ANALYSIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND CHILD TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This study uses primary data that were obtained using a straightforward random sampling technique to analyze the analysis of unemployment and child trafficking in Nigeria. A logit model and descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data that were collected. The study's findings show that unemployment has an impact on child trafficking. The study therefore suggests that the government should increase the number of jobs available. In order to address the threat of child trafficking, the government should also analyze the efficiency of present legislation, spot any gaps, and provide fresh, effective solutions. Additionally, community-based groups should put out a lot of effort and get support in order to stop and handle child trafficking.*

Keywords: Unemployment, Child Trafficking, Nigeria and Logit Model

INTRODUCTION

The world is impacted by human trafficking in every nation. According to The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF, 2018), children make up approximately a third of all human trafficking victims globally. Roughly 160 million children were subjected to child labour at the beginning of 2020, with 9 million additional children at risk due to the impact of COVID-19 (International Labour Organization, 2020).

Around the world, a large number of people have fallen victim to trafficking activities, with sub-Saharan Africa playing a prominent role in this (Agbu, 2003). The bulk of victims (about 64%) in the multiple trafficking movements within and between these sub-Saharan African nations are children (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016). One of the significant factors that contribute to child trafficking, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa is the prolonged influence of neo-liberal economic policies like the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs). These policies were enforced by numerous African nations during the 1980s under the direction of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), eventually leading to severe financial difficulties. According to the World Hunger Education Service (2021), the consequences of SAPs, along with government officials' corruption, have escalated unemployment and poverty levels in these nations, predominantly in rural regions.

According to Adepoju (2005), trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation is a simmering problem in Southern Africa, especially in Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia. Despite the increasing complexity of trafficking routes, South Africa remains a significant hub for both internal and external trafficking. Also, children are trafficked for domestic labor and street hawking within Nigeria and West African countries (Magaji, 2007). Additionally, children from Togo, Benin, Ghana and Cameroon are brought into Nigeria and Senegal, which are major transit points and sometimes the final destination for trafficked women and children.

The incidence of human trafficking involving many Nigerians began in the 1990s as a result of the decline in the economy of the country (Njoku, 2016) and the consequent increase in unemployment, poverty, inflation, low wages and general social misery among the masses (Aluko & Magaji, 2020). Like many other African nations, Nigeria is plagued by issues such as poverty, unemployment, insecurity and unfavorable economic conditions (Magaji, Kari & Jafar, 2020; Shaba, Obansa, Magaji & Yelwa, 2018). Nigeria is rich in resources, but political instability and widespread corruption have facilitated trafficking in persons (Ezeh & Oli, 2021), and further hindered progress towards reducing poverty (Magaji, 2002).

There is a need for improvement in addressing the problem of human trafficking in Nigeria. In 2020, the Trafficking in Persons Report noted that Nigeria has Tier 2 status, which means that it does not meet The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) standard in fighting but is making significant efforts (Riggens, 2021). According to the US Department of State, in 2020 the Nigerian military has not consistently protected female and child trafficking victims who are believed to be associated with insurgencies. Additionally, fewer traffickers have been convicted by the Nigerian government. Consequently, Nigeria has been downgraded to the Tier 2 Watch list. This highlights the pressing issue of child trafficking in Africa and specifically Nigeria.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2021), females were the prime targets for trafficking for prostitution in 2019 with a total of 373 females aged 18 and 27. The report indicates that in 2020, there was a notable decrease in the number of recorded cases of female prostitution to 262, covering individuals between the ages of 18 and 27. Similarly, two males within the same age range were reported for engaging in prostitution. The report further states that child abuse was disproportionately higher among females compared to their male counterparts, as seen in 2019 with 110 females and 21 males, aged one to 17 (NBS, 2021).

Global audit and tax advisory firm, KPMG, has projected that Nigeria's unemployment rate is expected to rise to 40.6% as compared to 2022's 37.7% and 16.36% in Ogun State. There might be a good relationship between unemployment and child trafficking in the state. This constitutes the problem of interest to this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptual Review

Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is a universal phenomenon. It is the third-largest criminal activity in the world (Tola, 2008). According to the United Nations Human Rights (2018), child trafficking refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children to exploit them. This exploitation can occur both domestically and internationally and is not limited to the use of illegal means.

Child trafficking is a social ill which is sometimes attributed to unemployment faced by some parents (Magaji & Musa, 2015). These parents are misinformed by traffickers to believe that their standard of living will improve as well as their children's (Ayua, 1999). That is, children are being trafficked away from their families, friends, communities and support networks, and their development and survival are seriously threatened as they are forced to live in critical conditions and denied their economic freedom. Some definitions of child trafficking, for example, include all children and youth under the age of 18 (Dottridge, 2008; Staiger, 2005) who have been moved from one place to another.

Child trafficking is a form of human trafficking, which involves the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a child to exploit them. This practice is a serious violation of human rights and affects millions of children worldwide United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2018).

We may view child trafficking as the dislocation of children for economic usage to benefit those involved in illegal activity.

Unemployment

Unemployment is a key economic indicator since it signals the ability (or inability) of workers to obtain gainful work and contribute to the productive output of the economy (Magaji, Musa & Salisu, 2022). High persistent unemployment can signal serious distress in an economy leading to the socio-economic impact of child trafficking. According to the International

Labour Organization (ILO, 2017), unemployment refers to individuals who are part of the workforce, actively seeking employment but are currently unemployed.

This includes those who have lost their jobs and also those who have voluntarily left their previous employment. Thus, Shaba et al. (2018) observe that unemployment is chronic and intractable and has become the brains of the situation of youth unrest. Nowadays, young people obtain multiple certifications including diplomas, but unfortunately, most of these certifications end up being unused and provide no tangible benefits (Magaji, 2022). Unfortunately, there still exist youths who lack qualifications or marketable skills, have not received any formal education, and become unhappy due to their inability to compete in the job market. To survive, these young people engage in crime (Aluko et al., 2021).

It is generally stated as a percentage and calculated by dividing the number of people who are unemployed by the total workforce (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). People who wish to work make up the workforce; it does not include individuals who are retired, disabled, and able to work but are not currently looking for employment, such as those who may be raising children or attending college (Magaji, 2004).

The worst thing that might happen to a country is its educated inhabitants engaging in crimes like advance fee scams and cybercrimes, among others. This is premised on the fact that unemployed young people that are frustrated could be a fertile ground to conscript economic saboteurs, armed robbery, smuggling, prostitution and drug trafficking and child trafficking (Anyanwu & Oaikhenan, 1995).

Theoretical Framework

To underpin this work, the Keynesian theory of unemployment is taken as below:

Keynesian Theory of Unemployment

The Keynesian approach was developed by John Maynard Keynes in 1936. Keynesian unemployment can be defined as unemployment that arises in a period when an economy is in recession. John Maynard Keynes created the Keynesian theory of unemployment because he thought that a lack of effective demand for goods and services was a significant factor in the high unemployment rate in an economy. Poverty occurs unintentionally and is caused mainly by unemployment. It states that economic growth is the most effective aspect of poverty reduction.

The Keynesian theory of unemployment claims that aggregate demand, which is broadly defined as the total demand for goods and services in every economy, is the cause of any level of output and unemployment in any country. However, the central idea of Keynesian theory, named after economist John Maynard Keynes, is that aggregate demand is determined by the total spending of households, businesses and the government.

Government can implement the following policies to reduce unemployment: provision of employment opportunities; direct and indirect taxation; and reduction of interest rates and infrastructure development. Such government investment spending will lead to the injection of income in the economy which further increases spending to the general economy which acts as a stimulation for more production and investment.

The Keynesian policies would not be applicable in a situation where structural unemployment exists since the people to be employed lack the skills needed by the employers for them to be employed at the same time some firms lack the required equipment to employ some workers. In such cases, effective demand alone cannot reduce unemployment; rather, it causes inflation since Keynesian policies revolve around the cure of excessive unemployment, especially in times when the economy is experiencing a recession. In his study, he discovered that since employers are being faced with low demands for their products, it becomes hard for them to employ people which eventually leads to high levels of unemployment in the economy.

The central focus of the Keynesian School of Thought is macroeconomic policy and its impact on unemployment rates. Specifically, this school of thought is concerned with cyclical unemployment and argues that involuntary unemployment is not a valid phenomenon. The absence of involuntary unemployment results in the equilibrium of demand and supply of labor (Ogujiuba & Cornelissen, 2020). This implies that the job requirements match the skills possessed by the employees.

John Maynard Keynes (1936) singled out two interlinked principal faults of unemployment: the principle of capitalism and the principle of excessive inequality. Keynes believed that under capitalism, the implementation of good policies could maintain employment levels. This means the delivery of jobs to those who are currently unemployed has the potential to decrease poverty and inequality.

Empirical Review

Using a standard regression estimator, Abdul Rashed and Oladipo (2013) look at the relationship between unemployment and human trafficking. The study's findings show that while human security provisioning was assessed using the poverty rate, purchasing power parity, and food security, unemployment was assessed using the unemployment rate. The research design used in this study is a comparative survey. We used both primary and secondary data. According to the study's conclusions, food security in the Gambia showed a negative correlation with youth unemployment, whereas purchasing power parity significantly impacted the jobless rate in Nigeria. Youth unemployment and human security provisioning have strong beneficial relationships in both nations. Furthermore, the study discovered empirically that the primary cause of youth vulnerability is the lack of subsistence brought on by unemployment. As a result, the study suggests that the governments of Nigeria and the Gambia adopt a practical strategy to lower youth unemployment as a means of lowering the prevalence of human trafficking. The Gambia is the only country in West Africa that is the subject of this study.

But Ezeh and Oli (2021) examine socio-economic determinants of children's vulnerability to trafficking in Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State South East Nigeria. The study uses a mixed-method research design and multistage sampling procedure in selecting respondents. A sample size of 384 was generated using Cochran's formula for determining sample size. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Their finding reveals that greed and poverty are major factors responsible for children's vulnerability to trafficking. The study was conducted covering only Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State.

However, Musa, Magaji and Tsauni (2022) examine socioeconomic determinants of child labour in North-Eastern Nigeria. Their study employs multistage sampling techniques to obtain required data from selected local government areas in three states of North-Eastern Nigeria,

namely; Adamawa, Bauchi, and Yobe States. Their study used structured questionnaires. The data obtained were analyzed using the Tobit Model. Their findings show that socioeconomic determinants of child labour comprise children's age, children's gender, children's relationship with the household head, household head's education, household's occupation, and poverty, which is measured by household head's income, family size, access to clean piped water, and distance from school. However, some were found to be statistically significant at varying levels.

Oluseye and Christianah (2014) examine trafficking in women and children and assess the pattern of trafficking in women and children and factors influencing it. Quantitative and qualitative study designs were used. Women and children aged 15-49 and 10-14 years respectively constituted the study population. A multistage cluster sampling technique was used to select the sample. Quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted. Among the interviewed women, 16.8% had experienced trafficking preceding the survey. The most frequent type of trafficking was commercial sex (46.7%) followed by child labour (34.5%). Educated and enlightened people (57.3%) appeared to be the main perpetrators of women and child trafficking followed by intimate/close associates (32.1%). Contributing factors for trafficking in women and children in this study are poverty (58.7%), parental discrimination favoring boys over girls (51.4%), lack of knowledge of human slavery and trafficking (33.6%) and family disintegration (21.5%) increase in school dropouts, lack of governments' monitoring and trade working environment and poor socio-economic conditions. Therefore the study recommends that human trafficking should be tackled by enacting comprehensive laws that specify significant punishment for traffickers.

Adesina (2014) also looks at the connection between child trafficking and poverty in the nation. This research focuses on child trafficking and poverty in Nigeria as examples of contemporary slavery. The author claims that human trafficking in Nigeria, particularly involving children, has turned into a serious issue. By concentrating on domestic child trafficking, the study aimed to address a vacuum in the literature. It makes use of theories of constrained opportunity. The study's findings indicate that severe poverty, which is closely related to unemployment, is a major driving force behind child trafficking in Nigeria. Other factors include a lack of reliable institutions and widespread ignorance.

Musa and Magaji (2023) in their study examine the nexus between household income and child labour in Northeastern Nigeria using logit regression methodology. Results from their findings reveal that amongst virtually all the socioeconomic determinants of child labour and trafficking, household income was found to be the major determinant and recommends that government at all levels should provide not only employment opportunities but with enhanced income.

From the above empirical review, gaps were identified regarding the impact of unemployment on child trafficking which this study intends to fill.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

To ascertain the impact of unemployment on child trafficking, the study was based on primary data collected within the study area using a simple random sampling technique. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and a logit model. The analysis of this study was based on data collected from respondents through the use of a questionnaire method.

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises the total population of those living within Ogun state. Due to the time constraints and in order to get a valid result from this research work, we limit our research by using Odeda Local Government Area as sample size whose population is 1,385 (NBS, 2022). Based on this fact, we employ the Taro Yamane formula to determine the size from the estimated population.

Nature and Sources of Data

Primary and secondary data were employed in the investigation and questionnaires were used to gather the main data, while secondary data were gathered through publications like newspapers and journals.

Method of Data Collection

To conduct this study, the source of data collection is primary data. The data were collected using a self-administered questionnaire, which was designed to measure the consequences of poverty, unemployment, and household income on child trafficking in Ogun state. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure its reliability and validity and will be administered to the sample of respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: A and B. Section A was on the demographic data of respondents while Section B provided answers to the questions developed by the researcher on unemployment as a cause of child trafficking in Ogun state. The items on the questionnaire were **Yes or No**.

Sampling and Sampling Techniques

The sample for this study of the total number of respondents of child trafficking in the state was carried out using Taro Yamane. Taro Yamane, a mathematical statistician, devised a formula for estimating or determining sample size concerning the population under study, allowing inferences and conclusions drawn from the survey to be applied to the complete population from which the sample was drawn (Yamane, 1967).

n= Sample size

N= Population size

I= Constant

e= Level of significance (5) (0.05)

Therefore: Let e=5% or 0.05

N=186,300

Substituting

n= N/(1+N*(e²)

n= 186,300/ (1+186,300*(0.05²)

n= 399

A straightforward random sample method was employed to pick responders. Each person in the population has an exact equal probability of getting chosen using this sampling technique. It is a population subset that was chosen at random. This technique is the easiest probability sampling technique to use.

Model Specification

In an attempt to examine the socioeconomic impact of child trafficking in Ogun State, we employ the logit model. This study therefore adopted the model of Musa et al. (2022) .

Thus;

POV = f (UMP, POP, HDI) …………………………… (3.1)

Where:

UMP= Unemployment Rate, POP = Population and HCD= Human Capital Development are independent variables.

This study employs the logit regression model using Child trafficking as the dependent variable to analyze unemployment and Child trafficking in Ogun state.

The functional model for this study is written as:

CHT=f (UEMP)

The econometrics model is written as:

$CHT= \beta_o + \beta_1 UEMP$ ……+μ ………………………….. (3.2)

Where;

CHT = Child Trafficking is the dependent variable, and UNEMP = Unemployment rate is the independent variable. β_o = Constant term, β_1= Set of parameter to be estimated and μ= Error term

This study used a logistic regression model and it was selected due to the nature of the dependent variable (categorical variable with only two categories, 1 and 0) and its comparative mathematical simplicity and meaningful interpretation of the odds ratio (Gujarati, 2003).

The binary choice logistic regression model allows one to predict the value of a dichotomous variable "CHT" which takes only two values, 0 and 1, depending on a set of explanatory variables which could be quantitative or categorical. Conceptually, the model is specified as:

$L = \frac{In(P)}{In(1-P)} = \beta_0 + \beta_2 UEMP_t + \mu$ ………………………………… (3.3)

Here, the dependent variable (CHT) is measured as a binary variable with an assigned value of 1, if Unemployment (UEMP) has an impact on Child trafficking and 0 if Unemployment has no impact on Child trafficking in Ogun state.

The model is presented as:

Since Logit = Log of odd ratio

Therefore, Log $[\frac{pi}{1-pi}] = Log\ e^Z$ ……………………………………. (3.4)

Log $[\frac{pi}{1-pi}] = Z\ Log\ e\ but\ Log e = 1$ ………………………………. (3.5)

Therefore, Log $[\frac{pi}{1-pi}] = Z$ …………………………………………… (3.6)

Log $[\frac{pi}{1-pi}] = L = \alpha + \beta X + \mu$ …………………………………….. (3.7)

Equation (3.9) is the Logit model framework.

Using these variables, we would define the estimated linear probability model as:

CHT = β_o + β_1UEMP ……+μ ……………………………………… (3.8)

A transformation of equation 1 will then give us the Logit model as follows:

$\frac{In(P)}{In(1-P)}$ = β_o + β_1X$_1$ + μ ……………………………………………… (3.9)

Method of Data Analysis

The study was based on the population of the state, using a questionnaire to collect data on unemployment and child trafficking. The questionnaire was designed to measure the response of the respondent's views on the likelihood to have their children involved in child trafficking. The data collected were then analyzed using a combination of frequency counts and logistic regression.

When the dependent variable is binary (dichotomous), logistic regression – also known as a logit model- is the most appropriate type of regression analysis to perform. With all regression analyses, logit regression is a predictive analysis. Its purpose is to describe data and to elucidate the nature of the relationship between one dependent binary variable and one or more independent variables that are nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio-level.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Descriptive Analysis

Table 4.1: Gender of Respondents

Sex Categories	Frequency of response	Percentage (%)
Male	237	61.2
Female	150	38.8
Total	387	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.1 above reveals that out of 387 respondents, 237 were male (61.2%) and 150 were female (38.8%), indicating that there are more men as a determining factor of child trafficking to women.

Table 4.2: Highest Level of Education of Respondents

Level of Education	Frequency of response	Percentage (%)
Less than high school	10	3
High school	82	21
College or University	241	62
Post-graduate degree	54	14

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.2 shows that out of our 387 respondents, 10 are less than high school, 82 are still in high school, 241 are in college or university, and 54 are offering their post-graduate degree.

Table 4.3: Current Employment Status

Employment Status	Frequency of Response	Percentage (%)
Unemployed	222	57
Employed part-time	60	16
Underemployed	105	27

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.3 shows that out of the 387 questionnaires returned, 222 of our respondents are unemployed, 60 are employed on a part-time basis while 105 are underemployed. This means most of our respondents are unemployed.

Dependent Variable: CHT
Method: ML – Binary Logit (Newton-Raphson / Marquardt steps)
Date: 03/28/23   Time: 14:10
Sample: 1 385
Included observations: 385
Convergence achieved after 3 iterations
Coefficient covariance computed using observed Hessian

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.693147	1.224745	0.565952	0.5714
UEMP	1.452784	1.236092	1.175304	0.2399

McFadden R-squared	0.004302	Mean dependent var		0.893506
S.D. dependent var	0.308870	S.E. of regression		0.308615
Akaike info criterion	0.685713	Sum squared resid		36.47818
Schwarz criterion	0.706249	Log likelihood		-129.9998
Hannan-Quinn criter.	0.693858	Deviance		259.9995
Restr. deviance	261.1230	Restr. log likelihood		-130.5615
LR statistic	1.123468	Avg. log likelihood		-0.337662
Prob(LR statistic)	0.289173			

Obs with Dep=0	41	Total obs	385
Obs with Dep=1	344		

Here,

$$\ln\left(\frac{P}{1-P}\right) = 0.693 + 1.452 \text{ UEMP}$$

S.E = (1.2247) (1.2361)

Z = (0.5660) (1.1753). McFadden R² = 0.0043

S.E = 0.3086

LR statistic = 1.12

Prob (LR statistic) = 0.2891

Based on the result above, unemployment is more likely to impact child trafficking. Since the value of the unemployment rate is positive, it implies that the higher the unemployment rate the more likely there will be an increase in child trafficking in Ogun state.

The McFadden R-squared value of 0.0043 implies that about 0.43% of the change in the dependent variable was explained by the explanatory variables of the model. There is the tendency to assume the model has a poor fit, but according to Byrne et al. (2007), the R^2 associated with a linear model dominated by dummy variables commonly comes out poor in this manner.

Findings

The issue of child trafficking has been a major economic problem in Ogun state. Results from the findings show that poverty, unemployment and household income are significant factors in the study of child trafficking. These factors provide insight into the underlying causes of child trafficking and help identify potential solutions.

Poverty is a major contributor to child trafficking because families living in poverty may be more vulnerable to exploitation due to their economic hardships. For example, children from impoverished backgrounds may be forced to engage in exploitative labor due to their family's inability to provide for them. Similarly, unemployment is also a significant factor linked to child trafficking. For example, parents who are unable to find work may be more likely to send their children to work in dangerous or exploitative conditions, this can lead to the child being trafficked.

Household income is another major important factor in the study of child trafficking according to the result of data analysis. Families with higher incomes may be less vulnerable to the dangers of child trafficking, as they have access to resources that can protect them from exploitation. The study also shows that higher-income families are often more educated and aware of the risks associated with child trafficking, making them better able to protect their children from harm.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of this study examines the analysis of unemployment and child trafficking in Ogun State, Nigeria, and to achieve this objective, the study uses questionnaires and interviews to collect data from the respondents and this was analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics and logit model techniques. Given the findings and the theoretical posture of the study, unemployment is found to have a significant impact on child trafficking in Ogun state. Therefore, we conclude that unemployment is the major cause of child trafficking in Ogun state. The results of the logit model show that unemployment is more likely to influence child trafficking in Ogun state.

Based on our findings, the study recommends exploring the potential policy solutions for addressing child trafficking in Ogun state. This could include analyzing the effectiveness of current policies, identifying the gaps, and proposing new measures for combating this issue. Investigate the role of community-based organizations in preventing and responding to child trafficking. Consider conducting interviews or surveys with local NGOs or community leaders to gain a better understanding of their strategies and challenges. Analyze the broader social and economic factors that contribute to child trafficking in Ogun state. Explore the economic drivers of child trafficking in Ogun state, and how unemployment contributes to the problem. Explore the international dimensions of child trafficking in Ogun state. This could involve examining the role of global supply chains and the responsibilities of multinational corporations to ensure their operations do not contribute to child trafficking.

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