
VOCATIONAL AND HEALTH NEEDS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FOR SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION AND INTEGRATION. A CASE STUDY OF EDO STATE

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study examined vocational and health needs of human trafficking victims for successful rehabilitation and integration, a case study of Edo State. Three specific objectives, three research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Needs assessment survey design was used for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the trafficked victims being 1420, NAPTIP management staff (9), senior staff (45) and junior staff (21), as well as stake holders estimated to be 40 and lecturers from the departments of sociology, and guidance and counseling in both the federal and state universities in the study area estimated to be 60, all giving a total of 1595. Purposive sampling method was used to obtain the study which consists of 479 respondents (i.e. 30% of the population). Data for this work were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The researcher developed an instrument tagged: Vocational and Health Needs of Human Trafficking Victims for Successful Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment Questionnaire (VHNHTVSRIEQ). Descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Moment correlation were used in analyzing the data. The results revealed that there is significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation and integration. Therefore, it was recommended among others that case-by-case monitoring and ongoing counselling and assistance should be provided by local non-governmental organizations responsible for providing support and assistance to the primary beneficiaries at the local level, until they are sufficiently self-reliant to pursue their ventures by themselves.

Key Words: *Vocational needs, trafficked victims, rehabilitation, social integration and empowerment, health consequences, Societal, Economic factors*

INTRODUCTION

The psychological follow-up of women is done through counselling or psychotherapy on a one-to-one basis by professional counsellors or psychologists that have experience of working with victims of trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, torture and war trauma. According to the NGO Reaching Out in Romania the trafficking experience results in

women developing a dependent relationship with traffickers, (Williamson, Dutch., & Clawson, (2008). “Abroad they need this relationship to survive and in this way it is easy to keep the women and girls under control. The women are raped frequently and they start to believe the reality that the trafficker enforces on them. They believe they are useless and are programmed to think like this.” The result is that the women no longer trust themselves or others and this is exacerbated by a lack of self worth. In the countries of origin women fear that others will know about their involvement in the sex industry and then judge them, (Zimmerman, 2003).

Measures to counter trafficking in Nigerian women and Minors and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmissible Diseases, helps women take responsibility for their own actions and deal with possible stigmatisation and negative reinforcements of their behaviour in society. They will be exposed to other people’s rude comments. We try to help them build up belief in themselves as worthy and valuable human beings.” Intensive therapy may take anything from six months to three years depending on the person, (Brunovskis, and Tyldum, 2004) .

According to Garfield, (2000) Support Groups counselling is provided to women returning to their countries of origin. In the Philippines women, who had personal experience of migration for work purposes, set up the NGO Baita. They focus on providing assistance and psychological support to women returning to the Philippines in order to facilitate reintegration. The aim of the group is to create an environment where a woman feels that she is able to express what has happened to her, is listened to and understood. Support groups help women build self-esteem and can lead them to think about alternative ways of perceiving things in their everyday lives.

According to Landesman, (2004), Cultural beliefs may be an obstacle to women achieving a general wellbeing in the process of reintegration into society. There are numerous reports of trafficked women from Sub-Saharan Africa are often made to enact rites that bond them to the trafficking network. Women take an oath of loyalty before their departure. It is their belief that breaking the oath can result in their own or a family member’s death. NGOs in Nigeria are addressing this problem by providing counselling. ‘We try to tell them that those things will have no impact on them.

As stated by Manz, (2002) family counselling is given to parents and other close relatives to help the family deal with a woman’s return, especially if the woman suffers from trauma. Certain mental health problems may arise as a result of the trafficking experience and a woman’s exploitation in the sex industry. If necessary the woman’s partner is involved in counselling and a wide range of issues are covered, including trauma and emotional distress, couple dynamics, roll and responsibility within relationships, family planning, conflict resolution. According to US Department of State (2003), efforts are made to strengthen relations with families through supervised meetings and special group counselling sessions. Support groups for women working in the sex industry For women working in the sex industry certain NGOs such as Puerta Abierta in Argentina, have drop-in centres where activities are carried out with children, mothers and other family members to build on relationships and encourage family bonding. The organisation also does outreach work and visits mothers and children in the areas where they work (squares, streets, rented rooms, bars, clubs) providing support in difficult family.

In many countries of origin where trafficking of women is prevalent several NGOs run emergency shelter facilities for women that have returned. Most women who access these facilities feel that they cannot return to their families or communities in the immediate term. Specialised Shelters The shelters are often run by social workers who ensure that women’s basic needs are met, including food, clothing, medical and psychological assistance. Some shelters also

provide longer-term follow-up, such as general social support, orientation for education and vocational training, assistance with securing employment and legal counseling, (Yeung, 2004)

However, in most cases shelters only provide their services in the short-term and may refer the women to other NGOs for a follow-up in the reintegration process. Shelter facilities specifically for victims of trafficking are provided in countries of origin by organisations such as: La Strada La Strada is one of the most active NGO networks that provide reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking. It has offices in many countries of origin of trafficked women throughout Central and Eastern Europe, including Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, FYR Macedonia and Moldova, Poland and the Ukraine. According to Seedat, Stein and Carey (2005), it implements a multi-disciplinary programme that provides social assistance to trafficked people through short-term shelter, medical, psychological and legal assistance. It also helps with the reintegration of third country nationals wishing to return to their home countries. The programme seeks to refer victims to support networks and assists women who wish to file charges against traffickers. International Catholic Migration Committee (ICMC). According to Ursano, Bell, Eth, Friedman, Norwood & Pfefferbaum,(2004) December 2001 225 trafficking victims (both country and third country nationals) were provided with a combination of safe shelter, medical screening, social services, return transport and reintegration assistance, using the Inter Agency Referral System. For women returning to Albania the shelter provides reception and housing facilities as well as a) medical assistance including, examinations and the initiation or continuation of treatment; b) psychological assistance involving individual and group counselling. Social workers try to help women become part of the life in the shelter and develop and maintain trust in others there. Intensive **therapy** aims to stabilise the psychological situation of women suffering from trauma and to get them to think rationally. And c) basic job orientation, including education and temporary employment programmes based on women's personal capacities with the aim of improving social and professional skills.

Statement of problem

The trafficked victims have vocational and health needs that will enhance their skill development. Without being provided with vocational development and adequate provision of health needs one can not think of the rehabilitation and integration. But come to think of this. Are the victims of human trafficking given the opportunity to engage themselves in vocational development and utilize the knowledge.

Common shelter space that enhance their standard of living for empowerment can be problematic. Most trafficking survivors require a longer shelter stay than domestic violence survivors, where a survivor of trafficking may typically need shelter for one to one and one-half years. Shekar attributes the longer shelter stay to a trafficking survivor's lack of independent living skills and the need to adjust her immigration status before becoming self-sufficient.

The problem of this study is therefore how to determine the vocational needs of the trafficked victims that can promote their rehabilitation, social integration and empowerment via finding the symptoms and diseases associated with human trafficking; finding the Societal and Economic factors that promote solicitation of commercial sex, health consequences of human trafficking ;financial impact of human trafficking in terms of health services; public health impact of human trafficking the impact of protective factors for vulnerable populations and best practices for treating victims of human trafficking.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.
2. To examine the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What is the significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation?
2. What is the significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration?

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.
2. There is no significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration

LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocational Needs for trafficked victims that Can Promote Rehabilitation and Social Integration

According to Bernardito (2017), there are a number of complex issues affecting the successful return and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Rehabilitation assistance, skills training and education will often need to be part of a victim's reintegration and are essential to break the cycle of revictimization. Whether trafficked victims are permitted to remain in the destination state or eventually return home, education, training and rehabilitation should be provided to those who need them. Where States provide temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking, there may be an opportunity for the victims to benefit, prior to their return home from education, training or retraining and employment opportunities available in that State. This can significantly help victims prepare for their return to and reintegration into their State of origin. The potential for this type of assistance to help victims break the cycle of revictimization in which they can become caught is considerable. For the programmes to be effective, however, it is critical that they are offered in a discreet and sensitive manner, without carrying the stigma attached to a programme that is only offered to victims of trafficking. The employment opportunities must be real, realistic and meaningful. The involvement of major employers, such as transnational companies, in internship or apprenticeship programmes can be a major asset.

Reinsertion into education

Helping victims of trafficking complete their education should be considered a priority, where possible. In cooperation with the national authorities, the organization which receives victims in their State of origin can facilitate the reinsertion of victims into the education system and/or provide financial support for education (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2016).

Vocational training

Vocational training is often offered by non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, charitable organizations, religious groups or Government partners, or a combination thereof. Vocational training is an important element to include in reintegration plans, as a means of ensuring the sustainable social integration of victims by increasing their employment prospects, confidence and life skills. Service delivery organizations should assist victims to set realistic employment goals commensurate with their abilities, skills and education level, and the available employment opportunities in the area. Vocational training should be voluntary and decided upon on a case-by-case basis.

Micro-enterprise and income-generating activities

Where victims are particularly entrepreneurial, income-generating activities and grants for micro-enterprises can be an effective means of increasing the victim's independence, self sufficiency and self-confidence. To be effective, income-generating projects often need to be integrated with other reintegration components (such as psychological assistance and vocational training). Such measures should be decided upon on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the particular person's experience, education, skills, personality and commitment to manage a micro-business (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2016).

Job placement, wage subsidies and apprenticeship programmes

A victim's lack of employment prospects may have been a contributing factor to his or her initial vulnerability to trafficking. Many victims have little experience in finding and keeping jobs; assistance may be necessary to assist them in finding a job and in managing their relationships with colleagues and employers to keep that job. Relevant State agencies may assist with identifying appropriate workplaces and the recruitment process. Where employers are reluctant to employ returnees, wage subsidies or apprenticeship programmes may provide incentive to employers and assist the returnee in gaining employment.

Health Consequences of Human Trafficking

Victims of sex trafficking often experience poor physical and mental health. Sex trafficking victims are at high risk of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and unsafe abortions \. Common physical health problems reported by victims of trafficking often include headaches, stomach pain, and back pain; mental health problems which are often severe including depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and other psychiatric conditions. Many victims also struggle with alcohol and drug addiction, either as a result of traffickers' control or as a coping mechanism, and need treatment programs to recover

In the scholarly work one victim noted the following:

During that time I saw 10 to 20 men a day. I did what he said because he got violent when I sassed him. I took all kinds of drugs - even though I didn't really like most of them. Over the years I had pimps and customers who hit me, punched me, kicked me, beat me, slashed me with a razor. I had forced unprotected sex and got pregnant three times and had two abortions at [a clinic]. Afterward, I was back out on the street again. I have so many scars all over my body and so many injuries and so many illnesses. I have hepatitis C and stomach and back pain and a lot of psychological issues. I tried to commit suicide several times

Most female victims of sex trafficking end up in forced prostitution and/or the pornography industry. Melissa Farley states that "throughout history, regardless of its legal status, prostitution

has had a devastating impact on women's health". This can be seen in the many physical and psychological consequences of this destructive lifestyle. Some findings include the following:

- Sexual violence and physical assault are the norm for women in all types of prostitution.
- Health problems include exhaustion, frequent viral illness, STDs, vaginal infections, back aches, sleeplessness, depression, headaches, stomach aches, and eating disorders.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder is a consequence of prostitution as are mood disorders such as dissociation and depression.
- Prostituted women are at a higher risk of being murdered. (Farley, 2004)

Drug and alcohol abuse is a common finding among prostituted women. In most it serves as a mechanism to partially numb the horror and misery they experience. The handbook *Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers* reports that "as is the case with victims of torture, individuals who have been trafficked are likely to sustain multiple physical or psychological injuries and illnesses and report a complex set of symptoms (IOM, 2009). Where the victim is a minor (younger than 18 years of age) the TIP report notes that "Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for children, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and even death" (U.S. Department of State, 2016).

The Effects of Trafficking on Survivor Economic and Societal Security

The criminalization of trafficking victims hinders their ability to rebuild their lives and escape abuse. Despite laws establishing that minors are legally incapable of consenting to commercial sex acts, and that victims are not required to show "force, coercion, or fraud," many child sex trafficking victims are arrested and charged with prostitution, truancy, and other illegal acts. A 2016 survey of 45 sex trafficking survivors conducted by the National Survivor Network found that 90 percent of victims had been arrested—42 percent were arrested more than 10 times. Criminal histories prevented 81.5 percent of respondents from obtaining employment and 55.6 percent from getting housing.

Obstacles to stable employment can impede trafficking victims' long-term well-being and economic security. Delayed progress at school or failure to complete high school is common among trafficking victims, particularly among minor victims. Many needed training to secure good jobs after escaping abuse. Victims may also experience challenges with maintaining employment due to the negative psychological and physical effects of trafficking. In addition, a lack of legal work experience leaves victims without a marketable resume or references and impedes them from accessing high quality employment. Lack of legal immigration status and language barriers also serve as barriers to work for victims trafficked into the United States.

The needs and challenges facing victims of sex trafficking are complex. A failure to adequately recognize and respond to victims leaves them further vulnerable to victimization and impedes their ability to recover and achieve future economic security. Training and resources are necessary to ensure that available interventions are utilized. Cross justice, service, and

community collaborations are also needed to effectively assess victimization, reduce wrongful criminalization, and support the economic recovery of victims.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

Needs assessment survey design was used for the study.

Population

The population of the study consisted of all the trafficked victims (1420) NAPTIP management staff (9), senior staff (45) and junior staff (21), as well as stake holders estimated to be 40 and lecturers from the departments of sociology, and guidance and counseling in both the federal and state universities in the study area estimated to be 60, all giving a total of 1595.

Sampling and Sampling Technique

The respondent in the study consisted of 160 respondents (i.e. 10% of the population). These were obtained through the purposive sampling method:

Instrumentation

The researcher developed an instrument tagged, “Vocational and Health Needs of Human Trafficking Victims for Successful Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment Questionnaire (VHNHTVSRIEQ)”.

Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, Pearson Product Moment and Correlation analysis were used in analyzing the data. Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question One

The research question sought to find out the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation. In order to answer the research question, Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was performed on the data collected as shown in Table 1.

Table 1:

Descriptive statistics of the extent of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.

Variable	N	Arithmetic mean	Expected mean	R	Remarks
Vocational needs of the trafficked victims	160	17.56	12.5	0.97*	*Strong to perfect Relationship
Rehabilitation		15.71	12.5		

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 presents the result of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation. The two variables were observed to have very high relationship at 97%. The arithmetic mean for rehabilitation (15.71) was observed to be greater than the expected mean score of 12.5. In addition to that, the arithmetic mean as regards vocational needs of the trafficked victims (17.56) was observed to be higher than the expected mean score of 12.5. The result therefore means that there is remarkable relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.

Research Question Two

The research question sought to find out the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration. In order to answer the research question, Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was performed on the data collected as shown in Table 2.

Table 2:

Descriptive statistics of the extent of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration.

Variable	N	Arithmetic mean	Expected mean	r	Remarks
Vocational needs of the trafficked victims	160	17.56	12.5	0.89*	*Strong to perfect Relationship
Integration		16.98	12.5		

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 presents the result of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation. The two variables were observed to have very high relationship at 89%. The arithmetic mean for integration (16.98) was observed to be greater than the expected mean score of 12.5. In addition to that, the arithmetic mean as regards vocational needs of the trafficked victims (17.56) was observed to be higher than the expected mean score of 12.5. The result

therefore means that there is remarkable relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration.

Testing the Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis One

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation. In order to test the hypothesis, two variables were identified as follows:-

1. Successful rehabilitation as the independent variable
2. Vocational needs of the trafficked victims as the dependent variable

Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was then used to analyze the data in order to determine the relationship between the two variables (see Table 3)

Table 3

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.

Variable	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum xy$	r
	$\sum y$	$\sum y^2$		
Vocational needs of the trafficked victims (x)	2809	49859	44693	0.97*
Rehabilitation (y)	2513	40119		

***Significant at 0.05 level; df=158; N=160; Critical r-value = 0.197**

The above Table 3 presents the obtained r-value as (0.97). This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical r-value (0.197) at 0.05 level with 158 degree of freedom. The obtained r-value (0.97) was greater than the critical r-value (0.113). Hence, the result was significant. The result therefore means that there is significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation.

Hypothesis Two

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration. In order to test the hypothesis, two variables were identified as follows:-

1. Successful integration as the independent variable
2. Vocational needs of the trafficked victims as the dependent variable

Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was then used to analyze the data in order to determine the relationship between the two variables (see Table 4)

Table 4

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration.

Variable	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum xy$	r
	$\sum y$	$\sum y^2$		
Vocational needs of the trafficked victims (x)	2809	49859	48162	0.89*
Integration (y)	2716	46640		

***Significant at 0.05 level; df =158; N =160; Critical r-value = 0.197**

The above Table 4 presents the obtained r-value as (0.89). This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical r-value (0.197) at 0.05 level with 158 degree of freedom. The obtained r-value (0.89) was greater than the critical r-value (0.197). Hence, the result was significant. The result therefore means that there is significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful integration.

Discussion of Findings

Analysis of data presented on Table 3 shows that the result was significant as the obtained r-value (0.97) was greater than the critical r-value (0.197) at 0.05 level of significance with 158 degrees of freedom. The result implies that there is a significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation. Findings agree with Bernardito (2017), who stated that there are a number of complex issues affecting the successful return and reintegration of victims of trafficking. He also stated that rehabilitation assistance, skills training and education will often need to be part of a victim's reintegration and are essential to break the cycle of revictimization. The significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be rejected while the alternative one was retained. The significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be rejected while the alternative one was retained.

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Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that there is significant relationship between vocational needs of the trafficked victims and their successful rehabilitation and integration.

Recommendations

The following are recommended:

1. Case-by-case monitoring and ongoing counselling and assistance should be provided by local non-governmental organizations responsible for providing support and assistance to the primary beneficiaries at the local level, until they are sufficiently self-reliant to pursue their ventures by themselves.
2. UNICRI, UNODC and other bodies should continue granting assistance to Nigerian minors and young women who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked, and providing support for their successful reintegration

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