

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN NIGERIA

Abstract

Taking children out of their protective environment and preying on their vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation has become a norm in Nigeria. The Objectives of the study were to examine the level of awareness of child trafficking on Human Development Index in Rivers State, ascertain the root causes of child trafficking and to identify who are the actors and Players in Nigerian Trafficking Industry. Data was relied on both primary and secondary sources and the study adopted a field survey approach for data collection. The findings revealed that there is little prospect of the menace of the trafficking of children being eliminated from Nigeria in the nearest future unless the specters of illiteracy and poverty, unemployment and all the other push and pull factors are adequately addressed. Also revealed by the study is the fact that the absence of specific legislation which criminalized the trafficking of women in Nigeria prior to 2003 has direct a direct bearing on the prevalence of cases of the trafficking of children in the study area. From the correlation analysis conducted, the study concluded that a positive and linear relationship exist between unemployment and child abuse by 3rd Party, while the least correlation coefficient of .048 exist between Poverty/Over population and illegal operation of motherless babies' home. The conclusion is therefore is that our respondents agree that each of the five (5) factors is distinct from the others and is likely to Triggers Child Trafficking in the study area.

Keywords; Trafficking, Vulnerability and Human Development Index

1 Introduction

The growing awareness of child trafficking as a phenomenon requiring a policy and practice response has in recent years gathered considerable pace. 'Anti trafficking' strategies, legislation, and a range of policies and practice guidance for agencies have been introduced in a relatively short period of time. 'Child trafficking' is a crosscutting social issue, relevant to several policy areas and disciplines, child protection, child migration, criminal justice, immigration, social policy and human rights. 'Child trafficking' as a recent and new area of social policy development highlights the importance and topicality of research in this field. Despite the presence and domestication of international laws, the passage and promulgation of child's right

act in 2003 and the Nigerian constitutional laws, Child human trafficking, served as a good source of income, generating almost 10 billion dollars a year (UNICEF, 2003; Hassan, 2012), the gain in it is much with very few loss (UNICEF, 2006: Makinde, 2015) and that attracted many people to it.

Various factors predispose to child trafficking in Nigeria. Some of which are a quest for cheap prostitutes, decay in public institutions, rural-urban migration, poor governance, endemic corruption, change in family size and low level of education as well as the poor economic status of families. Others are old traditional norms that create inequity among children, the porosity of our borders, lack of alternative economic opportunities, devaluation of naira, and change in the trend of household responsibilities to women in some cultures.

Trafficking encompasses the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.(Marsh,2015). At a minimum, exploitation implies the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (19 This means that for an act to constitute trafficking, the following three elements must cohabit (UNODC, 2015).

1. The Act (What is done) Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons
2. The Means (How it is done) Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim
3. The Purpose (Why it is done) For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

2. Aim and Objectives

The aim of this research is assess the impact of child trafficking on Human Development Index in Rivers state, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. What is the level of awareness of child trafficking on Human Development Index in Rivers State
2. What are the root causes of child trafficking
3. Who are the actors and Players in Nigerian Trafficking Industry

3. Literature Review

The Concept of Child Trafficking in Nigeria Child trafficking has been defined to;

“Means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person whether for or not involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like conditions, the removal of organs or generally for exploitative purpose (NAPTIP,2015)

From the above definition, child trafficking could be envisaged as the transfer of persons by fraudulent or coercive means for exploitative purposes. Furthermore, in Nigeria, child trafficking often occurs with the consent of the parents and, sometimes, of the children themselves. One can therefore deduce that child trafficking include but not limited to the following.

1. Buying and selling of Children for purposes.
2. Trafficking in slaves or slave trading.
3. Kidnapping from guardian by force or entice of a person under the age of eighteen years of age or of many children out of the custody of the lawful guardian, without the consent of the lawful guardian.
4. Procuring a person for defilement by threat or by intimidation or by administration of drug or by pretence to have a carnal connection with a man or animal in Nigeria or outside Nigeria.

5. Unlawful detention with intent to defile or conspire with another person to induce or detain person under the age of 18 years old against such person's will to have carnal knowledge of the person.
6. Procurement of person for prostitution, pornography or for armed conflict or for trafficking in drugs.
7. Exportation of a person from Nigeria, person under the age of 18 years against the will of such person to perform assigned duties

3.1 Child Labour

Child labour is an activity, which normally takes place clandestinely; it is one of the most egregious and manifested forms of child's rights violation. With regards to its meaning, an expansive definition proffered and adopted by resolution II during the 18th International Conference of Statisticians, is most agreeable to the international community (ILO, 2008). 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians,

The definition is rather descriptive and captures a wide range of actions. It states that the term child labor covers: The worst forms of child labor, including slavery, prostitution, and pornography, illicit activities, and work likely to harm children's health, safety or morals as defined in ILO Convention No. 182. Employment below the minimum age of 15, as established under ILO Convention No. 138. Hazardous unpaid household services, including household chores performed for long hours, in an unhealthy environment, in dangerous locations, and involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads. All over the world, and on daily basis, millions of children are ensnared in one form of child labor or the other. This according to UNICEF, deprives them of "their childhood, their health, and education, and condemning them to a life of poverty and of want" (UNICEF, 2018b). Official data from UNICEF, ILO and the World Bank estimate that about 168 million children aged 7 - 15 are engaged in unacceptable work, suffering worst forms of child labor including "slavery and slavery-like practices such as forced and bonded labor and child soldiering, sexual" (IOM, 2018). They are also used by adults in illicit activities such as trafficking in drugs, armed robbery and pornography (UNICEF, 2019b). A very common form of child labour in which children engage in work as domestics, is prevalent in Nigeria. The danger and hazardous conditions the children are reportedly subjected has continuously made headlines in the print and mass media and also revealed by researches (Abe,

2019). The number of children in domestic work is estimated at 15.5 million (UNICEF, 2018a). However, the number of children in domestic work remains largely unknown due to lack of data.

3.2 Global Situation on Human Trafficking (with focus on child trafficking)

Human trafficking or trafficking in persons affects almost every country in the world. A country may serve either as a source, transit and/or destination of trafficked victims (UNODC, 2016). The ILO has stated the global nature of trafficking and trafficked victims generally include men, women and children alike (ILO, 2008). However, women and children form a greater proportion of those who are victimized into trafficking largely due to their vulnerabilities which may be social, cultural or economic. Trafficking can occur domestically or across borders. The movement of victims are usually from underdeveloped areas to developed countries or from rural to urban areas in a country (Miko and Park, 2001; Zhang and Pineda, 2008; Rahman, 2011; Gouty, 2015). Globally, the numbers of trafficked victims are alarming. More than two million people are affected by the various forms of trafficking (ILO, 2008; Standing, 2010; Reid, 2012). With some estimates ranging from 4 million to 27 million, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in their 2002 estimate states that, about 12.3 million children are trafficked annually for various exploitative reasons (ILO, 2002).

An annual estimate of about 800 million victims were reported in 2013 by the US Department of State (Gyamfi, 2016). Earlier in 2004, the US Department of State reported an estimate of 800000 people trafficked (Omelaniuk, 2005). The ILO also reports that, 23% and 18% of children 5 – 17 years and 5 – 14 years were economically active in the year 2000 respectively. Also, more than 8.4 million were engage in unconditional worst forms of child labour. Again, based on their estimates, about 1.2 million are trafficked, 5.7 million children in forced and bonded labour, 300000 in armed conflict and 1.8 million in prostitution and pornography (ILO, 2002). Similarly, the ILO indicates that close to 2.5 million of those in forced labour were victims of trafficking with children under 18 years comprising about 40% to 50% of trafficked victims in force labour (ILO, 2005)

The economic dimension of trafficking activities influences victims of exploitation by their captors. For instance, most of the boys are forced into manual or physical forms of labour such as, farming, drug trading and other crimes, whereas most girls become victims of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude (ILO, 2002). The drive for profit through trafficking activities has led to an estimated 12.3 million people engaged in forced labour out of which 64% were for economic exploitation, 20% state or military imposed, 11% commercial sexual exploitation and 5% in mixed exploitative activities. In 2008, the ILO indicated that, victims of trafficking exploited in forced manual/physical labour were 32% while 43% and 25% were exploited in sex and mixed forms respectively. Of the over two million trafficked victims, more than a million were estimated from Asia and Pacific (ILO, 2008).

The various forms of labour and sexual exploitation of trafficked victims accrue profits for the captors. The huge earnings involve several billions of dollars and some have claimed that it exceeds the arms and drug trade. This entices and sustains the perpetration of this human rights violation activity which affects the population's health as well (Miko and Park, 2001; Taylor, 2002; Kempadoo, 2005; Standing, 2010; Rahman, 2011; Alvarez and Alessi, 2012; Marchionni, 2012; Zulaikha, Rohim and Ahmad, 2017). The monetary estimates of the profits of forced labour and human trafficking provided by Belser, (2005) is overwhelming and supports the billions of dollars claimed to be made by the industry. This could be as high as 44 billion dollars a year with trafficked victims contributing about 32 billion dollars (ibid).

4. Methodology

The study adopted a field survey approach for data collection, which took the researcher to organisations namely; UNDOC, IOM, UNICEF, IPEC, SAP-EL, ILO, UN-GIFT, NATIP, MOJ, NPS, NSCDC, NIS, CSO. Besides, the study also adopted a deterministic approach by way of response weighting, maximum likelihood extraction and varimax extraction, and varimax rotation for iterations.

The objective evaluation Questionnaire is the principal instrument used for primary data collection. In the study, a total of 250 copies of questionnaire were distributed with a total of 200(80%) fully completed questionnaire returned. This gave a response rate of 80% as illustrated in the chart below

Chart 1: Questionnaire return rate category

Number issued out	Number Returned	Percentage response
250	200	80%

4.1. Reliability Test

SPSS statistics produces many different tables. The first important table is the reliability statistics table that provides the actual value for Cronbach's alpha were calculated within the acceptable range for reliability as shown in Chart 1.

Chart 2: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.879	32

From the reliability statistics, we can see that Cronbach's alpha is approximately 0.88, which indicates a high level of internal consistency for our data scale. This value also indicates that there is 0.12 error variance (random error) in the scores. The alpha reliability provides the statistical support for the responses of the respondents and for us to move ahead with the hypothesis testing.

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

5.2 The Demographic Characteristics of the respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents according to organization

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
UNDOC	17	8.5	8.5	8.5
IOM	13	6.5	6.5	15.0
UNICEF	17	8.5	8.5	23.5
IPEC	17	8.5	8.5	32.0
Valid SAP-EL	9	4.5	4.5	36.5
ILO	15	7.5	7.5	44.0
UN-GIFT	12	6.0	6.0	50.0
NATIP	14	7.0	7.0	57.0

MOJ	12	6.0	6.0	63.0
NPS	14	7.0	7.0	70.0
NPF	19	9.5	9.5	79.5
NSCDC	15	7.5	7.5	87.0
NIS	16	8.0	8.0	95.0
CSO	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

The findings in table 1 shows that respondents were sort out from in almost every organisation related in one way or the other to child trafficking in Nigeria. It could be seen that every stakeholder was covered.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	177	88.5	88.5	88.5
Valid Female	23	11.5	11.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

From table 2 it could be seen that 88.5% of the total respondents are male while 11.5% are female

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
16-24 years	44	22.0	22.0	22.0
25-40 years	60	30.0	30.0	52.0
41-60 years	55	27.5	27.5	79.5
Valid Over 60 years	41	20.5	20.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

22% of the respondents are between the age of 16yrs to 24yrs, 30% are between 25yrs to 40yrs, 27.5% 41yrs to 60yrs while 20.5% are over 60yrs.

Table 4 Have you heard about trafficking

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	194	97.0	97.0	97.0
Valid No	6	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 tells us that 97% of our respondents have heard about trafficking while only 3% have no idea about trafficking.

Table 5: Age of victims at the time of being trafficked

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
6-10yrs	6	3.0	3.0	3.0
11-15yrs	29	14.5	14.5	17.5
Valid 16-20yrs	102	51.0	51.0	68.5
21-25	63	31.5	31.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

3% of the respondents agree that victims of child trafficking are between 6yrs to 10yrs, 14.5% said victims include children between the ages of 11yrs to 15yrs, 51% said adolescents between the age of 16yrs to 20yrs, while 31% said adults between the age of 21yrs to 25yrs.

Table 6: In your own opinion what is the level of knowledge of child trafficking among the indigenes of River State

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
High	183	91.5	91.5	91.5
Valid Low	17	8.5	8.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

It could be deduced from .6 that 91.55% of the respondent's perceive the level knowledge of child trafficking among the indigenes of River State as high while 8.5% said its low.

5.3 Correlation Analysis of the Factors that Triggers Child Trafficking

Correlation analysis is carried out to test the extent to which our respondents understood and believe that each of the factors is independent from one another

Table 7: Correlation Matrix

	Poverty/Over population	Child abuse by 3rd Party	Unemployment	Illiteracy	Illegal operation of motherless babies' home
Correlation	1.000	.062	.062	.520	.050
Poverty/Over population					
Child abuse by 3rd Party	.062	1.000	.822	.080	.058
Unemployment	.062	.075	1.000	.080	.058
Illiteracy	.520	.080	.080	1.000	.062
Illegal operation of motherless babies' home	.048	.058	.058	.062	1.000

Table 7 shows that all the correlation coefficients are positive. The highest correlation of .822 exist between unemployment and child abuse by 3rd Party, while the least correlation coefficient of .048 exist between Poverty/Over population and illegal operation of motherless babies' home. The conclusion is therefore is that our respondents agree that each of the five (5) factors is distinct from the others and is likely to Triggers Child Trafficking in the study area.

5.4. Estimation of the possible intensity of Factors that Triggers Child Trafficking

Table 8: Communalities

	Initial	Extraction
Poverty/Over population	1.000	.731
Child abuse by 3rd Party	1.000	.426
Unemployment	1.000	.516
Illiteracy	1.000	.745

Illegal operation of motherless babies' home	1.000	.679
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Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The estimation of the possible intensity of factors that triggers child trafficking is done using the

Factors	1	AF	2	AF	3	AF	4	AF	5	AF	ΣAFi	RII	Rank
Money making	3	3	4	8	2	6	6	24	185	925	966	0.97	2 nd
Rituals	4	4	4	8	10	30	1	4	181	905	951	0.95	4 th
Forced labour	2	2	4	8	3	9	2	8	189	945	972	0.97	2 nd
Recruitment into terrorism	12	12	4	8	6	18	9	36	169	845	919	0.92	6 th
Recruitment into drug trafficking	10	10	5	10	6	18	7	28	172	860	926	0.93	5 th
Recruit into Espionage & Homosexualism	3	3	7	14	0	0	8	32	182	910	959	0.96	3 rd
Prostitution	1	1	3	6	0	0	5	20	191	955	982	0.98	1 st

communality test extraction as shown in table 10. The least extraction of 0.426 is associated to Child abuse by 3rd Party, while the highest extraction of 0.745 is associated with Illiteracy. It is therefore follows that each of the factors has indicated a high potential of triggering Child Trafficking in the study area.

Table 9 Relative Importance Index of the root causes of Child Trafficking

From Table 9, a critical observation of the ranked measures reveals the following results in terms of the importance indices and ranking of the root causes of child trafficking the study area. From the study, Prostitution was ranked first with a RII of 0.98; Money making was ranked second with a RII of 0.97; Recruit into Espionage & Homosexualism was ranked third with a RII of 0.96, Rituals was ranked fourth with a RII of 0.95; Recruitment into drug trafficking was ranked fifth with a RII of 0.93 while Recruitment into terrorism as ranked 6th with RII of 0.92.

TABLE 10: Roles of MDA's/NGOs

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
NGOs get various stakeholders together		

Strongly Disagree	4	2.0
Disagree	4	2.0
Neutral	6	3.0
Agree	9	4.5
Strongly Agree	177	88.5
Total	200	100.0
NGOs get various stakeholders together		
Strongly Disagree	4	2.0
Disagree	4	2.0
Neutral	6	3.0
Agree	9	4.5
Strongly Agree	177	88.5
Total	200	100.0
NGO/MDAs provides education and vocational training to risk groups of populations in their host state		
Strongly Disagree	8	4.0
Disagree	5	2.5
Neutral	6	3.0
Agree	7	3.5
Strongly Agree	174	87.0
Total	200	100.0
NGO/MDAs generate and secure jobs		
Strongly Disagree	2	1.0
Disagree	3	1.5
Neutral	3	1.5
Agree	4	2.0
Strongly Agree	188	94.0
Total	200	100.0
NGOs try to save children from being trafficked in lieu of employment		
Strongly Disagree	4	2.0
Disagree	5	2.5
Neutral	3	1.5
Agree	5	2.5
Strongly Agree	183	91.5
Total	200	100.0
Spreading awareness, employment and literacy		
Strongly Disagree	10	4.9
Disagree	13	6.4
Neutral	16	7.8

Agree	12	5.9
Strongly Agree	153	75.0
Total	204	100.0
Support government agencies in the process of rescuing and repatriating trafficked children		
Strongly Disagree	3	1.5
Disagree	7	3.5
Neutral	5	2.5
Agree	3	1.5
Strongly Agree	182	91.0
Total	200	100.0
Government agencies helps in preventing trafficking through national law enforcement and implementation		
Strongly Disagree	2	1.0
Disagree	3	1.5
Neutral	3	1.5
Agree	2	1.0
Strongly Agree	190	95.0
Total	200	100.0

From table 10, we could see that majority of the respondents (88.5%) strongly agree that NGOs get various stakeholders together in fighting child trafficking in the study area. 4.5% agree with the statement, 3.0% are undecided, 2.0% of the respondents disagree and another 2.0% of the respondents strongly disagree that NGOs get various stakeholders together in fighting child trafficking in the study area.

Also, (87.5%) strongly agree that NGO/MDAs provides education and vocational training to risk groups of populations in their host state in the study area. 3.5% agree with the statement, 3.0% are undecided, 2.5% of the respondents disagree and 4.0% of the respondents strongly disagree that NGO/MDAs provides education and vocational training to risk groups of populations in their host state.

Furthermore, (94.0%) of the total respondents strongly agree that NGO/MDAs generate and secure jobs, 2.0% agree with the statement, 1.5% are undecided, 1.5% of the respondents disagree and another 1.0% of the respondents strongly disagree that NGO/MDAs generate and secure jobs for victims.

However, (91.5%) of the total respondents strongly agree that NGOs try to save children from being trafficked in lieu of employment, 2.5% agree with the statement, 1.5% are undecided, 2.5% of the respondents disagree and 2.0% of the respondents strongly disagree that NGOs try to save children from being trafficked in lieu of employment.

Also, (75.0%) of the total respondents strongly agree that Spreading awareness, employment and literacy, 5.9% agree with the statement, 7.8% are undecided, 6.4% of the respondents disagree and 4.9% of the respondents strongly disagree that Spreading awareness, employment and literacy.

Furthermore, (91.0%) of the total respondents strongly agree that support government agencies in the process of rescuing and repatriating trafficked children, 1.5% agree with the statement, 2.5% are undecided, 3.5% of the respondents disagree and 1.5% of the respondents strongly disagree that support government agencies in the process of rescuing and repatriating trafficked children.

Finally, (95.0%) of the total respondents strongly agree that government agencies help in preventing trafficking through national law enforcement and implementation, 1.0% agree with the statement, 1.5% are undecided, 1.5% of the respondents disagree and 1.0% of the respondents strongly disagree that government agencies help in preventing trafficking through national law enforcement and implementation.

5.5 Test of Hypotheses:

In order to correctly answer the research question, the researcher selected the one sample t-test for the test of the formulated hypothesis

5.5.1: Statement of hypothesis one

H₀₁: There is no significant impact of child trafficking on child development.

Table 11: sample t-test

Social economic indicators	T-Value	df	p-value
Trafficked children are Reduced to mere commodity	101.776	199	.000
Dehumanized	109.726	199	.000
Abused	94.788	199	.000
Denied freedom and healthy living	86.240	199	.000

Separated from parents and loved ones as such lack love and parental care	69.018	199	.000
Trafficked children are full of shame, guilt, low esteem	114.898	199	.000
Frequently stigmatized & feel betrayed.	93.010	199	.000
The experience leads to ill-health, feelings of hopelessness & depression	88.278	199	.000
The hope of having a secured future is shattered	85.658	199	.000

From the one sample t-test in table 11 it could be seen that the p-values for the identified indicators are all 0.000 which is less than 0.05 level of significant. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and conclude that child trafficking has significant impact on social economic development in the study area.

6. Conclusion

This study examined the causes and consequences of child trafficking in River state Nigeria. The study posed a number of questions, among them; what are the causes of human trafficking, what are the mechanisms put in place to stem the tide of child trafficking, how effective are these mechanisms and why has the trafficking of children persisted despite the existence of laws criminalizing the illicit business? From estimation of the possible intensity of factors that triggers child trafficking which was done using the communality test extraction, one of the major findings of the study is that the least extraction of 0.426 is associated to Child abuse by 3rd Party, while the highest extraction of 0.745 is associated with Illiteracy and poverty. It is therefore follows that each of the factors considered in the study has indicated a high potential of triggering child trafficking in the study area. From the study it was discovered that there is little prospect of the menace of the trafficking of children being eliminated from Nigeria in the nearest future unless the specters of illiteracy and poverty, unemployment and all the other push and pull factors are adequately addressed. From the study it was discovered that prostitution attributes the persistence of the trafficking of children especially the girl children in Nigeria to the country's porous borders, activities of traffickers and some corrupt embassy officials who issue visas to traffickers and their prey. From the one sample t-test, the study concluded that child trafficking

has significant impact on social economic development in the study area. Also revealed by the study is the fact that the absence of specific legislation which criminalized the trafficking of women in Nigeria prior to 2003 has direct a direct bearing on the prevalence of cases of the trafficking of children in the study area. From the correlation analysis conducted, the study concluded that a positive and linear relationship exist between unemployment and child abuse by 3rd Party, while the least correlation coefficient of .048 exist between Poverty/Over population and illegal operation of motherless babies' home. The conclusion is therefore is that our respondents agree that each of the five (5) factors is distinct from the others and is likely to Triggers Child Trafficking in the study area.

8. Recommendation

The following considerations were recommended from this study:

- I. Multi Sectorial approach in raising the awareness on issue of Child trafficking should be promoted
- II. Government and other agencies should partner in order to address the root cause of child trafficking

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