

# A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN POVERTY RELATED CRIMES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VIOLENT CRIMES, DRUG TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

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## **Abstract**

*Crimes committed by women are increasing in Nigeria especially in the areas of violence, drug and human trafficking as the country's poverty level is growing. It becomes therefore necessary to investigate this phenomenon to contribute to knowledge that will help to bring an end to this growing trend in women's criminality. The study used primary data drawn from a cross-sectional survey of 450 randomly sampled participants from six states of Nigeria which consisted of women between the ages of 18-65 years. Questionnaires were administered to these participants and their responses were analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Results of the analysis revealed that whereas poverty significantly influences women violent and drug trafficking activities, it has no significant influence on their participation in human trafficking. As a result, this paper concludes that no doubt, poverty is a contributory factor to women increasing criminality in violent crimes and drug trafficking. Hence it is strongly recommended among others that the Nigerian government should actualize free education, free medical treatment, school children feeding scheme and low-cost housing scheme in particular, for women single-parent families in its 36 states.*

**Keywords:** Sociological, women, poverty, crime, violent crime, drug trafficking, Human trafficking.

## **I. Introduction**

Before now, women were either seen not to commit a crime (Stanojoska & Jurtoski, 2018, p. 1) or seen to be committing crimes of a misdemeanour and fewer crimes than men. Therefore, women crimes were not considered as serious problems which should be researched. (Ameh, 2013; Hussein, 2018). Contrary to these past experiences, however, recent years have witnessed an increase in women criminal activities. Investigators

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have provided evidence in support of this position. For example, Companiello (2014) reveals that “women have been increasingly involved in the labour market and the crime market in the past fifty years in almost all the countries of the globe with the rate of their involvement almost converging towards that of men” (Companiello, 2018, p.1). She further reveals that the proportion of women arrested for violent crimes since 1980 has increased to 96%. Still on violent crimes, according to Archer (2000), research suggests that women are more likely to commit domestic violence against a partner but men tend to inflict the greater share of injury.

Similarly, Nigeria has been experiencing an unusual increase in the rate of crime and sophistication in crime committal by both men and women (Chukwuezi, 2009). This observation is substantiated by Igbinovia(2003) who argued that crime thrives in Nigeria and described the Nigerian society as a “criminogenic society” (Igbinovia 2003, p.33). Likewise, other studies (Ameh, 2013; Adekoye & Adebisi, 2016 & Ukwaiyi, Okpa & Akwaji, 2019) and mass media reports have shown that women in Nigeria have moved from committing the less serious crimes such as petty theft and prostitution to more serious crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, partner violence (violence against husbands or dating partners), human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism. These reports emphasis that poor conditions and poverty are among the major factors responsible for the new trend.

This position and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2019 report on poverty and inequality in Nigeria stimulated the study. The NBS report highlights that 40% of Nigeria's total population of almost 83million people live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 nairas (\$381.75) per year (World Bank Brief, 2020). The assumed implication of this information along with the research reports on poor conditions of poverty and women crime is that women in Nigeria are increasingly leaving their homes in search of reliable illegitimate economic options. This progression is alarming and there is a need to arrest its trend particularly, considering the unique role of women in raising future generations and leaders. As a result, this paper attempts an explanation and empirical analysis of the heinous violent crimes, drug trafficking and human trafficking women commit with the intent of providing necessary, useful and feasible recommendations.

## **II. Review of Literature**

### **2.1 Poverty**

According to the World Bank report (1990), the term poverty refers to the failure to obtain the minimum standard of living which is measured about welfare. This definition classifies households who fall below the minimum standard of living as poor. A more inclusive definition views poverty in terms of unemployment, low earnings, vulnerability to disease, gender and other social disadvantages (Glewne & Gaag, 1990). This definition tends to locate poverty in feminism and may explain the escalating rates of women trafficking and violent crimes. Coomaraswamy(2006) had argued that poverty is feminized when society has failed to make available to women good opportunities to work as it does for men. It has also been observed, that when the necessities of life such as food, shelter, education mention a few, are not within the reach of women, they are considered to be poor.(Kuper & Kuper; 1996; Holborn & Holborn, 2008).

## **2.2 Crime and Violent Crimes**

A crime is any act or behaviour labelled as an offence by the constitution of any society or government and which is punishable by law (Henslin, 2008). Crime also means any action is taken or omission to act, which the law forbids for which the offender is punished. A further conceptualization of crime about women by Meixiang (2016, p.2) refers to female criminality as the international violation of criminal law by a female offender. Regarding violent crime, it is an act that involves physical suffering and the possibility of death (Adler, Mueller & Laufer, 1996). Examples include stealing or taking by force or violence or threat of it and aggravated assault such as beating and acid cases.

## **2.3 Trafficking Crimes**

The International Organisation on Migration (2000) generally relates trafficking to those activities that involve the transportation of trading or transaction of persons, drugs, arms and ammunitions, locally or internationally for economic or personal gains. A related but more specific definition directed on human trafficking highlights human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons through threat or abduction, fraud, deception, coercion or the abuse of power, for exploitation (United Nations Treaty Series, 2000). On the other hand, drug trafficking as explained by Justia (2018) and Findlaw (2020) and which they described as a distribution of drugs, involves the importation and trade in illegal drugs that include heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

# **III. Empirical Findings**

## **3.1 Poverty and women Crime in Nigeria**

Studies have continued to reveal the recent new trend of female increasing participation as well as their leadership roles in the crime. Adekeye and Adebisi (2016), reports that it was revealed that the rate of crime committed by male and female in Nigeria in 2014 was 338 (42%) and 73 (54%). Among the various reasons preferred for the change in the increasing rate and the pattern of female criminality, are the advent of the oil boom in Nigeria, industrialization, modernization, globalization, employment opportunities and poverty. Thus increasing female criminality in Nigeria can generally be attributed to social and economic changes.

In collaboration with the above assertion, Ozo-Eson (2004) argues that such social change processes have made it difficult to limit the ambition of women and by implication in both the labour and crime markets. Further still, Otite and Ogionwo (2006) have stressed that relatively poor conditions of unemployment or unemployed divorces and deserted single mothers motivate them into human trafficking and violent crimes.

## **3.2. Women Violent Crimes in Nigeria**

Previously, women were not known to be violent. Rather, they were viewed as gentle and weaker sex in comparison to men. However, the reverse is the case in recent times as the 21st century witnessed a growing increase in the violent criminal activities of women (Acher, 2000; Chan, 2011; Ebie, 2011; Adekeye et al 2016). Ameh (2013) reveals some pattern of female crimes for the period of 2007 to 2009 as shown in table 1 below:

**TABLE 1: PATTERN OF FEMALE CRIMES FOR THE PERIOD OF 2007 TO 2009**

Offence	2009	2007
Arson	170	5
Murder	505	263
Stealing	1,209	3, 156
Robbery	340	251
Armed robbery	341	206
Indian Hemp Offence	268	74
Unlawful Possession of arms	174	7

*Extract from Ameh, 2013, p.82 (source: Nigerian Police, 2007-2009)*

The table above shows that there is a shift in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by women, from the crime of stealing to the violent crimes of arson, murder, robbery and armed robbery with noticeable increases. Also, mass media reports capture this shift. An example is a report by the Guardian Newspaper Nigeria of August 2nd, 2007, under the headline, “when a lady’s robbery escapade goes awry.” The paper reported that a gang of four armed robbers in Nigeria included a lady named Judith Open, a native of Ndoni village in Nigeria. Unfortunately, they were arrested on a bus and according to the report, Judith who said she was a divorcee with a female child to care for, had two locally made pistols in her sandals. Again, the African Independent Television Nigeria 8 O’clock news on September 10th, 2007, reported that the Nigerian police in Enugu in Nigeria, arrested some armed robbers, two men and one woman, who attempted to rob the First New Generation Bank, Nsukka branch in Nigeria. Thus making it obvious that some women in Nigeria are involved in robbery for economic and financial gains.

Based on the aforesaid, this study sets out to ascertain the nexus connecting poverty and violent crimes among women in Nigeria. Thus, we hypothesize that:

*H<sub>01</sub>: There is no relationship between poverty and women increasing involvement in violent crimes.*

### **3.3. Women in Drug Trafficking in Nigeria.**

Nigerian women have not been left out of the drug trafficking business. According to Osiki (2010), the Punch Newspaper of November 10th, 2003, reported that thirteen drug suspects were arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja Lagos. The report also revealed that there were eight women among the arrested suspects. She posits that the role of women as couriers in the illicit drug trafficking business cannot be underestimated and points to poverty and greed as the factors responsible for their participation.

Ukwayi, Okpa and Akwaji (2019), disclose that drug trafficking activities of women in Nigeria are as a result of strain from the absence of social and economic prospects and point to the desire to make money as one of the major disposing factors. According to Ukwaji et al, the women hide the drugs for transportation in various ways. These include concealing drugs in private parts such as anus, weavon, brazier, the lining of clothes, belts, handbags, jewellery, make-up boxes and ingestion.

Still on a mass media report, Premium Times, Nigeria, on May 6th 2017, reported that two women attempting to export narcotic drugs to New York, United States and Medina Saudi Arabia, were arrested. It disclosed that the suspects injected 108 wraps of substances that tested positive for heroin and cocaine during the outward screening of passengers at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos. Premium Times further reported that the suspects blamed their involvement in drug trafficking on financial hardship. The Newspaper, also, informed that the Anti-narcotic Agency in Nigeria disclosed that this was the first time a 60-year-old woman would inject 83 wraps of narcotics (Premium Times Nigeria, May 2017). Relevant to note at this point are Igbinovia (2013) which observed that "Nigerians take to crime because crime pays and when it pays it is produced and reproduced "(Igbinovia,2013, p32) and Okpalakunne (2006, p.16) cited in Osiki (2010) which posited that women criminal activities "constitute a rational response to poverty and economic insecurity". There is no doubt that Nigerian women are no longer outside the radar of drug trafficking and the factors responsible for this need to be effectively addressed.

From the above report, this study examines how poverty influences women involvement in the crime of drug trafficking in Nigeria. Thus, we hypothesize that:

*H<sub>02</sub>: There is no relationship between poverty and women increasing involvement in drug trafficking*

### **3.4 Women Human Trafficking in Nigeria.**

Over the years, research has concentrated on women as human trafficking victims and not as traffickers. Therefore existing literature on such seems skimpy. Nevertheless, investigators have stressed that women in Nigeria were involved in the human and drug trafficking activities that began since the 1980s (Otite & Ogionwo, 2006; Osiki, 2010). Several reasons have been given for such involvement. Osiki (2010) points to the imbalance in economic and social structures and institutions in Nigeria as the factors responsible. In the same direction, Coomaraswamy, (2002) argues that poor conditions of women account for their trafficking activities and identifies some forms of such trafficking as, bonded placement of children as reimbursement for a debt that they owe and trafficking children for domestic work and payment in return.

Relatedly, Otite and Ogionwo (2006) report that "women in Nigeria especially deserted single mothers is prone to prostitution and household trafficking which involves movement across Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Gabon, Italy and other countries" (Ogionwo et al, 2006, p.298). They add that the women do this by enticing unsuspecting young girls from Nigeria to Europe through Italy, and described the women trafficking activities as "sources and sustainers of prostitution" (Ogionwo et al, 2006, p. 298).

Based on the aforesaid, this study sets out to ascertain the nexus connecting poverty and women increasing involvement in human trafficking in Nigeria. Thus, we hypothesize that:

*H<sub>03</sub>: There is no relationship between poverty and women increasing involvement in human trafficking.*

#### **IV. Theoretical Framework**

The theory of rational choice is used to exposit this study in search of a better explanation of women criminality. It is derived in part from neoclassical economics. Though somewhat related to Carlen's control theory in the explanation of her exposition on what she calls the "class deal" (Carlen, 1988, cited in Haralambos et al, p.372) and which according to her offers rewards such as material goods for respectable working-class women who work dutifully for a wage, the rational choice theory focuses on the actors. Carlen stressed that when such rewards are unavailable, or women are not convinced that the "rewards are real or worth sacrifices, the deal breaks down and may result in criminality" (Carden 1988, cited in Haralambos et al, p. 372). Therefore, she concluded that women criminality was the consequence of being brought up in care or being poor.

However, in the "skeletal model of rational choice theory (Friedman & Hechter, 1988), actors are seen as being purposive or as having intentionality" (Ritzer, 2011, p. 413). In other words, actors are motivated by ends and goals toward which their actions are aimed and are seen to have preferences. Women in Nigeria, in recent times, as highlighted in the review of literature above, are experiencing poor conditions of poverty and therefore intentionally choose to participate in armed robbery, and trafficking in drugs and humans because of the viable economic and financial gains and in the hope of attaining status and limited gender class or position. Also within the rational choice approach, women offenders are seen as actors who are trying to maximize their benefits based on opportunity. Hence this position also has a connect to opportunity theory (Simon, 1975) which posits that access to and opportunity for entry into illegitimate opportunity structures is responsible for criminality.

#### **V. Method and Materials**

##### **5.1. Study Design, Sample and Test of Reliability**

This study relied on primary data drawn from a cross-sectional survey of 450 randomly sampled participants consisting of women between the ages of 18-65 years. A 20-item self-structured 4-point Likert scale questionnaire was administered to the study participants that were drawn from 6 different states of Nigeria as shown in Table 2. The instrument of research was content validated and pre-tested using Cronbach Alpha test technique to establish its level of reliability. The reliability test was conducted using 45 questionnaires administered in two (2) states not included in the 6 sampled states. The 45 responses from the respondents were subjected to the Cronbach's Alpha reliability test.

**Table 2: Questionnaire Administration and Retrieval across Sampled States**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED</b>	<b>QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
<b>1</b>	Benue	75	57	76

<b>2</b>	Borno	75	59	79
<b>3</b>	Kano	75	64	85
<b>5</b>	Anambra	75	70	93
<b>6</b>	Delta	75	73	97
<b>11</b>	Lagos	75	72	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>87.7</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2020**

## 5.2 Method of Data Analysis and Model Specification

This study employs the descriptive and inferential statistical techniques for analysis. Hypotheses were tested using the regression analysis technique based on the constructs of a stochastic model expressed theoretically as:

$$Y = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \mu \quad \text{Eq.1}$$

**Where;**

$Y$  = Outcome Variable

$X_1, \dots, X_n$  = Explanatory Variable(s)

$\alpha_0$  = Constant

$\beta_1 \dots \beta_n$  = Parameters to be estimated

$\mu$  = Error term

Based on the above, the composite model of this study is specified thus:

$$VCRIME = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 WPOV + \mu \quad \text{Eq.2}$$

$$DRUTRAF = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 WPOV + \mu \quad \text{Eq.3}$$

$$HUMTRAF = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 WPOV + \mu \quad \text{Eq.4}$$

## 5.3 Variable Description

Table 3 presents a description of variables specified in equation 2.

**Table 3: Description of Variables**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>WPOV</b>	Women Poverty
<b>VCRIME</b>	Violent Crime among women
<b>DRUGTRAF</b>	Drug trafficking among women
<b>HUMTRAF</b>	Human trafficking among women
$\beta_1, \dots, \beta_3$	Regression parameters

**Source: Author Compilation (2020)**

#### **5.4. Reliability Testing**

**Table 4: Results for Reliability Test**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Items in Scale</b>	<b>Alpha Value</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Women Poverty	5	0.8354	Reliable
Violent Crime among women	5	0.8722	Reliable
Drug trafficking among women	5	0.8625	Reliable
Human trafficking among women	5	0.8673	Reliable
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.8594</b>	<b>Reliable</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2020**

Table 4 results present the Alpha values that ranged from approximately 0.8354 (See Women poverty) to 0.8722 (see Violent crime among women) for the different sections of the instrument. The overall reliability coefficient value (all items/sections) is 0.8594. On this note, the study's research instrument is adjudged as reliable since the different coefficients obtained are more than the minimum threshold of 0.50 (Gay & Airasian, 2003).

## **VI. Results and Discussion**

The responses from 450 respondents were subjected to descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation and linear regression inferential statistical analysis. The results are presented in the sections following.



## 6.1 Descriptive Analysis of the extent Women Poverty affects women committing Violent Crimes, Drug Trafficking and Human Trafficking

**Table 5: Women poverty-related Crimes**

Variable(s)	Obs	Mean	Std.Dev.	Remarks
Violent Crime among women	450	2.61	.34	High Extent
Drug trafficking among women	450	2.52	.47	High Extent
Human trafficking among women	450	2.77	.40	High Extent

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2020

*Criterion Mean = 2.50*

Table 5 presentations summarize the responses of the respondents on the extent women poverty affect crime committed among women. Three (3) forms of crimes frequently committed by women were surveyed. As shown in the result, the respondents perceive that women poverty i.e. the poor state of women affect to a high extent their involvement in violent crime ( $2.61 \pm .34$ ), drug trafficking ( $2.52 \pm .47$ ) and human trafficking ( $2.77 \pm .40$ ). This result is an indication that the participants in this study are in support of prior studies results revealing that poverty is a critical factor to why crime is committed. But how significant is women poverty influencing women increasing involvement in violent crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking? The tested hypotheses provided answers to this question.

## 6.2 Test of Hypotheses

### Hypothesis One

$H_{01}$ : *There is no relationship between women poverty and women increasing involvement in violent crimes.*

### Model one

$$VCRIME = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 WPOV + \mu$$

**Table 6: Result of Linear Regression Analysis on women poverty explaining women increasing involvement in violent crime**

Model	Coefficient	SE	T	P-value
<i>All Participants</i>				
<i>Intercept</i>	2.844	.087	32.565	.000
Women poverty	-.113	.042	-2.701	.007
<i>SEE=.33891 ,R<sup>2</sup>=0.016</i>		<i>F=7.293 (0.007)</i>		

*Dependent Variable: Violent crime among women Source: \*Significant at 1%; \*\*Significant at 5%*

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2020

Table 6 shows the linear regression test of hypothesis one, as presented in model one. The test shows an Adjusted R-Squared value score of 0.016, an indication that about 2% of the significant change in women involvement in violent crime is explained by the changing rate of women poverty. The unexplained part of the dependent variable can be attributed to exclusion of very important independent that can explain the dependent variable but are outside the scope of this study. The F-statistic score of {F (1,448)7.293, 0.007} indicate the formulated regression model is statistically significant at 5% level.

Further analysis of the model result shows that the coefficient of determination of the effect women poverty (WPOV) (OLS {450}-0.113, p=0.007) appears to have a negative and significant influence on women involvement in violent crime (VCRIME) at 5% level. This, therefore, means the Null hypothesis is rejected as stated.

As observed, the results relating to the test of hypothesis 1 ( $H_{01}$ ) revealed that on the influence of women poverty (WPOV) on women increasing involvement in violent crime (VCRIME), participants strongly believe that women poverty has a significant influence on their involvement in violent crime in Nigeria. This result is as expected in the literature (see Chan, 2011; Ebie, 2011; Acher, 2000). Ameh, (2013) agrees with this study's findings that there is increasing involvement of women in violent crimes like arson, murder, robbery and armed robbery that promote economic and financial gains.

### Hypothesis Two

$H_{02}$ : There is no relationship between poverty and women increasing involvement in drug trafficking

### Model two

$$DRUTRAF = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 WPOV + \mu$$

**Table 7: Result of Linear Regression Analysis on women poverty explaining women increasing involvement in drug trafficking**

Model	Coefficient	SE	T	P-value
<i>All Participants</i>				
<i>Intercept</i>	1.703	.113	15.007	.000
Women poverty	.395	.054	7.295	.000
<i>SEE=.44047 ,R<sup>2</sup>=0.106</i>		<i>F=53.221 (0.000)</i>		

**Dependent Variable: drug trafficking among women Source:** \*Significant at 1%; \*\*Significant at 5%

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2020

Table 7 shows the linear regression test of hypothesis two. The result shows an Adjusted R-Squared value score of 0.106, an indication that about 11% of the significant changes in women involvement in drug trafficking is explained by the changing rate of women poverty. The unexplained part of the dependent variable can be attributed to exclusion of very important independent that can explain the dependent variable but are outside the scope of this study. The F-statistic score of {F (1,448)53.221; p=0.000} indicate the formulated regression model is statistically significant at 5% level.

Further analysis of the model result shows that the coefficient of determination of the effect women poverty (WPOV) (OLS {450}0.395, p=0.000) appears to have a significant influence on women involvement in drug trafficking (DRUGTRAF) at 5% level. This, therefore, means the Null hypothesis is rejected as stated.

As observed, the results from the test of hypothesis 2 ( $H_{02}$ ) revealed that on the influence of women poverty (WPOV) on women increasing involvement in drug trafficking (DRUGTRAF), participants strongly perceive that women poverty has a significant influence on their involvement in drug trafficking in Nigeria. This result supports earlier findings in prior studies (Meixiang, 2016; Justia, 2018; Findlaw, 2020) which reiterated that the economic factors of women inability to meet their basic needs pushes them into illicit drug use and trafficking in Nigeria and Africa generally. They also asserted that the economic deprivation of women make them sell illicit drugs like heroin, cocaine, marijuana and others (Justia, 2018; Findlaw, 2020). Osiki (2010) also asserted that of the thirteen drugs traffickers caught in 2003 by NDLEA, eight of them were women. Justifying this study and the earlier positions of Osiki (2010), Justia (2018) and Findlaw (2020), Ukwayi, Okpa and Akwaji (2019), disclose that drug trafficking activities of women in Nigeria are as a result of "insufficient socio-economic prospects of success which creates a strong sense of strain on individuals" and points to the desire to make money as one of the major disposing factors. Ukwaji et al (2019) pointed out how women devise means of transporting hidden drugs Which includes concealment in privates parts such as anus, weavon, brazier, the lining of clothes, belts, handbags, jewellery, make-up boxes and injection.

### Hypothesis Three

$H_{03}$ : There is no relationship between poverty and women increasing involvement in human trafficking.

### Model three

$$\text{HUMTRAF} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 \text{WPOV} + \mu$$

**Table 8: Result of Linear Regression Analysis on women poverty explaining women increasing involvement in human trafficking**

Model	Coefficient	SE	T	P-value
<i>All Participants</i>				
<i>Intercept</i>	2.666	.102	26.081	.000

Women poverty .053 .049 1.081 .280

$SEE=.39663$  ,  $R^2=0.003$   $F=1.169$  (0.280)

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**Dependent Variable: human trafficking among women; Source:** \*Significant at 1%; \*\*Significant at 5%

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2020

Table 8 shows the linear regression test of hypothesis three. The result shows an Adjusted R-Squared value score of 0.003, an indication that less than 1% of the significant changes in women involvement in human trafficking is explained by the changing rate of women poverty. The unexplained part of the dependent variable can be attributed to exclusion of very important independent that can explain the dependent variable but are outside the scope of this study. The F-statistic score of {F (1,448)1.169; p=0.280} indicate the formulated regression model is statistically not significant at 5% level.

Further analysis of the model result shows that the coefficient of determination of the effect women poverty (WPOV) (OLS {450}.053, p=0.280) appears not to have a significant influence on women involved in human trafficking (HUMTRAF) at 5% level. This, therefore, means the Null hypothesis is not rejected as stated.

As observed, the results from the test of hypothesis 3 ( $H_{O3}$ ) revealed that on the influence of women poverty (WPOV) on women increasing involvement in human trafficking (HUMTRAF), participants strongly believe that women poverty do not have a significant influence on their involvement in human trafficking in Nigeria. Contrary to the finding of this study, Coomaraswamy, (2002) did not support that woman poverty do not contribute to the increasing involvement of women in human trafficking. Rather he argues that poor conditions of women account for their trafficking activities and identifies some forms of such trafficking as, bonded placement of children as reimbursement for a debt that they owe and trafficking children for domestic work and payment in return (Coomaraswamy, 2002). Supporting the Coomaraswamy (2002) finding are that of Otite and Ogionwo (2006) and Osiki (2010). In essence, the fact that the poor state of women affects to a high extent their involvement in human trafficking does not significantly imply that women involved in human trafficking are driven by poverty. Other factors outside the scope of this study could be responsible.

## VII. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results of this study, the paper concludes that there is no doubt that women increasing involvement in violent crimes and trafficking in Nigeria is driven by poverty. Thus, increasing the rate of poverty in the country implies that women violent and drug trafficking activities will continue to increase. However, their participation in human trafficking may not necessarily be as a result of poverty.

The paper therefore strongly recommends as follows:

- The Nigerian government at its various tiers of government should put in every serious and significant effort that will greatly enhance poverty alleviation. Provisions such as free education, free

medical/health treatments and accessories should be actualised in all the 36 states of Nigeria especially at grassroots levels and should not be seen as mere promises. There is an urgent need for more good results in these areas.

- Low-cost houses should also be provided for families; women single-parent families in particular.
- The school children feeding scheme initiated by the present president Muhammadu Buhari's government is applaudable, but it must be spread across all regions of Nigeria to achieve some effective relief for the totality of Nigerian women.
- Concerning human trafficking, there is an urgent need for further empirical studies on why Nigerian women are increasingly involved.

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