

Exploring the Nexus between Recent Migration to the West and Modern Forms of Slavery: A Historical Perspective

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Abstract

This study explores the link between the recent migration of Nigerians to other parts of the world and modern forms of slavery. Historically, the term migration is as old as humans. From antiquity, humans had always migrated for numerous reasons. The phenomenon of recent migration to Western countries has sparked significant discourse and debate, particularly regarding its correlation with modern forms of slavery. This study, which adopted the qualitative research methodology by using the descriptive design, examined the nexus between recent migration trends and modern-day slavery. The study aimed to investigate the historical roots and contemporary manifestations of the relationship between recent migration to the West and modern forms of slavery and gathered its data through oral interviews, journals and newspaper publications. The study which conceptualized the terms migration, slavery, and modern-day slavery identified that there is a link between recent migration patterns and modern-day slavery, and this link is mostly economic. In some cases, people who desire to migrate are thrown into a series of exploitation. The historical factors that impact the risk of enslavement are colonial legacy, economic disparity, globalization and labor demand, political instability, weak legal frameworks, historical precedence of slavery and racial discrimination, and migration policies. The study identified that there are economic and social implications of this migration of Nigerians to the West because professionals that left the country create a lacuna in the health and financial sectors. The study concludes that the recent migration of Nigerians to the West has been driven by a myriad of factors, including economic hardship, political instability, and the pursuit of better opportunities, albeit this movement has also exposed many individuals to the risks of modern-day slavery. Therefore, there is a need for the Nigerian government to empower the youth, enhance educational opportunities, and address political instability and security.

Keywords: Migration, Modern Slavery, Exploitation, History

Introduction

The history of humans prominently features migration. Most societies are products of waves of migration which occurred at different periods in history. Migrations take place as a result of various reasons, ranging from survival instincts to escape from natural disasters, the search for new settlements, and so on. In Nigeria, recent migration to the West has been an issue of concern for scholars and the government, especially as the realities of the impact of these practices are felt almost in all spheres of Nigerian life. The past years, precisely from 2015 to the present, have witnessed a mass exodus of Nigerians to foreign countries.

Although migration is not new to humans, and also it is a global phenomenon, as a United Nations report states, the number of international migrants grew to 281 million in 2020, meaning that 3.6 percent of the world's people lived outside their countries of birth (World Migration Report, 2022). Nigeria, however, has witnessed a mass exodus of its population to Western countries and some of these nations are now placing restrictions on the Nigerian nationals who are desiring to migrate to their countries. A typical example is the case of Nigeria and the United Kingdom. This study therefore examines the underlying factors responsible for the mass exodus of Nigerians to foreign countries, tracing the link between the recent migration waves and modern-day slavery, analysing the implications of this current exodus, and making recommendations for a possible solution to the problem associated with this trend.

Background of the Study:

Migration has always been a significant aspect of human history, shaping societies and economies across the globe. In recent decades, however, the patterns of migration have evolved, with increased flows from the Global South to the Global North. This phenomenon has been driven by various factors, including economic disparities, political instability, and the search for better opportunities (Antil et al., 2016). Since the 1990s, global migrations have become a central topic in international relations because of the importance of the relationships among states, and because of their new importance in the global governance agenda. The colonial histories of many of these European states mean that African migrations are particularly important to them (Antil et al., 2016).

The African migration upsurge has become new trend. The 'new normal' in Africa's regular or irregular migration can be directly traced to the last two decades (Okunade and Awosusi, 2023). This trend had been predicted by Hatton and Williamson (2003) in their study which used regression estimates to predict African emigration pressure until 2025. They predict an intensification of migration from Africa by year 2025. The main reasons lie in the rapid growth of young people who have greater potential to migrate and in the poor economic performance of source countries as a result of demographic pressures (Hen Dao et al., 2018). In recent years, the migration crisis in the Mediterranean has sadly become the poster child for African migration. The desperation that characterizes migration across the Mediterranean has reinforced the perception that African migration is a south-to-north movement, with African migrants taking extreme measures, often at the risk of life and limb, to harvest the promise of Europe (Vitorino et al., 2020).

Nigeria is a significant African country, and it is called giant of Africa because of its population and size. Available statistics have further put the migration (japa) syndrome among Nigerians into better perspective. In 2018, for instance, Schengen countries such as Germany,

Hungary, Finland, Italy, and Spain, which are Nigerians' popular destinations, saw an increase in visa applications from Nigeria (The Guardian, 2019). A total of 88,587 visa applications were received, of which 49.8% were rejected (The Guardian, 2019). This means that 44,076 applications were denied (Sahara Reporters, 2018). The most recent statistics show an increase of 51% in the rejection rate of Schengen visa applications lodged by Nigerians (Schengen visa info, 2022). Furthermore, according to recent statistics released by the United Kingdom government, 486,869 study visas were granted as of June 2022, 71% more than in 2019. Nigeria ranks third after India and China, increasing from 8,384 to a record high of 65,929, in study visas to the United Kingdom. This shows a geometric increase in the mobility of people between Nigeria and the United Kingdom (Okunade and Awosusi, 2023). This migration trend does not apply exclusively to the United Kingdom but other European countries as well as the Global South. Concerns have been raised about the link between this recent trend and modern slavery. It is against this backdrop that this study examines the nexus between recent migration to the west and modern slavery.

Conceptual Review

In this section, I broach the two fundamental concepts that undergird this essay. I do so one at a time in the ensuing subsections for the sake of lucidity.

Migration

Migration is defined as "the mass movement of some tribes or populations from one territory to another, determined by economic, social, political or natural factors" (Explanatory Dictionary of Roman Language, 1998, 1). The *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* defines migration as that phenomenon when large numbers of people go to live in another area or country, especially to find work (Longman Dictionary, 2005). When people cross the border of a country, a metamorphosis happens to their legal status and they suddenly gain a special label or status of migrants (Taru, 2019). Migration is a phenomenon of great complexity. The reasons people migrate are varied and constantly changing. Moreover, the individuals who migrate are not easy to classify due to the fact that they come under different circumstances, from different environments, and with different individual characteristics.

Migration is not the mere act of crossing a border, but an important factor in the erosion of traditional boundaries among languages, cultures, ethnic groups, and nation-states, affecting all those involved (Taru, 2019). The demographic and social structure of industrialized states has established a need for workers from other countries who are recruited to support economic expansion to stimulate development and stop short-term fluctuations in jobs (Taru, 2019). The aging of population, as well as the increase in demand for personal and household services registered in rich countries, has led to an increase in the labor market offers for unskilled foreign workers. At the same time, skilled workers with higher education have increased international mobility.

Youths migrate to Europe seeking better opportunities, drawn by the allure of greener pastures. Nonetheless, some overlook the challenges, including cultural adjustment, economic uncertainties, and legal complexities. Fuelled by hope, they often ignore these consequences, facing difficulties in their pursuit of a better life in a foreign land (Heckert, 2015).

Slavery

Slavery is a relation of domination, a brutal system of exploitation and human degradation, and a special form of human parasitism (Patterson, 1983). Slavery was profoundly a means of denying outsiders (and sometimes insiders) the rights and privileges of a particular society so that they could be exploited for economic, political and social purposes (Lovejoy, 1983). Slavery is involuntary servitude; thus, a slave must work under a whip, real or figurative, wielded by another person, his/her owner, with no say in how his/her labor is compensated (Imbua, 2018). Slavery is invariably an act of exploitation, whereby someone appropriates the labor of another for his/her benefit. It is also a situation in which one serves a master without receiving corresponding payment for the service rendered.

Historically, people have been subjected to various forms of slavery over the years. Some of these include chattel slavery, where slaves are treated as personal property of an owner and bought and sold as commodities. Forced labor is compulsory labor whereby laborers are compelled to serve and they are unable to escape enforced servitude. This type of slavery was seen in King Leopold's Congo Free State and on Portuguese plantations of Cape Verde and Sao Tome (Imbua, 2018). Serfdom was when the serf served his/her master or landlord and was not free to change his/her status. Human trafficking includes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, using threat or use of force for exploitation. Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are reportedly trafficked every year and approximately 80% of them are women and children (Imbua, 2018).

Slavery was abolished by most countries about 200 years ago. The British who became actively involved in the slave trade in the 16th Century had established the triangular route by 1783. The triangular route involved taking the British-made goods to Africa to buy slaves, transporting the enslaved to America, and then buying slave-grown products such as sugar, tobacco, and cotton and sent to Britain. This practice continued till 1807 when it became illegal for British subjects to participate in the slave trade; and, in 1833, the institution of slavery was abolished in all British territories. Nonetheless, despite the abolition of the slave trade, slavery is still very much practiced in various forms of bonded and forced labor, trafficking, exploitation and so on.

Modern-day Slavery

There have been debates on the conceptualization of modern-day slavery by scholars. Nevertheless, it has been used as a term to capture all forms of coercion. It is an emotive term, and it has caused much debate as to what it covers. Slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking are all defined in international legal instruments, which have enjoyed a high level of ratification. The term "modern slavery" is not defined in international law. Nonetheless, on March 26, 2015, the United Kingdom passed the modern slavery bill to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st Century (Brandley & May, 2015). Modern slavery includes all practices about slavery and servitude, human trafficking, exploitation, and bonded labor. Modern slavery is also conceptualized as self-induced slavery hinging on the economy (Alao, 2024). Lewu sees it as a voluntary form of slavery under the pretence of economic and social reasons (Lewu, 2024). The major attribute of slavery is exploitation, whether in Africa or in other parts of the world,

ancient or contemporary times. Modern forms of slavery still exist and there are likely far more slaves now than there were victims of the Atlantic slave trade (BBC, 2014). From historical records, the last country to abolish slavery was the African state of Mauritania, where a 1981 presidential decree abolished the practice; however, no criminal laws were passed to enforce the ban. In August of 2007, Mauritania's parliament passed legislation making the practice of slavery punishable by up to ten years in prison (BBC, 2014).

In modern times, slavery does not only come in the obvious form in which one person owns another person (which is traditionally called 'chattel slavery'). Other practices that amount to slavery are discussed in the subsections that follow.

Bonded Labor or Debt Bondage

This form of slavery is when a person's work is the security for a debt; effectively, the person has not been sold, but s/he is on a "long lease" which s/he cannot bring to an end, and so cannot leave his/her "employer." Migrant workers often become bonded labor to pay off those who smuggled them to the new country; they dare not break free for fear of being deported. The United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery put the total number of people in debt bondage around the world at about 50 million in 2021 (Kelly. 2022).

Serfdom

This form of slavery is when a person has to live and work for another on the other's land, and other forms of forced labor whereby passports are confiscated from migrant workers to keep them in bondage. Essentially, a worker is 'kept in captivity' as a domestic servant.

Child Slavery

This form of slavery involves the transfer of a young person (under 18) to another person so that the young person can be exploited; this includes adopting children to use them as "slaves." This form also includes forcing children to become soldiers; for example by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda.

Marital and Sexual Slavery

This type of slavery includes forced marriage, including selling wives, buying women for marriage where the dowry is a disguised purchase price, the sale, transfer or inheritance of women. It is servile marriage whereby a woman is sold out in marriage and reduced to a property by the man because the woman was paid for.

Forced Prostitution

This a form of slavery that involves any sexual exploitation of individuals through the use or threat of force or other penalty (BBC, 2014). Another form of modern slavery is mental slavery whereby people migrate to other nations and their brains are colonized (Josiah, 2024). These forms of slavery are experienced by some migrants who have found themselves outside Nigeria; some were promised better jobs, but when they get to the Diaspora they discover that they are

been forced into prostitution; others get married and are treated as slaves just to maintain their status as migrants. Some of these people find it difficult to return to Nigeria because of the poor economic condition and security issues in the country.

Methodology

The qualitative methodology was adopted, using the descriptive research approach. This means that words and the “What is?” question are emphasized. The study also made use of primary and secondary sources of information; oral sources were retrieved from scholars who have had the experience of visiting some countries outside Nigeria. In addition, secondary sources were retrieved from textbooks, journals, newspaper articles, and Internet sources.

Historical Factors Encouraging Migration of Nigerians to the West

Archaeological evidence suggests that different human groupings had moved from one place to another inhabiting new territories and intermingling with people in almost all the regions of the world for several thousand years before colonialism (Mgbeafulu, 2003). By 1912, Nigerians had started migrating independently to the West, although some went with missionaries (Ugbogu, 2024).

United Nations development reports reveal that over 15 percent of Nigeria’s population left to settle abroad between the years of 1980 and 2005 (UNDP, 2009). According to Gordon (2003), approximately 15 million Nigerians were living abroad in 2000. Nonetheless, Adepoju and Van der Weil (2010) noted that the number of Nigerian emigrants in 2005 was 836,832. Also, Nworah (2005), following reports from other sources, estimated that about 15 million Nigerians live abroad. Notwithstanding this apparent lack of consistency in these reports, evidence suggests that the number of Nigerians outside the country is indeed monumental (Eborka & Oyefara, 2015).

Theoretically, push and pull factors have been identified as major indicators encouraging migration. Push factors are conditions that can force people to leave their homes and are related to the country from which a person migrates. Push factors include non-availability of enough livelihood opportunities, poverty, rapid population growth that surpasses available resources, “primitive” or “poor” living conditions, desertification, famines/droughts, fear of political persecution, poor healthcare, loss of wealth, and natural disasters. Pull factors are exactly the opposite of push factors; they attract people to a certain location. Typical examples of pull factors to a place are more job opportunities and better living conditions; easy availability of land for settling and agriculture, political and/or religious freedom, superior education and welfare systems, better transportation and communication facilities, better healthcare system and stress-free environment, and security. These factors were expanded by Everett Spurgeon Lee, a professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia known for his pioneering theory of migration, which is known as the Push and Pull Theory, or also as Lee’s Theory. Lee first presented his model at the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association convened in Kansas City in 1965. Lee has conceptualized the factors associated with the decision to migrate and the process of migration into the following four categories: (1) factors associated with the area of origin, (2) factors associated with the area of destination, (3) intervening obstacles, and (4) personal factors (Lee, 1966).

To further elucidate the concept of migration and the push factors, Oyeweso explained

that “Japa is a continental issue that depicts outward migration of Africans, while Sapa is used to describe socioeconomic and livelihood hardship that push millions of Africans on the move” (Onodjae, 2023, 1). Invariably, the major factors responsible for the migration of Nigerians to the West are mostly economic factors. Economic considerations including difficulty in getting employment, general economic hardship, poverty and better business prospects were cited as the most important reasons for considering emigration.

Recent migrations of Nigerians to the West was at an upward trend in 2015. Ethical Journalism Network reported that the migration crisis period, especially in 2015, was when journalists recorded the highest movement of people across boundaries. The arrival of almost a million refugees and migrants to Europe in 2015 became a top media topic and controversial issue in the continent’s public debate. In fact, the European media played a critical role in framing the issue of the migration crisis (Chouliaraki et al., 2015). Going by the reports of the World Poverty Clock, more Nigerians have been plunged into extreme poverty since November of 2019. According to *The Guardian* online reports of November 5, 2020, the latest figure shows that over 105 million Nigerians, out of the 205,323,520 projected population of Nigeria, now live in extreme poverty. An individual is classified as living in extreme poverty if the person earns below \$1.90 or N855 a day, according to the paper. Nevertheless, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in May 2020 released its 2019 report on “Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria” and put the figure of Nigerians living in extreme poverty at 89.2 million. This represents 40.1 percent of Nigeria’s population (Kelly, 2013). Whether the poverty rate in Nigeria is 51 percent or 40.1 percent, the fact remains that it is high and rising every year.

The increasing poverty in Nigeria has pushed many parents to migrate so that they can give their children a better life. Other factors that have encouraged people to migrate out of Nigeria are political instability and insecurity (Alao, 2024).

Establishing the Link between the Recent Migrations of Nigerians to the West and Modern-day Slavery

The world has about 258 million international migrants; out of this number, about 40 million of the migrants are in modern slavery (David & Bryant, 2019). Modern-day slavery is based mainly on the exploitation of immigrants; thus, in a bid to leave the shores of Nigeria, some of these immigrants are subjected to sexual and financial exploitation. The need to leave the shores of Nigeria and not return pushes some Nigerians to travel with visiting visas and at the expiration of their visas, they remain overseas without a permit. In order to survive, they accept any condition of employment from their employers, and this exposes them to further exploitation by their host employers in order to conceal their status.

Others take the pain of remaining in their host countries without visiting their home countries to avoid the stress of the rigorous process of returning to their host countries if they do not have green cards. An example is Pastor Logano Agor, a medical doctor who graduated in 1981 from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and migrated to the United States in 1997 and since then has not returned to Nigeria because he does not have the proper documentation to travel as a United States citizen (Igbogbo, 2024).

Some of the fraud cases involving people migrating to the West without proper documents are not reported to the appropriate authorities because making such a report will have dual consequences—the first will be on the reporter and the second on the person reported (Igbogbo, 2024). Also, migration to the West sometime subject people to live as slaves because

of the high cost of living. Migrants often live in overcrowded and substandard housing conditions. Landlords exploit their lack of options and legal knowledge, charging exorbitant rents and providing unsafe living conditions. In an interview with Mr. Igbogo, he narrated his experience in the United States by revealing that most times, you see Nigerians who are working but they will rely on trashed household items like foams, couches, and so on to survive. This is because their take-home pay cannot enable them to pay for a house and buy these items from the store (Igbogbo, 2024).

In most cases, migrant workers are paid less than the citizens of a country, and this is also a form of slavery because slavery includes not giving adequate payment for a service. Some Africans are lured to some European countries for jobs; and when they get there, they will only discover that they have been deceived. Some end up being killed and their organs harvested.

Modern slavery has also been conceptualised as voluntary slavery. According to a *Business Day* newspaper report, if there is a replay of the slave trade saga today, many Nigerians, both young and old, would be willing to sail on the slave merchant ship as long as it takes them out of the suffering and near-hopeless situations in the country. This is the basis for the “Japa” syndrome, which has ushered in an exodus of Nigerians to overseas like never before (Obinna, 2023).

Furthermore, in establishing the link between recent migration and modern-day slavery, Dr. Josiah in an oral interview revealed that our attitude to work in Nigeria is different from the attitude to work in European countries; thus, Nigerians view their mode of work in the West as slavery. He also stated that people who migrate to the West are most times subjected to mental slavery, which he explained as the colonization of the brain, whereby people are subjected to do things the “White man’s way” (Josiah, 2024).

Also, establishing the link between modern slavery and recent migration, Dr. Josiah reveals that the old form of slavery was for economic reasons and labor was involved because slaves were taken as commodities bought to work in American plantations and boost the economy of the West. That movement, however, was not voluntary. But in modern-day slavery, people voluntarily give themselves and pass through the rigorous process of acquiring a travel visa or in most cases take the risk of travelling through the deserts and Mediterranean Sea to enable them to work to contribute to the development of the economies of the West (Josiah, 2024).

Most unskilled migrants to the West end up doing domestic servitude which has been identified as a form of modern-day slavery. Some work in a private residence, and that leads to unique vulnerabilities for victims is a form of modern slavery (US Department of State, 2009). Modern slavery is a crime in which a domestic worker is not free to leave his/her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all. Many domestic workers do not receive the basic benefits and protections commonly extended to other groups of workers; some of these things as simple as a day off are not given. Moreover, their ability to move freely is often limited, and employment in private homes increases their isolation and vulnerability. Labor officials generally do not have the authority to inspect employment conditions in private homes. Domestic workers, especially women, confront various forms of abuse, harassment, and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence. These issues, taken together, may be symptoms of a situation of domestic servitude. When the employer of a domestic worker has diplomatic status and enjoys immunity from civil and/or criminal jurisdiction, the vulnerability to domestic servitude is enhanced (US Department of State, 2009).

In a *Business Day* report, Ezenwa, a resident of Canada, said that although the pasture is

greener in Canada, the taxes are not friendly; the extreme weather condition in most parts of the country makes menial jobs harsher and the laws are there too (Obinna, 2024). Despite these complaints, these people are still willing to remain in a foreign land and that is why modern slavery is termed voluntary slavery.

As mentioned earlier, some historical factors impact the risk of enslavement among migrants, and some of these are colonial legacy, economic disparity, globalization and labor demand, political instability, weak legal frameworks, historical precedence of slavery and racial discrimination, and migration policies. Former colonies often have weaker economic structures and higher levels of poverty, pushing individuals to migrate. Additionally, colonial powers historically exploited local populations, establishing patterns of labor exploitation that continue today (Rodney, 1972).

Economic disparities among countries establish conditions whereby migrants seek better opportunities in wealthier nations. This disparity often leads to exploitation, as migrants may accept poor working conditions and low wages, thereby increasing their vulnerability to forced labor.

Also, globalization has increased the demand for cheap labor in the West. This demand is often met through the migration of workers from poorer countries who are sometimes subjected to exploitative labor conditions. Political instability in home countries forces people to flee, making them vulnerable to trafficking and enslavement. These people usually lack legal and social protection in host countries which increases their exploitation risk. In addition, because of the weak legal frameworks in their home countries, migrants often lack access to justice and fear deportation, which traffickers exploit. Restrictive immigration policies can push migrants into undocumented status, thereby increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. These policies often do not address the underlying demand for labor, leading to a black market for cheap labor.

The Implications of the Current Migration on Nigeria as a Country

According to a 2022 survey by the Africa Polling Institute, a staggering 69 percent of Nigerians would relocate out of the country with their families if given the chance (Mazhar, 2023). Almost 80 percent will leave now, while only 39 percent were willing to emigrate in 2019, according to the same poll (Ologunbade, 2023). In reality, most people who have the means are willing to leave the country. Many are selling off their properties, others emptying their life savings, and more going through cheaper routes as holding bay to leave the country at all means. Statista, a research and evaluation firm, noted that personal remittances received in Nigeria amounted to US\$20.13 billion in 2023, reflecting a 3.59 percent increase from the previous year (Obinna, 2023).

Nevertheless, with more Nigerians in foreign lands, the amount of yearly remittances is going to increase incredibly. Migration comes with a negative impact on the Nigerian economy as that encourages brain drain. Most people, especially in the health sector, are migrating, thereby leaving the health sector in the hands of few medical personnel. Dr. lewu observed that the recent wave of migration gives Nigeria bad publicity because most people travel illegally out of desperation and they engage in all sort of things in order to survive, and such is not good for the image of the country (Lewu, 2024). In his view, Professor Alao expressed his concern that the current trend whereby professionals migrate to the West will have long-term repercussions that will continue to weigh down the economy of Nigeria (Alao, 2024).

Possible Ways to Reduce this Recent Wave of Migration to the West

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that people in forced labor lose at least \$21 billion each year in unpaid wages and recruitment fees. Given that remittances to developing countries account for more than three times the global aid budget, there is an impetus for governments to ensure that migration for work is not manipulated by traffickers (Kelly, 2013).

Also, to reduce this wave of migration, the economy must be improved and the rate of unemployment must be checked. The problem of inequality and disparity in earnings should be checked, the culture of discipline should be encouraged, and respect for law and public property should be encouraged. The security of lives and properties should also be made paramount (Alao, 2024).

Furthermore, it is necessary to organize seminars and workshops for youths to explain to them the dangers involved in illegal international migration. Most youths know only about the gains of travelling abroad; they may not be aware of the pains involved (Nwosu, et al., 2022).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The recent migration of Nigerians to the West has been driven by a myriad of factors, including economic hardship, political instability, and the pursuit of better opportunities. Nevertheless, this movement has also exposed many individuals to the risks of modern-day slavery. Migrants often find themselves in precarious situations, vulnerable to exploitation due to their undocumented status, lack of legal protections, and limited economic resources. They face various forms of abuse, including labor exploitation, debt bondage, and sexual exploitation, often exacerbated by weak regulatory oversight and systemic discrimination in host countries.

Addressing these issues requires comprehensive strategies that include strengthening legal protections for migrants, enhancing enforcement of labor laws, and providing support systems to help migrants integrate and protect their rights. International cooperation and policy reform are crucial for tackling the root causes of migration and exploitation, ensuring that the quest for a better life does not lead to modern-day slavery. By understanding and addressing the vulnerabilities faced by Nigerian migrants, there can be a more equitable and just global society.

Given the established link between recent waves of migration out of Nigeria and modern-day slavery, the study recommends that the government should prioritize economic development in Nigeria, as this will discourage people from seeking better lives abroad and inadvertently falling prey to modern-day slavery. Accordingly, political instability and corruption in the country should also be addressed. Also, security of lives and properties should be improved to reduce the occurrence of violence in Nigeria.

In addition, the government should enhance educational opportunities, by investing in vocational education and ensuring that all children have access to quality education at the cheapest cost. Furthermore, youth empowerment, improvement in agricultural practices and investment in health infrastructure are also very necessary as these are indices for development.

Moreover, the government should ensure that wages are commiserate with labor. In addition to that, infrastructure should be put in place to enhance safety of Nigerians, and safety of lives and properties of Nigerians should be prioritized. And, finally, the push factors that are responsible for the migration of Nigerians to the West should be addressed.

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