

Community Perceptions of and Participation in Policy Formulation and Implementation on Human Trafficking in Nigeria

By Rachel Oluseye Iyanda

Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria

Email: roiyanda@gmail.com

Abstract

In recent times, human trafficking in Nigeria has acquired shocking and frightening dimensions despite governmental efforts at curbing the menace. It is interesting to note that most victims of trafficking are women, boys and girls, and majority of these are from rural areas that are deprived, and therefore victims look for a better life and means of increasing their standard of living. Whereas most research tends to concentrate on the push and pull factors facilitating human trafficking, this paper focuses on the critical areas of policy formulation and implementation, the role of the sending communities in either of these processes, and their perceptions about the effectiveness of national, international, governmental, NGO and local initiatives.

To this end, an exploratory survey research was carried out in some of the sending communities in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, a region now infamous for active complicity in 80% of the trafficking of women and girls in the country. 100 copies of a questionnaire surveying perceptions and involvement of communities were distributed and 76 of these were retrieved. This was supplemented with in-depth interviews conducted with key informants, specifically some of the victims and officials of several government and non-government agencies responsible for either victim rehabilitation or implementation of anti-trafficking policies. The human security framework was pertinent for interpreting the findings of the research.

The research found that community participation is minimal or non-existent in the processes of policy formulation and implementation with regard to trafficking in Nigeria. Furthermore, the community members thought that government and NGO initiatives had the potential to significantly reduce trafficking, but they doubted the effectiveness of the current policy making and implementation *process* to reduce trafficking. Other informants identify the reasons for trafficking as impinging on the effectiveness of policy in Nigeria.

It may be concluded that there is an endemically prurient social context to trafficking that needs to be addressed in the Nigerian case in order for legal and political solutions to be effective. Therefore, communities must be actively engaged at all stages of anti-trafficking policy making and implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Historically, human trafficking can be traced to the mid 16th century. At that time, Trans - Atlantic slave traders were referred to as “traffickers”. However, the term, “trafficking” was initially used to address those who conducted common trading activities¹. Thus, trafficking could be linked to slavery on the African continent. During this time, slavery and slave trade existed in various forms: captivity, enslavement and sales by relatives. It is important to note that the trade was not categorized or thought of as trafficking because its impact was seen as minimal on the society. Though it was not regarded as trafficking, the activities also involved transportation, cross-bordering and receipt of persons by force and coercion without regard for the victims’ individual rights or behaviour. Although, slave trading aborted years later due to emerging concerns and perception that it was the basest of crimes against humanity, the harm had already been done and the practice had become a societal phenomenon.

Though, human trafficking emerged prior to the 20th century, it was not until the 20th century that it began to attract serious global attention. Several reasons have been postulated for this. First, and most importantly is because prior to the 20th century, trafficking in persons was not considered as an illegal activity. The term trafficking was rather associated with illegal trading activities, especially smuggling of illicit weapons across border areas at the end of 16th century. Furthermore, in the 19th century, trafficking was addressed to human ‘trading’ across border areas of one or more countries and also within a country.²

Human trafficking is not a new phenomenon. However in the context of globalization, it has acquired shocking and frightening dimensions in many parts of the world; it has become a heinous transnational crime undertaken by highly organized syndicates. These syndicates employ deceit and coercion and prey on vulnerable persons who they traffic overseas for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Today, human trafficking is viewed as a clandestine activity that has threatened all age groups and it covers a wide range of activities unevenly distributed within and outside a country.

Indeed, the phenomenon is inherently demeaning, harmful and violates fundamental human rights to life, liberty, dignity and freedom of discrimination. It is incompatible with the worth and dignity of being.³ Trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual and other forms of

¹ Latifa and Noveria, Gender Perspective of Human Trafficking in Indonesian Border Areas. unpublished

² Ade Latifa & Mita Noveria, Gender Perspective of Human Trafficking in Indonesian Border Areas

³ Olaide A. Gbadamosi Esq (2006) *International Perspectives and Nigerian Laws on Human Trafficking*. Benin City: All Nations Press.

exploitation has become a global business reaping huge profit for traffickers and organised crime syndicates, causing flagrant human rights violations and creating serious problems for governments across the globe.

This is buttressed by the fact that trafficking in persons now represents the third largest trade area of organised crime – after drugs and arms trade.⁴ What is worrisome is that society is so endemic in this trade structurally and psychologically, that individuals lives within the society means nothing in the face of greed and a get rich quick syndrome. In some cases, the offense is committed with impunity without recourse to the law and consequences of such actions.

Various international mechanisms have been put in place as part of the international efforts to curb the menace. For example: The International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic (1904) which was the first international treaty to address human trafficking; The Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted and opened for signature and ratification in 1984. Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (C.E.D.A.W. 1979); United Nation Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989); Trafficking Victims Protection Acts (TVPA, 2000); Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (2005); United Nations Protocol Against Smuggling of migrants (2006); More importantly, is the “Palermo Protocol” referred to as United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000)⁵. All of these conventions and protocols, specifically, considered trafficking in persons as transnational crime with serious implications for the countries or origins, transit and destination. They are also a vital multilateral component of the global effort to combat human trafficking as they include measures to prevent, punish and protect victims and perpetrators.

Despite international efforts to curb the menace, human trafficking goes on unabated. The phenomenon has become a demand-driven global business involving multiple stakeholders having connections as all levels - both at countries of acquisition and destination. The capacity to combat the crime is minimal due to insufficient policy framework and less trained personnel to prevent it.⁶

⁴ See International Perspective and Nigerian Law, 2006:15

⁵ Ibid

⁶Policy Paper No. 14.2 (E) Human Trafficking In Nigeria: Root Caused and Recommendation 2006:11

Protocols to halt human trafficking has also been developed at regional and national levels (The African Charter on Human and Peoples rights 1981; The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa 2003; The Libreville (2000) Common Platform for Action) the West African sub-Regional (The ECOWAS Declaration and Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons 2001; The Inter-Governmental Cooperation Agreements to Combat Human Trafficking). In Nigeria for example, the following policies have also been enacted to fight against human trafficking: Labour Act 1974; Child Rights Act 2002 and the; Trafficking in Persons (prohibition) Law Enforcement Administration Act (2003). But they have had little or no effect on the cessation of the ever growing trade. In spite of the setting up of Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) and National Agency for Prohibition against Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), the nation is constantly awash with stories of trafficking.

Human trafficking, in the last couple of years, has emerged as a global business that cut across most countries of the world and reaps a lot of profit for the traffickers and their criminal associates.⁷ While there have been a lot of national outcry and aggressive “war” against a number of criminal activities such as the drug trafficking, arms smuggling, etc., the issue of human trafficking has continue to be an area that most Nigeria are either reluctant to discuss or are less interested in the discussion. The issue becomes most critical when one considers the overwhelming statistics of trafficking in persons in Nigeria. For example, UNICEF estimates that about 8 million Nigerians are at risk of being traffic each year. A former Minister of State of Justice in Nigeria is noted of stating that some 45,000 Nigerians are trafficked to foreign land on a yearly basis.⁸ It is against this background that the National Assembly of Nigeria enacted a number of policies to combat the menace of trafficking and to educate the populace about the inherent dangers of domestic and international trafficking. This paper focuses on the critical areas of policy formulation and implementation, the role of the sending communities in either of these processes, and their perceptions about the effectiveness of national, international, governmental, NGO and local initiatives.

To this end, an explanatory survey research was carries out in some of the sending communities in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, A region now infamous for active complicity in 80% of the trafficking of women and girls in the country. 100 copies of a questionnaire was self-administered and distributed at various locations in Benin to survey the perception

⁷ See The Dynamics and Context of Trafficking in persons: A National Perspective. P. 10

⁸ Quoted in the article, “Human Trafficking: Beyond Legislation”

and involvement of communities and 76 of these were retrieved. This was supplemented with in-depth interviews conducted with key informants, specifically some of the victims and officials of several government and non-government agencies responsible for either victim rehabilitation or implementation of anti-trafficking policies. The information collected was processed by using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to accuracy, co-efficiency, pictorial representation and frequencies.

Theoretical Framework

This research adopted human security concept as the basis of its analysis because of the tenet and the emphasis on human being. The vital core of human security is people-centred, freedom of people, fundamental of human right, the realization and maximization of individual potential and the fulfilment of human lives.

Sabina noted that it not sufficient to have an edifice structure or seeking the development of human being while undermining people's ability to be fulfilled and a enjoy a greater range of freedom. The important processed of governance, of participation, of transparency, of capacity building and institution building can hardly be overestimated. This can be further buttressed by the Universal Declaration of Human Right which was established decades ago. The essence of this is human security that is the ability of individual to express themselves, and participate in governance and make a contribution in policy that directly affected their lives.

The 1994 Human Development Report and subsequent United Nations Documents on human security as champion by Mahbub ul Haq was to bridge freedom from fear and want. The concern for human life and dignity, that ability of people freely exercise their choice. What choices do people make when pertinent and critical decisions are taken or made without any contribution from those who are affected. In formulating and implementing policy that will effectively bring a change to the society and eradicate a cause, it must be people centred, people oriented and owned.

Overview of Trafficking in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of largest countries on the continent of Africa, with a total population of 141,000, 000 and urban population of 25%. It is also the largest concentration of the black race in the world. The country is made up of an estimated 389 ethnic groups with the following considered as the most populous and politically influential : Hausa and Fulani 29%,

Yoruba 21% and Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%.⁹ It is blessed and endowed with numerous natural resources, clothed with glory, fondly referred to as the giant of Africa. Despite these laudable attributes, this nation that is covered with splendour and glory is regarded as the 3rd most impoverished nation of the face of the planet. This is due to low standard of living and her poverty level. Statistically, it has been reported that more than 60% of its population are living on less than US\$1/day, 23% of children are under force labour as at year 2000, (of course the percentage is on the high increase since the estimation by UNDP in 2005). The rate of infant mortality is high (74.18 death/per 1000 lives birth), Adult literacy is minimal (66.9%), the population is highly undernourished, population with sustainable access to improved sanitation, improved water resources, births attended to by skilled health personnel, maternal mortality¹⁰ etc. (*see appendix A. for more details on country profile and percentages*)

With the foregoing statistics, the country is nothing but a “sitting duck” for various types of criminal activities that goes on in societies where people have to scramble and struggle for their very survival. Furthermore, the resources of the society that should be a source of relieve from the predicament are controlled by a few while others grappled with the strategy of survival of the fittest which had given rise to the issue at hand – Human trafficking.

In 2006, the UNDOC shocking revealed that Nigeria was the center of human trafficking, especially women and children, on the continent of Africa and that the nation is a place of origin, transit and destination for trafficked children.¹¹ Destinations for trafficked Nigerians include the neighbouring West Africa countries of Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Benin, Equatorial Guinea etc. European countries like Italy, Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, Germany etc. North Africa countries, Libya, Algeria and Morocco and, Middle Eastern countries – Saudi Arabia. Recently, South America has joined the points to destinations for trafficked persons particularly Venezuela for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ harvesting.¹² Moreover, it is the predominant place of origin for trafficking in women. Furthermore, the issue of trafficking in Nigeria becomes more serious when one considered that it is the third largest crime in Nigeria after economic fraud and the drug trade.

⁹ Information adapted from policy paper No. 14.2 E. Human trafficking in Nigeria

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ See United Nations Office of Drug and Crime. Measure to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo, Sept. 2006. P. 11

¹² Policy paper- op.cit.

Most scholars have attributed the increase in the phenomenon to the decades of military reign in Nigeria. The military, they argued, institutionalized violation of human rights and severe political, social and economic crises. This behaviour on the part of the various military regimes since 1966 directly impacted a number of community based development programs especially those gear towards the empowerment of women and children.

According to a number of reports, traffickers often target those countries or region that lack basic socio-economic conditions, for women and children¹³. Despite lack of specific data, most scholars point out that the fact that the destinations for trafficked women and girls from most developing countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, Nigeria inclusive are OSCE countries of Western Europe and North America is enough evidence to proof the case that the lack of social amenities breeds trafficking.¹⁴ Another reason given for the spiralling increase in human trafficking in Nigeria is the level of poverty in most parts of the country. Most of the recent researches have concluded that poverty is the principle driving force behind this trade. It propels vulnerable people into the hands of traffickers, who belong to the small-scale and large scale multi-commodity businesses.

Policy Initiatives on Human Trafficking at International Regional and National Levels

In combating human trafficking, various attempts have being made at various levels to formulate policies and implement them. The first international effort was made in 1904 in which nation-state ratified and acceded to the agreement on elimination of trafficking. From there onwards, series of convention, protocols and policies have being put in place. Here are few of international efforts:

1. 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic on Women and Children. Specially called for the protection women and children.
2. 1949, 1956 are efforts in this direction. Called for abolition of debt bondage which is rampant in the 21st century

¹³Trafficking in Human Beings; Implication for the OSCE - Review Conference, September 1999. ODIHR background paper 1999/3

¹⁴ ibid

3. 1966 International Convention on civil and Political rights re-eco 1948 Human Rights Declaration. Articles 7, 8 of the Convention emphasizes non-cruelty, inhuman, degrading treatment or subjected into any kind of slavery, servitude etc.
4. Another laudable effort is Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (C.E.D.A.W. 1979) in which Article 6 mandated all State Parties to take appropriate legislative measure to suppress any forms of trafficking in women.
5. Others are: United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child; Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); International Labour Organization on Child Labour, and so on.

Regionally for example in Europe there the legal framework for is adopted in the fight against trafficking in 2002 for all government to implement. In 2003, the Protocol on the Rights of women in Africa came into being. Articles 4 specifically enact and enforce laws prohibit any forms of trafficking and adopted legislative, administrative measures necessary for prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women with is coupled with regional collaborations.

Furthermore, at national level most vibrant of the initiatives was the establishment of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (2003). The agency was laid with the responsible of monitoring and evaluating various measures to combat human trafficking and child labour and strategies were formulated at implementing all these policies at various levels.

Community Perception of Human Trafficking Policy in Nigeria

The focus of the paper is on the critical areas of policy formulation and implementation, the role of the sending communities either of these processes, and their perceptions about the effectiveness of national, international, governmental, NGO and local initiatives. The following tables and shows the community perception of trafficking policy in Nigeria

Table 1 Human trafficking awareness in Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	73	96.1	96.1	96.1
No	3	3.9	3.9	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the above table, it shows that 73 of the respondents which represent 96.1% of the total respondents are aware of human trafficking while 3 of the respondents representing 3.9% of the total respondents are not aware of human trafficking. This shows that majority of the respondents are aware of human trafficking as shown in the chart below.

The Effect of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

This table presents the number of people who have been affected by trafficking before and those that have not been affected before.

Table 2 The Effect of Human Trafficking in Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	7	9.2	9.2	9.2
No	69	90.8	90.8	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the above table, it shows that 7 of the respondents which represent 9.2% of the total respondents have been affected by human trafficking while 69 of the respondents representing 90.8% of the total respondents have not been affected by human trafficking. This shows that majority of the respondents have not been affected by human trafficking as shown in the chart below.

Human Trafficking as an issue in Various Communities in Nigeria

This table shows the impact of trafficking on communities

Table 1.3 Human Trafficking as an issue in Various Communities in Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	11	14.5	14.5	14.5
Disagree	5	6.6	6.6	21.1
Undecided	8	10.5	10.5	31.6
Agree	24	31.6	31.6	63.2
Strongly Agree	28	36.8	36.8	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 11 of the respondents which represent 14.5% strongly disagree that human trafficking is a serious issue in their community, while 5 of the respondents which represent 6.6% said they disagree that human trafficking is a serious issue in their community. 8 respondents which represent 10.5% are undecided, while 24 of the respondents which represent 31.6% agreed and 28 respondents representing 36.8% of the total respondents strongly agreed that human trafficking is a serious issue in their community as shown in the chart below.

Table 4 The Level of Awareness of the Federal Government of Nigeria Anti-human Trafficking Drive.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	5	6.6	6.6	6.6
Disagree	3	3.9	3.9	10.5
Undecided	5	6.6	6.6	17.1
Agree	36	47.4	47.4	64.5
Strongly Agree	27	35.5	35.5	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 5 of the respondents which represent 6.6% strongly disagree that they are aware of federal government efforts to stop human trafficking, while 3 of the respondents which represent 3.9% said they disagree that they are aware of federal government efforts to stop human trafficking. 5 respondents which represent 6.6% are undecided, while 36 of the respondents which represent 47.4% agreed and 27 respondents representing 35.5% of the total respondents strongly agreed that they are aware of federal government efforts to stop human trafficking as shown in the chart below.

Table 5. Effectiveness of Federal Government Anti-trafficking Drive in Communities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	6	7.9	7.9	7.9
Disagree	15	19.7	19.7	27.6
Undecided	15	19.7	19.7	47.4
Agree	23	30.3	30.3	77.6
Strongly Agree	17	22.4	22.4	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 6 of the respondents which represent 7.9% strongly disagree that government campaign is very effective, while 15 of the respondents which represent 19.7% disagree that government campaign is very effective. 15 respondents which represent 19.7% are undecided, while 23 of the respondents which represent 30.3% agreed and 17 respondents representing 22.4% of the total respondents strongly agreed that government campaign is very effective as shown in the chart below.

Table 6 Level of Grassroots' Participation in Policy Formulation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	14	18.4	18.4	18.4
Disagree	17	22.4	22.4	40.8
Undecided	11	14.5	14.5	55.3
Agree	23	30.3	30.3	85.5
Strongly Agree	11	14.5	14.5	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 14 of the respondents which represent 18.4% strongly disagree that there is any grassroots participation in the policy formulation in your community, while 17 of the respondents which represent 22.4% disagree that there any grassroots participation in the policy formulation in your community. 11 respondents which represent 14.5% are undecided, while 23 of the respondents which represent 30.3% agreed and 11 respondents representing 14.5% of the total respondents strongly agreed that there any grassroots participation in the policy formulation in your community as shown in the chart below.

Table 7 The Effectiveness of the Federal Government War Against Human Trafficking in Communities

The effectiveness of the policies in the community is examined by the table below.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	13	17.1	17.1	17.1
Disagree	13	17.1	17.1	34.2
Undecided	21	27.6	27.6	61.8
Agree	20	26.3	26.3	88.2
Strongly Agree	9	11.8	11.8	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 13 of the respondents which represent 17.1% strongly disagree that the policies are effective for combating human trafficking in their community, while 13 of the respondents which represent 17.1% disagree that the policies are effective for combating human trafficking in your community. 21 respondents which represent 27.6% are undecided, while 20 of the respondents which represent 26.3% agreed and 9 respondents representing 11.8% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the policies are effective for combating human trafficking in their community as shown in the chart below.

Table 8 The Effectiveness of the Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Drive in Communities in Nigeria

The table below shows opinion on policy implementation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	16	21.1	21.1	21.1
Disagree	11	14.5	14.5	35.5
Undecided	18	23.7	23.7	59.2
Agree	18	23.7	23.7	82.9
Strongly Agree	13	17.1	17.1	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 16 of the respondents which represent 21.1% strongly disagree that the policies are properly implemented, while 11 of the respondents which represent 14.5% disagree that the policies are properly implemented. 18 respondents which represent 23.7% are undecided, while 18 of the respondents which represent 23.7% agreed and 13 respondents representing 17.1% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the policies are properly implemented as shown in the chart below.

Table 9: The Level of Policy Implementation in Communities

This table describe policy implementation in the community

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Effective	13	17.1	17.1	17.1
Effective	28	36.8	36.8	53.9
Undecided	12	15.8	15.8	69.7
Ineffective	17	22.4	22.4	92.1
Very Ineffective	6	7.9	7.9	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the table above, it reveals that 13 of the respondents which represent 17.1% describe the implementation of Human Trafficking policy in their community as very effective, while 28 of the respondents which represent 36.8% describe the implementation of Human Trafficking policy in their community as effective. 12 respondents which represent 15.8% are undecided, while 17 of the respondents which represent 22.4% agreed and 6 respondents representing 7.9% of the total respondents describe the implementation of Human Trafficking policy in their community as very ineffective as shown in the chart below

Table 10 Effectiveness of Government Policy in Bringing Trafficking to an end in communities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	47	61.8	61.8	61.8
No	29	38.2	38.2	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the above table, it shows that 47 of the respondents which represent 61.8% of the total respondents believe that the government policies can bring trafficking to an end in your community while 29 of the respondents representing 38.2% of the total respondents disagree that the government policies can bring trafficking to an end in their community. This shows

that majority of the respondents believe that the government policies can bring trafficking to an end in their community as shown in the chart below.

Table 11 Effectiveness of Policy Implementation in Nigeria

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	33	43.4	43.4	43.4
No	43	56.6	56.6	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the above table, it shows that 33 of the respondents which represent 43.4% of the total respondents think that policy implementation is effective enough while 43 of the respondents representing 56.6% of the total respondents do not think that policy implementation is effective enough. This shows that majority of the respondents think that policy implementation is effective enough as shown in the chart below.

Table 12 Communities Role in Anti-Trafficking Drive

The table below show whether the community have a duty in the fight against trafficking

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	70	92.1	92.1	92.1
No	6	7.9	7.9	100.0
Total	76	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey April 2010

From the above table, it shows that 70 of the respondents which represent 92.1% of the total respondents think that communities have a duty to fight against trafficking while 6 of the respondents representing 7.9% of the total respondents do not think that communities have a duty to fight against trafficking. This shows that majority of the respondents' think that communities have a duty to fight against trafficking as shown in the chart below.

DISCUSSION

What anti-trafficking and agencies are in existence in Nigeria?

The research found out that there number of anti trafficking agencies in Nigeria and they can be characterized into two groups: The Agencies of government and Non-governmental Agencies. Under the later characteristics, the leading governmental agencies in the war against human trafficking is NAPTIP which was established in 2003 but other agencies of government play key roles in the fight against human trafficking. They include the Nigeria Police Force, The Nigerian Immigration Service, The Nigeria Prisons Service, The State Security Service, The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The non-governmental agencies include, WOTCLEF, Idia Renaissance, NACTAL amongst others.

How are these policies formulated and implemented and what are the challenges militating against the success of these policies?

About 80 percent of those interview stated that the primary formulator of Anti-Trafficking policy in Nigeria is the Federal Government but there are also Protocols and Conventions from the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, EU and bilateral agreements. However, various stakeholders in the fight against trafficking played major roles in the formulation of anti-trafficking policies. For example 95 percent of those interviewed acknowledged that the 2003 NAPTIP Act was driven by WOTCLEF and Idia Renaissance. It was revealed that each agency has its strategies for implementing policies. At NAPTIP, it was discovered that polices are implemented either through in house arrangement or with collaboration with stakeholders, that is, NAPTIP relied on immigration to arrest those who are engaged in the smuggling of persons at the border and in most cases relied on the police intelligence to arrest perpetrators within and outside of Nigeria. Furthermore, NAPTIP relied on the Ministry of Defence to train its staff in intelligence gathering. It was also revealed to at least 50 percent of NAPTIP field offices are headed by officers of the Nigerian Police Force. This partnership has led to increase in the number of arrest in states like Kano State.

The policies against trafficking at it stands at the moment has several challenges. About 80 percent of those interviewed accept that there are flaws in the 2003 NAPTIP Act as Amended in 2005. First in 2005 the Act did not deal with the issue of house help and did not answer the question of what happens to the profit gained by the trafficker from the nefarious trade.

Though the issues were addressed by the 2007 amendment, there is a lot to be look into. For example, The Child Rights is yet to be adopted by most of the states of the federation. 80 percent of those interviewed agreed that a major challenge is the fact that the victims and even the communities that have large number of trafficked victims are unwillingly to cooperate with the police or other agencies either, because they have taken oath of secrecy at shrines or are protesting against their detention. Again, there is the issue of shelter. 60 percent of those surveyed within the governmental agencies and NGO community frown at the inadequate numbers of shelters that are available for victim. For example, the Nigeria Police have no shelter on their own they have to rely on that of NAPTIP or some NGO. Indeed, in some cases the victims are brought to the shelter while the whereabouts of the trafficker cannot be pin- pointed either because they have bride law enforcement personnel or they were alerted about the raid on their facility.

How can these policies be made more effective within the Nigeria context?

The research discovered that the only way by which the anti-trafficking policies can be made effective in Nigeria by provision of alternative source of income for people living below poverty level. About 80 percent of the respondent agreed wrote, “government should make job available as many youth are jobless and the only way they can survive is taking to trafficking in that will reduce or alleviate their suffering.” About 60 percent of those interviewed along with 70 percent of respondent argued that is not enough to have policies in place but that there is the need to give more support to the agencies fighting against trafficking.

Indeed, most respondent believed that rural dwellers are neglected and are not involved in most of the activities that is meant for them. To effectively implement the policies therefore, community involvement are paramount since they are the mostly affected and should be allow to play a vital role. Not only that, the government should visit the interior of the rural areas and enlighten them, failure to do this will be an effort in futility.

For the policies to be effective, there is the need for stronger collaboration of both private and public enterprise in the fight against trafficking, it is believed that all hands must be on deck to remove the menace from the society. The society must be rid of corruption if the policy must make ways in the society. Some of respondent commented on the bribing of the law enforcement agent, they posited that if they are persistently brought into book as a scapegoat, if the traffickers will know that there is no hiding place any more.

Beyond this, the researcher found that there is need for political will. Where there is a will, there is a way. The government need concerted effort to put an end to this in Nigeria. Also the traditional institutions should be made involved at both formulation level and implementation level, because they are believed to be gods oracle, and there pronouncement mean power and biding.

The occasional visit of agencies and NGO is not enough; there should a residence agency in rural areas that will be laid with the responsibility of continuous enlightenment and educative programme. More importantly, need for stringent penalty and beefing security at the borders.

Conclusion

An overwhelming majority of respondent believed that community based solution is best alternatives to the issues of trafficking because grassroots is the upshot of the society. It does infer that there is an endemically prurient social context to trafficking that needs to be addressed in Nigeria case in order for legal and political solutions to be effective. Therefore communities must be actively engaged, presented at all stages of anti-trafficking policy making and implementation.