

**NAME: GIWA SAUBAN DOYINSOLA.**

**MATRIC NUMBER:19/LAW01/103.**

**COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT: LAW.**

**COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH II.**

**COURSE CODE: GST 122**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A LOOK INTO THIS VICE AND SOME OF ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS.**

*The term human trafficking may sound crude but it indeed is a vice that exists in this day and age. Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It is the situation where human beings are bought and sold or treated in demeaning and inhuman ways for the purpose of exploitation and abuse. It is a group of crimes involving the exploitation of men, women and children for financial gains which is a violation of fundamental human rights of the victims. Human trafficking involves the exploitation, prostitution and abuse of human beings for the sale of sexual exploitation, compulsory labor, debt bondage, removal of organ, drug trafficking, servile marriage, begging amongst others. Indeed human trafficking is an inhuman and evil act which dehumanizes people especially the vulnerable groups.*

*Trafficking in human beings, especially women and girls, is not new. Historically it has taken many forms, but in the context of globalization, has acquired shocking new dimensions. Trafficking in humans is a revived form of slavery affecting virtually all regions of the world, which has grown steadily since 1980s to become one of the most*

*lucrative businesses of international criminal organizations. In Nigeria the problem of human trafficking has become a matter of national concern. This is because the traffickers have often devised new methods of escaping from the long arm of law enforcement agencies.*

*It has been witnessed over time that most countries where people are trafficked from are in abject poverty. Poverty has always been the main cause of exploitation. When people are poor they become vulnerable to many cases of abuse, exploitation and deception. Poverty is a cankerworm which is fast robbing many people of their dignity and self-worth. In a developing country like Nigeria for instance, where more than sixty percent of the citizens are living below the margin and lack, people usually become willing to do anything just to make ends meet. It is usually at this stage that people become victims of human trafficking. Sometimes parents give out their children due to the biting effect of poverty.*

*Also there is now allocation of more resources for education, universal primary education (UPE), it is not enough for education and other aspects of human development. Tertiary education is still out of reach to many. Therefore, illiteracy and school drop-outs directly contribute to human trafficking. It, in most cases, works hand in glove with poverty. Most unlettered people are usually vulnerable as they can't cope with the fast moving globe. Furthermore, when the youth who are supposed to be in school are not*

*able to remain in school, they become idle and as the saying goes “an idle man is the devil’s work tool”.*

*It is known that when people are discriminated against, they want to leave that area to a better place where they might find some peace and quiet. Sometimes this source region might be from the home. The culture of emphasizing male child education over the female child education is still very much alive. The women’s literacy levels are still lower than the males by census. The low status of women in the family or community has contributed to trafficking. Local customs and values which put emphasis on male power has given legitimacy to manipulation of social practices for example women can not inherit land. People who are often lured into becoming victims of trafficking due to discrimination include: women, deadly disease patients, widows, etc. As good Nigerians therefore, we need to accept others the way they are no matter their tribe, sex, age, health condition or economic status.*

*The consequences and the effects of human trafficking can take the form of physical, social, psychological and economic consequences. But principally, the victims need to be revived from the psychological pain. They’re always traumatized and are faced with psychological pains which usually affect their mentality. It prevents them from feeling and behaving as normal human beings in the society and it ultimately deprives them of their self esteem.*

*Victims of human trafficking have greater risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhoea, vaginal infections, HIV/AIDS. This is due to the fact that it is younger boys and girls that are mostly trafficked especially for sex purposes. Also the victims of human trafficking work tirelessly and are given little food to eat which might not be nutritious; they are therefore prone to malnutrition as well.*

*With hard labor mandatory, these victims also cope with unwanted pregnancy. They are then forced to abort the pregnancy especially when their services are still needed by their traffickers. In some cases, the children who are born are sold because their mothers have not prepared to shoulder such responsibilities.*

*With so many effects in sight, the government therefore, has a lot of responsibility when it comes to stopping human trafficking. The government should set up anti-traffic agencies. In Nigeria, some of these agencies are: The Nigerian Police, National Agency for the prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), etc. These agencies have to establish the laws the federal government has enacted against human trafficking. Some of these laws include: The Child Right Act, The universal basic education act.*

*Also, when citizens are gainfully employed and or are given the opportunity to participate actively in the economic activities of their state, no one can lure them into leaving their country in search of greener pastures(better means of livelihood e.g. job). The provision of social amenities like electricity, roads, health care services etc by the*

*government can also help to prevent people from being trafficked to the urban center or foreign countries.*

*Individuals could also establish civil society groups. Some of these groups have already been formed in Nigeria. A distinct one was formed by Hajiya Titi Atiku Abubakar by the name Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF). Independent individuals could also play their parts by reporting cases of human trafficking to law enforcement agencies instead of hiding it or refusing to give information that could save lives of people and put an end to this inhuman acts. Definitely, human trafficking is inextricably linked to other crimes against human rights for example, slavery and prostitution. And the eradication of this phenomenon depends on both government and ordinary citizens.*