

The nurses roles in the prevention of human trafficking

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at the Annual General Meeting and Celebration of Silver Jubilee
of the West African College of Nursing (WACN)
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Greetings!

I am highly delighted to be given this opportunity to present a paper on this occasion of Annual General Meeting of one of the most prestigious Colleges among the members of World Health Assembly (West African College of Nursing). The topic Trafficking in human, the nurses role is not only relevant but timely in our present day economic, social and political crisis that has afflicted most of the developing nations, these crisis make the atmosphere more conducive for modern day slavery to flourish.

Introduction

Trafficking in human as defined by United Nations Trafficking protocol states that women, men and children are trafficked within and across national borders and exploited in all manner of ways. These activities are illegal. It is a violation of numerous international laws and human right protocol as the victims are tricked into the transaction. The traffickers are criminals who are members of a well organized network. They transport victims within their own countries and most often, across international borders. The victims are stripped of their basic freedoms, sold as chattel, and forced to work as sex slaves or other labourers. The victims are subjected to routine rape, torture and brutality. This criminal act is no respecter of any country as no country is immuned from the menace.

Magnitude of the problem

Human trafficking is the third most profitable criminal activity following drugs and arms trafficking, an estimated annual revenue generated from all these trafficking activities is \$9.5 billion with at least \$4 billion generated from trafficking in humans worldwide (ibd). Each year it was estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders (US Dept. of State Traffickers). Of the 600,000 to 800,000 traffickers, 70% are females, 50% are children. Majority of the victims are forced into sex trade (ibd)

The statistic may even be more than the above but due to the hidden nature of the trafficking activities and the complicity of the network accurate data is not feasible.

In the West African sub region, the case is even worse due to the problem of armed conflict, political instability, economic hardship, corrupt governments, criminal elements and social disruption. The contemporary slave trade feeds a global demand for cheap and vulnerable labour. In addition to the horrified abuses suffered by victims, the profits from trafficking increase organized crime in and between countries, foster government corruption, and undermine the rule of law.

Who are the victims at risk?

Men, women and children can be victims of trafficking. However, the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls within the ages of 16 - 24 probably due to the assumption that these groups are suited for domestic labour. Girls as young as five years are sold in to sexual slavery, boys as young as 11 years are strong-armed in the militia to serve as child soldiers or to perform forced labour.

Identification of trafficking in person

Trafficking exist in almost All African sub region men, women and children can be victims. The most common forms of trafficking as it exists are as follows especially in Sierra Leone:

- Children trafficked to work in mines, Agricultural and manufacturing industries for the purpose of cheap labour e.g. Kenema, Kono, Kamakwie and Freetown.
- Children trafficked for domestic servitude mainly from towns and villages to the cities - Freetown, Kenema, Kamakwie and Waterloo.
- Women trafficked into prostitution in big towns and cities - Freetown wharfs, Kambia, Kono, Lumpa, Lungi and Waterloo and
- Men, women and children trafficked for their body parts for use in traditional / religious rituals.

In addition, victims of trafficking include persons who are

advice the family on alternate means of economic opportunities as against given out children for mining, labour and sex-slaves, and probably refer the victim to the psychologist or social workers for crises intervention as a long-term measure.

Advocate

For young girls and women jobs, so that they can provide for their families by soliciting for financial assistant, good shelter and security.

Collaboration

The nurse in collaboration with other agencies to organize major public awareness campaign

- * Rehabilitation and work training centre for victims
- * Special housing shelters for victim
- * Enforcement training and legal reform assistance
- * Information and awareness campaign
- * Voluntary repatriation for displaced victims
- * Training for immigration officials, nursing, medical and social workers.
- * Combating sex tourism
- * Reissuing victims from slavery - like situation.

Lobby government

The government of each country must be lobbied in the following areas.

- There is crucial need for increased rescues of trafficking victims and prosecution of trafficked people freed from slavery must be treated as victims of crime, not criminals.
- The demand for modern-day slaves must be stopped.
- Empower women economically
- Ban on child labour and trafficking
- Institute strict legal action against traffickers
- Protection of the victim legal from further threat and abuse.

Emphasise action on prosecution, protection, repatriation

reintegration, rescue and raid sex industries, supply and demands trafficking for sexual exploitation and violence against women.

In conclusion, no single approach nor discipline can successfully combat the trafficking of person, it is the responsibility of the public to provide useful information about the presumed victim and the traffickers, the non governmental organizations, professional bodies and association such as Nurses Association and West African College of Nursing has a greater role to play in this direction.

Thank you for listening and God bless.

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forced to fight in the war; persons forced to support fighters, such as porters, cooks and spies, and women and girls forced to 'marry' fighters or otherwise kept in sexual slavery.

The impact of the trafficking on the victims

Human trafficking is a multidimensional threat; it deprives people of their human right and freedom, it is a global health risk, and it fuels the growth of organized crime in our societies.

Human trafficking has devastating impact on individual victim, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death.

Our roles as nurses in the prevention and control of trafficking in human

Human trafficking is a multidimensional threat to individual, family and the community and it undermines safety and security of all nations. Measure to combat human trafficking will therefore require multi disciplinary approach. Nurses in all fields of practice have responsibility of preventing and controlling this threat. Basically law enforcement agent are the main body responsibly for identifying the presumed trafficked person, however, we work in collaboration with other professionals and agencies.

Our huge population, and widely spread areas of specialization/practice in the health industry and the hours spent with our clients during management put us in a vantage position to be involved in the prevention and control of trafficking in human. The first step in the prevention of trafficking in human as nurses is to identify who the presumed trafficked persons are and family vulnerable to trafficking. This can be made possible by conducting a family assessment using interviewing observational and other culturally appropriate assessment tools. Relevant informations shall be collected as well, history taking, physical, and nursing assessment of individuals, families and the community as a whole. The following health determinant factors shall be bore in mind as we consider the social economic status of the individual and family, political structure, culture/belief system, physical and biological environment and community resources and networks. The Nurses working in the Community setting provide family nursing that involves a continuation of care across the life span. They deal with health problem, disease prevention, care, cure and rehabilitation services. This continuation of care represents the nursing capacity to prevent and con-

trol the trafficking among the families and improve their health status.

Promotion of health

In order to support the vulnerable families in health promotion, nurses should use the step of the nursing process: Assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation.

During assessment the nurse examine family processes such as interaction, development, coping, and functioning, with a view to identifying family strengths and weakness as well as stressors and barriers of health through the assessment by the nurse as she identifies areas of nursing interventions.

Areas where nurses can support individual and families in their health promoting activities to combat trafficking in person - include:

An outreach work - field work or street work, often for the purpose of providing health education to persons active in the sex industry. The nurse will lay more emphasis on the dangers of prostitution, HIV/AIDS and STI infections, respective and empathetic approach by combine worker, combine effort of nurses and social workers in providing basic information on health promotion and support structures can build trust between the target groups and professionals. This can empower a presumed trafficked person to enter the support structure.

Use of electronic media in the campaign against trafficking in human is a powerful medium through which nurses can raise the level of awareness on the dangers of involving in trafficking in human crime network.

Manager and coordinator

The nurse organize and coordinate community programmes through community involvement and participation in fighting against modern day slavery, this can be done on collaboration with the community leaders, teachers, women organizations, religious leaders, youth groups, and the elite in various communities in which the nurse work. This is aimed at discussing the impact of the crime on the victim and the society at large, and together with these groups the nurse workout strategies to combat the perpetration of this great violation of human right.

Councillor

The nurse play a therapeutic role in helping the vulnerable group to cope with problems and to identify resources and