

# The Role of Poverty in Child Trafficking: An Examination of Vulnerabilities in Calabar Municipality, Nigeria

<sup>1</sup>Bassey Ekpenyong Anam & <sup>2</sup>Felix Tabi Okorn

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Public Policy & Administration,  
University of Calabar, Calabar*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of History and International Studies,  
University of Calabar, Calabar*

**Article DOI:**  
10.48028/iiprds/ijdshms.v14.i1.37

**Keywords:**  
Poverty, Child Trafficking, Vulnerabilities

## Abstract

The study has examined the impact of poverty on child trafficking in Calabar Municipality. The findings suggest that poverty significantly increases the vulnerability of children to trafficking, as families facing economic hardship are more likely to send their children to traffickers in the hope of a better future. The research design adopted for this study was the ex post facto approach. With a sample size of 40 respondents, a random sampling procedure was used to generate primary data for the study. The data collected through the questionnaire were processed using frequency tables and using the Chi-square statistical technique. The analysis of primary data shows that in Table 4.2, the calculated chi-square ( $X^2$ ) value was 7.48, while the table value at the .05 level of significance was 5.99. Since the calculated value of  $X^2$  is greater than the table value of chi, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate accepted, stating that there is a significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking in the Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the result of data analysis, the study concludes that there is a significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking in the Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria, and hitherto draws some conclusions and recommendations.

*Corresponding Author:*  
Bassey Ekpenyong Anam

### **Background to the Study**

Child trafficking is a critical human rights issue that affects millions of children worldwide, particularly in regions burdened by poverty and socio-economic instability. In sub-Saharan Africa, the link between child trafficking and poverty is especially pronounced, as economic deprivation exacerbates the vulnerability of children to exploitation (Cody et al., 2023). Uzoh and John (2023) disclosed that “in Nigeria, high poverty rate is deemed to be one of the drivers of human trafficking. High levels of poverty in the country cause families to give away their children to foster parents who sometimes sell these children to traffickers”. Nigeria, despite its wealth in natural resources, faces widespread poverty, particularly in rural areas like Calabar Municipality in Cross River State.

According to Yunana and Ishaya (2022), “Poverty is a condition in which a person experiences chaos due to the absence of material things that he needs to survive while unemployment is the absence of opportunity to generate money for a living in exchange of someone's time, effort and talent”. They added that “Human trafficking entails a forceful or deceitful recruitment of people; especially young and able-bodied people for forced labour, prostitution, domestic and other forms of exploitation” (Yunana and Ishaya, 2022). It further involves the exploitation of the desperation and ignorance of parents particularly those in the rural areas; to procure women and children for commercial and exploitation purposes. This poverty creates a fertile ground for traffickers who exploit the financial desperation of families, leading to the trafficking of children for forced labour, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse.

Calabar Municipality, known for its historical and economic significance, is particularly affected by child trafficking due to its socio-economic challenges. The region is characterized by high levels of poverty, inadequate access to quality education, and limited employment opportunities, all of which contribute to the vulnerability of children. These socio-economic factors create an environment where traffickers can easily manipulate children and their families, often luring them with false promises of better living conditions and employment opportunities. Once entrapped, these children are subjected to various forms of exploitation, stripping them of their rights and dignity.

Yunana and Ishaya (2022) admitted that “trafficking in persons is a major violation of human rights, particularly that of women and children. It is a major contributory factor to the exploitation of human beings for commercial and business purposes”. The act of human trafficking is therefore classified as a societal problem involving almost every Community or State in Nigeria either as a source, transit, or destination. It is therefore not limited to a section or part of a population in the country. The United States (US) State Department Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 described Nigeria as a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of human beings for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Within Nigeria, women and girls are primarily trafficked for domestic labour. Trans-nationally women, girls, and boys are trafficked into Nigeria from other African Countries and from Nigeria to Countries within and outside Africa (Nwogu, 2005)

The government has set out intervention policies to combat this social evil and menace. Some of these provisions are highlighted in the 2023 Nigerian Trafficking in Persons Report examined in the literature. Despite numerous interventions by the Nigerian government and international bodies, child trafficking remains a significant issue in Calabar Municipality. Poverty is identified as a primary driver, increasing the vulnerability of children to traffickers who exploit the economic hardships faced by families. This study seeks to investigate the role of poverty on child trafficking in Calabar Municipality, aiming to understand the socio-economic factors that contribute to this crime and provide recommendations for effective interventions.

### **Hypothesis**

There is no significant effect between poverty and child trafficking in the Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### **Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

#### **Concept of Child Trafficking**

Trafficking is any act or attempt involving the recruitment, transport within or across national boundaries, exchange, sale, transfer, lodging, or reception of a person using deception and constraint. Trafficking in Persons/Children means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, using the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion without their consent. Child trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, involving the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children through various means such as threats, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception, with the intent to exploit them. This exploitation can take many forms, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse that deny children their basic dignity and rights. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) describes trafficking as a modern form of slavery, where victims are stripped of their fundamental human rights and subjected to inhumane treatment.

It is estimated that 1.2 million children are trafficked globally each year. These children are often forced into situations such as sex trafficking, hard labour, and domestic servitude, with the majority of victims being under the age of 18. Alarmingly, children account for a significant proportion of confirmed trafficking victims in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa Central America, and the Caribbean, where they represent 64% and 62% of the trafficking victims, respectively (International Labour Organization, 2016). In Nigeria, child trafficking is a multifaceted social issue, driven by both the demand for the exploitation of children and the socioeconomic challenges faced by many families. Poverty, lack of education, and unemployment are key factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children, making them easy targets for traffickers. According to Kwagyang, Saulawa, and Daud (2012), for an act to be classified as trafficking, it must involve the coexistence of three critical elements:

1. The Act (What is done): This includes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons.
2. The Means (How it is done): The act is carried out through the threat or use of

- force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or by giving payments or benefits to a person who has control over the victim.
3. The Purpose (Why it is done): The ultimate goal is exploitation, which includes but is not limited to, the exploitation of the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs.

Nigeria has responded to the issue of child trafficking through the enactment of several domestic laws aimed at preventing and combating this crime. According to the 2023 Nigerian Trafficking in Persons Report, the following are highlighted:

1. Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPLEAA): Originally enacted in 2003 and amended in 2015, this law criminalizes both sex trafficking and labour trafficking. It prescribes a minimum penalty of two years' imprisonment and a fine of 250,000 naira for these offenses. In cases involving child victims, the minimum penalty is increased to seven years imprisonment and a fine of one million naira.
2. Child Rights Act (CRA): Enacted in 2003, this act provides comprehensive protection for children, including specific provisions against child trafficking. The CRA aligns with international standards and aims to safeguard the rights and welfare of children in Nigeria.
3. The government increased law enforcement efforts, although corruption and complicity continued to contribute to impunity for trafficking crimes. The Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPLEAA), as amended in 2015, criminalized sex trafficking and labour trafficking and prescribed a minimum penalty of two years imprisonment and a fine of 250,000 naira (\$568) for both sex and labour trafficking; the minimum penalty for sex trafficking involving a child was seven years imprisonment and a fine of 1 million naira (\$2,270). These penalties were sufficiently stringent and, about sex trafficking, commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as kidnapping.
4. Corruption and official complicity in trafficking crimes remained significant concerns, inhibiting law enforcement action and perpetuating impunity for trafficking crimes. The government reported investigating two officials for involvement in trafficking crimes – a member of the National Immigration Service and a member of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps. The government reported one investigation of sexual exploitation by a government official initiated during the previous reporting period was settled out of court, and two other investigations initiated in the previous reporting period against members of the CJTF for alleged sex trafficking of IDPs are awaiting trial. Local judges did not have the same standardized training requirements as federal and state judges, which contributed to corruption and misapplication of the law. Some judges were unfamiliar with the anti-trafficking law, which hindered the government's ability to hold traffickers accountable.
5. The CJTF had child protection units in all sectors of its forces. The Nigerian army

trained members of the military on sexual exploitation, human rights, and disarmament and demobilisation. The government also cooperated with NGOs to train civil society and the media on trafficking issues. The government conducted training, including some in partnership with international organizations, for NAPTIP officials, law enforcement, the military, prosecutors, judicial actors, immigration officials, and civil society on topics including a victim-centered approach to victim assistance, identifying trafficking victims, conducting victim-centered investigations, and shelter management. National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Judicial Research Center in Abuja provided NAPTIP officers access to resources to strengthen trafficking cases and enhance prosecution efforts. Terrorist and other illegal armed group activity hindered law enforcement and judicial officials' actions, especially in the northeast region of the country, including Borno State. Community defense groups played a substantial role in judicial service delivery and dispute resolution, which may have included some trafficking cases.

6. The Nigerian-UK Joint Border Task Force (JBTF) carried out several international anti-trafficking operations focused on disrupting, identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting members of organized crime groups within Nigeria and abroad. NAPTIP collaborated with German, Spanish, and Burundian authorities on several trafficking cases, including by responding to Mutual Legal Assistance Requests. In addition, NAPTIP collaborated with governments, including those of Cambodia, Ghana, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Mali, and Senegal to repatriate trafficking victims. The government signed bilateral agreements on anti-trafficking issues with the governments of The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, India, and Spain. (US Department of State, 2023).

The enforcement of these laws is overseen by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting trafficking offenses. NAPTIP also plays a crucial role in providing support and rehabilitation services for victims, helping them to reintegrate into society and recover from the trauma of trafficking.

### **The Concept of Poverty**

Poverty is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that affects individuals and societies in various dimensions, denying them basic rights, opportunities, and dignity. According to the United Nations (1998), poverty essentially strips individuals of their dignity, limiting their choices and opportunities, and making them susceptible to societal vices. This concept is reinforced by the UN's internationally recognized definition of poverty, which is primarily based on per capita income, setting a threshold of US \$1 per day, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). At such low levels of income, individuals struggle to meet basic needs, including food, water, shelter, healthcare, and clothing, which are essential for a dignified life. Poverty: This refers to the lack of basic human needs and economic opportunities. Poverty is a state or condition in which an individual lacks the financial resources and essentials for a certain standard of living.

Anam and Eteng (2018) further elaborated on this by describing poverty as a dire condition that undermines an individual's ability to maintain self-control, especially when necessities are lacking. They argue that poverty not only affects physical well-being but also compromises one's capacity to make rational and dignified choices. The psychological and emotional toll of poverty can lead to outcomes such as undernourishment, illiteracy, violence, child labour, and human trafficking, among other social ills. Furthermore, poverty creates an environment where vulnerabilities are heightened, leading to exploitation and abuse. For instance, human trafficking, which is often fueled by poverty, thrives in conditions where individuals are desperate and have limited options. The lack of resources and opportunities forces people into situations where they are more likely to be exploited. This connection between poverty and trafficking is well-documented in various studies, which highlight how economic deprivation drives individuals, particularly women and children, into the hands of traffickers (UNODC, 2016).

Additionally, scholars like Sen (1999) have broadened the understanding of poverty by emphasising its multidimensional nature. Sen argues that poverty should not only be measured by income but also by the deprivation of capabilities – the ability to live a life one has reason to value. This perspective underscores the importance of addressing not only the economic aspects of poverty but also the social, political, and cultural dimensions that contribute to human well-being.

### **Poverty and Child Trafficking**

According to Huntley (2013), human trafficking is influenced by poverty. Ozurumba (2012) looked at poverty and human trafficking in Africa: implications for educational development in the Niger Delta. Although slavery has been abolished from the world, the trade in human beings otherwise known as human trafficking continues. Consequently, hundreds of thousands of African women and children of school age are being forced into situations of labour and sexual exploitation both on the continent and abroad every year as a result of the scorching poverty in the land. On the international scene, trafficking in persons has been identified as a serious threat to human security and development by governments, non-governmental organizations, pressure groups, and the United Nations (Ozurumba, 2012).

It is difficult to escape poverty without education, so many people are forced into labour or sex work to support their families. Poverty is a global issue that must be addressed holistically since it impacts many aspects of our daily lives, including healthcare, education, and economic growth. Traffickers frequently target poor communities since it is easier for them to take advantage of people who do not have much money or resources (Keel, 1997). They use it as an opportunity for exploitation by promising victims higher-paying jobs than they would have received if they had stayed in their home country. The relationship between poverty and human trafficking is complicated and multifaceted. Poverty makes people more vulnerable to trafficking because they cannot protect themselves or flee exploitative situations when they arise (Ndifon, Apori & Ndifon, 2012).

In Nigeria, Ndiora (2011) stated that the high poverty rate is deemed to be one of the drivers of human trafficking. High levels of poverty in the country cause families to give away their children to foster parents who sometimes sell these children to traffickers. Traffickers usually promise parents and desperate youths' easy financial freedom in other cities or countries, and oftentimes they discover that they have fallen into a deception trap and tend to face harsh conditions in foreign lands which they must endure if they must survive (Njoku, 2016). Njoku (2016) maintained that poverty is a driving factor in all forms of human trafficking on the African continent. African countries score low on the United Nations Development programme's (UNDP) Development Index. Of the 43 countries ranked low on UNDP's Development Index, 35 of these countries are in Africa. The eighteen countries scoring lowest on the Development Index (ranked 170-187 are in Africa). Salah (2001) attributes the trafficking of women and children in Africa to abject poverty, inequality, and the absence of programmes for the creation of employment (Salah, 2001). Those most affected are children in rural areas. Millions in Africa live below the poverty line, and child trafficking goes hand in hand with poverty and child labour (Salah, 2010).

Enaikele and Olutayo (2011) examined human trafficking in Nigeria. They see Nigeria as a country of origin, transit, and destination for human trafficking. Their study articulated the potential vulnerability of the victims, appraised the link between trafficking and the human immune deficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, assessed the potency of the Nigeria legal instruments to curb human trafficking, and recommended possible solutions. Because of unemployment, victims are vulnerable and frequently lured with promises to get a job with low pay. "Trafficking victims are exposed to unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners. They are also hired for pornography and bestiality. These experiences make them vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, and other female reproductive health challenges" (Enaikele & Olutayo, 2011). Nigeria's local laws and the international conventions and protocols, which she is a signatory to, all have legal potencies to curb trafficking (Yunana & Ishaya, 2022).

The voluntary placement of children under the child fosterage system is done partly because of poverty and partly by the desire to provide their children with a better life (Verbeet 2000). The receiving family may give a financial incentive to the child's biological parents. Often the promise is made to pay the child, but this rarely occurs. According to Truong (2006), however, the practice of child fostering "... has been distorted into a commercial transaction". The practice has been corrupted from placing the child for the benefit of the child's future to viewing the child as an income-generating opportunity. Whether the child is placed for altruistic or economic purposes, child placement or foster care can easily lead to the exploitation of children who are in homes with no supervision. "This 'strategic fostering out of children' is said to be a stronger causal factor in child trafficking than poverty" (Nwogu, 2014).

People who are living in poverty sometimes have no alternative but to sell themselves. Traffickers have even been known to trick parents into handing up their kids in unusual circumstances. Parents send their children off in the hopes that they could have a chance at a better life. In this way, when they believe their children are somewhere happy, they can be working in a sweatshop or something even worse (Kolesnik, 2017). According to ILO/IPEC research, 40% of Nigerian street children and hawkers are trafficked children because of poverty, and 8 million Nigerian children are employed in exploitative child labour (Barr, 2015).

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study is grounded in Social Disorganisation Theory, originally developed by sociologists at the Chicago School in the early 20th century, and is a framework that explains the prevalence of crime and deviant behavior in communities. According to this theory, crime is more likely to occur in communities that experience breakdowns in social institutions, such as the family, education, and employment. These breakdowns lead to a lack of collective efficacy, where community members are unable to regulate behaviour and maintain social order. Social Disorganisation Theory can be applied to understand the impact of poverty on child trafficking in Calabar Municipality. In this context, poverty is viewed as a factor that disrupts the social fabric of the community, leading to disorganization and an increased risk of child trafficking. Poverty contributes to the breakdown of social structures in communities, weakening the ability of families and local institutions to protect children. When families are struggling to meet basic needs, they may be more susceptible to the influence of traffickers who exploit their vulnerabilities. This breakdown in social structures leads to a situation where children are less supervised and more exposed to the risks of trafficking.

In impoverished communities, social networks that traditionally offer support and protection may be weakened. Poverty can erode trust and cooperation among community members, reducing their ability to collectively respond to threats such as child trafficking. The lack of strong social ties and community cohesion makes it easier for traffickers to operate with impunity. Social Disorganization Theory also highlights how poverty affects family structures, which are crucial in preventing child trafficking. In many cases, economic hardship leads to single-parent households or forces parents to migrate in search of work, leaving children vulnerable. The absence of stable and supportive family environments can increase the likelihood of children being trafficked, as they seek alternative means of support or are coerced by traffickers. The theory provides a useful lens through which to examine the impact of poverty on child trafficking in Calabar Municipality. The theory underscores the importance of addressing poverty not just as an economic issue but as a social problem that disrupts the protective networks essential for preventing trafficking.

### **Research Methodology**

The study will employ an ex post facto research design, which is appropriate for investigating phenomena where the variables cannot be manipulated. This design allows



for the analysis of existing data to determine the relationships between variables such as poverty and child trafficking. The research will be conducted in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State, Nigeria. The area is characterized by high levels of poverty, limited access to quality education, and significant socio-economic challenges that make it a hotspot for child trafficking. The study will target adult residents of Calabar Municipality who have children or are familiar with the issue of child trafficking. A sample size of 100 respondents will be selected using random sampling techniques to ensure a representative sample of the population.

Data will be collected using a combination of primary and secondary sources. Primary data will be gathered through structured questionnaires administered to the selected sample. Secondary data will be obtained from existing literature, including reports from international organizations, government agencies, and academic studies on child trafficking. The data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency tables will be used to summarize the data, while Chi-square tests will be conducted to determine the relationships between variables such as poverty, education, and child trafficking.

### Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking in Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

**Table 1:** Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) response distribution on poverty and child trafficking in Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Variables	Responses				Total
	SA	A	D	SD	
Poverty	6 (7.2)	2 (4.5)	8 (4.5)	2 (1.8)	18
Child trafficking	10 (8.8)	8 (5.5)	2 (5.5)	2 (2.2)	22

---

Calculated  $X^2$ -7.48, Table value of Chi -5.99, Level of significance-.05, df- 2

**Source:** Field survey, 2024.

Response in Table 1 showed that the calculated chi-square ( $X^2$ ) value is 7.48, while the table value at the .05 level of significance is 5.99. Since the calculated value of  $X^2$  is greater than the table value of chi, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative. This means that there is a significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking in the Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### Discussion of Findings

From the analysis of the data above, there is a significant relationship between poverty and child trafficking in the Calabar Municipality area of Cross River State, Nigeria. This finding supports the position of Huntley (2013), that human trafficking is influenced by poverty. Additionally, research by Ali, Muhammad, & Abdullah (2014) on familial

determinants of child trafficking in Nigeria supports the notion that poverty and lack of education are critical factors that increase the risk of trafficking. Keel (1997) added that traffickers frequently target poor communities since it is easier for them to take advantage of people who do not have much money or resources. They use it as an opportunity for exploitation by promising victims higher-paying jobs than they would have received if they had stayed in their home country. The relationship between poverty and human trafficking is complicated and multifaceted. Ojong (2002) on her part attributed the cause of human trafficking to the vicious circle of poverty prevalent in Africa. To her, the vicious circle of poverty connotes an interrelated network of deprivations. These deprivations as she maintained showcase the poor as a ready market for traffickers. Poverty makes people more vulnerable to trafficking because they cannot protect themselves or flee exploitative situations when they arise (Ndifon, Apori & Ndifon, 2012).

### **Conclusion**

Based on the result of data analysis, child trafficking in Calabar Municipality is closely linked to poverty. Fundamentally, poor parents cannot even fulfill the legitimate needs of their children. This financial incapacity may make them vulnerable to the deceit of traffickers, who deceive them, and they are going to give their children jobs, only to end up getting them into forced labour or prostitution. This creates an environment where traffickers can easily exploit the vulnerabilities of children and their families. To effectively combat child trafficking in the region, it is essential to address the root causes of poverty.

### **Recommendations**

1. Implementation of poverty alleviation program memes among the vulnerable poor groups: The government must priorityse poverty reduction strategies in Calabar Municipality, focusing on economic empowerment initiatives that provide sustainable livelihoods for families. This could include microfinance programmes, vocational training, and job creation schemes that reduce the financial pressures leading families to engage with traffickers.
2. Strengthen legal and social protections institutional frameworks: The Nigerian government, in collabouration with international organizations, should strengthen the legal frameworks and social services aimed at protecting children from trafficking. This includes enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute traffickers, as well as providing support services for victims of trafficking.
3. There is need to carry out ccommunity aawareness ccampaigns: Public awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate families and communities about the dangers of child trafficking and the importance of keeping children in school. These campaigns should also provide information on how to report suspected cases of trafficking and where to seek help.
4. Collabouration with iinternational organizations: The Nigerian government

should work closely with international organizations such as UNICEF, ILO, and UNODC to implement comprehensive strategies for combating child trafficking. This collaboration should focus on cross-border initiatives, as well as efforts to disrupt trafficking networks and provide support for victims.

## References

- Anam, B., & Eteng, F. (2018). Rural poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies in Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Research in Social Sciences and Strategic Management Techniques*, 5(1), 225–238.
- Chika, N. O. (2004). Poverty, social policy and women participation in the Nigeria democratic process in Michael, O. M (2004): Challenges and prospects of Democratization in Nigeria. Fulbright Alumni (Nigeria), Nsukka; Multi Educational series
- Cody, A. M., Okech, D., Yi, H., Aletraris, L., Clay-Warner, J., & Callands, T. (2023). When child trafficking and informal fostering intersect. *Social Work and Social Sciences Review*, 24. <https://doi.org/10.1921/swssr.v24i2.2026>
- Enaikele M. D & Olutayo A. O (2011). Human trafficking in Nigeria: Implication for human immune deficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology* 3(11), 416-422.
- Huntley, S. S. (2013). *The phenomenon of baby factories in Nigeria as a new trend in human trafficking*, International Crime Database, Brief 3.
- International Labour Organization (2015). *World report on child labour*. (ILO) Geneva
- Keel, R. O. (1997). *Rational choice and deterrence theory*, Retrieved from <http://www.umsl.edu/~keelr/200/ratchoc.html> on 20th April, 2018.
- Kwagyang, G., Saulawa, M., & Daud, K. (2016). Child trafficking in Nigeria: Causes, consequences and the way forward, *International Journal of Law*, 2(1), 17-26.
- Ndifon, C. O., Apori, K. A. & Ndifon, R. A. (2012). Human trafficking in Nigeria: A metaphor for human rights, crime and security violations, *American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities*, 2 (3), 84-99.
- Ndiora, U. A. (2011). *Female trafficking as organised crime in Nigeria: A study of public perception in Onitsha, Anambra State*. M.Sc unpublished work, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- Njoku, A. O. (2016). Human trafficking and its effects on national image: The Nigerian case, *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Academic Research*, 3 (92), 21-30.
- Nwogu, V. I. (2014). Anti-trafficking interventions in Nigeria and the principle-agent aid model, *Anti-Trafficking Review*, (3), 41-63.
- Nwogo M. C. (2005). Child trafficking: Another shock from Gabon, *This Day Newspapers Abuja*, Nigeria, 2(4), 16
- Ozurumba, C. N. (2012). Poverty and human trafficking in Africa: implications for educational development in the Niger Delta, *The Nigerian Journal of Research and Production*. 20 (1).
- Salah, R. (2001), *Child trafficking in West and Central Africa: An overview*, Paper presented at the First Pan African Conference on Human Trafficking organized by WOTCLEF at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, February 19–23, 2001, pag.4, at <http://www.unicef.org/media/newsnotes/africchildtraffick.pdf>
- Sen, A. K. (1999). *Development as freedom*. <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA43059927>
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2016). *Global report on trafficking in persons*, Retrieved from [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016\\_Global\\_Report\\_on\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf)
- UNODC (2016). *United Nations office on drugs and crime*, drug trafficking.
- Uzoh, B. C. & John, J. U. (2023). Influence of Poverty on human trafficking in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria, *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, 7(8), pages 1043-1052, August.
- Yunana, T. W. & Ishaya, J. M. ((2022). The role of poverty in the prevalence of human trafficking in Nigeria, *International Journal of Contemporary Applied Researches*. 9(1)
- 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Nigeria. US Department of States.