

ABSTRACT

The overall objective of the study was to assess the threats of human trafficking on national Security in Tanzania based in Arusha City Council. It specifically intended; to assess the forms of human Trafficking in Arusha City Council, to analyze the methods used by traffickers in Arusha City Council, and to evaluate the ability of the existing legal framework to address Human Trafficking on national security. The study was guided by three theories namely routine activity, modern slavery, and securitization theory. It employed a Descriptive research design and mixed research approach was deployed as well. Purposive sampling strategies were used to select 59 participants. The sample included 52 immigration officers, 5 VEOs, and 2 court officers all these were obtained from a population of 59 people. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis for interview qualitative data and descriptive analysis for quantitative data with the help of SPSS 26 Version. The findings were human trafficking poses a serious threat to national security by exacerbating existing security challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, and corruption. The study also found that human trafficking networks are often transnational, making them difficult to track and prosecute. Descriptive tables revealed the prevalence of various forms of human trafficking, emphasizing the deceptive methods commonly employed, including false job advertisements, seduction, and exploitation of familial relationships. Furthermore, the study highlighted the pivotal role of ineffective legal framework, such as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee and specific action plans, in combating the menace of human trafficking and safeguarding national security. The study concludes that an effective legal framework is instrumental in addressing the complexities of human trafficking, while heightened vigilance and targeted interventions can empower communities to identify and combat deceptive practices. Considering the study's findings, it is recommended that policymakers prioritize the strengthening of the existing legal framework, including the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and comprehensive action plans, to effectively combat human trafficking. Community awareness and engagement initiatives should be prioritized, alongside enhanced collaboration between law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and relevant authorities to foster a cohesive and proactive response to the threat of human trafficking on national security.