

**BUSINESS EDUCATION: A RECIPE FOR STEMMING THE TIDE OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ORGAN THEFT IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Oliver Okechukwu Okanazu (Ph.D)¹, Ugochi, Immaculata Chekwube² & Eze,
Austinmary Ifunanya³**

¹Department of Business Education
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Oliver.okanazu@unn.edu.ng, +23465738493

²Department of Business Education
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
immaculata.ugochi@unn.edu.ng, +2347031537349

³Department of Music
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Ifunanya.eze@unn.edu.ng, +2348036881055

Abstract

Business Education as a programme is expected to prepare many professionals, such as civil servants, accountants, administrators, marketers, executive secretaries and business educators. According to Ulinfun, (2005) the primary aim of business education is to equip individuals with skills which are required for use in business offices, clerical occupations and business policy analysis. It is also an educational process that prepares people for roles in enterprises; such roles could be as employee, entrepreneur/employer or simply as self-employed (Anao, 2006). It is also that aspect of the educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge which most of the trafficked individuals are lacking. To this effect, researches have shown that many of these individuals who indulge in this heinous crime and also those who fall victims of it do not have a better skill, entrepreneurial orientation, business acumen and are not empowered financially to engage in legitimate businesses that will help them make profit thereby improving their standard of living. This underlines the role of business education in stemming the tide of human trafficking in the 21st century Africa.

Keywords: Business, Education, Theft, Human Trafficking

Introduction

Right from the olden days, our forefathers faced certain societal issues and problems such as slave trade, wars, natural disasters and famine which posed serious challenges to their living condition but these problems were nothing compared to what the world is currently facing. In our contemporary time, the society is faced with enormous challenges such as climate change, terrorism, kidnapping, wars, natural disasters, armed robbery, man's inhumanity to man which include ritual killings, human trafficking, to mention but a few. In the context of this work, our focus will be on human trafficking and organ theft. Human trafficking has existed before the 60's and many human right activists, government agencies and non-governmental organizations including international bodies have worked tirelessly in various ways towards combating this menace. Human trafficking involves the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring and receiving a person through the use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them (United Nations, 2009). To the author, trafficking can include the selling of labourers, organs, infants and forcing people to work as beggars or prostitutes. The majority of women who are subjected to trafficking are being exploited in organized prostitution.

Sadly, the issue of human trafficking has not only increased recently but has metamorphosed into a deadlier stage - Organ theft (trading in human parts) and this has eaten deep into the heart of the society. Organ Theft is an element of trafficking that involves the removal and sale of human body and its parts as well as organs and tissue from unwilling or unsuspecting individuals said to be kidnapped, murdered or otherwise coerced or deceived for the purpose of financial gain. The question now is, how can education in general and business education in particular serve as a recipe for stemming the tide of human trafficking and organ theft in our modern society?

Business Education as a programme is expected to prepare many professionals, such as civil servants, accountants, administrators, marketers, executive secretaries and business educators. According to Ulinfun, (2005) the primary aim of business education is to equip individuals with skills which are required for use in business offices, clerical occupations and business policy analysis. It is also an educational process that prepares people for roles in enterprises; such roles could be as employee, entrepreneur/employer or simply as self-employed (Anao, 2006). It is also that aspect of the educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and

knowledge which most of the trafficked individuals are lacking. To this effect, researches have shown that many of these individuals who indulge in this heinous crime and also those who fall victims of it do not have a better skill, entrepreneurial orientation, business acumen and are not empowered financially to engage in legitimate businesses that will help them make profit thereby improving their standard of living. This underlines the role of business education in stemming the tide of human trafficking in the 21st century Africa.

Human Trafficking

Trafficking refers to all acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across Nigerian borders, purchases, sale, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person, involving the use of deception, coercion or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person whether for or not in involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in forced or bonded labour or in slavery-like conditions (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2006). In other words, human trafficking was said to involve recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them' (UNODC 2009a). In agreement with UNODC (2006), Lie & Lund, (2008) opined that human trafficking is a form of slavery or bonded labour, involving abuse and deprivation of freedom. Human trafficking is a heinous crime and a gross abuse of fundamental human rights. It has been classified by the United Nations as the third most profitable crime in the world (Fichtelberg, 2008).

Human trafficking can involve movements between countries (known as international or transnational trafficking), within the borders of a single country (known as internal or domestic trafficking), or both. A country can serve as a *country of origin* - that is countries people are trafficked out of; a *country of destination* - that is countries where trafficked persons end up or *country of transit* - that is, countries through which trafficked persons are moved en route to their final destination (Winterdyk & Reichel, 2010). Many people might assume that human trafficking is something that happens only in impoverished countries where civil and human rights may be less valued. However, some reports illustrate that this is not the case. Human trafficking has become a transnational phenomenon which cuts across all parts of the world. Whereas before 1989, women and children subjected to trafficking mostly come from countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, today a large part of the traffic originates in, or goes through countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (Lie &

Lund, 2008). What these countries have in common is that they are economically poor and often plagued by turmoil, war or conflict. Another common characteristic is that there is no equality between the sexes, so that women often have a weaker position in the job market than men. Many also come from countries characterized by corruption, violation of human rights and organized crime.

Oftentimes, it is difficult to separate trafficking from smuggling. Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings differ on four specific points. Firstly, the issue of consent. The smuggling of migrants, involves persons who, while often subject to dangerous or degrading conditions, have consented to the smuggling. Trafficking victims, on the other hand, have either never consented to such acts or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers. A second major difference is the element of exploitation. Smuggling ends with the arrival of migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victims in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers. This highlights a third difference, the source of financial gain. Smugglers draw profit from the initial fee paid by the person willing to be smuggled into another country, whereas traffickers' profits are generated by the exploitation at the end of the process. Lastly, smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking need not be.

Trafficking can occur regardless of whether victims are taken to another country or only moved from one place to another within the same country. Cases are not always immediately distinguishable, as often both smuggled migrants and trafficking victims leave their country of origin willingly. However, as noted above, trafficking cases may be differentiated by, for example, the use of force or deceit, and the existence of exploitation. They may be exposed to similar cases of danger or discomfort during long journeys but, upon arrival in the destination country, smuggled individuals are usually left free by the smugglers. Trafficked persons, upon arrival, are often put in a situation of debt bondage and forced into slavery-like practices in the sex or labour market or exploited in other ways (ECPAT Newsletter, 2001).

Who can be trafficked?

Anybody could be a victim of human trafficking especially youths (young men and women) between the ages of 17 - 35 years, mature women and then children. This analysis may not include aged people because the traffickers know

that they can no longer work to earn money. It is important to note here that human trafficking tends to victimize the most vulnerable of the global community – young women and children. As a recent US government report has observed, victims are routinely ‘tricked’ with false promises of employment, educational opportunities, marriage and a better life (US Department of State 2008). Afterwards, they are typically forced into the sex trade industry or illegal labour markets such as sweatshops, farm work and domestic work and even as child soldiers. In many cases, women understand that they will be working as prostitutes, but they feel they have lost control over their lives. In other cases, they have been tricked into believing that they will be doing other jobs, such as factory work, housekeeping among others.

Sometimes they are also taken to other countries against their will. However, according to the Palermo Protocol, whether the person has consented to work in prostitution or not is unimportant. If a person is no longer in control of where and when he/she prostitutes her/himself and this person has no right to defend her/himself or, she/he cannot quit whenever he/she wants, this person is a victim of human trafficking. In addition, family problems such as family disorganization, divorce cases, domestic violence has become some of the triggering factors for the more vulnerable women to be easily trapped in the trafficking activities (Symsuddin & Azman, 2013). Hence, women and children are the most vulnerable people, and subject to trafficking.

Legislation on Human Trafficking and other related crimes

Many countries in Africa are yet to implement specific anti-human trafficking legislation. In the absence of such legislation, countries utilize existing laws dealing with five principal offences: Prostitution and related ‘sexually exploitive’ activities (e.g. pornography, incitement to prostitution, sexual relationship with minors); Child exploitation, mistreatment, abandonment or abduction; Offences in violation of personal integrity (unlawful detention, slavery, torture); Employment regulations and child labour; Immigration (UNICEF, 2003).

However, Nigeria is one of few countries in Africa with an anti-human trafficking law. In August 2003 Nigeria enacted the *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act*, commonly referred to as the Act. Prior to the passage of the Act, Nigeria depended on laws in the penal or the criminal code 80 to deal with offences related to trafficking in humans. Trafficking cases were dealt with under provisions of the law applicable to the offences of slave trading, forced prostitution, abduction, sexual exploitation,

deprivation of liberty, and forced labour. The law has a total of 51 sections. Across the globe, there are many anti-trafficking agencies like UNICEF, WOTCLEF, UNDP, UNESCO among others. Though in Nigeria, NAPTIP – National Agency for Prostitution and Trafficking in Persons was created in 2004, this agency set up its own investigation and prosecution unit called NAPTIP’s National Investigation Task Force (NITF) unit which other agencies like WOCON, NIS and NPF refer their trafficking cases to for further investigation and prosecution and in the end NAPTIP is responsible for investigation and prosecution in all cases concerning human trafficking (Mensah-Ankrah & Sarpong, 2017). Altogether NAPTIP has six zonal offices in Nigeria, and in areas where NAPTIP is not present, one of the two anti-human trafficking units will be referred to.

Causes of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, particularly in women and children, is intrinsically related to a number of factors known as “push and pull” factors.

Push factors are those which induce individuals to leave an area or country in search of a better life elsewhere. Salah, (2001) enumerated some of the push factors with respect to the case of women and children trafficked in the West Africa region to include difficult socioeconomic environment and deep-rooted abject poverty, regional inequalities and inadequate programmes for the creation of employment or revenue-generating activities particularly for youth in rural areas. Salah (2001) blames other factors such as ignorance on the part of families and children of the risks involved in trafficking; the high demand for cheap and submissive child labour in the informal economic sector; the desire of youth for emancipation through migration; and institutional lapses such as inadequate political commitment, non-existent national legislation against child trafficking, and the absence of a judicial framework allowing for the perpetrators and accomplices of trafficking to be held responsible and punished for their acts.

Another push factor is the devastation brought by AIDS. Children who have been orphaned by the death of a parent/ parents from AIDS are at risk of being trafficked. Even in instances where one or both parents is still living, a child may be forced to care for or support a sick parent and/or the other children or may be pressured to leave a village due to the stigma attached of having a family member with AIDS. All these factors place children at high risk of falling victims to trafficking and exploitation (Human Rights Watch, 2003). According to Aronowitz and Peruffo, (2004), other push factors of trafficking in persons include porous borders, corrupt government officials, involvement of

international organized crime groups or networks, limited capacity of or commitment by immigration and law enforcement officers to control trafficking at the borders, lack of adequate legislation and lack of political will or desire to enforce existing legislation or mandates.

Pull factors on the other hand, has to do with application of force or coercion in order to get the victims to do, perform or comply with the traffickers. Pull factors can be attributed to two main causes: the demand for cheap manual labour and the high demand for paid sex in destination countries. Children and women may be targeted for the trade due to their powerlessness, innocence and inability to protect themselves. Children and women are easier to manipulate and less able to claim their rights. Children can be made to work longer hours with less food, poor accommodation and no benefits allowing employers to keep costs down (ILO-IPEC, 2002). The causes or factors contributing to the trafficking in persons in the West Africa region can be classified as 'intermediate' and 'deep structural' causes. Intermediate causes, include lack of job opportunities in rural areas, children's desire for more freedom or the failure of parents to recognize the dangers to their children while Deep structural causes include historically accepted practice of child placement outside of the home, regional inequalities and countries' massive structural debt, as well as the endemic practice of those in power trying to protect their interests (Aronowitz and Peruffo, 2004). Intermediate causes can be more easily and quickly addressed than deep structural causes which require long-term approaches.

Trafficking Cartels and Criminal Networks

Trafficking organizations can range from individuals who are involved in the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of an individual victim, to networks providing isolated services and linking together to expand coverage, to numerous people who provide the entire range of services in highly sophisticated, structured networks. Limited information is available on the degree of organization behind the trafficking in women and children from Nigeria to other countries. Information usually provided by law enforcement officers involved in investigating trafficking cases are very limited. The available information on individual traffickers comes from police and judicial files of individuals who were stopped at border crossings trying to leave the country with a number of children or young women.

Trafficking in persons is a highly organized and syndicated trade. Criminal groups based in Europe are sponsoring traffickers working at local levels. In cases where women are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, there is evidence of highly sophisticated international networks involved in

recruitment, provision of travel documents, transportation, accommodation and the exploitation of the women in the receiving countries. However, these networks are hidden and more or less informal because of the fact that victims especially women are often recruited by persons known to them - family members, neighbours, friends. The degree of organization may be dependent upon the size of the operation and the number of women which an organization is "moving and managing" in source, transit and destination countries. There are intermediaries whose job is to provide girls and women with travel documents and tickets, and then create a debt bondage relationship, based on economical and psychological subordination (Aronowitz, 2004).

Trafficking routes in Nigeria

Four trafficking routes have been identified from northern Nigeria according to Okojie, (2004). These routes are:

- Kebbi or Sokoto → Republic of Benin → Niger → Ghana, Senegal and from there on the destinations of Libya, Algeria or Morocco. These are transit countries for the destinations in the Middle East or Europe.
- The Zindel (Katsina State) and Megatel (Jigawa State) exits are used to trafficking persons through Niger to Mali, Burkina Faso, to Libya and on to Europe or the Middle East.
- From Yobe and Borno States, persons travel by road to Chad, Sudan and onwards. Mayo, Sudan is known as the Nigerian traffickers' transit camp. Persons may wait for days or weeks to procure travel documents to take them to Europe or the Middle East.
- The fourth transit route takes persons from Adamawa and Taraba States (these two states have the most porous borders) through Cameroon on to Gabon. This route is used predominantly to traffic women and young children out of Nigeria. Through the southern axis, persons are trafficked from Imo, Cross River and Akwa Ibom States to Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon for cheap labour. There is the "Hajj by land" route starting from Maiduguri (Borno State in Nigeria) through Gambaru, a border town in the state, through Gala to N'djamena through Sudan to Saudi Arabia. This particular route takes months to traverse because Sudan has stricter immigration laws than Nigeria (Okojie, 2004).

Organ Theft

Human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal has been a subject of rumor and urban myth for a very long time but the advances in medicine has provided technology and skills to perform organ transplant surgeries in many countries across the world. This has proven these stories which were perceived as rumours and myths to be true. Medically, it is possible to transplant different organs including the lung, cornea and liver but the most common organ transplanted is the kidney, which is generally the technically simplest of organ transplants. The transplanted organs can come from deceased or living donors.

Therefore, Organ theft is an element of trafficking that involves the removal and sale of human body and its parts as well as organs and tissue from unwilling or unsuspecting individuals said to be kidnapped, murdered or otherwise coerced or deceived for the purpose of financial gain. There is a clear indication that leading factor in human trafficking and organ theft is for financial gain though in most cases the victims who are always the poor and vulnerable members of the society which are the target of the traffickers are exploited. The desperation of those in need of organ transplants and the desperate poverty of those ready to offer an organ to survive create the opportunity exploited by trafficking networks. UN (2006) report confirms this by stating that the *“general trend is for the routes [of organ trafficking] to lead from South to North, from poor to rich [...] mostly targeting the poor and vulnerable members of the population”*. The report states further that *“it appears that individuals in many developing countries are being exploited and that the selling of organs is the last resort to alleviate, though only temporarily, extreme poverty”*. In addition, the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly also noted that: *“International criminal organizations have identified this lucrative ‘lacuna’ between organ supply and demand, putting more pressure on people in extreme poverty to resort to selling their organs”*. The lead prosecutor in one of the cases being prosecuted (the Medicus Cases) puts it more bluntly: the traffickers *“recognize the obscene profit that can be made in the expanding black market in body parts [...] It keeps happening because there is so much money in this.”* This proves that financial gain remains the primary motive for Human trafficking and organ theft networks and their elements. For instance, from the work of journalists and academic researchers, particularly Scheper-Hughes and journalists from Moldova and Romania, sources indicate that in Moldova, a high price for a kidney donor is set around USD 10,000, with lower prices between USD 2,500 and USD 3,000. Field research by Scheper-Hughes finds similar price trends among kidney donors in Brazil. She explains that the earlier Brazilian kidney donors were paid USD 10,000, a price which later fell to USD 3,000. The price

drop occurred because of the strong interest generated in selling a kidney when news spread in Recife, creating an even stronger buyer's market (OSCE, 2013). In the Moldova Cases, kidney donors were paid USD 10,000 at first, while the alleged head of a trafficking network was paid ten times that which underscores the issue of exploitation by those traffickers.

Consequences of Organ Removal

As the victim is returned to his or her home shortly after the transplant surgery, generally before he or she has properly recovered from surgery, medical complications may arise. Payment is generally not made to the donor until after the surgery, and the amount promised is often not paid. Where the donor reveals any dissatisfaction with the experience, he or she may be subjected to threats and warned not to contact the police. From this point, the persons operating the Human Trafficking and Organ Removal network are generally in contact with the donor for only two reasons - either as part of the donor's effort to receive the full payment promised, or because the donor, through a variety of arrangements, has become himself or herself, a recruiter of organ donors. The victim-donor of Human trafficking /Organ theft is not viewed as an element in the network. As described above, the donors are generally in a position of vulnerability. In particular, they lack basic medical knowledge about the potential consequences of giving up an organ, and are often misled as to both the nature of the organ removal surgery and the health consequences. They are led to a decision to sell an organ through a combination of their financial desperation and their vulnerability to deliberately misleading and fraudulent inducements, as well as coercive factors. The donors in any particular network may come from a number of different countries.

Participants of Organ Theft

- **International coordinators / brokers**
These persons are usually the head of the network, as they are the ones who establish the network. As described above, these brokers make the strategic decisions for the network. The international broker is also generally the primary point of continuous contact with the organ recipient and the channel for the recipient's payments. The brokers are generally responsible for providing the supply of organ recipients to the network.

- **Local Recruiters**

Local recruiters (sometimes referred to as the “kidney hunters”) find or identify the victim-donors. They generally work in one country, of which they are nationals, but there have been some exceptions, particularly across borders with shared or similar languages. Some local recruiters may have been involved in other forms of trafficking previously. There are often multiple local recruiters, in which case there may be a national-level recruiter or another form of hierarchy. Many of the recruiters may be designated a specific geographic area they cover. Recruiters may themselves be former victims (or acting under coercion).

- **Medical Professionals**

Several categories of medical professionals are required for a Human Trafficking /Organ Theft network. Specialist doctors include transplantation surgeons, nephrologists and anesthesiologists. The transplant surgeons may come from different countries. In addition, nurses and other assistants to the transplant surgical team are involved. Other doctors and medical staff may also be required for post-operative care for the organ recipient.

- **Medical Facilities, Administrative Staff and Potential Role of Health Officials**

Some form of medical facility is required for a Human Trafficking /Organ Theft network, although the degree of technical sophistication required may not be very high. Medical facilities are required not only for the transplant surgery itself, but also for the donor-recipient matching process (for blood and tissue cross-match compatibility).

The need for some form of medical facility can result in the involvement of the administrators of that facility, particularly those with responsibilities related to organ transplants, such as the transplant coordinators. A range of medical authorities or regulators may also be involved in a trafficking network, particularly where illicit licenses and authorizations are needed. The relevant regulatory functions involved may include: licensing of medical doctors; licensing for the specific purpose of organ transplants; licensing of medical facilities; the approval of transplant surgeries. Administrative and/or health officials may assist the network directly, such as through alleged provision of official paperwork and licenses in order to operate.

- **Enforcers/Minders and Others**

Trafficking networks involve supporting staff in a range of functions that are relatively minor but necessary to a network’s operation, including

enforcers, minders, drivers, and translators. Minders accompany both the donor and the recipient during their travel to and from the locus of surgeries. Enforcers are minders who employ force, the threat of force or other means of conveying coercive pressure to ensure that the objectives of the Human Trafficking /Organ theft network are achieved. In some cases, the networks deploy individuals whose principle role is as an enforcer. In other cases, enforcement functions can be played by other elements of the Human Trafficking /Organ theft network.

Business Education

A generally acceptable definition of business education has been difficult to arrive at because there are as many different meanings of the concept as there are many experts who have tried to define it. However, we shall attempt to discuss the concept. Business education is a component of general education. It is an aspect of educational programme offered at the higher institution of learning which prepares students for careers in business. It is education needed to teach people business in order to be a good citizen of a society. It is a profession of itself with the primary aim of elevating one's skills as well as providing citizens with the required skilled to secure gainful employment as to earn a living and to succeed in life. According to Osuala (1981), business education is a programme of instruction which consists of two major parts. One part is composed of office career through initial refresher and upgrading education leading to employability and advancement in office occupations. The second part according to him is the general business education, a programme to provide students with information and competencies, which are needed by all in managing personal business affairs and using the services of the business world. In accordance with the above definition, Ulinfun, (1985) said that Business education is education for business or training in business skills which are required for use in business offices, clerical occupations and business policy analysis. It is also that aspect of the educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge.

Objectives of Business Education

Njoku (2006) gave the objectives of business education as follows:

1. To empower you with skills, knowledge and value to perform specific functions so as to become self reliant.
2. To help you appreciate the world around you and contribute maximally to the social and economic development of the nation.
3. To empower you in such a way that you will develop your intellectual capability that would help you to make informed decisions in all sphere of life.
4. To understand the political framework of a nation so that you can contribute to the economic development of the nation.

Business Education as a recipe for stemming the tide of human trafficking & Organ theft

From the objectives enumerated above, business education can curb the menace of human trafficking and organ theft in the following ways:

1. Business education should produce people who have skills that can make them ready employers of labour. Dependence on the nation would be minimized as people become job creators. This would provide opportunities and means for those at risk to improve their lives at home rather than taking a risk abroad. This could help reduce trafficking.
2. Business education should help to develop proper values towards work to contribute more economically to the nation. For instance, the nation is divorced from violence, sexual immorality, pride, corruption, kidnapping among others.
3. It will enable individual citizens to become judicious spenders, thereby helping the country to invest excess resources on meaningful projects that would lead to economic development.
4. It will also help citizens of this country to develop sound moral values which will free the country from insecurity and peace will reign supreme. More people will invest in the country and there will be increase in economic growth and development.
5. Finally, business education should advocate the acquisition of vocational and technical skills at all levels. For instance, after primary, secondary or tertiary education, one must have acquired basic skills that can help him/her earn a decent living thereby eradicating hunger and abject poverty which is one of the major factors pushing people into human trafficking and organ theft.

Conclusion & Recommendation

Since it has been observed that many individuals who indulge in human trafficking and also those who fall victims either lack better skill, entrepreneurial orientation, business acumen or are not empowered financially to engage in legitimate businesses, business education should be able to fill this gap by producing people who have skills that can make them ready employers of labour. This would provide opportunities and means for those at risk to improve their lives at home rather than taking a risk abroad.

Again, it has been found that poverty is one of the major factors pushing people into indulging in different kinds of crime including human trafficking and organ theft, government should provide financial aid in form of grants and micro-credits to our youths especially graduates and those who have engaged in skills acquisition programmes which will provide them the means to remain in Nigeria and support themselves and their families. This will go a long way in alleviating poverty thus bringing victory in the fight against trafficking in Nigeria and Africa at large.

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