
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA/GAMBIA: THE ROLE OF HUMAN SECURITY PROVISIONING

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ABSTRACT: *This paper investigated the association between unemployment and human security provisioning using ordinary least square estimator of regression analysis. Unemployment was measured using unemployment rate while human security provisioning was measured by; food security, purchasing power parity and poverty rate. This study adopted a comparative survey research design. Both primary and Secondary data were used. The outcomes of the study show that Food security had an inverse relationship with youth unemployment in the Gambia while Purchasing power parity had a significant effect on unemployment rate in Nigeria. In both countries, there is a high positive association between youth unemployment and human security provisioning. Moreover, the study found empirically that the key factor responsible for youth vulnerability is lack of subsistence occasioned by unemployment. Therefore, it has become more pertinent that the government of Nigeria and the Gambia developed a pragmatic approach in reducing youth unemployment as a strategy for reducing the incidence of human trafficking.*

KEYWORD: Youth, Unemployment, Human Trafficking, Human Security

INTRODUCTION

The provision of employment is one of the responsibilities of a responsive government to enhance productivity and increase human capital. In a recent statistics released by International Labour Organization for global unemployment or joblessness, over 200 million people were jobless in 2013 and the fear is that global unemployment might worsen. The projection is that more than 215million will be job seekers by 2018. According to the report, the most worrisome situation is that youth unemployment rose to 74.5 million in 2013, almost more than one million in 2012 and that youth unemployment rate has risen to 13.1 percent which is three times as high as the adult unemployment rate (Ray, 2014). This global statistics shows that youth-to-adult unemployment ratio has reached a historical peak

Massive unemployment among the youth is an indication of multiple and complex problem. In absolute terms, it is estimated that there are about 122 million youths on the African continent that are unemployed (Echebiri(2005); Chigunta 2002). Therefore, projections of the population growth into the 21st century indicate that the proportion of youths, in relation to the overall population,

would continue to grow. Todaro (1992) pointed out that the high rate of unemployment is a result of continuous transfer of economic activities, especially the youths from rural to urban areas.

Unemployment situation in Nigeria and the Gambia tend to have influenced movement and migrations from the two countries. From the statistics available from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOs, 2012), more than 22 percent of the Gambian population is unemployed with larger percentage covering the youth within the population less than 2 million. In an assessment done by World Bank in 2010, nearly 60 percent of the poor in The Gambia are under the age of 20 years. They face significant challenges with respect to employment outcomes... many of those who do receive high quality education and training choose to emigrate. In a country where more than half the population is under the age of 20 years, these trends are worrisome.

On the other hand, Nigeria unemployment grew drastically within the space of 2000 -2012. For example according to the annual data from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012), unemployment fluctuates across states. For instance, in the South –West, between year 2000 and 2003, for Lagos State, there has been steady increase on the level of unemployment from 4.8 percent in 2000 to 25.6 percent in 2003. This dropped in 2004-2008, then increased in 2009-2010, and dropped in 2011-2012. For Ogun State, while there are fluctuations throughout the years under study, there was a sharp increase in 2011 and 2012. For the rest of the zones, the level of unemployment increased, Ogun 22.9; Edo 35.2; Delta 27.2; Benue 14.2; Sokoto 17.9. In the same token, another report from NBS, (2012) suggests that the number of entrants per year into Labour market kept increasing with average of 1-8 million creating an increase in unemployment rate. The data for unemployment population within 2006-2011, demonstrated a steady increase in unemployment rate. If new unemployment statistics are considered, then one begins to wonder the large number of unemployed people in Nigeria economy with the significant population being youth.

This pace was corroborated by Bakare (2013), who asserts that youth unemployment had risen to 80 percent as against the world statistics -38 percent. According to him, the populations accounting for half of this figure are unemployed secondary school graduates while university and polytechnics graduates make up the figure. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) estimated the population of unemployed youth to 80 million representing 60% of the population with majority between ages 15-19; 15-24; and 20-24. In the same token between 2000 and 2010, NBS gave the following percentage of unemployed persons in Nigeria- 31.1% in 2000; 13.6% in 2001; 12.6% in 2002; 14.8% in 2003; 13.4% in 2004; 11.9% in 2005; 13.7% in 2006; 14.6% in 2007; 14.9% in 2008 and 19.7% in 2009 and 2010 23.9%.(okafor, 2011)

The phenomenon of human trafficking is an epidemic sweeping through all society globally. Available statistics show the following trend :-forced labour 2.5 million (ILO, 2007, UN.GIFT and UNODOC), others 20.9 million people are in what is known as Modern Day slavery globally (UNVTF_fs_HT_EN.pdf, ILO, UNODOC, 2012), covering 161 countries, in which victims are trafficked out of 127 countries and exploited in 137 globally. Out of this global statistics, 5.2% of the globally population are from Sub Sahara African (ibid). Nigeria and the Gambia are no exception. While the phenomenon had raised concern and had generated policies and protocols, there are differentiations quantitatively and qualitatively, which suggests that when the

phenomenon is present in both countries, both have uniqueness peculiar to them and differs statistically. For example issues of street begging are more in the Gambia than Nigeria, child trafficking exist simultaneously in the two countries (Nigeria 852 and the Gambia, 21, child labour; 2658 for Nigeria and 51 in the Gambian (NAPTIP, GSW) while child sex tourism is prevalent in the Gambia. These statistics are numbers of victims rescued and not those ones that were swept underground unnoticed, with most cases involving the youth. The question is why the youth are mostly vulnerable and susceptible to trafficking in whatever forms.

From the aforementioned facts, It is obvious that unemployment is a serious problem in both Nigeria and Gambia. And this problem may not be unconnected with the high rate of human trafficking in both countries. In spite of the prevailing problems of unemployment and human trafficking in both Nigeria and Gambia, largely missing in the literature is the study focused on unemployment and human trafficking as well as the role of human security provisioning. This study attempted to bridge this gap by investigating the association between unemployment and human security provisioning in both Nigeria and the Gambia

LITERATURE REVIEW

This paper adopted Human security approach as the bases for linking the rising incidence of human trafficking and human security provisioning. The end of cold war had brought new dimension into the general notion of security, which has its domain in the military deterministic element of state-centric capacity to guard and protect its integrity and sovereignty. Amongst the various new ideas, which have emerged, the concept of human security had become central guiding principles for countries and international organization to foster their foreign policies e.g Canada and Japan. Driving also this concept is the expansion of the world into a global village where it has become visible that state has lost its capacity to protect, prevent and prohibit any form of threat and reduces human vulnerability.

Although, the concept of human security has been explained variedly by scholars from different theoretical perspective, for example Tsai (2009) explained it from constructivist perspective as against the conventional approaches to security studies which focus on security of community and culture, constructivist offers a number of insight into the additional dimension such as human consciousness, national identity, interest formation etc. This theoretical explanation makes it more meaningful, when human security is viewed through the lens of constructivism (Wendt, 1992; Ruggie, 1998).

There are lots of threat today to human security that are not derive from military confrontation such as new wars that are increasingly intertwines with the global risk – spread of disease, vulnerability of natural disaster, poverty, homelessness and unemployment. Naidoo (nd), used two main contemporary theories of international relation, which are at the end of continuum to clarify this new security thinking. At one end of the continuum is a new-realist theoretical framework that stresses the dominance of the state in the conceptualization of human security. And postmodernist or critical human security approach that is rooted within the pluralist theory of international politics representing the other end of security the discourse, the assumption that it dislodges the state as

the primary referent of security. Scholar like Buzan (1991), a neo-realist advocate for more than a military concept of human security and expanded the concept of security to include, political, economic, social and environmental threat instead of the straitjacket militaristic approach that undermine the extant of security. The post-modernist is simply not equating state security with human security, why? Because in Booth's view "government that supposed to be the guardians of their peoples security have instead become primary source of insecurity for many people who live under the sovereignty, rather than the armed forces of neighboring country. The synergy is that both approaches address non-military threat to human security in spite of their differences.

Therefore, since the development of human security in 1994 by the United Nation Development program, the concept of human security had been human –centered rather than the state-centric notion of cold war era, measured wellness through the development of the capacity of individual. As Kaldor (2007) explains in her introduction to her volume *Human Security*, human vulnerability is pervasive, threatened by 'new wars' where actors are no longer states, that do not follow the rules of conduct of 'old wars', and that cannot be won by the means of old wars. Moreover, these new wars are intertwined with other global threats including disease, natural disasters, poverty and homelessness. "Yet our security conceptions, drawn from the dominant experience of the Second World War, do not reduce that insecurity; rather they make it worse." (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012)

Similarly, Mahbub (1995) proposes human security as a new paradigm of security: 'the world is entering a new era in which the very concepts of security will change-and change dramatically. Security will be interpreted as: security of people, not just territory; security of individuals, not just nations; security through development, not through arms; and security of all the people everywhere - in their homes, in their jobs, in their streets, in their communities, in their environment" (Haq 1995). Adopting the approach is an indication of its importance and the significant that cannot be ignored within the contemporary discourse and debates about the world order. It opens up new lines of analysis and gives voice to new actors. Its value added in the security field is that it focuses attention on human beings and integrates non-military mechanisms as means to security. Its value added in the development field is to focus attention on downside risks. We consider human security to be an idea that is part of the capability approach. For that reason, human security is closely related to human development and to human rights. (Nussbaum 2011; Sen 1999; and Vizard and others 2011)

Poverty is a subset of general condition whose dimensions include reduced health and life expectancy (Akinbobola & Saibu, 2007). The report shows that 112.519 million of Nigerians is living in relative poverty while the entire population of Nigerian is around 163 million. This represents 69% of the total population (FOS, 2012).

Various scholars such as: Chigunta(2002); Echebiri(2005), Okafor (2011), had considered the global trend of unemployment and its impact on the African continent in their various works and opined that unemployment occurs mostly in developing countries of the world and have social, economic, political and psychological consequences.

YOUTH AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA AND GAMBIA

The nature and pattern of human trafficking differ greatly in the Gambia and Nigeria and the phenomenon is interpreted differently. However, common to them are issues of forced labour, street begging, and domestic labour with the degree of quantification. It is shocking at the revelation gotten at the International Conference on women and children held in Terre Kulture recently, where various speakers described how mostly hapless young women and girls between age bracket of 10-21 years are deceptively procured by some barons through their Nigerian agents. They are thereafter trafficked to different countries abroad where they suffer sexual exploitation, emotional distress, disorientation, depression and sometimes death. The most embarrassing, disheartened and disturbing situation is that this most heinous crime is no longer restricted to people. The growing trend now is trafficking in human organs and women embryos. At the same conference, one of the speakers shocked the participants when he narrated how some Nigerian women are usually administered drugs that cause ovarian hyper stimulation in order to extract their eggs. In what was described as a booming trade, some women in Abuja are said to be selling their eggs for the sum of ₦500,000. At the CNN on the documentary on Nigeria, “a boyfriend sold a child for ₦250,000 because of fear of want and need”. In Imo state “a supposed doctor was harvesting babies and turning young girl to baby factory, selling off the babies and given a token of ₦50,000. Corroborating baby harvesting, Odigwe (2008) stated that baby harvesting is another type of human trafficking in Nigeria. In states like Ebonyi, Abia and Lagos, there are cases of hospitals, clinics, orphanages, doctors and nurses who keep teenagers and single mothers who do not want to keep their babies after birth to provide them shelter and care while they are pregnant and sell off their babies for a premium to couples that need them. They are made to sign papers renouncing their rights to the babies as well as swear to oaths of secrecy. The Good Shepherd Orphanage in Lagos was reported to be engaged in illegal adoption of babies as well as sheltering young pregnant girls and selling off their babies at birth. Many of these babies sold cannot be traced and one cannot determine what became of them.

In another revelation by This day newspaper captioned “200 Nigerian girls trafficked to Russia Monthly, for what? Prostitution” is an indication of increase in human trafficking. The paper published June 12, 2013, stated by more 240 had been deposited as at July 2012. While trafficking in Nigeria is not limited to women and girls, boys are found around quarry areas (Abeokuta) or plantation farms with and outside Nigeria, not to mention Benin as hop for trafficking with more than 80% trafficking victims from Benin and environs.

In The Gambia, trafficking is introverted in nature in contrast to extroverted nature of human trafficking in Nigeria. The Gambia smiling coast and beauty beaches tend to have attracted many pedophiles to defile some young ones. The activities of “bumster” and “pimps” as intermediary are of a serious concern to the Gambian. However, the culture of silence and stigmatization makes the cases to be swept under carpet and some governmental influence. Many of these cases happened in TDA, (Tourism Development Areas). While young girls seem to be lured by the “Tuobab”, the white young men are used and dump by the other women from the Scandinavian country, an experience personal witnessed in one of guest area in Kololi, the Gambia. From observations, interaction and interview, child sex trafficking is prevalence despite lack of data and government official unwillingness to share the information. There has been overwhelming

evidence of the existence of the phenomenon. In a Global Monitoring Report (GMR) on status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children with the support and assistance of international agency like Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (MFAGD) and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), incontrovertible discussed the severity of children exploitation in the Gambia by stating that “ “Several forms of commercial sexual exploitation of Children affect the Gambia. The occurrence of child sex tourism in the Gambia is well document and a UNICEF report from 2003 concludes “The Gambia is a vulnerable target for... unscrupulous visitor, such as suspected or convicted paedophiles who enter the country in search of a low profile location to commit their crimes against children silently and with impunity”. Examining the profile of people involved, while the research strictly focused on underage, it was observed that older female tourists are often seen with younger Gambian but assumed that they are young 18. However, it was discovered that main offending group involved in child sex tourism were European males over the age of 45 and their nationalities ranges e, g. Dutch, British, Norwegian, Belgium, German, Danish etc. It was found that those involved in child trafficking are either tourists, those on short business trips, business and resident in the country, retired and living full in the country. Age of Children involved 9-16 from different nationalities, Sierra Leonean, Senegalese, Congolese, Guinean, Liberian and Gambian. Common also in the Gambia is migration from the rural area to urban or to Europe.

According to Migration International between 1993 and 2010, the urban population increased from about 37 percent to 58 percent of the total population, largely driven by young Gambians in rural areas migrating to urban areas in search of work. The Gambian government has been unable to restore economic stability — including rectifying high unemployment especially among youth. Approximately 65,000 Gambians were abroad in 2010 (or around 4 percent of the total population), this is known population, what happened to those that did not make it.

THE ROLE OF HUMAN SECURITY PROVISIONING

Human security provisioning is a panacea for the new war in this global era. The insecurity that arises from illegal immigration, humanitarian issues such as poverty, drought, economic declining need pragmatic mechanism and structure to address them hence removing these threats mean alluding to, and fostering the various dimension of human security as stated by the UNDP.

Human security provisioning is a safety net from the harassment of poverty and unemployment and it is an interventionist strategic to manage the non-traditional security threats that affect the people. Human security is closely link to human development. When government pursues economic security, food security, and community security rigorously and aptly, there is bound to be development and reduction in inequality, which will be in tandem with reduction in human trafficking and youth unemployment. Human security provisioning is not an assault of sovereign government but rather is an economic development that propagates human wants and need that build cohesion in the society. It brings into fore and emphasizes, the importance of liberation of individual, rights and the possible implication of neglect of those rights dare consequences. Human security provisioning will bridge streetism, gangsterism, reduced anti-social offenses that

surge as a result of unemployment among the youth. The provision of human security, will build trust and confidence from the ruled to the ruler, make accountability possible; and increase the legal and physical protection of people. As a concept it is a practical approach that put people first, a positive response to a rapidly changing world, a principle that should find meaning in Nigeria and the Gambia foreign policy.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a comparative survey research design and used the dissimilar systems strategy combined with the method of focused comparison to draw out perspectives from respondents in order to ascertain the incidence of youth unemployment. To determine the possible association between unemployment and human security provisioning, we used ordinary least square estimator of regression analysis. Unemployment was measured using unemployment rate while human security provisioning was measured by; food security purchasing power parity and poverty rate. Secondary data from annual data of National bureau of Statistics (NBS) and World development Indicators (2012) were used between 2000 and 2012 (13 years). Findings from field survey regarding causes of human trafficking are equally presented afterwards. Two models were built in this work, each for the Gambia and Nigeria. The functional relationship is stated thus;

$$Unemployment = f (Human Security Provisioning)$$

And the equation is as stated below;

$$Unemp = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FSec + \beta_2 Pov + u$$

Where: Unemp is Unemployment

FSec is Food Security and

Pov is Poverty rate

4 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Variables	Coefficient	t-values	Probability
Constant	37.107	2.574	0.082
Food security	-1.690	-1.864	0.159
Poverty rate	0.049	0.950	0.412
F- statistic = 2.287			
Probability (0.250)			
R ² = 0.777			

Table 4.1 Regression result for the Gambia

The regression equation for the Gambia is

$$Unemp = 37.107 - 1.690Fsec + 0.049Pov + e$$

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The regression result shows that, 77.7% of the variations in unemployment rate in the Gambia are explained by variation in human security provisioning proxied by food security and poverty rate. This means that empirically, if efforts are intensified towards increasing human security provisioning in the Gambia, youth unemployment problems will reduce significantly. Food security has an inverse relationship with youth unemployment in the Gambia, meaning that, as food security increases, youth unemployment in the Gambia reduces.

The model for Nigeria includes purchasing power parity as one of the explanatory variables and the regression result is more robust than that of the Gambia as shown in table 4.2

Variables	Coefficient	t-values	Probability
Constant	0.510	0.107	0.918
Food security	0.737	0.765	0.469
Poverty rate	-0.008	-0.089	0.932
Purchasing power parity	0.007	6.171	0.000
F- statistic = 19.912			
Probability (0.001)			
R ² =0.895			

Table 4.2 regression result for Nigeria

The regression equation for Nigeria is as follows

$$Unemp = 0.510 + 0.737Fsec - 0.008Pov + 0.007PPP + e$$

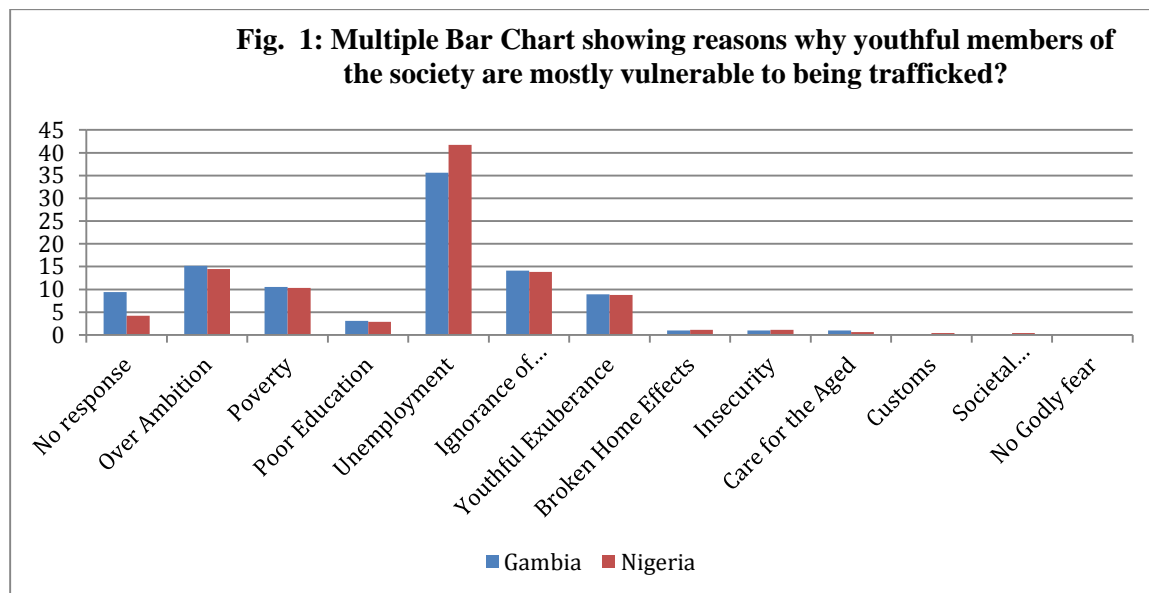
The regression result shows that, 89.5% of the variations in unemployment rate in Nigeria are explained by variation in human security provisioning proxied by food security, poverty rate and purchasing power parity. This means that empirically, if efforts are intensified towards increasing human security provisioning in Nigeria, youth unemployment problems will reduce drastically. The remaining 10.5% variations in youth unemployment are explained by other variables which are not included in the model. Purchasing power parity has a significant effect on unemployment rate in Nigeria. This means that, if Naira in Nigeria has a higher value, investment will increase and unemployment rate will reduce. In both countries, there is a high positive association between youth unemployment and human security provisioning. The survey that was carried out equally

shows that unemployment is the major reasons why most of the youth are being trafficked in both countries.

The following are the findings generated from various responses as reasons why youthful members of the society are mostly vulnerable to human trafficking.

S/N	Statements	Gambia	Nigeria
1	No response	18(9.4%)	23(4.2%)
2	Over ambition	29(15.2%)	79(14.5%)
3	Poverty	20(10.5%)	56(10.3%)
4	Poor Education/Enlightenment	6(3.1%)	16(2.9%)
5	Unemployment	68(35.6%)	227(41.7%)
6	Ignorance of the implication	27(14.1%)	75(13.8%)
7	Youthful exuberance	17(8.9%)	48(8.8%)
8	Broken home effects	2(1.0%)	6(1.1%)
9	Insecurity	2(1.0%)	6(1.1%)
10	Care for the aged	2(10%)	3(0.6%)
11	Customs	-	2(0.4%)
12	Societal vices (Corruption)	-	2(0.4%)
13	No Godly fear	-	1(0.2%)

Table 4.3: Why are the youthful members of society among the most vulnerable to being trafficked?



Source: Field Survey, 2014

From the various variables used as possible indicators for precipitant for human trafficking, Unemployment record highest score with 35.6% from the Gambia and 41.7% from Nigeria, Out of almost 800 respondents, followed by over ambition and Poverty. (see the table) for both countries. The implication from the table is that, while there are other factors, major predictor

is lack of unemployment or means or sustainability. Meaning that, the greatest possible weapon for reducing the menace of trafficking is provision of employment especially among the youth.

The obvious is that expectation does not meet with reality. There is the tendency for despondency among the youth that can lead to revolt and other social problems that the government does not envisage such as increase in trafficking among the youth. In other countries in North African like Tunisia, Egypt and Libya where dictators have held sway for over three decades; people have revolted against the system. Though these countries can say to be less democratic in nature yet the living condition of the people in real economic terms is better (Abati, 2011a; Abati, 2011b; Adejumobi, 2011). The persistent problem of chronic youth unemployment is very evident in Nigeria and the Gambia. Every year thousands of graduates are turned out for whom there are no jobs. The streets are littered with youth hawkers who ordinarily would have found gainful employment in some enterprise. The self-employed are in quandary as scant infrastructure makes it impossible for them to ply their trade. The large number of youths who are unemployed are capable of going viral, destroying the image of the country by getting involved in various clandestine business and specifically undermining democratic practice as they constitute a serious threat if engaged by the political class for clandestine activities (Adepegba, 2011; Ibrahim, 2011; Lartey, 2011; Olatunji & Abioye, 2011).

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The study concluded by emphasizing the fact that chronic youth unemployment is a threat to individual growth and economic development of a country. Hence the linkages between unemployment and the rising menace of human trafficking. Where there is a lack-luster performance of human security in a given society, the indication will be seeking for alternative means of living as evidence in the Gambia and Nigeria. Where the government is not doing enough to stabilize and create a soft landing for host of youth either secondary school graduates or university graduates, the society will groan from impending doom that can be created by the jobless youth. Government of both countries should intensify efforts in creating sustainable environment and increase the performance of human security provisioning. Emphasis should also be on a curriculum that encourages entrepreneurial skills at both secondary and university levels. The initial policy on education that created 3-3-4 should be strengthening so that students will learn to state being creative and not dependent on “white-collar” job that is not available. Instead of siphoning the limited resources accrues to all the citizens and practicing democratic system, more acquisition skills centers to discourage streetism and hooliganism should be established.

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