EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT: A TOOL TO CURB THE MENACE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

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Abstract

Trafficking In Persons (TIP) is an illegal transaction that involve giving or receiving payment over a person for the purpose of exploiting the person and coercing or forcing the person into perpetual servitude. It is a negative phenomenon, a violation of fundamental human rights as well as a danger to the whole society. This is an era where human beings are being traded like goods, therefore the society, especially the young ones and women who are mostly victims, need to be aware of this vicious act through proper management of education that will enlighten them so that they will not fall victims to the menace of TIP. It is to this effect that this chapter explored the curbing of the menace of trafficking in persons through educational management.

Keywords: Trafficking In Persons (TIP), Educational Management, etc

Introduction

The globalization of economic, political and social processes has made life more dynamic. The demand for better life has steadily increased with high level of poverty in developing countries. This have led to difficult economic situation resulting in family problems, divorce, violence, victimization, frustration and the like which culminate into Trafficking In Persons (TIP). Adedokun (2016) defined TIP as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipts of persons by force, coercion, fraud or some other forms of deception for the purpose of exploitation. This means that TIP is a business transaction involving the sales of vulnerable human beings who will be exploited to their detriment. Gbadamosi (2015) pointed out that the most grievous aspect of this transaction is that most of the victims are ignorant of what they are going into, hence, they are lured, deceived, coerced, and sometimes threatened and forced into servitude. Some of the victims are made to take part in rituals and swearing to force obedience that even when freed, they may not be able to recover from it.

Victims of TIP are mostly women, youth and children who are vulnerable. International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2015) stated that US law in Polaris Project discovered that victims of TIP usually fall under the following groups: Children under the age of 18, youths and adults above 18 and runaway and homeless youths of domestic violence and sexual assaults. The indication of this is TIP is a transaction that targets mostly able bodied individuals. The reason is not farfetched since the purpose of trafficking these persons is to make them work as slaves to satisfy and enrich their captors. Andrea and Ashley (2021) referred to the dehumanizing difficult task victims of TIP are subjected to as “The 3 D’s”; the Dirty, the Dangerous and the Difficult. They went further to say that these are the work that local men do not do and sometimes cannot do themselves but will coerce, or trick these

vulnerable victims into doing them at the expense of their lives. Government of Canada (2015) identified the following as various kinds of labour victims of TIP are subjected to:

- Bonded labour: this is the use of bond or debt to keep a person under subjugation, unlawfully enslaving and exploiting them to work in order to pay the assumed debt.
- Debt bondage and involuntary servitude: many especially women are lured into this by promises of "a greener pasture" and "privilege" of working abroad. They will be "sponsored" and forced to pay back the debt that "never finishes" by all means within a given period. Most victims under this category are sexually exploited.
- Domestic servitude: this occurs in private homes and is often regulated by public authorities. Here domestic servants are often victims to conditions of involuntary servitude after being given out by relations who collect money over their heads.
- Forced child labour: this involves trafficking of children within or across the bother subjecting them to involuntary servitude. Some children are exploited for commercial purposes while some are abducted and unlawfully recruited to be used as combatants and spies in conflict areas. Some of the female folk are forced to cook, marry and satisfy the sexual appetites of the soldiers and combatants. Sometimes, government of countries, parliamentary organizations perpetrate this type of TIP.
- Sex trafficking and prostitution: this is arranged recruitment of persons mainly women (most of whom are lured, coerced or forced) into commercial sex, pimps, panderers and maintaining brothels.

A close look shows that all the above are human right violation and it takes an educated person to know what it means to violate their right. More so, it is evidenced from the discussion so far that persons fall victim to TIP due to ignorance of what they are entering into, hence, education becomes a powerful instrument of enlightening persons to the activities of TIP. Syed and Nasir (2014) viewed education as a gateway to knowledge which can increase feelings of confidence and self-efficacy. In addition, education is also a source of safety to children who live in unsafe neighbourhood and environment. From the definition of education above, we can deduce that will equip persons with the knowledge of the activities involved in TIP and make them less vulnerable to the inhuman phenomenon. The process of education will also offer safety environment for children who otherwise may be forcefully taken away if found unguided. Hence, the proper management of education towards achieving these can be a tool to curb the menace of Trafficking In Persons.

Trafficking In Persons (TIP) is the fastest growing modern day slavery. Akowe (2015) viewed TIP as an organized crime against humanity in the world, a multi-billion dollars per year industry in over 170 countries and in all 50 states of United States, an inhuman global injustice majorly affecting the youths. It has been viewed from many perspectives. It is a large and growing practice that has taken over many countries including Nigeria. It is largely the trade of human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and various degrading and dehumanizing forced labour. This phenomenon dates back to the days of slave trade but now, the forms and patterns of trafficking have changed and transformed, taking various means but remains as vicious as slave trading. TIP is such an inhuman venture that Adedokun (2016) strongly maintained that it is only persons who are mentally, psychologically, socially and economically deranged and handicapped that can involve in such nefarious act.

The menace called TIP is real, hidden in plain sight and tearing at the social fabric of every nation and economic structure. Valeria (2019) viewed TIP as a serious crime that involves the exchange of rights to live to prolonged servitude, causing physical and psychological abuse. This is because TIP involves harmful, brutal and dehumanizing ventures like: trafficking unsuspecting victims for commercial sex acts, prostitution, pimping, pandering, child labour, domestic servitude and the like earlier mentioned the consequence of this to the victims of TIP is highly devastating. Ramona (2016) summed it up by observing that victims of TIP have: long lasting physical and psychological trauma, are infected by diseases especially HIV/AIDS, are into drug addiction, suffer malnutrition and social

ostracism, and in most case death because they do not live to tell the story. It is therefore clear that TIP is abuse of fundamental human right, and human capacity development leading to vulnerability to sexually transmitted disease, stigmatization, and rejection by society, irreparable damage and ultimately death.

TIP is exploitation at the highest level. It is highly debating and dehumanizing. An illicit trade that brings shame and endanger the welfare of the victims causing pain to the family, society and nation at large. Olateru-Olagbegi (2013) traced the root cause of this menace to the following:

i. Fallen standard of family values
ii. Lack of parental control and general avarice (inordinate desire for gains among others)
iii. Poverty, debt, unemployment, economic desperation
iv. Natural disaster and instability in a nation
v. Devaluation of local currency which makes private earnings in foreign exchange very attractive to economic desperation
vi. Lack of education and enlightenment

From the above, it is evidenced that lack of education is one of the root cause of TIP. This is because education is essential to the development of individuals and ensures peaceful and sustainable progress of the society. Lack of educational opportunities, on the other hand, puts individuals at risk to numerous kinds of social evils including TIP. Syned, and Nasir (2014) pointed out that studies indicated that most victims of TIP were either illiterates, had low level of education or ignorant persons while the perpetrators may be educated but have no value of education hence they commit such crime. So in essence, the right management of education which will inculcate the right value will help to curb down this horrible menace.

Anti-trafficking Organizations

The fight against Trafficking In Persons has been sustained for very long since many people viewed it as a modern form of slavery which must be eradicated and not allowed to thrive. Many organizations and agencies; national and international therefore are standing against it. Kathleen, Andrea and Mega (2021) pointed out that since 2009, Nigeria has made efforts to tackle human trafficking through collaboration with police, custom, immigration and other organizations and agencies. Many of these organizations and agencies work closely with religious groups, communities, charity agencies and law enforcement agencies. Some of these international and national agencies that combat TIP as listed by McGeough (2022) include:

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM): Since mid-1990s, this organization has provided protection and assistance to men, women and children at risk of violence, exploitation and violence and those who were already trafficked.
2. UN (United Nations): They draft laws, create comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies and assist with resources to implement them in all affected nations.
3. NHTRC (National Human Trafficking Resource Centre): This centre connects community members with additional tools to raise awareness and combat human trafficking in their local areas as well as guide service and law enforcement personnel in their work with potential trafficking victims.

Other anti-trafficking agencies and organizations identified by Arjeta (2021) include:

- NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
- NACTAL (Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour)
- IJM (International Justice Mission)
- ICAT (Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking)
- LEDAP (Legal Defence and Assistance Project)

McGeough noted that anti TIP national and international registered organizations and agencies are over three hundred. These international, national and local organizations and agencies, according to

McGeough, combat TIP in the following ways:

- Creating awareness through community events
- Providing resources to victims to help them cope with the trauma
- Partnering with law enforcement to help them locate and assist human trafficking victims
- Providing legal assistance to prosecute traffickers
- Recovering victims and investigate traffickers' activities

In essence, their objectives bother on prevention, prosecution and protection against trafficking In Persons. The efforts of these organizations and agencies however have not stopped the activities of traffickers as they are constantly finding alternatives to continue their activities. Hence there is need to combat Trafficking in Persons starting from the grass root which education will be a most important tool depending on how it is managed.

Educational Management as a Veritable Tool to Curb Trafficking in Persons.

Education is the transmission of culture, knowledge beliefs, customs, laws and any capability required by man to progress as a member of a society. It is one of the most effective ways of shaping personalities and building a healthy society, therefore, managing it effectively would be a tool in combating TIP. This is because, according to Arjeta (2021), education influences the acquisition of social rules and leads to a more peaceful co-existence in the society. However, before education can achieve this purpose, it must be well managed and geared towards its objective. Allie (2023) stated that the menace of Trafficking in Persons across the nations has raised concerns in all spheres of life especially in education because it has to do with shaping of human behaviour which is a priority in education objective. Allie further observed that millions of children and youths lack the support needed to strengthen their literacy, graduate from school and find a career pointing out that lack of quality education exacerbates vulnerability to TIP.

Education equips persons for their future and provide gateway to opportunities in adulthood. Dije (2014) viewed education as a key source of safety and stability for children and women who are the main victims of TIP. This is because education equips one with social skills and life skills that can increase feelings of confidence and self-efficacy. Dije further opined that the more education is managed to be creative and innovative, the more the value of education will increase and the less destructive phenomenon like TIP will thrive. Therefore, quality management of education system should be aimed at raising educational values and making society more humane. In the light of this, policies that include genuine social values, stability, civic progress and inter-personal integration should be developed. For education to be a veritable tool in combating TIP, it must be well managed. Management may be defined as getting things done through the help of resources, which can be human or material. So, in education, management could be perceived as using human or material resources to carry out educational functions. According to Iloh, Nwaham, Igbinedion and Ogogor (2016) management in education is the effective and efficient utilization of both human and material resources to achieve specified educational goals. This, they further explained is done through performance of management functions which include: planning, organizing, directing, staffing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting (PODSCORB).

TIP should be introduced into the school curriculum as this will be a veritable tool for social reform and will guide students from being instruments or victims of human trafficking. Atueyi (2019) opined that TIP should not be a standalone subject but an infusion into religious studies, social studies and even civic education in basic education. Atueyi further suggested that teachers should be trained to understand the focus of the subject and the methodology they are supposed to use to incorporate TIP based on their text. Therefore, educational managers should be prepared to train teachers to take the role of creating awareness on their students while teaching them. Mainstreaming issues of TIP into the school curriculum will ensure that students are equipped with adequate knowledge and information that will guide and protect them from the lures of TIP. In addition, special adult education program should be organized for parents, especially illiterate and ignorant parents to make them aware of such menace (Gbadomosi, 2015). This is because; lack of education leads to fewer job options and a lack of or limited awareness of rights which traffickers cease as opportunity or advantage.

Teachers as education managers should develop authentic relationship with their students.

Arjeta (2021) stated that it is important teachers as education managers should understand the complex and hidden nature of this crime and take time to know the stories behind the behaviours of their students in a non-judgmental way. This is because; most students under their care are already victims or potential victims of TIP if care is not taking. If teachers as education managers are aware of their students' background, family life, possible disabilities and interests, they will be more likely to notice when a student is in need; and if a teacher has an understanding of the complexity of TIP and how to address it, they will be equipped to intervene, should one of their students need help.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world as observed by a onetime president Nelson Mandela in Valerie (2019). It equips recipients for employment and access to a living wage thus reducing involvement in TIP. In managing education, every child is made to have right and access to education regardless of ability, gender or ethnicity. In educational management, a safe environment is created and disciplinary behaviours obtained which weakens the operation of TIP from the grass root. Akowe (2015) observed that over 15million Nigerians reside outside Nigeria and that most of these people are victims of TIP who became victims either because of lack of knowledge or are willing victims who seek to better their education and status. Hence, Akowe maintained that TIP can't be prevented unless everyone is getting adequate access to education, healthcare and a decent job.

Summary

Trafficking In Persons is a (TIP) is a complex and economic problem as majority are being coerced to involve in dehumanizing acts for monetary and economic gains. It is a modern form of slavery that reduces human beings to the worth of mere merchandise. A well-organized dastardly act that drags its victims into servitude. It is not only an affront to human rights and dignity but it is also a criminal and security concern. Several organizations and agencies knowing the evils of TIP have made several attempts to combat it but it is still thriving. This book chapter therefore examined the contributions of educational management as a tool to curb TIP from the grassroots. It concludes that with good educational planning, management and implementation of TIP in the school curriculum and good coordination of teachers' relationship with students, the menace of TIP could be curbed.

Recommendations

1. Government should liaise with education policy makers to include studies in Trafficking in Persons into school curricular at all levels of education.
2. Reforms should be made in teacher education curriculum by education policy makers to include awareness of this negative phenomenon, TIP so that teachers will be equipped to create constant awareness and information campaigns towards combating it.
3. Education managers, especially heads of all levels of education should make special provision in their yearly programme planning to include creation of awareness of TIP through dramatization, street march, and others.
4. Teachers that handle school counselling in primary and secondary level of education should be very amiable with students so as to encourage their students to confide in them when confronted with a problem as disastrous as TIP.
5. The government should find means of promoting women education the more since women are mostly victims to TIP.
6. Government should make sure that people are gainfully employed, cutting down the poverty level which is one of the causes of TIP.
7. The national law should increase the level of punishment meted out on the perpetrators of trafficking in Persons not minding the status of who is involved.

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