

## TRANSNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING FROM AFRICA TO EUROPE: A CASE STUDY OF CHIKA UNIGWE'S *ON BLACK SISTERS' STREET* AND AMMA DARKO'S *BEYOND THE HORIZON*

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**Abstract:** African novels, notably, Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* and Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* vividly paint how human trafficking, criminal business, shape people's lives in African countries. Both authoresses Unigwe and Darko through their victimized characters in their selected works project social realities and deepen the reader's understanding of the complexity of human trafficking in today's Africa. In this respect, this study examines the root causes and strategies of human trafficking in *On Black Sisters' Street* and *Beyond the Horizon*. In addition, the theoretical approach for implementing this research is essentially rooted in Abraham H. Maslow's human motivation theory which discusses the human hierarchy of needs in society. It deals with human being's different needs to achieve self-actualization or self-fulfilment. This article firstly discusses economic pressures, secondly, tackles family demands, and finally examines traffickers' strategies to trap people in Africa. This critical analysis contributes to raising collective awareness about hidden realities that make people vulnerable to human trafficking in contemporary African societies.

**Keywords:** human trafficking, Africa, self-actualization, vulnerable

### LA TRAITE TRANSNATIONALE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS DE L'AFRIQUE VERS L'EUROPE : UNE ETUDE DE CAS DE *ON BLACK SISTERS' STREET* DE CHIKA UNIGWE ET *BEYOND THE HORIZON* D'AMMA DARKO

**Résumé :** Les romans africains, notamment *On Black Sisters' Street* de Chika Unigwe et *Beyond the Horizon* d'Amma Darko, décrivent de manière saisissante la façon dont la traite des êtres humains, une activité criminelle, façonne la vie des gens dans les pays africains. Les deux auteures, Unigwe et Darko, à travers leurs personnages victimes dans leurs œuvres sélectionnées, projettent des réalités sociales et approfondissent la compréhension du lecteur de la complexité de la traite des êtres humains dans l'Afrique d'aujourd'hui. À cet égard, cette étude examine les causes profondes et les stratégies de la traite des êtres humains dans *On Black Sisters' Street* et *Beyond the Horizon*. En outre, l'approche théorique de la mise en œuvre de cette recherche est essentiellement ancrée dans la théorie de la motivation humaine d'Abraham H. Maslow, qui traite de la hiérarchie des besoins humains dans la société. Cet article aborde tout d'abord les pressions économiques, puis les exigences familiales, et enfin les stratégies des trafiquants pour piéger les personnes en Afrique. Cette analyse critique contribue à la prise de conscience collective des réalités cachées qui rendent les personnes vulnérables à la traite des êtres humains dans les sociétés africaines contemporaines.

**Mots-clés :** traite des êtres humains, Afrique, réalisation de soi, vulnérable

## Introduction

Human trafficking is a worldwide problem. It is a criminal action that consists in exploiting vulnerable people for economic purposes. This criminal activity represents a violation of human rights because of its dehumanizing aspect that reduces a person into a slave or property. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime shows that human trafficking refers to:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, trading, or receipt of persons within and across national borders by the use of threats, force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power, or exploitation of vulnerability or, Giving or receiving payments and benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. (United Nations, Accessed on 1 May 2024)

The convention points out that human trafficking is a well-organized illegal business. The traffickers mostly use fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce vulnerable people around the world. Today, human trafficking holds many African writers' attentions, particularly the female novelists Chika Unigwe, a Nigerian, and Amma Darko, a Ghanaian. The two authoresses strictly use their novels *On Black Sisters' Street* and *Beyond the Horizon* to paint the issue of human trafficking in their home countries and around the world. Unigwe and Darko through their selected works artistically denounce human trafficking and call for collective awareness in twenty-first-century African societies, notably, Ghana and Nigeria. Against this backdrop, this article will explore the above-selected topic. In line with the research topic, the study attempts to fill the gap regarding the complex understanding of transnational human trafficking. The big challenge is that the intersection of transnational human trafficking with immigration often leads to confusion.

In addition, the study contributes to filling the gap concerning the shortage of traversal critical analysis on women trafficking in the selected novels. Critical works do not develop a deep contrastive understanding of human trafficking in the two selected literary works. The problem under the study raises the following questions: What are the hidden root causes of human trafficking depicted in the selected works? How do the traffickers trick their targets? The two prevailing hypotheses under these research questions are as follows: Firstly, economic pressures and family demands lure people into human trafficking; secondly, traffickers use fraudulence opportunities to trap their target. The answers to these questions will be critically discussed below. The general objective of this research is to provide a strong clarification and understanding regarding transnational human trafficking. With regard to the social interest, this research raises collective awareness and calls for salvative actions against the practice of transnational women trafficking in Africa and around the world. As a structure, this study will first highlight the theoretical framework and methodology, then discuss economic pressures, tackle family demands, and finally, examine traffickers' strategies to trap people in Africa.

## 1. Theoretical framework

The theoretical approach for implementing this research is essentially rooted in Abraham H. Maslow's human motivation theory which discusses the human hierarchy of needs in society. The theory deals with human needs to achieve self-actualization or self-

fulfillment. This self-actualization can be achieved when a person meets basic needs in society. This study resorts to Maslow's approach in order to understand how the unfulfillment of needs influences some characters' lives to the point of accepting to be deported abroad. In addition, investigating the selected works through the lens of Maslow's theory contributes to understanding how self-actualization shapes people's lives in society, especially in developing countries.

## 2. Methodological framework

This study strictly uses documentary methodology. It does not use quantitative surveys. Indeed, it focuses on scholarly articles, books, and magazines. In addition, this analysis resorts to reliable websites as key resources. These documents and websites allow us to contextualize and strengthen the critical analysis. With this methodology, works are critically examined to deepen the analysis. Furthermore, the exploration of scholarly works enables us to understand the significant contribution of previous studies on the selected novels, by extension in African literature.

## 3. Economic Pressures

Economic pressure, generally, refers to economic problems one can face in society. Economic pressure implies hardship, unemployment, lack of opportunities, and rampant poverty, to name but these. In Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon*, the narrator Mara reveals that she was lured into human trafficking because of hardships in her homeland. Mara lived in a chaotic and very dilapidated house in Accra. The excerpt below describes the hunting poverty that desperately forced Mara into human trafficking:

(...), cluster of stability constructed corrugated-iron shelters that looked like chicken houses, while about and between them shallow, open gutters wound their way. In these gutters, due to the lack of any drainage system, all the water from dirty washing and bathing, and urine too, collected and stayed until it evaporated. (Darko, 1995:8)

The following analogy such as “cluster of stability constructed corrugated-iron shelters that looked like chicken houses” (Darko, 1995:8) indicates the degree of poverty in which Mara was living in Accra. The expression “like chicken houses” (Darko, 1995:8) points out Mara's alarming living conditions. It highlights Mara's house as the poorest milieu in which one should not live. The expression further connotes that Mara's house is not usable for a person but for domestic animals. It vividly caricatures how toxic it is to live in this infernal environment. Mara could not survive in that poverty that always knocked at her door and windows. The above details show that Mara's basic needs are not satisfied which therefore makes her anxious by pushing her into the traffickers' hands. In other words, Mara's motivation to fulfill her fundamental needs compels her to be illegally taken abroad. Another economic motive that contributed to Mara's deportation to Europe was the downfall of her business in Accra. Mara used to sell eggs to fulfill her basic needs of living. Mara recounts how she came up with this idea of business:

It was Mama Kiosk who suggested that I should take up looking boiled eggs to travelers at the lorry station where she had her kiosk because it was a very popular snacks with them ...I never imagined it to be such a brisk trade as it turned out to be. (Darko, 1995:18)

Regretfully, the business collapsed because Mara was in trouble with Esiana. As a consequence, she was forbidden by Esiana's husband, the drivers' boss, to run her business at the station. As the story unfolds, Mara relates that "Esiana's lover, the drivers' boss, ordered his people not to pick up any passengers who bought eggs from me" (Darko, 1995:27). This drastic restriction led the character to face an alarming economic situation. It became difficult for Mara to survive in Accra where there were no economic opportunities. Indeed, the downfall of the small business turned Mara into a vulnerable person in her environment. Mara's situation is an evocation of economic difficulties some women face in today's Ghana. Like Mara, many women get trafficked every year because of the aggravated lack of economic opportunities in Ghana. The traffickers take advantage of the rampant poverty and lack of good policies to transport vulnerable women to Europe or America. Compared to Amma Darko's *Beyond the Horizon*, Chika Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* depicts how Nigerian gloomy realities lured the female characters Sisi, Ama, and Efe into human trafficking.

Unigwe through a heterodiegetic narrator reveals that multiple economic problems inform the deportation of Sisi and her fellows abroad. The narrator points out that Sisi's trafficking stems from a crucial lack of a job after she graduated from a business school in Nigeria. Sisi dreamt of a better life and a decent job. She "was looking forward so to the realization of everything dreamed" (Unigwe, 2009:16) in her life. The storyteller recounts that Sisi "studied hard at school, mindful of her father's hopes for her; a good job once she graduated from the University of Lagos" (Unigwe, 2009:519). She was expecting a luxurious lifestyle because according to her parents "the only way to a better life is education" (Unigwe, 2009:17). Regrettably "two years after leaving school, Chisom was still mainly unemployed" (Unigwe, 2009:20) despite the multiple letters she wrote for job applications. She was never called for a job interview because the banks, "even in their obscurity, they had no place for her" (Unigwe, 2009:21). In other words, she did not even get a small job that could temporally satisfy her needs. Through Maslow's theoretical lenses, one can argue that Sisi was fighting for safety and security contrary to Mara who fought for physiological needs. Compared to Mara, Sisi had food and good shelter. Her physiological were successfully met; all that she needed was a decent job. To elucidate, Abraham H. Maslow argues that "If the physiological needs are relatively well gratified, there then emerges a new set of needs, which we may categorize roughly as the safety needs" (Maslow, 1962: 9-10). For Maslow, the fulfillment of fundamental needs such as food, shelter, and sleep open the door to safety needs. He shows that if physiological needs are satisfied they become unimportant because they do not represent a motivation. Unfortunately, Sisi's quest for safety and security misled her into human trafficking, a criminal business. Sisi's failure to fulfill her dream of becoming a banker in Lagos and financially helping her parents emphasizes the chaos in today's West African educational system. Sisi's case metaphorically depicts how some students still cope with a lack of opportunities after university studies in their home countries in Africa. The depiction of Sisi's suffering and joblessness shows that education has been good for nothing for Sisi. As highlighted, the narrator relates thus: "education has just been a waste of resources. A total waste of time and funds. And a step in the wrong

direction. It had brought her nothing but misery, smoky dreams that rose and disappeared, thoughts of what might have been.” (Unigwe, 2009:212)

The passage points out that spending time and money in school does not necessarily guarantee a good job for one. Based on the above text, the assumption according to which a university education guarantees jobs and opportunities does not match up with Sisi's experience because she ended up a jobless person in society. Actually, education did not provide Sisi with a job but misery and disappointment. In addition to Sisi's case, Unigwe's narrator reveals that the female character Efe's parents did not have money or means to provide her with life's necessities. Regarding her parents' poverty, Efe asked for money from her boyfriend Titus to take care of herself. Once Efe got the money she: “went shopping. She bought jeans. And the T-shirt. And she still had money left over. Even after she bought the shoes-blue leather with high platform heels- there was still quite a tidy bit of cash nestling in her purse.” (Unigwe, 2009:50) As the story flows, the storyteller further reveals that Efe “asked for bigger things-a suitcase;...a musical jewelry case with a magnetic lock...a radio with a cassette player with dots of light that twinkled” (Unigwe, 2009:51). In light of the passage, it is worth emphasizing that Efe was not dominated by a materialistic mindset but rather by an oppressive poor economic background that made her vulnerable to money. Actually, Efe suffered from the lack of physiological needs, notably, clothing. The lack of clothing indicates the motivation for which she asked for money. She asked for the money because she wanted to satisfy her basic needs. Unlike Efe, Ama's trafficking results from a lack of decent work. Before being transported as an item to Belgium Ama worked in Mama Eko's Buka, a restaurant. The narrator relates that Ama was economically exploited by her boss. She was not well-paid despite her hard work. Working in the restaurant was not advantageous because she could not save money. Ama wanted to run her boutique. She dreamt of becoming a businesswoman. The storyteller discloses that “Mama Eko could not give her the kind of life she dreamed of. She could never save enough from working in the Buka to set up for her own business” (Unigwe, 2009:141). This short excerpt shows that the character had a big plan. Regrettably, her dream sank due to a lack of means. As a consequence, the economic pressures made her a prey to Dele, a human trafficker in Nigeria. In other words, Dele caught her because she was in quest of safety needs to achieve self-actualization.

In comparative vista, both novels *Beyond the Horizon* and *On Black Sisters' Street* point out that economic pressures led the female characters to be trafficked to the West. The selected novels show that the root causes of their trafficking involve poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities. In addition to the economic pressures, the selected creative works also portray how family demands lured the female into human trafficking business.

#### 4. Family Demands

Family demand refers to family needs. It includes essential things a family expects to get from a person. Moreover, it consists of the pressures a family exercises on an individual. In *On Black Sister Street*, the storyteller announces that Efe, a young single mother, is lured into human trafficking because of family demands in Nigeria. As a poor background girl, Efe decided to accept Titus's, a forty-five-year-old businessman, sexual advances to survive. Unfortunately, Titus broke up with Efe when she got impregnated. Titus further denied the pregnancy. Despite Titus's lack of responsibility, Efe kept the pregnancy. The storyteller unveils that “abortion never crossed her mind” (Unigwe, 2009:54) because she was determined to save the baby. As the story flows, the narrator reveals that the baby's birth has

been the starting point of Efe's social and economic problems. She has to take care of the baby, and provide him with a good education by cleaning offices, which potentially leads her to be trafficked to Belgium. The salary for the cleaning work was not enough for Efe and her son. It was insufficient to cover the monthly expenses. So, she has to look for additional cleaning work in the city. The narrator relates that "she was sure she could juggle all three [works]. Three jobs mean more money, more bonuses, which equaled a better life for L.I. A better life for L.I. totaled better life for him" (Unigwe, 2009:67). The excerpt shows that Efe was in quest of money to offer better education to L.I. Efe's motivation for executing many jobs as a machine deeply implies her determination to create a better living environment for her child. The word choice "Three jobs mean more money" and "equaled a better life for L.I." indicates that taking care of L.I. was Efe's priority. It shows that she would like to provide a comfortable life for her child. Sadly, because of that better education, Efe intended to offer her son, Efe was blindly trapped and exported to Europe to be a sex worker. In this regard, one can say that offering a better education to L.I. kept Efe at the stage of physiological needs. actually, Titus's irresponsibility compelled Efe to fight for her son's basic needs. according to Maslow's theory one cannot achieve self-actualization without fulfilling physiological needs. though Efe could not reach this self-fulfillment without satisfying L.I.'s and her basic needs.

The portrayal of Efe's devotion to take of her son evokes women's great role in child raising and education in modern African societies. Efe's determination to do the three jobs to make enough money in order to meet her son's expectations points out how today's women, especially single mothers, stand for their children's adequate living conditions in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. The depiction brings us to understand African women's efforts in providing education for children. In Africa, women are recognized for their sense of sacrifice in helping their offspring to get a better education. Unlike in the past when men were the only individual to fund children's education, today women also stand as pillars in many families. Actually, they help their husband to take care of their children. An additional family demand in *On Black Sisters' Street* is revealed through Sisi's story. The narrator reveals that Sisi's motivation to study banking and finance stems from her willingness to change her family's inadequate living conditions by providing them with life's necessities. She had that pressure to improve her parents' lives. The narrator briefly underlines Sisi's family infernal living conditions as follows:

Images flashed in front of her like pictures from a TV show: the living room with the pap-colored walls. A shared toilet with a cistern that never contained water; anyone wishing to use the latrine had to first of all fetch a bucket of water from the tap in the middle of the compound. A kitchen that did not belong to her family alone. Her father folded, trying to be invisible. Her mother vacant yes interested in nothing. (Unigwe, 2009:40)

Through the above passage, one can notice how Sisi's parents' parents cope with life's difficulties. The following excerpts such as "the living room with the pap-colored walls" and "A shared toilet with a cistern that never contained water" (Unigwe, 2009:40) vividly describe Sisi's family's pitiful living problems. As the story flows, the storyteller further relates that Sisi's father would like to have a decent house and a car. Unfortunately, Sisi's father's dream of luxury went off with derision. Sisi, as an ambitious girl, wanted to give his father all that he had been dreaming of in his life. His dream compelled Sisi to find ways and

means to meet his needs. Indeed, it psychologically oppressed Sisi to the point of making her vulnerable to human trafficking. The narrator relates Sisi's father dream:

He worked in Ministry of Works. A civil servant, he had imagined that one day he would be able to buy a car, a secondhand Peugeot 504, but apart from a pay raise in his first year, his salary had remained static even as the prices of everything else rose. He could never afford a car...He could never buy a car. He could never buy a decent house. He could never earn enough to fulfill his dreams. (Unigwe, 2009:78)

In light of what has been quoted, Sisi's father failed to achieve his dream when he got fired. The detailed expressions such as “buy a car, a secondhand Peugeot 504” and “buy a decent house” (Unigwe, 2009:78) indicate the demands Sisi has to fulfill because her father failed to get them. The car and house remind Sisi about her responsibility to favorably respond to her father's unfulfilled aspirations. By the same token, the narrator indicates that Sisi's “mother had had her own dream of being a landlady, of owning a house in Ikoyi, a Lagos suburb she had eyed ever since she set foot in the city” (Unigwe, 2009:78). Regrettably, that dream has not been possible because of poverty. Aware of her mother's suffering, Sisi decided to help her mother as well as her father. As a consequence, Sisi's quest to satisfy her parents' needs drove her into the human trafficking business. Actually, the family demands in addition to the economic pressures led her to be trafficked to Europe as a property. As a matter of fact, Sisi and parents were not lacking food but other necessities. Though food was not a fundamental motive for Sisi. Maslow argues that “If hunger is satisfied, it becomes unimportant in the current dynamics of the individual” (Maslow, 1962:9). He further points out that a “man lives by bread alone—when there is no bread” P9. Fortunately, Sisi and her parents have bread. So Sisi looks forward to getting other opportunities to improve their living conditions.

To sum up, the selected novels, specially Unigwe's *On Black Sisters' Street* highlights how family demands badly influenced the female characters Sisi and Efe. In other words, the demands oppressed the characters and lured them into this criminal business run by Dele, their pimp. Even though *Beyond the Horizon* does not tackle the issue of family demands, it nevertheless contribute to raise awareness in society. In addition to portraying the root causes of human trafficking, the authoresses through their stories realistically paint the traffickers' trafficking techniques African metropolitan cities.

## 5. Human Trafficking Strategies

Human trafficking strategies refer to the ways or techniques traffickers utilize to trap people in order to exploit them. The selected works mirror how the protagonists have been caught by the traffickers' strategies. As an illustration, Ama Darko's *Beyond the Horizon* shows how Mara was trapped by Akobi, a pimp, in Germany. Devastated by poverty and lack of opportunities, Mara was eager to join Akobi in Europe without any pre-analysis of how her life will be there. She was so naive and blinded by hardship in Accra that she failed to critically question Akobi's offer or opportunity for Europe. Mara falls into the strategy set by Akobi to traffick her. She was thoughtless and wordless when she noticed that anything she wanted in her life was mentioned in Akobi's letter. The content of the letter is revealed as follows:

[...] I have saved plenty money for all the things I am intending to buy (he wrote on but I want to save a bit more because of the shipment costs, and at a faster rate than before. But the factory jobs here, they are so hard and so strenuous that I can do two jobs a day or plenty overtime, which is what I am planning, only if Mara can be here to keep house for me. I am entreating your help for it. Someone is visiting home. He is an agent and I know him well. He will be spending just a few weeks at home. When returns I want him to come with Mara. I have taken care of everything on this end, the contract cost and ticket. You only need to do a handful of things for Mara, like her passport and the few things she still needs for the journey. You must keep your heads high because this your son of Naka is on to great things and will not let you down. And upon the scalps of the gods I sign off here in peace.

Your own Akobi. (Darko, 1995:51)

Akobi through his letter told lies to convince Mara to join him in Germany. Akobi's fake pieces of information sounded so realistic that Mara's "mother, who had never been able to afford a portmanteau for herself, promised to sell some of her inherited beads" (Darko, 1995:51) to get Mara's passport done fast. Akobi's following words "I have saved plenty money for all the things" (Darko, 1995:51) held Mara and her parents' attention and brought them to blindly trust him. The expression "plenty money" (Darko, 1995:51) in the letter captivated and trapped them because of the poor living conditions they underwent. In addition, Akobi manipulated Mara to believe that materials such as "television, radio, fridge, carpet even car" (Darko, 1995:34) in Europe can be got easily. Though, she was convinced that "in Germany, they throw cars away" (Darko, 1995:35) like the rubbish she threw for Mama Kiosk. Akobi took advantage of the poor living conditions and the love for materialism to convince and trap Mara. He used materialistic prestige to influence Mara's consciousness. Actually, inviting Mara to Germany was Akobi's plan to enroll her in forced prostitution to make a profit. The authoress through the above details highlight how the human traffickers take advantage of universal issues such as oppressive poverty, hunger, and socio-political instability to set plans of trafficking in today's world. Indeed, the details evoke how social problems contribute to luring vulnerable people into the trafficking business towards the West. The depiction further opens the Africans' eyes, especially girls' eyes, to fake opportunities and strong strategies that are most often used by the traffickers to deport them to European spaces. Another strategy Darko tries to depict is the illegal way used by traffickers to cross borders. The journey to Europe was done illegally because Mara did not have all the papers that could allow her to legally take off to the West. Knowing that Mara lacked papers, the agent bribed the clerk to leave Mara move. Mara, the narrator, describes her agent's technique:

we passed through emigration without such trouble; the desk clerk tried to make a small palaver over some vaccination date of my agent's which had long expired but was expertly tackled with a five-pound note which my agent smartly pushed into the clerk's palm. I saw how the clerk's face lit up and shone when he noticed that the note was no local currency but hard Western currency which, when changed on the black market would feed him and his family for God knows how long. (Darko, 1995: 56-57)

The above passage points out how the traffickers use money to control the migration system. The passage "a five-pound note which my agent smartly pushed into the clerk's palm" (Darko, 1995: 56-57) depicts how the traffickers corrupt some workers to illegally cross

airports and borders. Indeed, the excerpt describes how human trafficking has a money-making profit business. Compared to Mara in *Beyond the Horizon*, the deportation of Sisi and Ama in *On Black Sisters' Street* started the day they came across Ogba Dele. As desperate girls beaten by economic pressures and lack of opportunities, Dele uses fake job offers to impress Ama, Efe, and Sisi to go abroad, to Europe. They were interested in the offer of the fake jobs because they were attracted by Europe they considered as a terrestrial paradise. The storyteller points out the characters', notably Ama's, view of Europe: "wanted to go to London. She had seen pictures of London Bridge on TV. Her other choices were Las Vegas or Monaco. She heard the names once in a song playing from the music store across the road." (Unigwe, 2009:115)

Ama's decision to leave Africa illuminates how economic issues and rampant poverty oblige some young men to see Europe as a place of salvation. Ama was fed up to see her life sinking every day in Nigeria where she had no opportunities to improve her financial situation. By the same token, Sadly, Sisi could not resist the fake proposal of the job by Dele because she wanted to rescue her family from poverty and inadequate living conditions. The formula for working was estimated to "five hundred thousand every month" (Unigwe, 2009:39). Like the female characters, many women in West Africa are trapped by traffickers' fake opportunities to work in Europe. The characters' fates in the story compel the reader to understand how family demands and morose economic situations contribute to exposing many hopeless girls to human traffickers in Africa and around the world.

## Conclusion

The analysis through the lens of Maslow's theory has shown significant results. The response to the first research question has demonstrated that the major causes of human trafficking are related to economic problems and family demands. The analysis reveals that African people, particularly women, are lured into prostitution because they failed to make their dreams come true in their home countries. As highlighted before, Sisi and Ama are lured into human trafficking because they failed to reach their financial independence due to the lack of opportunities in Nigeria. The study also points out that Mara became a victim of transnational prostitution because of aggravating poverty in Ghana. Regarding the response to the second research question, the analysis demonstrates that the traffickers use the technique of fraudulent opportunities as bait to catch their victims oppressed by poor living conditions. The study reveals that the traffickers take advantage of rampant poverty and lack of solid opportunities. Furthermore, this work implies significant social and political interests. This study stands as a call to action against women trafficking in Africa and around the world. It strongly contributes to understanding how human trafficking affects contemporary African societies to the point of causing the pitfall of human dignity. In addition, the study advocates for good policies and strong laws to protect women in society. It calls for good leadership to promote women's rights while fighting the dehumanization of women in Africa and around the world.

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