entertainment, organ harvest, pornography, armed conflict and sometimes ritual killings ( UNICEF, 2007). The Nigerian Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) / UNICEF situation assessment of child trafficking in southern Nigerian states reported that 46 per cent of repatriated victims of external trafficking in Nigeria are children with a ratio of 7 females to 3 males. These children are engaged mainly in prostitution (46%), domestic labour (21%), forced labour (15%) and entertainment (8%).

The International law defined a child as a person below the age of 18 (International Labour Organization, 2007 & Mzbusiness, 2008). Trafficking involves the organized movement of children with the immediate or ultimate aim of the child's exploitation. This could involve a transaction where someone receives payment or a benefit to agree to a child being exploited (International Labour Organization, 2007). Child trafficking is therefore defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of position of vulnerability or of the giving of or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (Mzbusiness, 2008, Agbu, 2010, Cable Network News, 2011 & Wikipedia, 2011).

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2000), also described trafficking as a modern form of slavery and indentured servitude linked to organized criminal activities, money laundering, corruption and the obstruction of justice. In broad language, trafficking is conceived as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons using force,

coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or vulnerability or giving and receiving of payments to achieve consent of a person or having control over another person. It is evident that whether the trafficked person is legally of the age of consent or not, the fact is that illegal acts are committed through the process making the transaction unlawful. Though, child trafficking is not entirely new, it is its present character, sophistication, and the sheer volume of the commodification of children as articles of trade that is alarming (Agbu, 2010). According to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - CATW (2011), child trafficking can occur when children are abducted from the streets, sold into sexual slavery and forced marriage by relatives, or in any place where traffickers, pimps and recruiters prey upon a child's vulnerability.

### **Forms of Exploitation**

There are many forms of exploitation, which include the following.

- Ø All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

- Ø The use, procuring and offering of a child for prostitution for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.
- Ø The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- Ø Work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
- Ø Work done by children below the minimum age for admission to employment.
- Ø Threat, or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception or the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability at any point of the recruitment and movement do not need to be present in case of children, but are nevertheless strong indicators of child trafficking (Mzbusiness, 2008).
- Ø The removal of organs, illicit international adoption, trafficking for early marriage, recruitment as child soldiers, for use in begging, as athletes or for recruitment for cults (Wikipedia, 2011).

### **Means of Recruitment of Children**

Traffickers use force, fraud and intimidation to force children into illegal or abusive work (Help Find My Child, 2011). One of the means of recruitment of children is to use force. Force involves the use of rape, beatings and confinement to control victims. Forceful violence is used especially during the early stages of victimization, known as the "seasoning process" which is used to break victim's resistance to make easier control. Another means used is Fraud. This often involves false offers that induce people into trafficking situations. For example, the traffickers will promise the parents of better living conditions, education, good jobs, and so on. Intimidation is another means of recruitment. Intimidation involves threats of serious harm to or physical restraint of any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm, or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process. Traffickers often threaten victims with injury or death or the safety of the victims' family back home.

### **Factors Contributing to Child Trafficking**

Poverty, manipulation of religious rituals, lack of information, harmful cultural

and social realities, broken homes/ orphaned children, peer pressure, weak legal framework might have contributed in one way or the other to the growing menace of child trafficking (Olagbegi, et al, 2006). There are many other diverse reasons why many Nigerian children are vulnerable to trafficking, including large family size, rapid urbanization with deteriorating public services, low literacy levels and high school dropout rates. UNICEF (2007) maintained that it is the demand for cheap commercial sex workers in countries of destination that strongly contributes to the growth of this phenomenon and the success of this criminal network. Parents with a large family, often overburdened with the care of too many children, are prone to the traffickers' deceit in giving away some of their children to city residents or even strangers promising a better life for them. Traffickers exploit the trust of people rooted in a widespread, culturally accepted common practice in West Africa of placement and fostering as part of the extended family safety net. In some instances, desperately poor and uninformed parents willingly co-operate with the traffickers, giving away their children in exchange for a small fee in the hands of unscrupulous guardians. UNICEF (2007) mentioned that (1) these children are increasingly trafficked and

exploited for money while for others it is a question of bare survival. The poor economic situation in Nigeria has led to unemployment and high rates of school dropouts. (2) This situation (poor economics) has also created a large pool of in-active and unengaged children and adolescents who are much more vulnerable to trafficking than their peers who go to school. The motivation, especially of teenagers to find work away from home, is often driven by the increasing tastes for material things.

Pact Nigeria (2006) opined that trafficking in persons, especially children, is one of the most heinous criminal activities and human right violation of our time. It is a worldwide phenomenon. In Nigeria, this cankerworm must have been going on for a long time without any attention being given to it. Today, it has assumed an endemic proportion in many rural communities. Among the most important reasons often advanced for this '21<sup>st</sup> century Slavery' are; poverty, lack of economic opportunities at home, socio-cultural discrimination against girls, the desire for better life and attractively false promises of traffickers. Agbu (2010) posited that for Nigeria, 1986 marked a watershed in the generation of emigrants for

better or for worse. This year witnessed the introduction of the World Bank sponsored Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) with its anti poor conditionalities, leading to the generation of economic migrants and brain drain. Amongst these economic migrants are today's trafficked and abused children, who for the sake of better life, ignorance or greed or a combination of these, fell victims of organized criminal and trafficking syndicates. At a time, it was estimated that between 60- 80% of all immigrants working in the commercial sex industry in Italy were Nigerians with a substantial number in the Netherlands and Spain. Agbu (2010) further stated that generally accepted is the view that greed and indolence rather than just poverty are the major reasons for some of the victims getting involved and subsequently trapped in a situation that continuously defiles their being.

There are many actors involved in this crime. Those involved include; recruiting agents (usually close family), lawyers who draw up debt bondage agreements, travel touts and agents who provide the necessary travel documents and arrangements, corrupt customs/immigration officials (Agbu, 2010). Furthermore, scenarios such as corruption and greed that turned a former Nigerian police officer into a trafficker caught in Guinea with

33 young women between the ages of 18-20. Moreso, as a result of corruption, a white woman also appear every other year and adopt Nigerian children only for the authority to discover that the children were used for trade in human parts. It is also corruption that made it possible for the holy land of Mecca and Vatican City of Rome to be flooded by trafficked victims under the guise of religious pilgrimage. Records show that over 1000 Nigerians were deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between January and March 2004. Among the deportees were over 370 minors between the ages of 8-14. Victims are generally found in dire circumstances and easily targeted by traffickers. Individuals, circumstances and situations vulnerable to trafficking include homeless individuals, runaway teens from homes where they have been physically and sexually abused, displaced teens in times of war/crises (refugees) or teens from very poor or hostile homes (Wikipedia, 2011 & National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2009). Help Find My Children (2011) stated that traffickers find their victims mainly from developing countries where poverty is widespread. They are typically very young, most ranging in age from 8-18 years while some are as young as 4 or 5 years old.

Child trafficking includes both supply and demand forces (Gemmelle, 2011). On the supply side, poverty, corruption, lack of education and the eternal human yearnings for improving one's life make people vulnerable to the lures of traffickers. On the demand side, especially from male sex buyers, a strong profit incentive is created for traffickers to entrap more victims fuelling the growth of trafficking in persons. UNICEF (2010) revealed that sexual activities are often seen as a private matter, making communities reluctant to act and intervene in cases of sexual exploitation. These attitudes make children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Myths such as the belief that HIV and AIDS can be cured through sex with a virgin, technological advance such as the internet which has facilitated child pornography and sex tourism targeting children, all add to their vulnerability. Mexico's Social Service Agency reported that there are more than 16,000 children engaged in prostitution. They also reported that in Lithuania, 20-50 per cent of prostitutes are believed to be minors. Children from children's home, some 10-12 years old have been used to make pornographic movies. CATW (2011) reported that the greatest factor in promoting child sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation is the demand for younger and younger victims worldwide.

This demand comes from mostly male buyers who become the customers in the growing global sex industry. They further stated that most women in prostitution are trafficked into the sex industry as children. About 75-80% of women in prostitution were sexually abused as children. Worldwide, the average age of entrance into prostitution is 13. When girls in prostitution become 18, their prostitution does not become a self determined choice.

According to Dateline News (2005), Cambodia still suffers from a traumatic past. In the 1970s and 80s, an estimated 2 million Cambodians died because of war, famine and a brutal dictatorship. A child's tragic journey into sex trade often begins in a family struggling for survival in a country where the average income is less than \$300 per annum. Some children are sold by their own parents. Others are lured by what they think are legitimate job offers like waitress, but then they are forced into prostitution. One fourteen year old who was recently freed from a brothel, says she came from an extremely poor family. One day while she was walking home from school, she was approached by a woman offering work in a café. But the café turned out to be a brothel. With no money and no way to get home, she didn't have much of a choice and was forced into sex with grown men, mainly Americans. The news further reported that

around 30,000 children are sold into sex slavery every year in Cambodia.

According to the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2005) each year, more than a million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade. Child sex tourism (CST) involves people who travel from their country to another to engage in commercial sex acts with children. CST is a shameful assault on the dignity of children and a form of violent child abuse. The sexual exploitation of children has devastating consequences. They reported that tourists engaging in CST often travel to developing countries looking for anonymity and the availability of children in prostitution. The crime of child prostitution is typically fuelled by weak law enforcement, corruption, the internet, ease of travel and poverty. These sexual offenders come from all socio-economic background and may hold positions of trust. They further reported that the causes of child trafficking are complex and often re-enforce each other. Viewing trafficking in persons as a global market, victims constitute the supply and abusive employers or exploiters (also known as sex buyers) represent the demand. The supply of victims is encouraged by many factors including poverty, the attraction of perceived higher standard of living elsewhere; lack of

employment opportunities, organized crime, violence against women and children, government corruption, political instability, natural disaster and armed conflict. In some societies, a tradition of fostering allows the third or fourth child to be sent to live and work in an urban centre with a member of the extended family. Also, the loss of family and community support network make trafficking victims vulnerable to traffickers. Demand and threats contribute in several ways to the breakdown of social structures (US Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2005).

This illicit business on the demand side thrives because of high profits and a low risk of arrests, prosecution or other negative consequences. Ofuoku (2010) stated that Fitzgibbon is of the opinion that the traffickers have exploited the lack of rule of law, the non-implementation of existing anti slavery laws and the corruption of judiciary systems. These lapses create room for perpetrators to escape punishment. Prosecutions are rarely carried out and are fraught with difficulties. On the supply side, trafficked persons are also involved in the whole process. As a result of war, poverty, gender inequalities, lack of information and high demand for cheap labour, the demographic population of women and children are put at a high risk. The general

lack of prospects in rural areas, where agricultural activities are still carried out using crude implements, often leads to trafficking (Ofuoku, 2010).

HIV and AIDS is also another contributory factor in many African countries (Harsch, 2001). By killing so many breadwinners, it has driven more families deeper into poverty, placing an even greater burden on the survivors, including children. Cultural practices, illiteracy and unequal power relationships make bonded labour or debt bondage difficult to eliminate (United States Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2005). The profits made from child trafficking fuel other criminal activities. According to the United States Federal Bureau of investigation, child trafficking generates an estimated \$33billion in annual revenue. It is closely connected to money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery, and human smuggling. Another factor that fuels the trafficking of children on the supply side is the high rate of unwanted pregnancies among our teenagers. Inadequate security also plays a vital role in the act of child trafficking in Nigeria. Teenage pregnancy is increasing in Nigeria, children born as a result of unwanted pregnancy are liable victims of child trafficking because they are being neglected by their mothers. This

type of children are picked up by unlicensed maternities and clinics for trafficking business (Agbu, 2010).

Although Nigeria has enormous natural and human resources (Nigeria is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest producer of oil in the world), debt burden and institutionalized corruption takes a serious toll on the country's economy. Nigeria has been rated one of the six poorest countries in the world with a per capita GNP of about US \$280, For a population of about 133million Nigeria is a country rich in resources but with widespread poverty (UNESCO, 2006). Hope of continuing education or working abroad, traditional migration patterns of labour within the country, the practice of children being loaned /sent to better situated family members to be raised and casual border procedures all contribute to acceptance and expectations of unregulated movement. Poverty is the most visible cause of the vulnerability of children to trafficking in Nigeria. An ILO report found that 40 per cent of Nigerian street hawkers are trafficked persons. There are an estimated 1,800,000 AIDS orphans living in Nigeria, particularly vulnerable to being trafficked (UNESCO, 2006). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2006), factors contributing to the phenomenon of child trafficking include: ignorance on the part of

the family of children of the risks involved in trafficking, the high demand for cheap and submissive child labour in the informal economic sector.

### **Forms of Child Trafficking**

Pedophiles and traffickers pose as likely adoption parents to get children. Gemmelle (2011) reported that in 2003, 28 baby girls were found in a bus station in China; they were drugged so as not to make any noise and then packed into suitcase cases. By the time they were found one had already died. Another form of child trafficking is the trafficking of children as soldiers in armed conflict, organized begging and organ harvest sometimes referred to as organ laundering. This involves the trafficking of children for the purpose of selling their organs for money. In September 2001 a gruesome discovery was made in London's River Thames. The hideously mutilated torso of a small black boy was found floating through the city. The boy's arms, legs and head had all been hacked off. Forensic science examination has led police to believe that Adam was brought to the United Kingdom by a child smuggling gang, but not for child labour. Adam had been earmarked for human sacrifice (Owen, 2005). Children are also trafficked as Carmel jokey to entertain the rich and the affluent. Often,

these children are denied adequate nourishment to prevent them from adding weight so as not to burden the Carmel (Agbu, 2008).

Another form of child trafficking is referred to as baby harvesting. In states like Ebonyi, Abia and Lagos, there are cases of hospitals, clinics, orphanages, where doctors and nurses who keep teenage and single mothers who do not want to keep their babies after birth to provide them shelter and care while they are pregnant and sell off their babies for a premium to couples who need them. They are made to sign papers renouncing their right to the babies as well as swear to oaths of secrecy. Many of these babies sold cannot be traced and one cannot determine what became of them (Odagie & Chinenye, 2008).

A form of child trafficking currently under investigation takes place in the northern part of Nigeria. It involves the luring of young children to Saudi Arabia to be killed for blood money known as "diya". The method is quite simple. The trafficker often female, takes a child trafficked to Saudi Arabia for shopping; when she spots an affluent Arab's car, she pushes the child in the path of the car to get run over and possibly killed. There are two types of penalties for anyone who kills another human being in Saudi Arabia. The first is death

penalty; the second is the offering of compensation to the relatives of the dead victim, if the relatives accept 'diya'. The trafficker opts for the second option and obtains an equivalent of about #3.5million (\$27,000). The trafficker returns to Nigeria and informs the parents of the trafficked child that the child died of natural causes. The trafficker pays the parents about #100,000 as the wages of the child while in Saudi Arabia and several other cities (UNESCO, 2006).

### **Public Health Implications of Child Trafficking**

The health risks of rape, forced sex and sexual exploitation due to child trafficking are myriad and life threatening. However, the underlying causes of slave trade are ever worse as it relates to child trafficking. The US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2005) submitted that the brutal reality of the modern day slave trade is that it's victims are frequently bought and sold many times over, often sold initially by family members. Victims forced into sex slavery can be subdued with drugs and subjected to extreme violence. It calls for serious actions by government and relevant agencies to save Nigerian children from unnecessary humiliation and sexual exploitation abroad (Ojukwu, 2006).

According to US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2005), victims of child trafficking pay a horrible price with its consequent psychological and physical harm such as diseases and stunted growth, leaving a permanent effect on the health of the child. In many cases, the exploitation of trafficking victims is progressive; a child trafficked into one form of labour may be further abused in another form. Moreso, victims trafficked for sexual exploitation face physical and emotional damage from forced sexual activity, forced substance abuse and exposure to sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS. Some victims suffer permanent damage to their reproductive organs. When the victim is trafficked to a location where he or she cannot speak or understand the language, this brings about the psychological damage caused from isolation and domination by traffickers. Trafficking in persons violates the universal fundamental human rights to life, liberty and freedom from slavery in all its forms. Trafficking in children violates the inherent rights of children to grow up in a protective environment and the right to be free from all forms of abuse and exploitation (US Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2005 & UNICEF, 2010).

The danger of becoming a trafficking victim can lead the vulnerable groups such as children and young women to go into hiding, with adverse effect on their schooling or family structure. The loss of education reduces victims' future economic opportunities and increases their vulnerability to being re-trafficked in the future. Victims who are able to return to their communities often find themselves stigmatized or ostracized. Recovery from the trauma, if it ever occurs, can take a lifetime. Victims of child trafficking often endure brutal conditions that results in physical, sexual and psychological trauma. Sexually transmitted infections, pelvic inflammatory diseases, and HIV and AIDS are often the results of being used in prostitution. Anxiety, insomnia, clinical depression, personality disorders, dissociative disorders and post traumatic stress disorder are common psychological manifestations among trafficked victims (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2009). Furthermore, unsanitary and crowded living conditions, coupled with poor nutrition, foster a host of adverse health conditions such as scabies, tuberculosis, gastrointestinal disorders and other communicable disease.

Trafficked children are significantly more likely to develop mental health problems, abuse substances, engage in

prostitution as adults and either commit or be victimized by violent crimes later in life (United State Department of States, 2005 & Help Find My Child, 2011). More than 66 per cent of sex trafficked children suffer additional abuse at the hands of their traffickers. One study found that 71 per cent of trafficked children exhibited suicidal tendencies, 65 per cent of female victims of sex trafficking sustained serious physical and internal injuries, 24 per cent experience head injuries and 12 per cent reported broken bones (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2009). Trafficked girls suffer extreme emotional stress including shame, grief, fear, distrust and suicidal thoughts as well as the repercussions of physical abuse. Victims often turn to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. Sex trafficking promotes societal breakdown by removing girls from their families and communities. It negatively impacts on local and national labour markets due to the loss of humans. Sex traffic also burdens public health system and erodes government authority, encourages widespread corruption, and threatens the overall security of vulnerable population. Trafficking victims go through several stages of degradation (Solooptimist International, 2008).

Champion health forum according to Ojukwu (2006) gathered that many of these nationals who fall victims to these criminals

are forced to take land routes across the Sahara to North Africa, and then make the hazardous journey across the Mediterranean in small boats. Sadly, several others never reach their destinations as they may be drowned or abandoned. Trafficked children worked for between ten to twenty hours a day, carrying heavy loads and operating dangerous tools. They often lack adequate food and drink. Nigeria reported that one out of five children trafficked died of illness or accidents. Although parents were sometimes persuaded by recruiters to send their children away to earn some extra income, often neither the children nor the parents were paid (Ojukwu, 2006). Human beings have become an exceedingly expendable commodity. If a slave is disagreeable or tries to escape, the traffickers can kill and easily replace them. People have become so expendable because there are more of us than ever before, and urbanization has led to massive migration from the suburbs in the underdeveloped countries where victims are easily preyed upon and there is no network of national law (Gemelle, 2011).

Child sex trafficking, according to Colin Powell (America Secretary of States), is the worst kind of human exploitation imaginable, a situation where human beings are used as sexual slave for predators (United

State Department of States, 2005). As Dateline News (2005) puts it, "it is a sin against humanity, and it is a horrendous crime". Though previously in existence in forms such as prostitution, child labour and domestic servitude, today, contemporary human trafficking is an organized business just as the transatlantic slave trade was with various linkages spread around the globe. It can safely be argued that in this age of jet-planes, cellular phones, and the internet, there are faster means of dealing in human commodities than before. In time past, slavery and slave trade existed in various forms: people become slaves as war captives while criminals were punished with enslavement. However, in whatever form it took, it was quickly realized by most civilizations that the practice was the basis of crimes against humanity. One would have thought that, with the immense improvement in the understanding of human nature and the environment, any form of exploitation that looks like slavery would be abhorred automatically. This is not the case, as human beings are today, priced as commodities and exchanged for money like any other article in the market (Agbu, 2010).

### **Measures to Curb Child Trafficking**

In July 2003, the trafficking in persons Prohibition and Administration Act

was passed in Nigeria, a legislative framework that prohibits all forms of trafficking in persons and protects children against criminal network. As a result of the law, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) was established to fight human trafficking through investigation of cases, prosecution of criminals, rescue and rehabilitation of victims (UNICEF, 2007). A total of 757 victims have been rescued between February 2004 and December 2006 including 6 babies. Most of these victims are Nigerian females others are Beninese, Ghanaians and Togolese. In 2006 there were only 5,808 prosecutions and 3, 160 convictions throughout the world. This means that for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2011). Furthermore, agencies involved in the fight against child trafficking include: WOTCLEF, ILO, Global initiative human trafficking and several others. Since the main recurrent decimal in child trafficking is poverty and ignorance, the main weapon for eradicating child trafficking is awareness creation to enlighten the public on the schemes of traffickers and how to identify them, poverty alleviation by way of job creation, skill acquisition, rehabilitation of victims, improving co-operations and enhancing the

expertise of criminal justice personnel. Other measures include; provision of adequate shelter, medical and psychological care to rescued and repatriated victims, adoption of anti trafficking legislation, introduction of anti trafficking courses in training programs for law enforcement and immigration personnel and the establishment of a multi- agency anti trafficking taskforce. Some recommendations demand a long-term approach to the problem and these embrace eradicating corruption, providing free and mandatory education to all school aged children, mobilizing and involving civil society and increasing cooperation within and between government agencies, NGO'S and countries (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2011).

### **Conclusion**

There is a tendency for the trafficking debate to gravitate into an approach against criminals on the one hand and an approach supporting human rights or protection on the other hand. This creates a false impression of opposing perspectives when both dimensions are inherently linked and essential to prevent and combat trafficking. Trafficking in children is a global problem affecting large numbers of children. Some estimates have as many as 1.2 million children being trafficked every year.

There is a demand for trafficked children as cheap labour or for sexual exploitation. Children and their families are often unaware of the dangers of trafficking, believing that better employment and lives lie in other countries (UNICEF, 2010). Child trafficking is lucrative and linked with criminal activity and corruption. It is often hidden and hard to address.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the conclusion, it is recommended that:

1. Government should enforce the legislative measures against child trafficking and indict or prosecute whoever is guilty irrespective of his or her economic and political power and status.
2. Since the government is looking forward for free education for all by the year 2020, victims of child trafficking should be enrolled in schools for free education.
3. The government should ban all manner of child abuse such as child labour and hawking and also enforce free education for all children to avoid and prevent circumstances that will lead to child trafficking.
4. The public should be educated on the adverse effects of child trafficking.

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