

## Exploring Trafficking in Persons in Bisi Ojediran's *A Daughter for Sale*

Célestin GBAGUIDI; Saturnin M. AFFOUTOU ; Adolphe H. SALOMON

(Département d'Anglais, Université d'Abomey-Calavi, République du Bénin)

\*Corresponding Author: Célestin GBAGUIDI

**ABSTRACT:** This study pertains to one of the scourges undermining the African society nowadays in *A Daughter for Sale* authored by Bisi Ojediran. This novel counts one among texts projecting the traffic in humans in some African communities. Human trafficking has become a new type of slavery in modern days. This practice is a notorious problem that is drawing the attention of several intellectuals in the developing countries where the victims usually come from. This study therefore takes a critical look at the praxis of human trafficking detriment on the female victims. Bisi Ojediran's *A Daughter for Sale* underscores not only the causes of this phenomenon but also its consequences on the individual and poor countries. Through the lenses of the postcolonial theory and socio-criticism, this paper investigates the mechanics through which Ojediran makes available the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

**KEYWORDS:** *Brain drain, exploitation, human exodus, human trafficking, killing, poverty*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Post-colonial Africa is in the throes of issues which are both thorny and diverse. And these issues require urgent answers for the welfare of Africans who are bending under the yoke of dire poverty, marginalization and exploitation. It is worth emphasizing that many African people have hoped that once African nations are ruled by Africans themselves, a lot of positive changes will occur for the benefit of the black communities. Yet, ever since black leaders have been in the saddle of their countries, the hopes of the black people have just become a flitting illusion and they continue to be crippled by the manacles of extreme poverty and human exploitation from those who promised them a better tomorrow. So, today the living conditions of the black community are still a far cry from what they have ever hoped for because problems such as social and racial discrimination, civil war, starvation, dictatorship, embezzlement of public funds, human trafficking, to name just a few, are practices which are rampant in Africa.

These serious issues are criticized by some African writers through their works which lay bare the sufferings of their people. On this score, postcolonial African fiction "reveals that one major unfortunate problem runs through the (neo) colonial African societies – frustration or betrayal of trust" (Kehinde, 2004, p. 229). One of such notorious issues which are gaining ground is human trafficking. This contemporary societal phenomenon deserves a particular attention because about 40.3 million people are the victims of that scourge worldwide (Zimmerman and Kiss 2017) and "studies around the world indicate consistently that most trafficked people experience violence and hazardous, exhausting work, and few emerge without long-term, sometimes disabling, physical and psychological damage" (Zimmerman and Kiss, 2017, p. 8). So as to underscore how serious the practice of human trafficking is, Bisi Ojediran in *A Daughter for Sale* tackles that bane. The present work aims to study the phenomenon of human trafficking to pinpoint its causes and drawbacks on the trafficked people and developing countries. With the theory of post-colonial criticism, this paper posits that some African creative writers are concerned with the way many African girls and women are trafficked, ill-treated within or outside their countries.

### II. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS OR MODERN SLAVERY

Trafficking in persons is defined as:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a

person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (The United Nations 2017)

Human trafficking is a reality which is gathering momentum in the world and particularly in African countries. In the field of creative writing, this societal phenomenon is castigated by many novelists who can be viewed as conscience-raisers. Among them we can cite the Nigerian novelist Bisi Ojediran with his novel *A Daughter for Sale*. Human trafficking is the exploitation of human beings in order to get financial benefits. This practice is condemned by international laws considering it as a violation of human rights. Wikipedia gives further details about that practice and insists that the people who suffer that modern slavery are “specifically women and children”. As far as Ojediran’s novel is concerned, a particular stress is on the number of young girls who are attracted by the lures of a happier life overseas. The following words from Joshua, a character in *A Daughter for Sale*, confirm this assertion: “You see; over the years, we have helped a lot of people with exactly this kind of thing. People come, we pray for them and they get their visas just like that” (Ojediran, 2006, p. 39)<sup>1</sup>. So, many Nigerian or African girls have been going overseas with the view to getting better living conditions. On this score, (Gbaguidi, 2014, p. 36) posits that “in Africa South of the Sahara, many young people leave their home country illegally expecting to get a better quality of life in western countries”. In the same vein, Nganga (2012) contends that “Many people from poor African countries embark on the dangerous journey for Europe, in hopes of a better life”. It appears that once abroad and failing to achieve their goal, the African female adventurers usually fall preys of traffickers and well-organized gangs and they are forced to work as whores. In this wake, Gbaguidi (2014) rightfully points out that: “Unfortunately, once such gullible people set foot on Europe, they become utterly disenchanted” (p. 36). In general, they ignore what is awaiting them when they embark on their journey abroad. The character Abel, the protagonist in Ojediran’s novel, has devoted himself to investigate on this horrid human trafficking which is taking a heavy toll in his community. He has discovered that a lot of women are the victims of this illegal activity. The heterodiegetic narrator in *A Daughter for Sale* thus discloses: “As he waited, Abel sipped his coffee and read one of the many computer printouts of the criminal trafficking of women. He became absorbed in the story of a Nigerian woman who had been found murdered in Turin, Italy. She had entered the country on a false visa and was working there as a prostitute” (ADFS, p. 48). Elaborating on the illegal immigrants’ ploys to get to Europe, their Promised Land, Gbaguidi (2014) opines that “irregular migrants circumvent regulations to enter European countries” (p. 37). As sociocriticism “aims to bring out the relations existing between the structures of literary (or cultural) work and the structures of the society in which this work is deeply rooted” (Cros, 2011, p. 33), it is noticeable that the demarcation line between the plot in Ojediran’s creative works published in 2006 and the reality in contemporary Africa is very slim indeed in that every year in Africa South of the Sahara there are reports of thousands of young Africans who embark on the very risky journey for Europe by sea in search of hypothetical welfare (Choe 2007). Many other female characters have been trafficked in the novel under scrutiny. Indeed, the female character Alice is unfortunately among them. As a matter of fact, Alice is a very gorgeous girl that Peter Abel has tried to free from the vicious circle of prostitution. In fact, most female characters who strive to get their visas to go abroad become the victims of smugglers who promise them better means of subsistence once out of their native country. Unfortunately, they soon become disillusioned and are the property of some very powerful criminal organizations which exploit them as prostitutes. These trafficked girls and women are thus enslaved to other people who make immoral earnings from them. Pointing out the subjugated plight that befalls African girls in this man-dominated society, Sall (2016) opines: “African girls are constantly exposed to the worst forms of danger and mistreatment such as child trafficking, mutilation etc. In this specific predicament of African children females are more victimised because of gender discrimination. They are physically and sexually abused and living in deplorable conditions because of their relegation to the lowest rank of society by tradition and religion”. In fact, trafficked African girls or women here appear as victims of social injustice imposed on them by a domineering patriarchal society. Concerning this phenomenon, Omar Sougou (2002) contends that the physical assault that men perpetrate onto the slave or trafficked girls, ranging from their sale to forced labour in society, from sexual molestation to physical violence, is identical to the violence perpetrated by colonizers upon the colonized people.

Many stakeholders are involved in this horrendous practice; irresponsible and sadistic parents, fake people of God, and criminal organizations facilitate the ongoing traffic and each playing a well determined role. For instance, Alice’s father, an unscrupulous man, is largely responsible for the pitiful plight of his daughter for not only does he sexually abuse his own daughter but he also hands her to other men for immoral earnings. He makes his decision to become wealthy from exploiting his own daughter. In fact, Alice’s father dominates his

<sup>1</sup> Further references to the same edition will be referred to as ADFS followed by the page number in the main text.

daughter as a colonizer controls the colonized. The father sexually abuses his defenceless female child who cannot defend herself but silently bears her exploitation. Worse still, as a capitalistic person, Alice's father suggests to a trafficker that they should send her abroad to make money: "You are a naïve young fellow. My God. If Alice were taken abroad to work, it would ensure our sustainability, don't you see?" (ADFS, p. 116). Alice, the homodiegetic character, explains her reluctant loose attitudes thus: "By the time I was handed off to other men, I had little self-respect left, it hardly mattered anymore. Anyway, I decided if men were going to use me, I'd use them back. I did manage to extort many fine gifts. But the price was very high" (ADFS, p. 362). *A Daughter for Sale* proves that some parents are to blame for the practice of human trafficking because they are the ones who sell their own kids off to traffickers for the sake of money.

Apart from those vicious and irresponsible parents, there are also some people of God who are involved in trafficking in persons either consciously or unconsciously. Bisi Ojedian denounces the misdeed of some fake people of God who induce their followers to go abroad. Pastor Majayi, for that matter, is a notorious example in *A Daughter for Sale*. Indeed, he masquerades as a righteous man who cares for the welfare of his parishioners but he actually holds them to ransoms. He is involved in the practice of human trafficking because he encourages his parishioners to migrate and since he is a pastor they rely on him. He prays so that they can get their visas and go abroad; and he gets money for that: "Ten thousand naira for visa applicants and twenty thousand for those who are there" (ADFS, p. 39). Pastor Majayi epitomizes the fake men of God all over the African continent who exploit the poor parishioners through different means among which human trafficking. Instead of telling the people the truth about their dangerous undertaking, they urge them to go abroad in order to get a better livelihood. What is going on in Pastor Majayi's church is well summarized by the omniscient narrator in the passage below: "Abel was horrified. These girls were sold into hideous, miserable lives and then this church took what little money they managed to earn as payment to 'pray' for better lives. The money the girls made, money they might use to make a better life, was handed over to these so called 'men of God'" (ADFS, p. 39).

In addition to parents and fake men of God, there are also some criminal organizations which recruit innocent people to increase the number of their victims and expand their profits. They threaten anyone who tries to meddle with their business as is the case with Peter Abel: "We have an efficient network, and if you try anything, you could become another drowned migrant floating ashore on one of our fine beaches" (ADFS, p. 230). Those shady organizations trample underfoot human rights to make a lot of money. They know a great deal of people and have strong connections to defend their criminal activities. Such organizations are very dangerous; they sometimes resort to intimidations, threats and worse still killings to prevent people from interfering into their sinful works. The killing of the character Tunde Picketts exemplifies their brutality and proves their stubborn determination to protect their dirty business. As a matter of course, Tunde Picketts is an investigative journalist of *The Zodiac*, a Nigerian newspaper in downtown Lagos, who undertakes the deadly mission to investigate the migration of young people from Nigeria to overseas. Unfortunately, this costs him his murder: "Peter Abel stared down at the two bloody severed ears. The last time he had seen them, they were on either side of Tunde Picketts' head. Now they were sealed in a plastic evidence bag, held casually by a stocky policeman. Abel had no difficulty recognizing the ears as Tunde's" (ADFS, p. 1). As can be seen, the investigative journalist Tunde has been assassinated and his body savagely mutilated for doing his job; Tunde's murder can be seen as a warning for anybody willing to interfere with the activities of the procurers. What are then the motives for trafficking in persons?

### III. CAUSES OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

There are many reasons for human trafficking; one of these and the main one is poverty. Indeed, many parents resort to children trafficking because they are unable to cater for the daily needs of the family. A study, on this score, claims that: "Poverty is found to be the root cause of child street labor in the Municipality. As a result, some drivers of child street labor deem it a necessary evil, to them, no amount of free education would make them stop sending children to the street since it would mean cutting off the source of daily food supplies" (Kangsangbata, 2008, p. 30). It appears that people who find it difficult to make both ends meet are prone to trafficking in persons because they believe it can improve their source of revenue. In the novel under study, it is plain that Mr. Winston Udor decides to exploit his 11-year-old daughter because of his poor living conditions. He believes that exploiting his daughter and sending her overseas could help him solve his ongoing financial ordeal. That is how his daughter Alice ends up becoming a slut. Ahadji-Tamakloe (2016) also claims that poverty is the root cause of children's exploitation: "Most of the children come from homes that have financial constraints. Parents have irregular sources of income but have to support large families. With the large number of children depending on just the parents for survival, the older ones are mostly left unattended to while the attention is given to the younger ones. This gives the older children the edge to move out of their homes and fend for themselves". Poverty causes many parents to exploit their own children as is the case with Mr. Winston

Udor who first sleeps with his underage daughter to be rich according to a jujuman's advice and later on suggests to a man that she be taken abroad to be used as a prostitute and bring him in some money. It turns out that financial constraints compel some irresponsible parents to expose their offspring to the appalling practice of human trafficking. The ultimate goal parents aim at is to free themselves from the claws of dire poverty and misery. Promise Edem Nukunu (2013), like most researchers, finds poverty as the main cause of human trafficking. She is adamant that:

In Ghana many children are trafficked for forced labour in agriculture and the fishing industry, for street hawking, forced to beg on the street and as porters. Some parents with good intention for their children give their children out either to a relative or a friend to give them the best life they couldn't give to their children but these trusted people turn to give these children the worse life that the real parents wouldn't have given to them.

Beside poverty, irresponsible parenting is a factor not the least important which promotes human trafficking in our society. Some parents after having made a mess of their life decide to sacrifice the lives of their innocent children. In the focus novel, the character Mr. Winston Udor falls within this category. As a matter of fact, Mr. Udor works first as a school teacher and later as a senior officer for immigration in Lagos until he retires. Surprisingly, he fails to prepare a peaceful retirement for himself and his offspring. To resolve his financial constraints, he decides to use one of his three daughters. His being an irresponsible father is proved by his regular violence against the mother of his children and the sexual exploitation of Alice, his underage daughter. Mr. Winston Udor embodies irresponsible parents who resort to the exploitation of their children to cater for their personal needs regardless of the fate of those exploited children. All that the parents of Mr. Winston Udor's type care about is their own welfare; the life of their children is of no importance. Such parents feel no love and mercy for their own children; instead, they are ready to sacrifice the children on the altar of wickedness and egocentrism. In this vein, many irresponsible people don't hesitate to sell off their children in exchange for a little money. Nukunu (2013) emphasizes that: "For some parents too, they deliberately due to their own selfish interest give their children out for hiring to do tedious work ...." In the case of Mr. Winston Udor, he sells his daughter off to Kehinde Lawal for a good deal to satisfy his selfish and wicked needs. Nukunu (2013) and Ahadji-Tamakloe (2016) posit that irresponsible parenting is without any doubt a factor which leads to human trafficking and children's exploitation in several developing countries. On the strength of this, Ahadji-Tamakloe (2016) contends that:

A lot of people have children indiscriminately knowing fully well that they do not have the financial capacity to cater for them. In the past having a lot of children was a fashionable trend and beneficial to the family because the children served as helping hands on the family farm. It was easier to cater for the children because food came from the farm. Parents in the past had no problems with educating their children, because schools were seen as unnecessary. With times and priorities changing, farm works and sedentary living is not enough to fully equip people to fit into the world. Nowadays having a lot of children is rather a burden onto the parents.

According to Ahadji-Tamakloe, there are many parents with a large number of children they are unable to care for; as a consequence, their children end up being children in or of the street, easy preys to human trafficking and exploitation. It is a fact that some parents deliberately give their children to traffickers to be exploited; yet, some children decide on their own to do something about their poor living conditions. Indeed, many people find themselves in the hands of traffickers because they want to change their living conditions. The majority of these people are poor people who are mostly influenced by the wealthy life all around them. These people see other people like them who have financial means and are able to afford whatever they need. So, these poor people fight tooth and nail and do whatever they can to put a curb on their poor living conditions. The people they rub elbows with convince them that they should accept any sort of things or activities to overcome poverty. Since we know the role money plays in our day-to-day life, it is almost impossible for many young people not to give in to the proposals of their friends which are actually a door of no return. That is how many people end up in the claws of criminal organizations where they are used as beasts of burden to bring in a lot of money to their traffickers. With regard to Alice's life in the novel under study, she has been influenced by two friends namely Dupe and Ngozy. Since these two friends of Alice's are rich, they could afford anything they want unlike Alice who has modest backgrounds. This situation is one of the factors that step by step lead Alice to a life of prostitution. This is how the heterodiegetic narrator accounts for Alice's bad company and ultimate plight:

Instead of joining her mother at church, Alice followed her friends into the shop. As soon as she entered, her fears were confirmed. She watched as her friends dashed from one shelf to another to fill their baskets with books recommended by their teachers. Dupe and Ngozi were both rich. Or at least they were in Alice's eyes. Whatever they needed – money, clothes and food – they had merely to ask [...]. Alice was constantly jealous of their means. She



even joked occasionally about being Cinderella, while they were the spoiled wicked step-sisters (ADFS, pp. 84-85).

A girl from a modest origin is usually at the mercy of vices in her determination to make it. Alice is no exception; her two friends suggest she have a boyfriend to help her financially in exchange for sexual intercourse. Eventually, Alice falls into Kehinde's trap and offers her body in exchange for some cash (ADFS, p. 87). Ambition and bad company have led the gullible female character into prostitution and she has fallen an easy prey for the traffickers. Some young people on their own join criminal organizations without knowing the risks they are running. They long to get easily rich without having to make any effort at all. On that score, many young people are involved in very risky activities for powerful criminal organizations and girls resort to prostitution. Robert, a character in *A Daughter for Sale*, highlights the problem of prostitution in the following terms: "Odd how most of the immigrants here are from Nigeria. And over sixty percent of the prostitutes in Italy are Nigerians. Your country must really find out the underlying causes of this migration and do something" (ADFS, p. 249).

The high unemployment rates in developing countries coupled with the lack of professional skills also justify human trafficking and exploitation. Unemployment is one of the serious problems that force the youth to migrate overseas in search of green pastures. The dream to go abroad and come back with a lot of money is the reason why many African people are now trapped in the circle of human trafficking and are victims of sheer abuse. Unemployment is a real puzzle for many developing nations. Young people, fed up with the prospect of getting a work which never becomes a reality, choose to expatriate. African countries face an unprecedented problem of unemployment due chiefly to the rising number of children who go to school. Governments find it very difficult, let's say impossible to provide all these ambitious intellectuals with a job; hence, most leave their countries with the hope that they will be welcome elsewhere. Going overseas is a dangerous undertaking, yet, the number of candidates to immigration is always on the increase. In Ojediran's novel under study, the character Chief Benson draws the attention of Peter Abel to the reason that encourages many people to leave Africa generally at the peril of their lives for western countries: "Peter Abel, I have been giving this whole subject some serious thought. So long as your country refuses to offer jobs to these poor people, nothing will stop them from going. Remember they repatriate plane loads of them from time to time, but it does not stop others from going in their places. And bringing Alice home will not stop the trade" (ADFS, pp. 183-84). International organizations and many countries are striving to stop illegal immigration; still, the phenomenon is gaining ground. What are then the consequences of the trafficking in persons?

#### IV. CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a practice with countless consequences. Indeed, this practice has short, mid and long term consequences on African countries. Developing countries pay a very high price for the bane that human trafficking represents. Indeed, many African children lose their lives in their regular and repeated attempts to reach the European continent. As mentioned before, the number of people who apply for going overseas is constantly on the increase despite the numerous campaigns of sensitization to warn them about the dangers they run. Every day, we read in the newspapers and see on TV the boats that capsize with hundreds of migrants trying to reach the Promised Land. This is a common sight for Europeans; that is why a trafficker warns Peter Abel in the following terms: "We have an efficient network, and if you try anything, you could become another drowned migrant floating ashore on one of our fine beaches" (ADFS, p. 230). There are usually corpses of African migrants on the coasts of European countries like Italy and Spain. African countries as well as many other continents lose their people during their voyage to Europe. And this constitutes a great loss for the developing countries; they lose chiefly able-bodied people who are in their prime. The people who are supposed to work and develop the developing countries are the ones who suffer human trafficking and usually have a tragic end. The constant deaths of young people on the shore of European countries constitute a threat to the development of the countries where they come from. Many who succeed in getting into the so-called Promised Land are murdered by criminal organizations or hooligans. That is the case of that Nigerian woman in the novel under study who gets killed in Turin, Italy. And nobody seems to care about the fate of these trafficked people whose only and sole aim is to live a better life. Mostly, trafficked people are forced to work for a mere pittance or worse they are denied any wages because of their irregular situation in the host country. Illegal immigrants into developed countries are treated in a very bad way as it is the case of that Nigerian prostitute in Turin: "She had entered the country on a false visa and was working there as a prostitute. Nobody attended her burial or contacted the police about the case. No family member came to visit the grave. The killer got off with a light sentence, because nobody objected when the authorities allowed him to plead guilty at a lesser charge" (ADFS, p. 48). As can be noticed, even the judicial power which is supposed to protect the victims of the traffic in persons seems to turn a blind eye on the situation and sometimes leaves the traffickers unpunished; quite often and paradoxically some traffickers get off with a suspended sentence, a small sentence or worse still they are discharged. Furthermore, people who suffer contemporary slavery are subject to assaults and compelled to obey their masters. Those who refuse to obey or do not give a satisfactory profit to their

masters unfortunately end up in the grave like the Nigerian prostitute, a character in the novel under consideration. The victims of human trafficking are treated like slaves, forced by any means to be obedient. Their lives depend on the good will of their traffickers who are ready to use violence and killing to defend their evil business and keep their victims under control. Tunde Picketts, the investigative journalist of the Nigerian newspaper *The Zodiac* in Ojediran's novel under scrutiny, is an example of the inhumaneness of human traffickers; in addition, the frequent murder attempts that his colleague Peter Abel faces demonstrate the inhuman nature of the people who deal in modern slavery. The excerpt below illustrates pretty well the brutality of the traffickers:

“Rudy slammed Abel's head against the wall viciously. ‘You're fucking dead. And so is the girl, once we're done selling her.’  
Rudy stuck the barrel of his gun into Abel's ear. Abel figured that was the ballgame. He was dead.” (ADFS, p. 345)

The countries where the victims of human trafficking come from lose available manpower they can use in different fields and boost their fragile economies. Among the trafficked people are many who are skilled and others have got high diplomas.

Another drawback of human trafficking is educational; in short, because of the practice of traffic in human beings, many young people drop from school. When people are trafficked, they stop their schooling and engage in different activities that could help them make ends meet. The female character Alice and her countrywomen, given to prostitution, have mostly dropped from school to be prostitutes overseas. Today, education has been the priority of most countries in the world because they have all realised that it is the right path to development. So, each nation invests a lot of funds to guarantee its people a good education that can help them fit in the contemporary world. Illiteracy is a major problem nations are fighting worldwide; human trafficking and exploitation happen to be a stumbling block in the challenge of educating all the children of developing countries. Children who represent the future of any nation are to be educated; failure to do so is dangerous for both the individual and the nation. A study reveals that “street child labor has tremendous effect on the child's education. Some of the children are not able to go to school. Some start and are not able to continue, others delay in schooling and others even lose interest in going to school completely” (Kangsangbata, 2008, p. 29). So children trafficking and exploitation cause a great harm to the children in the long term and to their nation as well. Human trafficking is a threat to education.

It is also important to linger on the negative health consequences related to the traffic in humans. No doubt, human trafficking is harmful to its victims in many different ways. First of all, the fact that trafficked people are held captives cannot allow them to object to doing whatever they are required to do. As a consequence, human trafficking exposes people such as whores to rapes, violence, and mostly to deadly illnesses such as STDs. Alice and the other Nigerian prostitutes are in great danger because they take high risks that interfere with their health. They have sex with many sexual partners every single day. Bisi Ojediran's *A Daughter for Sale* highlights this danger. Indeed, as Peter Abel goes to the brothel where Alice works as a prostitute, he is shocked to discover that: “he had to queue behind six men to have his turn. The place was popular, even mid-week” (ADFS, p. 267). It turns out that the female character Alice is in the clutches of half a dozen men, ready to exploit and oppress her; the six men, eager to assuage their bestiality, stands for the aggressors, and the female character Alice, the victims. Having sex with different people can result in serious health problems. Interestingly, one notices that:

Those who are trafficked for forced sex are frequently raped by one or more males as a form of ‘initiation’ and or intimidation. They are often made to engage in high risk sex, such as intercourse without condoms, anal and gang rape. It is not unusual for women and girls to be held captive under lock and key, brought to and from the work venue, when not forced to live and work at the same location and work for long hours with significant numbers of men to service each day (Naik, 2018, p. 78).

As might be expected, this life of debauchery leads to very severe health problems like fatigue, headaches; sexual and reproductive health problems (vaginal discharge, pelvic pain, and infection) back pain and significant weight loss (Naik, 2018, p. 78). Many prostitutes contract the dreadful disease of HIV/AIDS and after long years of suffering, they pass away.

## V. CONCLUSION

All in all, the issue of trafficking in persons looms through Bisi Ojediran's *A Daughter for Sale*. This paper has shown that unscrupulous men traffic girls and women for their selfish and sexual desires or to make immoral earnings. With the trafficking in persons, women and girls are viewed as sexual playthings and manhandled by male assailants in a patriarchal setting. This essay has also demonstrated that some fathers sexually abuse their daughters and eventually sell them off to traffickers for immoral earnings. Bisi Ojediran in *A Daughter for Sale* is like a conscience-awakener putting his finger on the crucial issue of trafficking in

persons also considered as modern slavery. In this article, a particular stress has been put on the causes of the trafficking in humans ranging from poverty and financial constraints, ambition, ignorance and naiveté, the dire unemployment rates in developing countries, to the lures of a better life abroad. It is beyond doubt that human trafficking is today a global concern and many local and international organizations are taking heed of its worrying extent which results in severe consequences. It is plain to see that the phenomenon negatively impacts both the trafficked persons and the poor countries where the victims come from. As it has been shown, the lives of many people are at stake because the trafficked people suffer brutality, sexual and physical abuses, intimidations, financial exploitations and worse still murders. People who suffer modern day slavery run serious risks and their lives are constantly under threat. In short, the health consequences related to the traffic in humans are huge. The lives of many people are at stake due to this despicable and criminal activity which is fast growing in Africa and other parts of the world and claiming the lives of innocent and sometimes ignorant victims. The study of Bisi Ojedian's *A Daughter for Sale* has revealed that human trafficking is a notorious practice that claims the lives of many young people, chiefly young Nigerian girls who are held captives and used as sexual slaves. STDs are also playing mayhem in the midst of those who undergo modern day slavery. Developing countries where the majority of the trafficked people come from also suffer the negative impacts of human trafficking; they lose a valuable manpower because of brain drain to developed nations. They invest huge funds to educate the children; yet, the very best who should chip in the development of those weak economies usually leave and work in countries which have not contributed anything to their trainings. So, human trafficking is unfair to developing countries; it is another form of exploitation of poor countries through the stealing of their intellectuals. Developing countries thus must put a stress in the struggle to reduce or solve this bane.

### REFERENCES

- [1]. A. Kehinde, Post-independence disillusionment in contemporary African fiction: The example of Meja Mwangi's *Kill me quick*, *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 13(2), 2004, 228–241.
- [2]. C. Zimmerman and L. Kiss, Human trafficking and exploitation: A global health concern, *PLoS Med* 14(11), 2017, <http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002437>.
- [3]. B. Ojedian, *A daughter for sale* (Great Britain: Quince Books Limited, 2006).
- [4]. United Nations General Assembly, Optional protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime 2000. [27 Oct 2017] [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en). Retrieved on 2018-08-14.
- [5]. Wikipedia, Human Trafficking, <file:///data/data/com.android.browser/files/human-trafficking.mht> Retrieved on 2018-08-14.
- [6]. C. Gbaguidi, African illegal immigrants' disillusionment in Europe: a study of Amma Darko's *Beyond the horizon*, *Revue du CAMES : Lettres, Langues et Linguistique Numéro 2*, Nov. 2014, 36-48.
- [7]. M. Nganga, Tough life of illegal immigrants in Germany, 2012, Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African\\_immigration\\_to\\_Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_immigration_to_Europe) dating 2018-08-13.
- [8]. E. Cros, Towards a sociocritical theory of the text, *Sociocriticism - Vol. XXVI, 1 y 2*, 2011, 32-47.
- [9]. J. Choe, African Migration to Europe, July 2007, Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/background/african-migration-europe> dating 2018-08-13.
- [10]. R. SALL, "The Phenomenon of Child Abuse in Buchi Emecheta's *The Slave Girl* and Nawal El Saadawi's *Women at Point Zero*" 17 Avril 2016 <http://myliteraryspace.over-blog.com/2016/04/the-phenomenon-of-child-abuse-in-buchi-emecheta-s-the-slave-girl-and-nawal-el-saadawi-s-woman-at-point-zero.html>
- [11]. O. Sougou, *Writing across cultures: Gender politics and difference in the fiction of Buchi Emecheta* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2002).
- [12]. C. Kangsangbata, Streetism and child labor in the Wa municipality of Ghana: A gender analysis of drivers, *Study in Gender and Development in Africa (1)*, September 2008, 14-33.
- [13]. H. Ahadji-Tamakloe, Streetism in Ghana – assessing the situation and moving forward! 2016, (<http://www.scef-international.org/blog/author/tina-kortelainen/>) dating August 14, 2018.
- [14]. P. E. Nukunu, Fight against streetism in Ghana, 2013, <http://cabsfoundation.blogspot.com/2013/01/streetism-in-ghana.html> Retrieved on 2018-08-14.
- [15]. A. B. Naik, Impacts, Causes and Consequences of Women Trafficking in India from Human Rights Perspective, *Social Sciences*. Vol.7, No.2, 76-80, doi: 10.11648/j.ss.20180702.14