



FROM DESIRE TO DEPARTURE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC ROOTS OF SEX TOURISM AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN LAGOS

Nathaniel I. Omotoba¹, Gloria O. Anetor² & Victoria U. Okama³

^{1,3} Department of Tourism Studies,
National Open University of Nigeria

² Centre of Excellence in Migration and Global Studies
National Open University of Nigeria

Corresponding Email: nomotoba@noun.edu.ng

Abstract

This study investigates the socio-economic, psychological, and social factors influencing young women's engagement in migrant sex work in Lagos, Nigeria. The study, based on survey data from rehabilitation centres, identifies critical drivers such as self-esteem, mindset, peer and parental pressures, and economic factors like low income and unemployment. The results from multiple regression analysis reveal significant predictors: economic factors (get-rich syndrome, low income, and unemployment) account for 13% of the variance in engagement in migrated sex work ($R^2 = 0.13$, $F(3,447) = 22.27$, $p < 0.001$), with low income ($\beta = 0.57$, $t = 8.06$, $p < 0.01$) emerging as the strongest determinant. Psychological factors, particularly mindset, show a 9% variance explanation ($R^2 = 0.09$, $F(3,447) = 16.33$, $p < 0.001$), with mindset being a significant predictor ($\beta = 0.28$, $t = 5.40$, $p < 0.001$). Social factors, including parental pressure ($\beta = 0.31$, $t = 5.11$, $p < 0.001$) and attitude toward luxury ($\beta = 0.16$, $t = 3.33$, $p < 0.01$), contribute 7% to the variance ($R^2 = 0.07$, $F(3,447) = 11.57$, $p < 0.001$). The study highlights the role of socio-economic vulnerabilities, particularly low income and unemployment, as pivotal in driving young women towards sex tourism. The findings emphasise the need for targeted interventions, such as

economic empowerment, education, and awareness campaigns, to reduce migration for sex work and promote safer migration alternatives.

Keywords: Irregular Migration, Lagos, Sex Tourism, Socio-economic

DU DÉSIR AU DÉPART : RACINES SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES DU TOURISMESEXUEL ET DE LA MIGRATION IRRÉGULIÈRE À LAGOS

Résumé

Cette étude examine les facteurs socio-économiques, psychologiques et sociaux qui influencent l'implication des jeunes femmes dans le travail sexuel en contexte migratoire à Lagos, au Nigéria. Basée sur des données d'enquête recueillies dans des centres de réhabilitation, l'étude identifie des déterminants critiques tels que l'estime de soi, l'état d'esprit, la pression des pairs et des parents, ainsi que des facteurs économiques comme les faibles revenus et le chômage. Les résultats de l'analyse de régression multiple révèlent que les facteurs économiques (syndrome de l'enrichissement rapide, faibles revenus et chômage) expliquent 13 % de la variance dans l'implication dans le travail sexuel migratoire ($R^2 = 0,13$, $F(3,447) = 22,27$, $p < 0,001$), le faible revenu étant le déterminant le plus fort ($\beta = 0,57$, $t = 8,06$, $p < 0,01$). Les facteurs psychologiques, notamment l'état d'esprit, expliquent 9 % de la variance ($R^2 = 0,09$, $F(3,447) = 16,33$, $p < 0,001$), avec l'état d'esprit comme prédicteur significatif ($\beta = 0,28$, $t = 5,40$, $p < 0,001$). Les facteurs sociaux, tels que la pression parentale ($\beta = 0,31$, $t = 5,11$, $p < 0,001$) et l'attitude envers le luxe ($\beta = 0,16$, $t = 3,33$, $p < 0,01$), contribuent à hauteur de 7 % à la variance ($R^2 = 0,07$, $F(3,447) = 11,57$, $p < 0,001$). L'étude met en évidence le rôle des vulnérabilités socioéconomiques, en particulier le faible revenu et le chômage, comme facteurs déterminants poussant les jeunes femmes vers le tourisme sexuel. Les résultats soulignent la nécessité d'interventions ciblées telles que l'autonomisation économique, l'éducation et les campagnes de sensibilisation afin de réduire la migration liée au travail sexuel et de promouvoir des alternatives migratoires plus sûres.

Mots-clés : facteurs socio-économiques, Lagos, Migration irrégulière, tourisme sexuel

UNGS-NOUN

INTRODUCTION

Sex tourism, and irregular migration can be intertwined in certain contexts, but it is important to note that they are distinct issues. Sex tourism refers to travel to engage in sexual activities, often involving the exploitation of individuals, particularly in developing countries³⁰. Irregular migration, on the other hand, refers to the movement of people across borders without proper authorisation or documentation, which can involve various motivations, such as economic opportunities, escape from conflict or persecution, or seeking a better life³¹. Sex tourism and irregular migration may interact, but the complexity of sex tourism makes it difficult to solve. Secretive sex tourism makes it hard to collect data and understand the situation. The industry's secrecy can make it harder to link sex tourism to irregular migration.

Sex tourism often exploits vulnerable people, such as women and children who are trafficked or forced into sexual activity. This abuse creates a power imbalance that makes it hard for victims to report their conditions, making data and evidence collection difficult. Legal grey zones exist between sex tourism and irregular migration. Sex work is illegal in many nations, making it difficult to address.³² Some countries may criminalise both sex work and irregular migration, while others may have more permissive approaches. These legal ambiguities can hinder efforts to combat the negative consequences of sex tourism within the context of irregular migration. Sex labour and its exploitation can be stigmatised, preventing reporting, data collection, and solutions. Cultural views, societal norms, and taboos about sexuality and migration can make discussing the complex relationship between sex tourism and irregular migration difficult. Understanding

³⁰ Oppermann, Martin. "Sex Tourism." *Annals of Tourism Research* 26, no. 2 (1999): 251–66.

³¹ Castles, Stephen, Magdalena Arias Cubas, Chulhyo Kim, and Derya Ozkul. "Irregular Migration: Causes, Patterns, and Strategies." In *Global Perspectives on Migration and Development: GFMD Puerto Vallarta and Beyond*, 117–151, 2012.

³² Platt, Lucy, Pippa Grenfell, Rebecca Meiksin, Jocelyn Elmes, Susan G. Sherman, Teela Sanders, Peninah Mwangi, and Anna-Louise Crago. "Associations between Sex Work Laws and Sex Workers' Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Quantitative and Qualitative Studies." *PLoS Medicine* 15, no. 12 (2018): e1002680

the unique challenges these issues bring and the necessity for comprehensive and multifaceted measures

encompassing law enforcement, legislative frameworks, public awareness, victim support, and international cooperation is crucial.

Economic disparities between countries can contribute to both sex tourism and irregular migration.³³ Sex tourism is when wealthy people visit poorer countries to have cheaper sexual experiences. Poor people may migrate irregularly to find better economic opportunities, which may involve sex work. The demand for commercial sex fuels sex tourism, motivated by novelty, anonymity, and vulnerable population exploitation. Similar variables might drive irregular migration, such as the desire for cheap labour, which may lead people to take risks to find work elsewhere. Criminal networks enable sex tourism and irregular migration. These networks exploit vulnerable people by providing transportation, documents, and support for profit. Law enforcement may struggle to disrupt these networks due to their secrecy. Human trafficking - the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of people for forced work or sexual purposes - is linked to sex tourism and irregular migration. Traffickers may pressure or persuade victims into the sex business, frequently through irregular migratory routes.

Sex tourism, and irregular migration sometimes have gender differences. Women and children are disproportionately exploited and abused by sex tourism and trafficking. In irregular migration, female migrants may be exploited in the sex business or forced into employment. This study explored the socio-economic causes of sex tourism and irregular migration in Lagos State, Nigeria.

According to WTO (1995), tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other

³³ Brooks, Ann, and Vanessa Heaslip. "Sex Trafficking and Sex Tourism in a Globalised World." *Tourism Review* 74, no. 5 (2019): 1104–1115.

purposes³⁴. Transportation, lodging, sightseeing, recreational activities, and learning about the local culture are just some of the things that tourists do while on vacation. Individuals leave their regular setting and go to a new one, often staying there for

at least one night. Tourist trips normally do not last longer than a year. Tourism covers a wide variety of reasons why people travel, such as for fun, work, health, education, and other reasons. Tourists typically venture to locations outside of their normal sphere of influence to learn about and appreciate other cultures and landscapes.

Sex tourism is the practice of visiting foreign nations, frequently those that are on a different continent, to have relationships or engage in sexual activities for payment or support of a lifestyle. Sex tourism is the practice of visiting foreign nations, especially those that are on a different continent, to have relationships or engage in sexual activities for payment or support of a lifestyle. This practice is predominant in countries where sex work is legal.

Sex tourism and irregular migration are complex phenomena often intertwined in ways that exacerbate vulnerabilities and exploitation. Sex tourism, defined as travel to engage in sexual activities, typically involves the exploitation of individuals in economically disadvantaged regions. Irregular migration, which refers to the movement of people across borders without proper authorisation, frequently intersects with sex tourism, creating a web of exploitation and human rights abuses. This literature review explores the connections between sex tourism and irregular migration, drawing on various sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic drivers, the role of organised crime, policy responses, and critical challenges.

Sex tourism involves individuals travelling to foreign countries to engage in sexual activities, often with individuals who are economically vulnerable and marginalised. This practice is prevalent in

³⁴ World Tourism Organisation. Recommendations on Tourism Statistics. Madrid: WTO, 1995.

regions with significant poverty and limited economic opportunities.³⁵ Irregular migration, on the other hand, refers to the movement of individuals across international borders without the necessary legal documentation or authorisation. Migrants often undertake perilous journeys, driven by the hope of better economic

prospects or escaping conflict and persecution.³⁶ The intersection of sex tourism and irregular migration manifests when individuals, particularly women and children, are trafficked for sexual exploitation as they attempt to migrate irregularly.

Economic disparities between developed and developing countries are the primary drivers of both sex tourism and irregular migration. Poverty and lack of employment opportunities in developing countries push individuals to seek better prospects abroad, making them vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers and sex tourists.³⁷ For instance, in southeast Asia, the economic gap between rural and urban areas has led to significant migration flows, with many women and children falling prey to traffickers who exploit their economic desperation.³⁸ Globalisation has facilitated the movement of people and capital across borders, but it has also contributed to the proliferation of sex tourism and irregular migration. The ease of international travel and the global interconnectedness enable sex tourists from developed countries to seek out vulnerable populations in developing regions.³⁹ At the same time, globalisation has created economic dislocations and inequalities that drive irregular migration.⁴⁰ Migrants often become targets for

³⁵ de Chesnay, Mary. *Sex Tourism, Human Trafficking, and Modern Slavery*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

³⁶ International Organisation for Migration (IOM). *Irregular Migration in West Africa: Root Causes and Policy Responses*. 2019. <https://www.iom.int>.

³⁷ International Labour Organisation (ILO). *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*. 2017. <https://www.ilo.org>

³⁸ Smith, Peter. "Sex Tourism and Trafficking: A Critical Review." *Global Crime* 15, no. 2 (2014): 170–89.

³⁹ Lindquist, Johan. "The Business of Human Trafficking: Assessing the Complexities of Exploitation and Vulnerability." In *Human Trafficking and Exploitation: Complexities and Contexts*, edited by Nicola Phillips. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

⁴⁰ World Bank. *World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise*. 2018. <https://www.worldbank.org>.

traffickers who promise safe passage and employment, only to subject them to exploitation upon arrival.

Gender inequality is a significant factor in the dynamics of sex tourism and irregular migration. Women and girls are disproportionately affected due to systemic gender discrimination, lack of education, and limited economic opportunities.⁴¹ Social marginalisation, including discrimination based on ethnicity, social

status, or economic background, further exacerbates individuals' vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. In many cases, trafficked women and girls are forced into the sex industry, catering to the demands of sex tourists. Organised crime networks play a crucial role in facilitating sex tourism and human trafficking within the context of irregular migration. These networks operate transnationally, exploiting weak legal systems and corruption to sustain their operations.⁴² Traffickers use sophisticated methods to recruit, transport, and exploit victims, often involving deceit, coercion, and violence. The clandestine nature of these operations makes it challenging for law enforcement to dismantle these networks and protect victims effectively. Issues such as corruption, lack of resources, and inadequate training for law enforcement personnel often hinder the implementation of anti-trafficking policies.⁴³ Countries with robust legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, such as Sweden and the Netherlands, have seen some success in reducing trafficking and exploitation.⁴⁴

Strain Theory, sociological Learning Theory, and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs give a solid framework for analysing the socio-economic, psychological, and sociological causes of migrant sex work among young women in Lagos State. Strain Theory states that when viable paths to culturally sanctioned goals like financial achievement are

⁴¹ European Commission. Data Collection on Trafficking in Human Beings in the EU. 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu>

⁴² Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime. Global Organised Crime Index 2019. <https://globalinitiative.net>.

⁴³ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2019. <https://www.state.gov>

⁴⁴ Hernandez, David. "Challenges in Implementing Anti-Trafficking Policies: Insights from the Field." *Policy and Society* 36, no. 3 (2017): 285–98

obstructed, society may compel people to do deviant activities. In social situations, behaviour is acquired through observation, imitation, and modelling, according to Social Learning Theory. It shows that young women who are frequently exposed to peers, relatives, or mentors doing or celebrating sex work may normalise it. Maslow's theory states that humans need physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, and self-actualisation. In this survey, many respondents meet physiological (food, shelter) and safety (financial security) demands in the bottom ranks. Failure to address these demands may lead to desperate methods like migrant sex work.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the socio-economic factors influencing young women's engagement in migrated sex work in Lagos State, Nigeria.
2. To assess the psychological factors that contribute to young women's participation in migrant sex work.
3. To investigate the social factors that influence young women's decision to engage in migrant sex work.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This quantitative study examined the socio-economic, psychological, and societal aspects influencing young women's migrant sex work in Lagos State, Nigeria. Surveys of patients at the Lagos rehabilitation centre provided the basic data for the study. The methodology section explains the study's research design, sample, data gathering, and analysis. The cross-sectional survey approach was suitable for studying the links between socio-economic, psychological, and social determinants and young women's migrant sex work at a certain moment. This design assessed numerous variables and their effects on migrant sex work engagement.

This study targeted young women in Lagos State undergoing rehabilitation for migratory sex work. A purposive sample of 351 respondents was chosen. Four rehabilitation centres were chosen to include migrant sex workers with various backgrounds. This study used a structured questionnaire to collect data. The poll sought to understand the reasons that lead young women to migrate to sex work. The selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State were visited for data collection. Before distributing questionnaires, participants were approached individually and provided with informed consent. To reduce uniformity and interviewer bias, trained research assistants distributed and collected questionnaires.

Survey data was analysed using SPSS 26. Frequencies, percentages, averages, and standard deviations were utilised to summarise respondents' demographics and survey item responses. A multiple regression study examined the association between socio-economic, psychological, and social characteristics and migrant sex work activity. Multiple regression models were employed to determine how well the characteristics predict young women's migratory sex work. T-tests and p-values determined factor importance. Results were analysed at 0.05 significance. ANOVA was also employed to evaluate the significance of the regression model. All results were interpreted practically to reduce young women's migratory sex work in Lagos.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

| Characteristic | Frequency | % |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Age: | | |
| 18-20 | 85 | 24 |
| 21-24 | 87 | 25 |
| 25-30 | 89 | 25 |
| 31-35 | 90 | 26 |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Highest Educational Background/Status:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Have not attached formal school systems | 17 | 5 |
| Primary School | 27 | 8 |
| Secondary School | 41 | 12 |
| OND/NCE | 53 | 15 |
| HHD, B.Ed, B.Sc, B.A. | 243 | 69 |
| M.Ed, M.Sc, M.A. | - | - |
| Ph.D | - | - |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Religion:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Christianity | 151 | 43 |
| Islam | 143 | 41 |
| Traditional Worshipper | 57 | 16 |
| Parental | - | - |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Marital Status:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| I come from a home where my parents are living together | 91 | 26 |
| I come from a home where my parents are divorced or separated | 171 | 49 |
| I come from a home where I lost my parent at a tender age | 89 | 25 |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Parental Socio-economic Background:

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| My parents were comfortably able to cater for their children's needs | 91 | 26 |
| My parents were relatively able to cater for their children's needs | 83 | 24 |
| My parents were not able to cater for their children's needs | 71 | 20 |

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| The children were left to cater for themselves | 45 | 13 |
| Before I travelled | - | - |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

I Lived in a Residential Area:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Largely populated by people often called a ghetto | 112 | 32 |
| Largely populated area, but not a ghetto | 93 | 27 |
| Lowly populated area often called GRA | 61 | 17 |
| Lowly populated area, but not a GRA | 85 | 24 |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Before I Travelled with my Family, We were Living:

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| In a rented apartment | 101 | 29 |
| In our house, built by my parents | 73 | 21 |
| In a family house built by my grandparents | 87 | 25 |
| In a family friend's house | 90 | 26 |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

How Did You Get Involved in Prostitution?

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| I purposely got involved to make money | 87 | 25 |
| I was forced to join by those who sponsored my travel abroad | 89 | 25 |
| My friends lured me into it to make money and live like them | 85 | 24 |
| I joined to take care of parents and other siblings of the family | 90 | 26 |
| Total | 351 | 100 |

Source: Field work, 2024

Table 4.1 *Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents:
Understanding the Pathway from Desire to Departure*

This section analyses the socio-demographic backgrounds of respondents involved in sex tourism in Lagos, revealing how economic desire, environmental stressors, and social dislocation serve as underlying factors propelling individuals toward sex work and, ultimately, irregular migration. The findings align with the notion that sex tourism in Lagos is not an isolated activity but part of a broader trajectory of socio-economic survival and transnational movement.

Young adults are overrepresented in sex tourism, since 75% of respondents are 18–30. This group has high hopes for advancement but faces limited economic opportunities in Lagos. IOM noted that youth in emerging economies are more susceptible to trafficking and irregular migration due to employment shortages and social inequality. Youth involvement in sex work implies that economic desire starts early, leading to cross-border migration when local incomes are insufficient.⁷ 69% of respondents have tertiary degrees (HND, B.Ed, B.Sc, B.A.); however, many still engage in sex tourism. These findings challenge the idea that education protects against susceptibility. Additionally, Okon and Essien, in their work, opined that underemployment and the mismatch between higher education and job markets in Nigeria lead to disillusionment and risk-taking, including transactional sex and

informal migration. This supports the assumption that economic advancement drives people to leave conventional careers.⁴⁵

Christianity (43%) and Islam (41%) were the prominent religions, although religion did not seem to discourage sex tourism. Adepoju found that socio-economic pressure often outweighs moral or religious norms, especially in metropolitan situations where survival imperatives are more immediate. Financial ambition may trump cultural or religious restraints.⁴⁶ 49% had fractured homes, and 25% lost a parent early. These numbers illustrate how familial instability renders individuals vulnerable. Okojie found that family breakdowns weaken emotional and financial support, increasing hazardous behaviour and exploitation.⁴⁷ In the context of Lagos, where informal networks shape survival, young women from unstable families are more likely to see sex work as a viable short-term solution, which can spiral into international trafficking.

A notable 33% of respondents reported that their parents were either unable to provide for them or that they had to fend for themselves. This supports the argument that sex tourism is primarily driven by economic need rather than deviance or choice.⁴⁸ Individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds are disproportionately represented in informal economies like sex work, with migration offering an “escape” from entrenched poverty⁴⁹. 32% lived in ghettos, and another 27% in densely populated areas. These living environments are often characterised by poor infrastructure, social decay, and limited state presence, conditions

⁴⁵ Okon, E. E., and C. Essien. “Educational Attainment and the Job Market in Nigeria.” *African Journal of Social Sciences*, 2021.

⁴⁶ Adepoju, Aderanti. “Patterns of Migration in West Africa.” *International Migration* 43, no. 3 (2005): 25–43.

⁴⁷ Okojie, Christiana. *Trafficking of Women and Children in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications*. UNESCO Policy Paper Series, 2009.

⁴⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2020. <https://www.unodc.org>

⁴⁹ Egharevba, M. E., and F. Attah. “Social Vulnerability and Sex Trafficking in Nigeria.” *Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology* 6, no. 3 (2015): 245–52.

that normalise informal economies and survivalist behaviours⁵⁰. Environmental stress, combined with

limited upward mobility, encourage early engagement in sex work and later migration through informal networks.

A combined 51% lived in non-parental housing (such as a family house or a family friend's house), revealing insecurity in housing arrangements. Housing precarity is a marker of broader socioeconomic instability and can contribute to transactional living patterns where sex becomes a form of negotiated survival.⁵¹ Over time, these conditions create an enabling environment for international traffickers and irregular migration routes. Interestingly, 25% joined sex tourism to support their families, migration sponsors coerced another 25%, while friends influenced 24%. This confirms the multi-layered entry pathways into sex work, some economic, some relational, and others exploitative. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), sex work is often the first stage in what becomes a full migration trajectory, especially when tied to deceptive recruitment schemes promising greener pastures abroad²⁰.

Table 4.2 Psychological Factors Influencing Engagement in Sex Work and Irregular Migration

| Questions Items | SA (%) | A (%) | D (%) | SD (%) | Likert means |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Inferiority complex made me engage in sex work | 100 (28.5%) | 90 (25.6%) | 80 (22.8%) | 81 (23.1%) | 2.60 |

⁵⁰ Agunbiade, M. E., and S. Adebayo. "Transactional Sex and Vulnerability among Young Women in Urban Nigeria." *Journal of Youth Studies* 15, no. 5 (2012): 591–609.

⁵¹ Okunola, R. A., and D. P. Olufemi. "Housing Precarity and Youth Risk Behavior in Lagos." *Journal of Urban Research*, 2017.

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| The fear of being called a failure in life made me engage in sex work to make money and become an achiever | 110 (31.3%) | 95 (27.0%) | 70 (19.9%) | 70 (21.7%) | 2.68 |
| The belief that I can do whatever I want with my body led me to engage in sex work. | 120 (34.2%) | 85 (24.2%) | 75 (21.4%) | 72 (20.2%) | 2.72 |

IMGS-NOUN

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| The desire to be sexually satisfied for pleasure led me to engage in sex work. | 130 (37.0%) | 90 (25.6%) | 60 (17.1%) | 71 (20.2%) | 2.79 |
| I already made up my mind to engage in sex work when I was living in the country | 115 (32.8%) | 80 (22.8%) | 75 (21.4%) | 81 (23.1%) | 2.66 |
| It does not matter how I become rich; what matters is to be rich. | 125 (35.6%) | 85 (24.2%) | 70 (19.9%) | 71 (20.2%) | 2.75 |
| Field work (2024) | | | | | |

Table 4.2 presents insights into the psychological dimensions influencing individuals' entry into sex tourism. It reveals that, beyond economic hardship, internalised emotions, value systems, and cognitive framing of personal worth and success also shape the decision to engage in sex work and consider migration. The Likert means in this section range from 2.60 to 2.79, indicating a moderate level of agreement with each psychological factor. This suggests that while not all respondents were uniformly driven by these internal pressures, they remain noteworthy influences. About 54.1% (SA + A) of respondents admitted that feelings of inferiority contributed to their entry into sex work, with a mean score of 2.60. Similarly, 58.3% agreed that fear of being perceived as a failure influenced their decision (mean = 2.68). These findings align with the work of Okojie, who emphasised that psychological stressors, especially those linked to self-esteem, are critical in pushing vulnerable individuals into exploitative economic roles¹⁹. In an aspirational city like Lagos, where success is often measured by wealth, the social pressure to "make it" can become emotionally burdensome, especially for individuals from unstable homes or disadvantaged backgrounds. As Bandura's social cognitive theory posits, individuals internalise societal expectations and compare themselves with perceived successful peers, resulting in behaviour modelled on observed

"success" routes, including sex work or migration.²³

²¹ Agunbiade, M. E., and S. Adebayo. "Transactional Sex and Vulnerability among Young Women in Urban Nigeria." *Journal of Youth Studies* 15, no. 5 (2012): 591–609.

²³ Bandura, Albert. "Social Cognitive Theory of Mass Communication." *Media Psychology* 3, no. 3 (2001): 265–299.

The belief that "I can do whatever I want with my body" was recorded at 58.4% agreement (mean = 2.72), indicating a shift from passive victimhood to assertive personal agency. This reflects the growing normalisation of body commodification as a form of empowerment in urban youth cultures²². However, this agency is often exercised within structurally constrained environments, leading to what Kabeer calls "bounded agency", where individuals make choices, but within severely limited options⁵². The highest agreement (62.6%) was on the statement that the desire for sexual satisfaction and pleasure influenced involvement in sex work (mean = 2.79). While this may indicate hedonistic motivation, it is also linked to emotional voids and trauma coping mechanisms, as argued by Egharevba and Attoh (2015), who suggest that for some sex workers, pleasure is often intertwined with psychological escape from deprivation or abuse²¹. A significant portion (55.6%) agreed they had already made up their mind to engage in sex work before leaving Nigeria (mean = 2.66), showing that some individuals embark on the journey with a clear intent to monetise their sexuality abroad.

Similarly, 59.8% agreed with the morally detached statement, "It does not matter how I become rich" (mean = 2.75). This moral relativism reflects broader societal influences in Lagos and Nigeria at large, where wealth is celebrated irrespective of its source^{53, 54}.

Table 4.3 Social Factors Influencing Sex Work and Irregular Migration

| Question Items | SA (%) | A (%) | D (%) | SD (%) | Likert mean |
|----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|
|----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|

⁵² Kabeer, Naila. "Resources, Agency, Achievements: Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment." *Development and Change* 30, no. 3 (1999): 435–464.

⁵³ Ogunديpe-Leslie, Molar. *Re-creating Ourselves: African Women and Critical Transformations*. Trenton: Africa World Press, 1994.

⁵⁴ Falola, Toyin, and Matthew M. Heaton. *A History of Nigeria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| The money and live-abig-girl life made me engage in sex work | 87 (25%) | 73 (20.8%) | 56 (16%) | 35 (10%) | 2.84 |
| Pressure from peerfriends to make money and live a big-girl life made me engage in sex | 75 (21.4%) | 80 (22.8%) | 60 (17.1%) | 36 (10.3%) | 2.77 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| 58 | From Desire to Departure: Socio-Economic Roots of Sex Tourism and Irregular Migration in Lagos | | | | |
| work | | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| The desire to make money and take care of my parents and other siblings made me to engage in sex work. | 90 (25.6%) | 100 (28.5%) | 40 (11.4%) | 21 (6%) | 3.03 |
| Pressure from my parents and other siblings to take care of them made me to engage in sex work | 65 (18.5%) | 85 (24.2%) | 70 (19.9%) | 31 (8.8%) | 2.73 |
| The desire to be compared with other girls who travelled abroad and came back to buy properties and live big-girls' life made me to engage in sex work | 80 (22.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 60 (17.1%) | 41 (11.7%) | 2.77 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| The desire to attain social prestige wherever I go, especially among family members, made me to engage in sex work | 91 (25.9%) | 126 (35.9%) | 73 (20.8%) | 61 (17.4%) | 2.70 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| The jest that other | | | | | |
| people from our | | | | | |
| neighbourhood make on | 89 | 120 | 89 | 75 | |
| my family influenced | (25.4%) | (34.2%) | (25.4%) | (21.4%) | 2.60 |
| me to join sex work | | | | | |

Source: Field Work (2024)

Table 4.3 presents data on the social pressures and motivations that shape respondents' involvement in sex tourism. With Likert means ranging from 2.60 to 3.03, social determinants play a central role in how individuals make decisions about sex work, which often precedes or intersects with irregular migration. A significant proportion of respondents (45.8%) agreed that the allure of money and a luxurious lifestyle motivated their engagement in sex work, yielding a Likert mean of 2.84. This aligns with Falola and Heaton's observation that in urban Nigerian culture, material wealth is not only desired but also highly valued and glorified. For many young women in Lagos, the "big girl" identity embodies success, attractiveness, and independence, all of which can be achieved or are perceived to be achievable through sex work or migration. Similarly, 44.2% indicated that peer pressure from friends living the "big girl" life pushed them into sex work (mean = 2.77). This is consistent with the work of Ajayi and Olayinka, who highlighted how social comparison in low-income urban settings often drives risk-taking behaviour, particularly when peers are seen reaping rewards from irregular migration or sex-related income²⁷.

The highest mean score (3.03) was recorded on the item: "The desire to make money and take care of my parents and other siblings made me engage in sex work." With 54.1% agreement, this reflects a strong sense of familial obligation. The burden of being the breadwinner in poverty-stricken families, especially when traditional earners are absent or incapacitated, pushes young women into high-risk survival strategies like sex tourism. Closely tied to this is the pressure from family members to send money back home, reported by 42.7% (mean = 2.73). This confirms Adepoju's (2005) view that economic migration (regular or irregular) is often a collective family project, where individual choices are shaped by communal survival¹⁸. Respondents also expressed how social comparisons and aspirations for prestige

influenced their decisions. About 48.4% agreed that they wanted to be compared favourably with peers who returned from abroad with wealth and assets (mean = 2.77), while 61.8% agreed that they were driven by the desire for family recognition and status (mean = 2.70). This is supported by Bourdieu's concept of symbolic capital, which emphasises that individuals pursue not just economic wealth,

-
- ¹⁷ Adepaju, A. (2005). Patterns of Migration in West Africa. *International Migration*, 43(3), 25-43.
- ²⁶ Falola, Toyin, and Matthew M. Heaton. *A History of Nigeria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- ²⁷ Ajayi, T., and Olayinka, T. "Peer Influence and Youth Risk Behaviour in Lagos Urban Spaces." *African Sociological Review* 24, no. 1 (2020).

but also honour, respect, and reputation. In Lagos communities, success stories of returnees from Europe or the Middle East, regardless of the means, often serve as motivation for others, reinforcing sex tourism as a socially rewarded pathway. Moreover,

59.6% admitted that neighbourhood ridicule, the “jest people make of my family”, pushed them toward sex work (mean = 2.60). This reflects how social shame and exclusion serve as powerful emotional triggers, especially in densely populated areas where reputational narratives spread fast.⁵⁵

These social drivers do not operate in isolation. Rather, they interact with economic deprivation and psychological needs (as shown in Tables 4.1 and 4.2) to create a multi-layered push toward sex tourism and irregular migration. The progression from “desire” to “departure” is catalysed by the need for material validation in a wealth-conscious society, peer-driven modelling of sex work as a viable income strategy, family-induced economic pressure, and the cultural valuation of international mobility, even if irregular. Irregular migration is often the result of a “socially constructed demand,” where expectations are not just about escape but about returning home transformed, usually through wealth acquired by any means⁵⁶. Social factors, particularly peer influence, family pressure, prestige culture, and stigma, are powerful forces shaping the decisions of young women in Lagos to engage in sex tourism. These same forces push them to migrate irregularly in pursuit of economic security, family honour, and social validation. The findings support the broader argument that sex tourism and irregular migration are not merely individual or economic choices, but are deeply embedded in social structures and expectations.

⁵⁵ Smith, Daniel Jordan. “To Be a Man Is Not a One-Day Job: Masculinity, Money, and Intimacy in Nigeria.” *Journal of Sex Research* 47, no. 2–3 (2010): 231–241.

⁵⁶ Cherti, Myriam, and Robert McNeil. *Thinking Behind the Numbers: Understanding Public Opinion on Immigration in Britain*. London: IPPR, 2012.

Table 4.4 Economic Factors Influencing Sex Tourism and Irregular Migration

| Question Items | SA (%) | A (%) | D (%) | SD (%) | Likert |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| | | | | | mean |
| The wish that I must make it in life at all costs made me engage in sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |
| The thinking that it is easier to make money when you travel abroad made me engage in sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |
| The display of wealth from young women who travel abroad when they come back home influenced me to join sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |
| The inability of my parents to take care of me because of low income or nonpayment of their salaries influenced me to join sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| The inability of my parents to meet myr needs because they were unemployed influenced me to join sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |
| The poor economic situation of the country, which makes life difficult to live, influenced me to join sex work | 101 (28.8%) | 87 (24.8%) | 73 (20.8%) | 90 (25.6%) | 2.57 |

Source: Field Work (2024)

57

The data in Table 4.4 reflect a consistent pattern: all six economic items recorded identical Likert mean scores of 2.57, indicating a moderate but uniform level of agreement among respondents. This consistency suggests that economic desperation is a recurring driver, framing sex work and migration as economic survival strategies. The item "The wish that I must make it in life at all costs made me engage in sex work" saw 53.6% of respondents agree (SA + A). This mindset aligns with the findings of Okome, who noted that for many Nigerian youths, especially women, the fear of intergenerational poverty often compels them to adopt extreme coping mechanisms - even if such means include risky sexual activities or irregular migration³⁰. This sense of urgency to "make it" reflects a high-risk, high-reward mentality associated with economic disenfranchisement, particularly in urban slums of Lagos, where social mobility appears elusive without "fast money."

Another item with 53.6% agreement is the belief that it is easier to make money abroad, which led some into sex work as a stepping stone for future migration. This belief often stems from "migratory myths", or

⁵⁷ 17 Adepaju, A. (2005). Patterns of Migration in West Africa. *International Migration*, 43(3), 25-43.

false success narratives propagated by returnees⁵⁸⁵⁹. Migrants often exaggerate success upon return to maintain dignity or justify the hardship they endured, thereby misleading others into believing sex tourism or migration will guarantee wealth⁶⁰. For many, sex work abroad becomes normalised as a legitimate hustle, not because of morality, but because of visible results.⁶¹ Across multiple items, respondents pointed to parental unemployment or low income as a key influence. In all related items, over 53% affirmed that economic vulnerability at home pushed them into sex work. This confirms the work of Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM, who found that economic push factors - especially parental joblessness or inability to sponsor schooling - are strong predictors of youth migration and exploitation⁶². The uniformity in these responses also emphasises that poverty is not abstract - it is deeply felt, recurring, and influential in shaping pathways into the informal and often exploitative sectors of global sex work.

The final item, "The poor economic situation of the country, which makes life difficult, influenced me to join sex work", confirms a macroeconomic linkage. Again, 53.6% agreed, indicating that personal decisions are deeply intertwined with national-level economic crises. With inflation, unemployment, and declining real wages in Nigeria, young women face shrinking economic opportunities, prompting them to adopt dangerous alternatives for their livelihoods. In a context where the formal labour market is increasingly inaccessible to unskilled or semi-educated women, sex tourism offers a rare but high-yielding path, albeit one with moral and physical risks¹⁹.

Table 4.4 shows that personal and national economic distress drives young women into sex work, with irregular migration seen as the long-

⁵⁸ Okojie, Christiana. *Trafficking of Women and Children in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications*. UNESCO Policy Paper Series, 2009.

⁵⁹ Okome, Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké. *Women, Migration, and the Diaspora: Alternative Histories and Impacts*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

⁶⁰ Hernández-Carretero, M., and J. Carling. "Beyond 'Kano Boys': Nigerian Youths and Irregular Migration Aspirations." Uppsala: Nordic Africa Institute, 2012.

⁶¹ Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Forms of Capital." In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by J. Richardson, (1986) 241–258. New York: Greenwood Press.

⁶² Isiugo-Abanihe, U. C., and International Organisation for Migration. *Migration and Poverty in Nigeria: A Study of Poor Households in Lagos*. 2010.

term path to riches. Survival imperatives, impressions of prosperity overseas, frustrations with systemic poverty, and ambitions for financial freedom underlie these impulses. This supports the theory that sex tourism and irregular migration are economic survival strategies, not lifestyle choices. Leaving Lagos and travelling abroad, including sex work, is driven by the desire to escape poverty, fulfil family commitments, and achieve financial independence.

Multiple Regression Analysis of Psychological Factors (SelfEsteem, Mind Set, and Nymphomaniac Urge) on Young Women’s Engagement in Migrant Sex Work in Lagos State

Psychosocial and economic factors influence young women's migrant sex work in Lagos State, Nigeria. The major purpose and study question two: How do psycho-social and economic factors affect young women's migrating sex work in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Table 4.5 reveals a significant correlation between self-esteem, mindset, and nymphomaniac urge in selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State, Nigeria ($R = 0.31$, $R^2 = 0.09$, $F(3,447) = 16.33$; $p < 0.001$). The independent variables explained 9% of the variance in migratory sex work reported in selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State. The remaining % unexplained by the models was likely due to residuals and other factors not studied. ANOVA was used to evaluate whether the R Square value is significant. The table shows that the analysis of variance of multiple regression data identified an F-ratio value of 16.33 ($p < 0.001$) for the four rehabilitation centres in Lagos State, indicating the usefulness of independent variables in predicting the dependent variable.

Table 4.5: Multiple Regression Analysis of Psychological Factors (Self-Esteem, Mind Set, and Nymphomaniac Urge) on Young Women’s Engagement in Migrated Sex Work in Lagos State

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|--------|----------------|----|-------------|---|------|
|--------|----------------|----|-------------|---|------|

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----|---------|--------|-------------------|
| Regression | 324.827 | 3 | 108.276 | 16.326 | .000 ^b |
| Residual | 2964.557 | 447 | 6.632 | | |
| Total | 3289.384 | 450 | | | |

Model Summary

- $R = .31$
- $R^2 = .09$
- Adjusted $R^2 = .09$
- Standard Error of the Estimate (SEM) = 2.58

Multiple Regression Analysis of Social Factors (Peer Pressure, Parental Pressure, and Attitude towards Luxury and Materialism) on Young Women's Engagement in Migrant Sex Work

Table 4.6 showed that peer pressure, parental pressure, and attitude toward luxury and materialism together produced a significant multiple regression (R) coefficient adjusted for the selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State, Nigeria. ($R = 0.27$, $R^2 = 0.07$, $F(3,447) = 11.57$; $p < 0.001$) The combination of social determinants explained 7% of the variance in young women's migrating sex work in selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State. The remaining percent unaccounted for by the models was likely attributable to residuals and other factors not studied. ANOVA was used to evaluate if the R Square value is significant. The table shows that the analysis of variance of multiple regression data for four rehabilitation centres in Lagos State yielded an F-ratio value of 11.57 ($p < 0.001$), indicating that social factors effectively predict the dependent variable.

Table 4.6: Multiple Regression Analysis of Social Factors (Peer Pressure, Parental Pressure, and Attitude towards Luxury and Materialism) on Young Women's Engagement in Migrant Sex Work

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|------------|----------------|----|-------------|--------|-------------------|
| Regression | 237.061 | 3 | 79.020 | 11.572 | .000 ^b |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----|-------|--|--|
| Residual | 3052.322 | 447 | 6.828 | | |
| Total | 3289.384 | 450 | | | |

Model Summary

- **R** = .27
- **R²** = .07
- **Adjusted R²** = .07 • **Standard Error of the Estimate (SEM)** = 2.61

The result shows that peer pressure ($\beta = -.11$; $t = -1.75$, $p > 0.01$), has no significant independent influence on their engagement in migrant sex work; while attitude towards luxury and materialism ($\beta = -.16$; $t = -3.33$, $p < 0.01$); and parental pressure ($\beta = .31$; $t = 5.11$, $p < 0.01$) were found to be an important significant determinant of young women's engagement in migrated sex work in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Multiple Regression Analysis of Economic Factors (Get-Rich Syndrome, Unemployment, and Low Income) on Young Women's Engagement in Migrant Sex Work

In Table 4.7, economic factors (get-rich syndrome, unemployment, and low income) produced a significant multiple regression (R) coefficient adjusted for the selected rehabilitation institutions in Lagos State, Nigeria. ($R = 0.36$, $R^2 = 0.13$, $F(3, 447) = 22.27$; $p < 0.001$) This suggests that the independent variables explained 13% of the variance in their migrating sex employment in selected rehabilitation centres in Lagos State.

ANOVA was run to check if the R Square value is significant. The analysis of variance of multiple regression data in Lagos State showed an F-ratio value of 22.27 ($p < 0.001$), indicating the efficiency of independent variables in predicting the dependent variable for four selected rehabilitation centres.

Table 4.7: Multiple Regression Analysis of Economic Factors (GetRich Syndrome, Unemployment, and Low Income) on Young Women's Engagement in Migrant Sex Work

| Source | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|-------------|--------|-------------------|
| Regression | 427.710 | 3 | 142.570 | 22.270 | .000 ^b |
| Residual | 2861.674 | 447 | 6.402 | | |
| Total | 3289.384 | 450 | | | |

The multiple regression analysis showed that mentality was the sole psychological element that predicted young women's migrant sex employment. This supports the idea that resilient, optimistic people are less prone to perform harmful behaviours like sex tourism. The study found no substantial effects on self-esteem or nymphomaniac drive. This shows that economic and social factors may be more significant than mindset in influencing sex work engagement. Parental pressure and attitudes toward luxury/materialism were major social predictors. Peer pressure was not important. This suggests that family and societal financial expectations may motivate young women to engage in sex work more than social networks and peer behaviours. These findings suggest that preventative initiatives should focus on modifying consumerism and family pressures.

Economic vulnerability was the main reason young women participated in migratory sex labour. Low income, unemployment, and the get-rich syndrome had significant consequences. These findings support the assumption that economic hardship and the desire for wealth and social mobility drive young women to sex tourism. Job creation, education, and poverty reduction can lessen this issue by addressing economic inequality. Psychological, social, and economic considerations explained 9%, 7%, and 13% of young women's migrating sex work activity. This study did not examine cultural norms, gender inequality, or international migration policy, which may explain some of the variance.

CONCLUSION

This study provides valuable insights into the multifaceted drivers of young women's engagement in migrated sex work in Lagos State. The economic and social factors - particularly low income, unemployment, and parental pressure - stand out as the most significant contributors to this phenomenon. However, psychological factors such as mindset, although significant, play a secondary role in comparison to the socio-economic factors. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions that address the root causes of engagement in migrant sex work, especially the economic vulnerability of young women. Initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, unemployment, and materialistic attitudes may prove effective in mitigating the prevalence of this issue. Furthermore, mindset transformation programmes and parental support can enhance resilience and reduce the pressures that lead young women to seek opportunities in high-risk environments like sex tourism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments and NGOs should invest in job creation, vocational training, and educational programmes to reduce economic vulnerability, especially among young women in underserved communities. Psychological resilience programmes should be developed to foster a positive mindset, self-worth, and life skills, thereby mitigating the risks associated with sex tourism. Mindset transformation programmes and parental support are recommended to enhance resilience and reduce the pressures on young women to seek opportunities in high-risk environments like sex tourism. Parent-child communication programmes and mentorship initiatives should be encouraged, to alleviate family pressures and provide alternative pathways for young women. Cultural and media campaigns should be launched to shift societal views on wealth and success, emphasising values of contentment, hard work, and sustainable progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a. Centre of Excellence in Migration and Global Studies CEMGS: for setting the platform for presentation in 2023.
- b. Home of Sharon, Lekki, Lagos (they introduced the researchers to other rehabilitation centres).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this research. All data were collected and analysed objectively, and the findings presented are solely for academic and policy development purposes. No financial, personal, or professional interests influenced the outcomes of this study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adewale, Rotimi. "Urban Youth, Unemployment and Informal Work in Nigeria." *African Development Review*, 2020.
- Adepoju, Aderanti. "Patterns of Migration in West Africa." *International Migration* 43, no. 3 (2005): 25–43.
- Agunbiade, M. E., and S. Adebayo. "Transactional Sex and Vulnerability among Young Women in Urban Nigeria." *Journal of Youth Studies* 15, no. 5 (2012): 591–609.
- Ajayi, T., and Olayinka, T. "Peer Influence and Youth Risk Behaviour in Lagos Urban Spaces." *African Sociological Review* 24, no. 1 (2020).
- Anderson, Bridget. "Human Trafficking and Migration: Regional Perspectives." *Migration Studies* 4, no. 2 (2016): 235–45.

Bandura, Albert. "Social Cognitive Theory of Mass Communication." *Media Psychology* 3, no. 3 (2001): 265–299.

Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Forms of Capital." In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by J. Richardson, (1986) 241–258. New York: Greenwood Press.

Brooks, Ann, and Vanessa Heaslip. "Sex Trafficking and Sex Tourism in a Globalised World." *Tourism Review* 74, no. 5 (2019): 1104–1115.

Castles, Stephen, Magdalena Arias Cubas, Chulhyo Kim, and Derya Ozkul. "Irregular Migration: Causes, Patterns, and Strategies." In *Global Perspectives on Migration and Development: GFMD Puerto Vallarta and Beyond*, 117–151. 2012.

Cherti, Myriam, and Robert McNeil. *Thinking Behind the Numbers: Understanding Public Opinion on Immigration in Britain*. London: IPPR, 2012.

de Chesnay, Mary. *Sex Tourism, Human Trafficking, and Modern Slavery*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Egharevba, M. E., and F. Attah. "Social Vulnerability and Sex Trafficking in Nigeria." *Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology* 6, no. 3 (2015): 245–52.

European Commission. *Data Collection on Trafficking in Human Beings in the EU*. 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu>.

Falola, Toyin, and Matthew M. Heaton. *A History of Nigeria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. *Global Organised Crime Index 2019*. <https://globalinitiative.net>.

Hernandez, David. "Challenges in Implementing Anti-Trafficking

Policies: Insights from the Field.” *Policy and Society* 36, no. 3 (2017): 285–98.

Hernández-Carretero, M., and J. Carling. “Beyond ‘Kano Boys’: Nigerian Youths and Irregular Migration Aspirations.” Uppsala: Nordic Africa Institute, 2012.

International Labour Organisation (ILO). *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*. 2017.
<https://www.ilo.org>.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM). *Irregular Migration in West Africa: Root Causes and Policy Responses*. 2019.
<https://www.iom.int>.

Isiugo-Abanihe, U. C., and International Organisation for Migration. *Migration and Poverty in Nigeria: A Study of Poor Households in Lagos*. 2010.

Kabeer, Naila. “Resources, Agency, Achievements: Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment.” *Development and Change* 30, no. 3 (1999): 435–464.

Lindquist, Johan. “The Business of Human Trafficking: Assessing the Complexities of Exploitation and Vulnerability.” In *Human Trafficking and Exploitation: Complexities and Contexts*, edited by Nicola Phillips. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Ogundipe-Leslie, Molara. *Re-creating Ourselves: African Women and Critical Transformations*. Trenton: Africa World Press, 1994.

Okojie, Christiana. *Trafficking of Women and Children in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications*. UNESCO Policy Paper Series, 2009.

- Okome, Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké. *Women, Migration, and the Diaspora: Alternative Histories and Impacts*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
- Okon, E. E., and C. Essien. "Educational Attainment and the Job Market in Nigeria." *African Journal of Social Sciences*, 2021.
- Okunola, R. A., and D. P. Olufemi. "Housing Precarity and Youth Risk Behavior in Lagos." *Journal of Urban Research*, 2017.
- Oppermann, Martin. "Sex Tourism." *Annals of Tourism Research* 26, no. 2 (1999): 251–66.
- Platt, Lucy, Pippa Grenfell, Rebecca Meiksin, Jocelyn Elmes, Susan G. Sherman, Teela Sanders, Peninah Mwangi, and Anna-Louise Crago. "Associations between Sex Work Laws and Sex Workers' Health: A Systematic Review and MetaAnalysis of Quantitative and Qualitative Studies." *PLoS Medicine* 15, no. 12 (2018): e1002680.
- Reports, Policy Papers, and Online Sources Anti-Slavery International. "What Is Modern Slavery?" 2018. <https://www.antislavery.org>. Smith, Daniel Jordan. "To Be a Man Is Not a One-Day Job: Masculinity, Money, and Intimacy in Nigeria." *Journal of Sex Research* 47, no. 2–3 (2010): 231–241.
- Smith, Peter. "Sex Tourism and Trafficking: A Critical Review." *Global Crime* 15, no. 2 (2014): 170–89.
- U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report 2019*. <https://www.state.gov>.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2020. <https://www.unodc.org>.
- World Bank. *World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize*

Education's Promise. 2018. <https://www.worldbank.org>. World Tourism Organization. Recommendations on Tourism Statistics. Madrid: WTO, 1995.

LMGS-NOUN

LMGS-NOUN