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## EDITORIAL DESK

The Journal of Contemporary Issues in Nigerian Economy stands as a beacon of scholarly excellence, drawing upon a diverse spectrum of researchers hailing from the expansive West African region and beyond. This volume showcases 14 meticulously researched articles curated from contributors in Nigeria and the United States of America. The genesis of these scholarly endives can be traced back to the auspicious conference convened at the Lagos State University Makanjuola Lecture Hall, held in December, 2023.

These articles, characterized by their depth and precision, underwent rigorous scrutiny during the conference, with over 90 participants actively engaging in critique. Subsequent to this extensive quality assurance regimen and plagiarism checks, only 14 articles successfully met the standards set forth by the esteemed guild of the editorial team, in strict adherence to international best practices.

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Editors announces the second edition of the publication schedule of the journal. Our heartfelt congratulations extend to the authors whose papers demonstrated exceptional merit and successfully navigated the rigorous selection criteria. To future researchers, we extend our encouragement to strive for greater heights in their scholarly pursuits.

The Board of Editors appreciates the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji Bello, mni NPOM for providing the enabling environment for the conference and her directives to the editorial team for strong quality assurance measures. We believe in your leadership and concerted efforts at ensuring high standards for the journal publication.

Prof. M. O. B. Mohammed, FNAEAP  
Editor in Chief

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## MITIGATING MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN AFRICA THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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### **Abstract**

*In today's interconnected world, the issue of modern-day slavery continues to plague societies globally, including Africa. The exploitation and abuse of individuals, especially vulnerable population, is a grave violation of human rights and a significant challenge that needed to be addressed urgently. Alongside this, fostering ethical behaviour and discipline among individuals is crucial for the overall development and progress of any community. Teachers, as influential figures in the lives of students, hold a unique position to play a vital role in combating modern-day slavery and promoting ethical behaviour within African educational institutions. This paper explored the multifaceted role that teachers can play in addressing modern-day slavery and promoting ethical behaviour and discipline within Africa. By examining recent references, the paper delved into various strategies that teachers can adopt to address these pressing issues effectively. The paper concluded that teachers have a critical role to play in addressing modern-day slavery and encouraging ethical conduct, enforcing discipline, and combating contemporary forms of slavery within Africa. By leveraging their influence and expertise, educators can create an environment that fosters awareness and action, thereby shaping a generation of individuals committed to eradicating modern-day slavery and creating a more just and equitable society.*

**Keywords:** Teachers, Ethical Behaviour, Discipline, Modern-day Slavery, Educational institutions.

### **Introduction**

Teachers have a vital role in protecting the welfare and growth of individuals as well as the community at large by avoiding modern-day slavery in Africa, encouraging moral behaviour, and enforcing the law. In terms of shaping students' opinions, dispositions, and behaviours, educators hold a special position of power and accountability (Falcon, Admiraal & Leon, 2023; Kaptein, 2020; Weisz & Chikara, 2021). In Africa, where moral behaviour and modern slavery are persistent challenges, teachers have crucial responsibilities that include educating students, preserving moral values, and fixing societal difficulties. Moral behaviour is the foundation of a just and peaceful community (Johnson et al., 2019). It includes moral values, equality, decorum, decency, and empathy. Through classroom instruction, role modelling, and discussions of moral dilemmas, teachers can help pupils internalise these concepts. By creating an atmosphere that values moral behaviour, educators may help students develop a strong moral foundation and provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to make moral decisions in a range of situations (Day & Gu, 2019; Kyriacou, 2018; Soodak & Podell, 2016).

Since moral behaviour and discipline are closely related, discipline is a crucial component of education. To foster a culture of responsibility and rule compliance among students, a secure and supportive learning environment is necessary (Andersson & Ekelund, 2021; Gorica & Filip, 2021). Instructors are crucial in fostering discipline because they provide clear standards, correct wrong behaviour, and offer assistance to students, as Falcon, Admiraal, and Leon highlight (2023). Teachers help their students improve their character and general well-being by

establishing discipline. They also prepare them to be responsible and ethical members of society. Africa must confront the issue of contemporary slavery immediately (DeCremer *et al.*, 2020). There have been several cases of forced labour and exploitation of people, mostly women, children, and members of marginalised communities, despite efforts to put an end to this horrible crime. Teachers have an important responsibility to inform students about their rights and provide them the tools they need to recognise and report any instances of exploitation in addition to teaching them about modern-day slavery (Tenbrunsel *et al.*, 2020; Kaptein, 2020). Until modern-day slavery in Africa is completely abolished, educators who provide their pupils the skills and knowledge they need can help to abolish it.

This paper explored the significant role that teachers play in promoting ethical behaviour, discipline, and addressing modern-day slavery in Africa. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature and case studies, we will examine the challenges faced by teachers in these communities and identify effective strategies and best practices for promoting ethical behaviour, maintaining discipline, and combating modern-day slavery. By highlighting the importance of teachers' involvement in these critical areas, we hope to inspire further research, policy development, and initiatives to empower teachers and enhance their impact on societal transformation.

### **Personality Traits of the Teacher**

Teachers have a big impact on students' attitudes and behaviours. The classroom climate and student performance are greatly influenced by teachers' personalities in addition to their pedagogical skills and subject-matter knowledge.

1. **Empathy:** Empathy is the capacity to comprehend and feel another person's emotions. According to Weisz and Chikara, empathy is the ability to understand and demonstrate concern for the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of others. Teachers with a high degree of empathy provide a welcoming and supportive learning atmosphere. Attuned educators not only know how much help is needed when, but also how to build trustworthy relationships with their students. According to Zhang's research, teachers who show empathy can reduce stress, which raises student involvement.
2. The most crucial trait for educators to possess when collaborating with a varied student body and a range of learning preferences is patience. Understanding teachers let their pupils work at their own pace while offering support and guidance when needed. Soodak and Podell (2016) found that teachers' patience has a favourable impact on students' conduct, engagement, and academic progress.
3. **Flexibility:** In today's rapidly changing educational environment, educators need to be able to adapt to new technology, learning environments, and pedagogical techniques. Engaging and dynamic classes are typically conducted by teachers who are adaptable and adaptive. Kyriacou (2018) emphasised that teachers need to adjust in order to fulfil the different demands of students and improve learning results.
4. **Enthusiasm:** Students are excited and motivated by teachers who are passionate about the information they cover and the subjects they teach. Their contagious zeal for learning encourages students to take pleasure in the process of learning. Falcon, Admiraal and Leon (2023) study indicates that educators who employ a greater number of messages exhibit greater enthusiasm and higher rates of student accomplishment.
5. **Resilience:** Being an educator is a difficult career that comes with many challenges and setbacks. Teachers that are resilient are able to withstand adversity, retain a positive attitude, and persevere in difficult situations. According to Day and Gu (2019), resilience is a necessary quality for teachers to have in order to control stress, promote efficient teaching methods, and prevent burnout.



6. Reflective teachers examine themselves and seek out continual professional growth. They solicit input, assess their instruction critically, and make the necessary corrections. Teachers who are reflective are more likely to adapt their teaching strategies to meet the evolving needs of their students. Zeichner and Liston's study emphasised how reflective practises by instructors affect student results and the quality of education.

### **Management Strategies for Promoting Ethical Behaviour**

Integrity, trust, and a productive workplace atmosphere must all be sustained in an organisation by promoting ethical behaviour. To promote an ethical culture and guarantee that employees adhere to moral principles, effective management techniques are required. Important new information about a variety of management techniques that support moral behaviour (Andersson *et al.*, 2021).

1. **Open and Clearly Stated Ethical Guidelines:** Establishing shared and transparent ethical guidelines is essential to promoting moral behaviour in schools. All pupils should find it easy to learn, understand, and be knowledgeable about ethical principles. The teacher's personality is their finest teaching tool (Gorica & Filip, 2021). Additionally, they emphasised the need of keeping a positive outlook and focusing on a methodical approach.
2. **Ethical Leadership:** The culture of a school is shaped by its ethical leadership. Teachers who are forthright, truthful, and exemplify moral behaviour set an example for their pupils. Moral role models encourage their students to behave morally and with faith. A moderate to high degree of ethical leadership had a positive effect on the culture inside an organisation (Toytok & Kapusuzoglus, 2016).
3. **Ethical Education and Training:** To be inspired to act ethically, students need to get ethical education and training. Training programmes can support their development of the moral decision-making abilities required, as well as their comprehension of moral concepts and ability to identify moral quandaries. According to a study by Kaptein (2020), ethics education is important for increasing students' ethical awareness and behaviour.
4. **Responsibility and Sanctions:** Immoral behaviour must be held responsible for and subject to consequences in order to maintain moral norms. It is imperative that students comprehend that engaging in unethical behaviour carries consequences and will not be accepted. According to DeCremer *et al.* (2020), in order to discourage unethical behaviour, it is critical to establish just and uniform penalties for unethical behaviour.
5. **Establishing moral decision-making processes** is one way that organisations can encourage moral behaviour. Students' behaviour can be directed and ethical considerations can be made sure of by giving them the frameworks and tools they need to make moral decisions. The reduction of unethical behaviour and the promotion of ethical behaviour in schools are highly dependent on ethical decision-making processes (Tenbrunsel *et al.*, 2020).
6. **Mentoring and Role Modeling in Ethics:** Moral behaviour is greatly influenced by the promotion of moral advice and ethical modelling. Students who are connected to virtuous mentors and role models might benefit from talks, assistance, and direction. Students' ethical behaviour is positively impacted by mentorship and ethical role modelling, (Johnson *et al.*, 2019).

### **Definition of Modern Day Slavery**

Modern-day slavery is the systematic exploitation of individuals for financial gain or other personal motives. Victims experience various forms of abuse and control, are deprived of their independence, and are coerced into submission. The International Labour Organization defines contemporary slavery as forced labour, debt bondage, human trafficking, and other kinds of

exploitation (ILO). The United Nations (UN) defines it as the act of enlisting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving someone with the intention of exploiting them through duress, fraud, or the abuse of power.

### **Manifestation of modern day slavery**

1. **Forced Labour:** One common type of slavery that exists today is forced labour, which is when someone is coerced, intimidated, or forcibly made to work against their will. It addressed circumstances in which people are coerced into working under unfair labour regulations or financial bondage in factories, farms, construction sites, domestic slave markets, or other enterprises. Globally, 24.9 million individuals are forced to work as slaves (The Walk Free Foundation, 2018).
2. **Human trafficking:** This refers to the enlistment, lodging, transportation, or other enlistment of people through deceit, compulsion, or other means with the intention of exploiting them. Human trafficking victims frequently endure forced labour, forced begging, forced sexual exploitation, and forced participation in illegal activities. 72% of trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, according to data from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023).
3. **Child Labor:** "Child labour" is the term used to describe the employment of minors in jobs that are detrimental to their physical or mental development. It entails employment that interferes with children's education and puts their moral, social, mental, or physical development in danger. According to estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2017), there were 152 million young people working worldwide in many of them in dangerous and exploitative jobs.
4. **Debt bondage** is a practise that entails putting someone to work for a debt they are unable to repay. It typically involves unfair labour practises. Workers are unable to break free from the cycle of slavery or change their current situation. Walk Free Foundation (2021), affirmed that nearly 8 million people worldwide are expected to be kept as debt slaves.
5. **Domestic servitude:** This type of forced labour involves people, mostly women and girls, doing housework in private homes without receiving fair pay or housing. Domestic slavery victims may endure physical and sexual abuse in addition to social marginalisation. An International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2021) provided information on the global prevalence of domestic servitude.

### **The Impact of Modern-Day Slavery on Education**

Modern-day slavery significantly harms education because it prevents opportunities for education and keeps the cycle of vulnerability and exploitation alive.

1. **Limited School Access:** Adolescents who are enslaved in modern times occasionally don't have any access to education at all. The Walf Free Foundation (2018) estimates that of the 24.9 million people who are thought to be forced into labour, nearly 40% have had their education interrupted or denied. Individuals without formal education are more susceptible to being taken advantage of, which feeds the cycle of poverty.
2. **Disrupted Education:** Children who are exploited or forced to work as slaves in the modern era are not allowed to attend school. Children who are involved in child labour, including forced labour and financial bondage, may not be allowed to attend school or may even be expelled. According to International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018), 152 million children worldwide were denied an education due to child labour.
3. **Psychological trauma and stigma:** Psychological trauma is a common occurrence for victims of modern-day slavery, and it negatively impacts their capacity to acquire knowledge and participate in educational endeavours. The psychological toll that sexual assault victims experience during the encounter may have a permanent impact on their

ability to focus, remember things, and participate in school settings. Enslaved people may also face prejudice and humiliation, which would make it more difficult for them to pursue an education.

4. **Generational Effect:** The ways that modern slavery affects education may vary depending on the generation. A vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability is perpetuated when children born into families caught up in exploitation and slavery are more likely to be denied access to education. It is far more difficult to break out from the cycle of exploitation and pursue education as a means of escaping poverty as a result of this intergenerational effect.
5. **Socioeconomic Disparity:** Modern slavery has led to an increase in socioeconomic disparity, which has an impact on educational prospects. People that are exploited frequently come from marginalised and underprivileged backgrounds where there is already little access to high-quality education. A lack of education maintained the cycle of injustice and poverty, while slavery made impacted groups even more marginalised.

### **Identifying Vulnerable Groups in Africa**

1. One of the most vulnerable populations to modern-day slavery is refugees and asylum seekers. After escaping violence, persecution, or conflict in their home countries, they frequently encounter many difficulties in their new settings. These difficulties include restricted access to social assistance, jobs, healthcare, and education, to name a few. As of the end of 2019, the United Nations Refugee Agency estimated that there were 26.4 million refugees worldwide (UNHCR).
2. **Unauthorized Passengers:** The most vulnerable are irregular migrants or those without a legal status among other undocumented migrants. They frequently lack access to basic services, are afraid of deportation, and are left exposed to abuses including labour exploitation and human trafficking. Estimates from the 2020 World Migration Report place the number of illegal migrants in the EU alone at 10 and 15 million.
3. **Women and girls:** These populations may be more vulnerable to discrimination, violence, and restricted access to healthcare and education because of their gender. They may also be more susceptible to forced marriage and human trafficking. Recent research has focused attention on the gendered dimensions of human trafficking and the unique difficulties that women and girls encounter. One such study was released in 2020 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and is titled *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020*.
4. **Old and Aging Population:** Social isolation, restricted access to healthcare and support services, language challenges, and cultural differences are some of the issues that the elderly and ageing population may encounter. They could also be vulnerable to abuse and financial exploitation. In 2022, Mussie et al. submitted a paper to the ageing and public health section of the *Journal Frontiers in Public Health*, which was published. The study focused on the difficulties experienced by elder immigrants.

### **Teachers as Advocates and Educators in Addressing Modern day slavery**

Teachers play a critical role in the battle against modern-day slavery since they serve as both educators and activists in their communities and schools. Their initiatives are essential for advancing awareness, encouraging prevention, and giving kids the capacity to make a difference. Teachers can better prepare their pupils to be aware, involved citizens who actively oppose this terrible crime by incorporating contemporary slavery into the curriculum and promoting critical thinking. A recent report by the Education Above All Foundation and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime emphasises the significance of teachers serving as both educators and activists in the fight against modern-day slavery (UNODC). According to the report "Global Study on Trafficking in Persons 2020," education systems should play a bigger role in the fight



against and prevention of modern slavery.

This paper emphasised how important it is for educators to be up to date on the latest facts regarding modern slavery and human trafficking. This entails being aware of the several types of exploitation, including child enrollment, debt bondage, forced labour, and sex trafficking. Well-informed teachers might focus their lesson plans on combating modern-day slavery. In Nigeria, combating modern-day slavery via education is necessary to stop exploitation and increase awareness among the weak. You can make use of the following to achieve this:

1. **Integration of Anti-Trafficking Teaching:** There has been a drive in recent years to include anti-trafficking education in curricula for schools. This involves providing age-appropriate information on how to identify and report exploitation as well as details on the dangers and repercussions of modern slavery. These programmes aim to give kids the information and abilities they need to defend their friends and themselves.
2. **Teacher Training:** One of the most important tactics in the battle against modern slavery is teaching educators to recognise the warning signs of human trafficking and exploitation. When teachers have the right information and resources at their disposal, they can recognise vulnerable students and offer the right kind of assistance. Recently, efforts have been undertaken in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations to provide teacher training programmes.
3. **Peer Education Programs:** These train adolescents to serve as mentors and educators in their local communities and schools. These courses give students the information and abilities needed to educate others about the dangers of modern slavery and the necessity of stopping it. In Nigeria, programmes for peer education have been put in place with the goal of enabling youth to confront the problem and build a society that would not tolerate any form of exploitation. One prominent instance is the September 2014-founded Youth Initiative Against Violence & Human Rights Abuse (YIAVHA), which was officially registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on May 25, 2016. It was established in the Plateau State of Nigeria with the intention of advancing, safeguarding, and facilitating nonviolent action in support of women's and human rights.
4. **Community Outreach and Sensitization:** To combat modern-day slavery, communities need to be involved in awareness campaigns and programmes that raise public knowledge of the issue. Local organisations, religious authorities, and community groups collaborate to inform the public about the dangers of human trafficking and the significance of protecting the weaker members of society as part of these programmes. The current initiatives have concentrated on using media platforms like radio and television to widely disseminate anti-trafficking messaging.
5. **Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations:** Educational programmes can be strengthened by cooperation with civil society organisations that focus on counter-trafficking activities. These organisations offer knowledge, materials, and assistance for creating and carrying out educational programmes, holding seminars, and engaging with the local community. Nigerian educational institutions, government agencies, and civil society organisations have come together to improve anti-trafficking education.

## Conclusion

This paper emphasises the role that academic institutions have in reducing the incidence of modern-day slavery in Africa. By encouraging moral behaviour and self-control, raising awareness, and encouraging teamwork, educational institutions can enable students to become change agents and help end modern slavery in their community.

## Implications for Future Research and Policy Development

1. **Long-term impact:** Research in the future should concentrate on evaluating the potential

contribution of moral behaviour and discipline promotion in educational institutions to the eventual decline of modern-day slavery in Africa. It may be important to conduct longitudinal studies that monitor students' attitudes and behaviours over time in order to ascertain whether interventions implemented in educational institutions have a lasting impact.

2. **Comparative analysis:** Research can be done to evaluate how well various methods of enforcing discipline and morals in the classroom work. It is possible to determine best practises and the most efficient means of combating modern-day slavery by analysing the outcomes of several interventions carried out in various nations or areas.
3. **The importance of technology:** Future studies can examine how e-learning materials, smartphone apps, and online discussion boards might encourage moral behaviour and increase public knowledge of modern-day slavery in educational settings. Examining how technology might be used to involve students, disseminate knowledge, and encourage ethical conversation can teach future legislators a lot.
4. **Integration into national policies:** In order to stop modern-day slavery, national policies that prioritise the development of moral behaviour and discipline in educational institutions should be developed in light of the study's findings. The government ought to consider incorporating lectures on morality, human rights, and anti-slavery legislation into the curricula of educational institutions. They ought to set guidelines that institutes of higher learning must follow.
5. **Teacher assistance and training:** Policies should give top priority to giving educators the tools they need to successfully instruct students in moral behaviour and the history of slavery. Teacher training programmes have the potential to provide educators with the essential information and abilities needed to engage students in meaningful conversations about delicate subjects.
6. **Cooperation and partnerships:** In the fight against modern-day slavery, policymakers should promote cooperation and partnerships between educational institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders. Policy frameworks can operate as a roadmap for sharing best practises, collaborating across industries, and combining resources to support the adoption of all-encompassing anti-slavery initiatives in educational establishments.
7. **Monitoring and assessment:** In order to determine the efficacy of initiatives meant to uphold moral behaviour and discipline in educational institutions, policies should place a high focus on the necessity of monitoring and assessment systems. Recurrent evaluations can aid in identifying deficiencies, monitoring progress, and offering suggestions for prospective policy modifications to guarantee sustained enhancements in the battle against contemporary slavery.

## **Recommendations**

1. **Education as a catalyst:** By educating students about morality, human rights, and the repercussions of participating in modern-day slavery, academic institutions can effect change. Educational institutions can cultivate critical thinking and empathy in their pupils by incorporating these themes into the curriculum.
2. **Raising awareness:** The study emphasised the significance of educating teachers, students, and other stakeholders in educational institutions about modern slavery. People can learn about the several types of contemporary slavery, such as forced labour, human trafficking, and child exploitation, through awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars.
3. **Discipline and ethical behaviour:** Educational institutions must encourage discipline and ethical behaviour in order to combat modern-day slavery. Schools can impact students' views and participation in the anti-slavery movement by fostering virtues like

compassion, decency, and civic duty. In order to prevent discrimination or exploitation of any kind, they should also implement disciplinary procedures.

4. Cooperation: The study emphasised that in order to effectively combat modern-day slavery, cooperation between academic institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders is necessary. Together, these organisations have the power to create comprehensive legislation, put safety measures in place, and support people who have been enslaved.
5. Integration of real-world experiences: To assist students better comprehend the intricacies and realities of modern-day slavery, the study recommended incorporating real-world case studies and practical experiences into the educational curriculum. By employing this strategy, teachers may give students the tools they require to actively participate in and effect change in their communities.

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