



Patterns And Forms Of Child Labour In Kano Metropolis

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Received 22nd August 2020, Accepted 15th October 2020, Online 10th December 2020

Abstract - One of the major social problems bedeviling our children today, is child labour, which jeopardizes society's future, destroying societal moral values, undermining sustainable human development and subsequently exposing them into other criminal and deviant activities. Thus, child becoming an issue of concern to all well-meaning individuals. The major aim of this paper, is to explore the patterns and forms of child labour in Kano Metropolis, and it is specifically conducted under the following objectives: to assess the forms and patterns of child labour in Kano metropolis; to examine the strategies and possible solution of alleviating the menace of child labour in the study area. The study reviews related literatures on child labour including; the patterns and forms of child labour as well as the solution of the menace. Culture of poverty theory was adopted as a theoretical guide for the research. In the Research Methodology, the study employed a sample size of 300 respondents. Multi-Stage sampling techniques were used in selecting the respondents. Questionnaires were used in the data collection. Quantitative data gathered have been analyzed using relevant methods. The findings reveal that children use different forms of child labour in Kano Metropolis. It also reveals strategies of controlling the menace in the Kano metropolis. Therefore, it is recommended that Government create job opportunity for the parent and empowerment should also be in place. Parents and guardians should monitor their children's movement and behaviour as well and provide all the necessary need. Lastly, NGOs, CBOs and government agencies together with religious and community leaders should engage in campaigns and preaching to discourage child labour.

Keywords – *pattern, child labour, kano Metropolis, research forms,*

I. INTRODUCTION

For many years, child labour has been one of the most pervasive developmental problems of poor countries and also among the obstacles to social development. It is a challenge and long-term goal in many countries to abolish all forms of child labour. Especially in developing countries, it is considered a serious issue these days. Child labour refers to children who miss their childhood and are not able to have the basic amenities which a child should have. Recently, the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) estimated that there are around 215 million children between the ages five to fourteen who work worldwide. They are often mistreated and they work for prolonged hours, in very bad conditions. This can affect their health physically, mentally and emotionally. These children do not have the basic rights like access to school or health care.

According to ILO (2013) the largest numbers of child labourers are working in hazardous conditions and the total number of child workers is increasing, even though it is forbidden by law. These children are vulnerable to diseases and they struggle with long-term physical and psychological pain. The main factors that induces children to work is poverty. These children work for their survival and their families. (Mapaure, 2009). Some researchers like Dessy and Pallage (2003) argue not all the work that children do is harmful or brutal. Some work may provide successful learning opportunities, such as babysitting or

newspaper delivery jobs, but not if the work exposes them to psychological stress, like human trafficking, prostitution and pornographic activities.

In many developing countries children constitute about one third of the total population millions of these children do not have the opportunity of being properly and adequately taken care of by their parents/guardians and the communities in which they live, (Vincla 1986). Many of them have to engage in hawking, begging, touting or prostitution to make ends meet .these children who are regarded as the custodian of the societal future, end up becoming a nuisance to their societies primarily due to the abuse and neglect of their rights (Mohammad, 2001).

Child labour is one of the major social issues that have attracted the attention of people all over the world. This is due to the fact that continuity of any societies depends on the ability of its child this reason and the devastating effect of child labour that arose the interest of the international community towards the protection of child right. In the 1990's following the convention of the right of the child (1989) and a confluence of factors from globalization to the systematic collection of statistics by the international labour organization (120), The World Bank and individual nations of the world become aware that from a global perspective the child labour situation was not much better than it has been during the British industrial revolution (Neric Child Rights Nov. 1, 1998).

The term child labour according to international labour organization refers to an engagement of children below 15 years in war or employment on a regular basis with the aim of earning a livelihood for themselves or their families child labour is not a discrete act it is relatively common for children from rural areas and those from poor families to be exploited. Child labour is a serious problem and a challenge for many developing countries. Many countries have enacted various laws and have taken serious initiatives to eradicate child labour, but still the problem is very widespread throughout the world. In Nigeria, incidence of child labour is common across many societies. The spate and notoriety of child labour in Kano metropolitan is a major concern owing to the unprecedented rate at which it is increasing and alarming in its different forms.

Mohammed (2001) observed that there is an increasing number of children engaged in street hawking especially with the introduction of the structural adjustment programme (SAP) in Nigeria. The programme affected the welfare of children, by eroding the purchasing power of their parent in an unstable economy characterized by inflation, unemployment and increasing cost of living. These affected the ability of parents to provide their children with basic needs such as good healthcare education, nutrition etc. What has become clear is the prevalent case of child labour in order to complement earning of their parents, especially in urban areas.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Issues related to children have been the most thoughtful to all civilizations and cultures in human history. Child has become synonymous to family which no doubt is the foundation of societies and nations and the insignia of the stability of families especially in developing societies and countries. In developing countries and societies on the African continent, the coming of children into families are herald with elaborate preparations, cultural and religious rituals and ceremonies often occasion by gift given to the celebrants (families). As governments institutes policies and programs that cater and support

pregnant women and thus encourage safe deliveries. This is as the society sees children as its glitz, future hopes and strength.

Children, the plural form of “child”, is amorphous in every sense of the word as the diversity of the world we reside in. Children as innocent; children as apprentice; children as persons in their own; children as members of a distinct group; children as vulnerable; and children as animals. By these varied composite expression of the concept children, the delicateness of the phrase becomes more astute specifically in relation to the global south and Nigeria in particular. This, according to Hashim (2011), shows that children have the potentials as well as the tendencies, to grow up as conformist or deviant members of their own societies depending on the opportunities, situation, and circumstances.

Child Begging

Child begging according to Abdullahi (2001) is also associated with the process of acquisition of ‘Qur’anic Education’ and it is embedded in the traditional system of education. It is traditionally based on the traditional belief that a child is more likely to read hard and acquire more discipline and knowledge if taken away from parents at a younger age. The traditional Qur’anic school teacher (*Malami*) is expected to treat these children like his own biological children. Before leaving their homes parents usually give the teacher (*Sadaka*) alms, often in cash and kind depending on their socio – economic status. At their destination the children are expected to assist the malam with domestic work, run errands to patrons and or patronesses at home and other mild day-to-day responsibilities. Equally too, they are expected to beg and feed themselves at specific times in accordance with the school timetable. There exists a system of social differentiation, which helps to reinforce the school structure and the desired goal attainment,

Platt and Shah (2013) thankfully noted that many poor children in the Islamic world may have not have to go to travel far to seek knowledge; they instead have been able to access education through the Islamic educational system usually provided through a Madrasah. Sadly, these Madrasahs that provide educational services for children have often been recognized by the state despite the fact that in many poor and fragile countries, the state struggles to provide “adequate” formal education for many of its children. According to ILO-IPEC (2013) clearly the 2016 target date for the elimination of worst forms will not be met. Though significant progress has been made, ending the scourge of child labour in the foreseeable future requires a substantial acceleration of efforts at all levels. A world without child labour is still too far in the future ILO-IPEC (2013).

Child Hawking

According to Oloko (1998) cited in (Abiodun 2009) Children, both boys and girls work as street hawkers, most of them hawk wares as agents for commission, that is to say neither them nor their parents own the wares they hawk, which include paltry sundry wares, polythene bags, groundnut, coconut, yoghurts confectioneries etc. Alabor (2000) stated that of the thirty six (36) states of Nigeria, Edo state has a highest prevalence rate of eighty five percent (85%) of women and girls trafficked to other countries. Other states include Delta, Akwa Ibom, Ondo, Rivers, Ebonyi, Imo, Enugu, Lagos and Kano State,

Scavengers

In a report by UNICEF (2002) Young boys, usually aged nine to fifteen, scavenge on garbage heaps for recyclable material that can be sold to traders, while some visit houses to purchase or exchange

a used pack, tin, bottle for commodity. This is extremely dangerous, because they lack protective clothing, and shoes. They are exposed to all kinds of diseases, risk of cuts, which can be easily infected. And those that patronize houses, they see things that get them tempted, to steal and in some instances, visit places where people with questionable characters are found. They get introduced and initiated to bad attitudes and characters such as drugs, violence and criminal acts.

Domestics

According to Oloko (1999) in UNICEF (2001), children who work in private settings serve as domestic helps in elite and sub - elite households. In urban areas, women who work in structurally differentiated households have domestic assistance in order that they may fulfil their various occupational obligations.

Culture of Poverty Theory

The Culture of Poverty Theory explains child labour from the perspective of poverty. The idea of a culture of poverty was introduced in the late 1950s by an American Anthropologist, Oscar Lewis. He developed the concept from his fieldwork among the urban poor in Mexico and Puerto Rico. He contends that everywhere poverty is found to exist, it makes people in those places exhibit feelings of marginality, helplessness, inferiority and dependence. In Nigeria, the poor often develop various strategies by which they cope with their conditions in form of doing things their own ways. These feelings compel them to take actions and engage in many activities that will ensure a quick escape from the realities of poverty, one of which is child labour. It is seen as a normal way since it is common among them.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology comprises the population under study, sample size and sampling procedure; also data collection techniques and methods of data analysis and interpretation was included in the section. The study employed a sample size of 300 respondents, but only 270 respondents retrieved their questionnaires, thus the analysis was based on the retrieved questionnaires. Multi-Stage sampling techniques were used in selecting the respondents. Questionnaires were used in the data collection. Quantitative data gathered has been analyzed using relevant methods.

THE FORMS AND PATTERNS OF CHILD LABOUR IN KANO METROPOLIS

Table 1: On the Forms of Labour Engaged by the Respondent

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Street Hawking	87	32.2
Scavenging	22	8.1
House maid	94	34.9
Others	67	24.8
Total	270	100

Source: Field work, 2019.

Table 1 above pointed out that, 32.2% of the respondents are engaged in Street Hawking, 8.1% of the respondents chose Scavenging while 34.9% of the respondent also chose House maid while others are 24.8%. According to Oloko (1998) cited in (Abiodun 2009) children from both gender work as street hawkers, most of them hawk wares as agents for commission, that is to say neither them nor their parents

own the wares they hawk, which include paltry sundry wares, polythene bags, groundnut, coconut, yoghurts confectioneries etc. Armed with such wares, the child does the hawking all day long, morning to evening. For the girls, apart from complementing family income, hawking provides opportunity for prospective suitors to notice her, thereby contracting a marriage at a very early stage, and not giving her the opportunity to go to school.

THE STRATEGIES OF CONTROLLING CHILD LABOUR IN KANO METROPOLIS

With regards to the possible strategies of combating the menace of child labour, both quantitative and qualitative data generated from the various respondents to the study revealed that no single strategy can adequately combat the problem of child labour rather a combination of various strategies.

Table 2: Strategies of Controlling Child Labour

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Free Education	156	58
Job opportunity for their parent	73	27
Public Awareness	41	15
Total	270	100

Source: Field Work, 2019.

The above table shows frequency distribution and percentage of the strategies of controlling the menace indicated that the majority the respondent have choose free education which have 58% followed by job opportunity for their parent with 27% while 15% is choose public awareness. Many strategies have been developed for the eradication of child labour, some of which are innovative ideas from international organisations such as International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) created in 1992 which focuses on protecting children from exploitative work and promoting free education. IPEC monitors and takes immediate action to prohibit and eradicate the worst forms of child labour.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS

This sub-section discusses the major revelations of the study. The general aim of this research is to explore the factors associated with child labour in Kano Metropolis. The findings of the research broadly provide answers to the research questions raised in relation to the reviewed literature and theoretical frame of reference. However, the discussion begins with Socio-Demographic characteristics of the sampled respondents:-

Forms and Patterns of Child Labour in Kano Metropolis

In relation to the above question the finding of this study pointed out that, 32.2% of the respondents are engaged in Street Hawking, 8.1% of the respondents chooses Scavenging while 34.9% of the respondent also choose House maid while others are 24.8%. the finding coincide with Oloko's (1998) cited in (Abiodun 2009) Children, both boys and girls work as street hawkers, most of them hawk wares as agents for commission, that is to say neither them nor their parents own the wares they hawk, which include paltry sundry wares, polythene bags, groundnut, coconut, yoghurts confectioneries etc. Armed with such wares, the child does the hawking day long, morning to evening. For the girls, apart

from complementing family income, hawking provides opportunity for prospective suitors to notice her thereby contracting a marriage at a very early stage not giving her opportunity to go to school. On this basis therefore children use different forms in engaging in child labour in the study area.

The Strategies of Controlling Child Labour in Kano Metropolis

With regards to the possible strategies of combating the menace of child labour, both quantitative and qualitative data generated from the various respondents to the study revealed that no single strategy can adequately combat the problem of child labour rather a combination of various strategies. Many strategies have been developed for the eradication of child labour, some of which are innovative ideas from international organisations such as International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) created in 1992 which focuses on protecting children from exploitative work and promoting free education. IPEC monitors and takes immediate action to prohibit and eradicate the worst forms of child labour.

4. CONCLUSION

From the foregoing discussion and analysis, it can be discerned that the problem of Child Labour constitutes a menace and a threat that has devastating effects on the future of our society. This has to do with the fact that the child are regarded the world over as the leaders of tomorrow and the backbone of any development and that they are the segment of society mostly affected by the menace of child labour. Thus, if the problem is not checked and curtailed the society heads to perpetual ruin.

Recommendations

Based on the data generated and findings analyzed in this study, the following recommendations are found worthy of consideration:-

1. Parents/guardians and community members should understand the children given to them is blessing from god not machine of bringing money they should monitor the movement and behaviour of their children and provide all necessary need for them. 2.
2. Members of the community should imbibe the habit of collaborating with law enforcement agents and develop community policing, which will help in exposing the activities child labour and their suppliers.
3. Government should give emphasis on employment and job creation so as to make the parent engaged in conventional activities. Moreover, the program should not only give emphasis on provision of white collar jobs rather those with lower or no formal educational qualification should be involved too by providing them with skill acquisition programs and soft loans to start and own their business.

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