

Is Child Labour a Means of Poverty Reduction? A Micro Evidence from Three States of Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper assesses the policy implication of the existence of Girl-child labour in three States of Nigeria. Using the simple random sampling technique, a sample of 300 respondents was drawn from the States. A total of 100 questionnaires were administered in each of the state to households with girl-child house-help. The evidence from the statistical result showed an existence of girl-child labour, with majority of them between the age of 10years and 16years, mostly orphans who had no formal education. The remittances from this form of labour were mostly to compliment the income of parents whom are termed poor by the child and to save for future marriage expenses. The paper also revealed that the wages paid to the children are very low (insignificant in reducing poverty level), because the price set is not determined by market forces since the girl-child labour is a non-tradable good (existing barrier of laws on human traffickers) exploit by self-interest parents and potential employers. Hence, the policy implication of these findings shows the existing child labour in these States is an exploitable market which serves as a cover up for cheap labour and child exploitation and not as a means of poverty reducing strategy.

INTRODUCTION

There have been policies and programmes in place to tackle Poverty, and social needs of the Nigerian Populace in the last 14years. Estimately, the Nigerian government has initiated and embarked on over 20 poverty reduction programmes. However,

instead of the nation advancing, it has lately degenerated into one of the poorest countries of the world, ranked 20th (UNDP 2009) with more and more people becoming poorer every day. In the 1960s, the poverty level was just about 15% and by 1980 it reached 28.1%, while in 1985, it rose to 46.3%. The recent Nigerian statistics on poverty level shows an increasing pattern despite glooming growth rates from 2000 to date. The 2012 report of NBS showed 69% of the population were classified as poor against 54.4% in 2004. Available evidence shows that poverty has been a serious problem confronting the Nigerian nation since independence. 1999 witnessed the emergence of new governance (democracy) with many people hoping things will improve however, structural change has not impacted on the economy non the people. Estimated population living in poverty has been rising ever since 1996 with about 65% of the population living below poverty line (67.1 million Nigerians). Between 1999 and 2000 it rose further to 87% of the population (UN Development Report, 1999). The estimate for 2010 was 112,518,507 (69% of 163million Nigerians). Given these figures, they showed worrisome policy ineffectiveness. Evaluating the poverty reduction policies and programmes in Nigeria revealed severe weaknesses in their implementation. Such weaknesses include; (i) not strengthening service delivery to the poorest, (ii) non coordination of implementation approaches in some areas and region and (iii) non streamlining responses to the specific needs of the country's vulnerable groups .Thus, it is not surprising that only little progress has been made despite the various efforts made on reducing poverty in Nigeria. This is because many of its strategies have been financial assistance with less opportunity for productive employment that may raise the aspirations of the poor and financial security. Another major factor is non -targeting of the disadvantaged group due to lack of statistical documentation of the groups and their specific needs for policy design and implementation. The statistics on single mothers, lone parents, ex- convicts, old aged men and women, ethnic minorities,

rural- urban migrants, those stigmatized by illness like leprosy, albinos, children of poor family, orphans are not available for economic planning or for policy targeting. Targeting the disadvantage groups in Nigeria as beneficiaries of poverty reduction programmes could reduce the number of the poor. The last survey of NBS provided current statistics of the poor which is worrisome despite poverty strategies and projects since the establishment of the country democratic regime in 1999(see Table 1)

Poverty alleviation strategies should go beyond financial assistance; it should incorporate means and strategies to be adopted to sustain the financial assistance. It should be socially inclusive so that wide-reaching measures and policies designed to eliminate the conditions that cause, exacerbate or perpetuate poverty are incorporated so as to ensure the realization of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of those living in poverty. This measure will eliminate perception of other coping strategies mostly adopted by the socially excluded groups that are part of the society in which the programmes operate. The most commonly of such coping strategies are child labour, child trafficking, Prostitution, Force Labour e.t.c.

Child labour, child trafficking are consequential decisions made mostly as a good strategy of overcoming or complimenting low income or a means of achieving what has been deprived of and what the society has failed to provide. Society perception of poverty and individual perception and behavioural responses are deterministic factors in shaping the choices individuals make as survival strategy. Societal embedded incentives systems that promote poverty and impoverish the poor are significant factors that could influence the perception, behavior and surviving strategy. Environmental conditions which a man finds himself could be a factor why he is who he is, and the decisions he makes in order to survive in that environment. Hence, it is significant to know the extent to

which peoples' perceptions and behaviours are influenced by environment and why the decisions taken are the best choices. A man who is trap in poverty can be influence by environmental consequences which can influence his perception of opportunities within societal values, norms, and practice. For instance the society norms of parent right over a child could influence many of his surviving strategies when he is trap in poverty. Early marriage, child labour, and child trafficking are all survival choices. According to Ibrahim (2011),” many Nigerian' households perceive poverty as more dangerous than HIV/AIDS, it leads to illiteracy, religious extremism, gangsterism, societal decay, insecurity, and many more” . Thus, these cases can influence a poor man to explore his immediate environment to see how to improve his present condition within the existing opportunities, and how these opportunities will help improve future development.

Most policies on income distribution and poverty do not consider how households respond to risk or income shocks. Social and economic conditions in societies can create an environment in which parents can effectively target their young women and children as a means to an end or as substitutes to what is been deprived. Child labour, Trafficking and prostitution are fuelled by poor social and economic conditions in societies (Isah, 2013). Thus, States must adopt wide-reaching measures and policies designed to eliminate the conditions that cause, exacerbate or perpetuate poverty, and ensure the realization of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of those living in poverty(UNDP;2009). In addition, it is significant that government must understand how inclusive its poverty reduction programmes must be, their effectiveness in terms of performance, sustainability, and in producing long time outcome.

This paper is an attempt to examine child labour as part of the choices households make in some society to overcome poverty. We looked at the remunerations of the children involved to

evaluate how significant they are in supporting or complementing their family income. This paper is a part of two Phase research process; The first is a baseline study on the existence of child labour in the study areas, and an evaluation of the enumeration of these children whether they are significant in supplementing family income to help reduce poverty (what this paper is all about), the second phase is a comparative analysis of poverty rate among households whose their wards are engaged in child labour and those whose wards are not engaged.

In line with the first phase, the paper is divided into five sessions, part one is the above introduction, part two is on overview of global child labour statistics and Nigeria. Part three is literature review on the causes and effects of child labour. Part four is the methodology while the final part presents the result and discussion,

Trends in Global Child Labour and in Nigeria

For many years, child labour has been associated with poverty, such as it will never be completely eliminated until the socioeconomic conditions which it thrives are improved. A progressive approach requires a strategy that takes into account long term, and short term economic objectives; access to employment, improvement in standard of living, improvement in educational infrastructures. In 1997, UNICEF pointed out that child labour is a global phenomenon no matter what stage of development a country has achieved and the prime cause is poverty, a poverty that is being spread and worsened by the current process of economic globalization. IPEC Report of 2012 shows global trend of children in employment as 264million aged 5-17years. This is 42million fewer than the 2008 estimate of 306million. Child Labour was estimated as 168million aged 5-17years (10.6% of total), this show s a declined from 215million in 2008. The estimated figures for children employed (5-14years) was 144.1million. In

developing countries like Nigeria, Benin, and Mali in Sub Sahara Africa, the incidence of child labour remains a widespread and growing phenomenon due to increasing unemployment, massive rural migration aggravated by the rising cost of living and poverty. In 2002 some countries in Africa, were identified as major suppliers (Burkina faso, Ghana, Mali and Togo), while some as mainly receivers (Cote D'ivoire, and Gabon), others like Benin and Nigeria are both. The wide spread of the phenomenon is due to the exploitative cheap labour associated with it, coupled with the circumstances of unemployment of the weak and vulnerable in Nations and the global financial and economic crisis in recent times. Regional distribution in 2012 report of IPEC shows Asia-Pacific has the largest number of children in employment of 64.4million, followed by Sub Sahara Africa with 57.6million, others region have 13million, of which 7.1million is from Middle East and North Africa. Regional distribution by child Labour also shows Asia-Pacific with 77.7million ages 5-17years as compared to Sub Sahara Africa with 59million and 12.5million in latin America and the Caribbean. The Middle East has 9million respectively (ILO; IPEC, 2012).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Causes of Child Labour in Nigeria

Factors that cause child labour are many, some are peculiar to the nature of family status, environmental factors, and socio-economic shocks. The way households respond to such factors varies across societies. Most common are discussed below:

(i) High Percentage of the poor

Empirical studies and surveys of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Nigeria have revealed those living in poverty in Nigeria “**the very poor**” constituting 70% of rural people. Among this percentage, there is no disaggregation such as how

many are single mothers, lone parents, ex- convicts, old aged women, ethnic minorities, rural- urban migrants, those stigmatized by illness like leprosy, HIV/Aids, albinos, children of poor family , gender, unemployed youth, retirees, school drop outs, e.t.c . This list of people is mostly excluded from economic planning or not benefiting from policies targeted for the disadvantaged. Thus, it is not surprising that only little progress has been made despite the various efforts made on reducing poverty in Nigeria. Poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria have been mainly financial benefits or financial assistance with less opportunity for productive employment that may raise the aspirations of the poor and financial security. Another major factor is the non- targeting of the disadvantaged groups due to lack of statistical documentation of the socially excluded groups and their specific needs for policy design and implementation. Targeting the disadvantage groups in Nigeria as beneficiaries of poverty reduction programmes could reduce the number of the poor. The last survey of NBS provided current statistics of the poor which is worrisome despite poverty strategies and projects since the establishment of the country democratic regime 1999 (see Table 1).

Table(1) : Absolute and Relative Poverty Rate by Zone (2012)

| Geopolitical Zone | Absolute | | Relative | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Poor | Non-Poor | Poor | Non-Poor |
| National | 60.9 | 39.1 | 69.0 | 31.0 |
| Rural | 66.1 | 33.9 | 73.2 | 26.8 |
| Urban | 52.0 | 48.0 | 61.8 | 38.8 |
| South South | 55.9 | 44.1 | 63.8 | 36.2 |
| South East | 58.7 | 41.3 | 67.0 | 33.0 |
| South West | 49.8 | 50.2 | 59.1 | 40.9 |
| North Central | 59.5 | 40.5 | 67.5 | 32.5 |
| North East | 69.0 | 31.0 | 76.3 | 23.7 |
| North west | 70.0 | 30.0 | 77.7 | 22.3 |

Source: NBS Press Briefing on Nigerian Poverty Profile for 2010 in 2012 report (released 13th Feb,2012)

(ii) Migration

Rapid rural – urban migration is a major cause of increasing rate of child labour in urban areas of many developing countries. With recent wars, conflicts, wars, starvation of people in wars affected regions, families leave the severity of such environment to seek for economic opportunities elsewhere. Economic hardship has forced parent and children into poverty and children have to work for survival. Thus, migration and child labour in this case is seem as the only best surviving strategy or option.

(iii) Unemployment

Child labour remains a widespread and growing phenomenon due to increasing unemployment. Unemployment rate in

Nigeria in 2005 was 11.9% but increased to 23.9% in 2011 showing an increase of 12% (see table-2). Given the Nature and magnitude of the pattern of Unemployment rates in Nigeria, coupled with unequal income distribution, the problem of child labour will remain. Since the explosion of population has not been accompanied by employment, hence that leave large number of unemployed. A description of Nigeria by writer, Belinda (2014) stated that 100million Nigerians live in poverty at least 20million unemployed, 5million of them are youth that is 45% of the population is under 15years.

Table 2 : Trend in Nigeria's Unemployment rates and Labour Force

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total population | 129,900,168 | 134,131,224 | 138,468,013 |
| Economically active | N.A | N/A | N/A |
| Labour Force | 54,929,577 | 55,538,881 | 56,170,672 |
| Employed | 46,800,000 | 48,124,440 | 49,486,362 |
| Unemployed | 8,129,577 | 7,414,441 | 6,684,310 |
| Unemployment rate | 14.8 | 13.4 | 11.9 |

Table 2 continued

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total population | 140,431,790 | 144,925,607 | 149,563,227 | 154,349,250 | 159,288,425 | 164,385,656 |
| Economically active | 78,922,666 | 81,448,191 | 84,054,533 | 86,744,278 | 89,520,095 | 92,384,738 |
| Labour Force | 57,455,701 | 59,294,283 | 61,191,700 | 63,149,835 | 65,170,629 | 67,256,090 |
| employed | 50,388,650 | 51,763,909 | 52,074,137 | 50,709,317 | 51,224,115 | 51,181,884 |
| Unemployed | 7,067,051 | 7,530,374 | 9,117,563 | 12,440,517 | 13,946,515 | 16,074,205 |
| Unemployment rate | 12.3 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 19.7 | 21.4 | 23.9 |

Source: CBN, NBS 2011; The Nigerian Unemployment Report for 2011

(iv) Access to Quality Education

Access to schooling (distance or no school at all) could make a child seek for employment. Sometimes when there is access, low quality of education, poor facilities often make attendance

poor or seen as waste of time by parent. In some rural areas in Nigeria, problems like overcrowding, inadequate facilities, poor sanitation make parent see no use sending their children to school when they could be home learning a skill or working to supplement the family income. In 2005, UNICEF study showed majority of primary schools especially in rural areas in Nigeria lack water, electricity and toilet facilities. For example, on the average, there is only one toilet to six hundred pupils (1:600) in the primary school system (UNICEF, 2005). Tienda (1979) reported that parent right over a child plays a major role in their perception of the value of school. Thus, education plays a large role in determining child schooling and Employment. Similarly, Illon et al.(1991) study found school attendance by a child to be highly correlated with family income. Therefore, when a child dropped out of school, it may be due to family's financial situation. Jennie (2009) pointed out that families with large number of children may diversify their investment in children if placing all the children in school may expose the families to excess risk from income shock. As a consequence, some children may be assigned the task of acquiring skills that have immediate market value to supplement family income.

Table (3): Regional estimates of child labour, 5-17 years old, 2012

| Year | Child population ('000) | | Child labour ('000) | | Activity rate (%) | | %point Diff.o |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | 2008 | 2012 | 2008 | 2012 | 2008 | 2012 | activity |
| World | 1,586,288 | 1,585,566 | 215,269 | 167,956 | 13.6 | 10.6 | -3.0 |
| Asia and the Pacific | | | | | | | |
| | 853,895 | 835,334 | 113,607 | 77,723 | 13.3 | 9.3 | -4.0 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | | | | | | | |
| | 141,043 | 142,693 | 14,125 | 12,505 | 10.0 | 8.8 | -1.2 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | | | | | | | |
| | 257,108 | 275,397 | 65,064 | 59,031 | 25.3 | 21.4 | -3.9 |
| Other regions | | | | | | | |
| | 334,242 | 332,143 | 22,473 | 18,697 | 6.7 | 5.6 | -1.1 |
| of which MENA 2012 | | | | | | | |
| | - | 110,411 | - | 9,244 | - | 8.4 | - |

Table(4): Estimates of various forms of children’s work, 5-17 years old, 2008 and 2012

| | Total children ('000) | Children in employment ('000) | % | Child labour ('000) | % | Hazardous work ('000) | % |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| World | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 1,586,288 | 305,669 | 19.3 | 215,269 | 13.6 | 115,314 | 7.3 |
| 2012 | 1,585,566 | 264,427 | 16.7 | 167,956 | 10.6 | 85,344 | 5.4 |
| Boys | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 819,891 | 175,777 | 21.4 | 127,761 | 15.6 | 74,019 | 9.0 |
| 2012 | 819,877 | 148,327 | 18.1 | 99,766 | 12.2 | 55,048 | 6.7 |
| Girls | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 766,397 | 129,892 | 16.9 | 87,508 | 11.4 | 41,296 | 5.4 |
| 2012 | 765,690 | 116,100 | 15.2 | 68,190 | 8.9 | 30,296 | 4.0 |
| 5-14 years | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 1,216,854 | 176,452 | 14.5 | 152,850 | 12.6 | 52,895 | 4.3 |
| 2012 | 1,221,071 | 144,066 | 11.8 | 120,453 | 9.9 | 37,841 | 3.1 |
| 15-17 years | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 369,433 | 129,217 | 35.0 | 62,419 | 16.9 | 62,419 | 16.9 |
| 2012 | 364,495 | 120,362 | 33.0 | 47,503 | 13.0 | 47,503 | 13.0 |

METHODOLOGY

Conceptual Issues

Child/ Child Labour: Any child aged between 0 -17 years in Nigeria is a child, though, the definitional variations depend on Location, cultural/traditional and religion. The definition that seems to be more accepted in most countries is the global measurement by International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a child below the age of 18years. A child of this age is considered a dependent on his parent for his/her socioeconomic upbringing and well- being. UNICEF (2008), on the other hand, defined Child labour as population of children in employment aged 5-17years old who are engaged in any economic activity during a reference period. This definition entails the type of work, hours spent in doing the work, and whether the work is harmful to the child. The child labour measurement used in this paper is the UNICEF definition, and the economic activity evaluated is the girl child domestic Servant. Domestic Servant according to UNICEF(2006), are the least visible (mostly operate in private houses) categories form of Labour and often maltreated. Thus, the rationale for the choice of house helps in this paper is to provide a baseline study for this category of child labour in the three states and examine how contribution from it to family income helps in reducing poverty. Child labour in the form of domestic house help are offences that go unpunished and is seen to a certain level as normal. Absence or lack of enforcement capacity aimed at punishing traffickers, go-between and the employers has made it impossible to eliminate. (personal communication, Kura – Kano district Head,2013).

Nigeria has an estimated child population of about 63.8million in 2003 and 65.72 in 2004 and in 2012 it rose to 170,123,740 respectively. In 2004, 26million ages less than 5years, while 21.51million were projected to be in primary school aged between 6 -11, and 17million were of junior and secondary school(12 – 17 years). Table (5) presents the age structure of the Nigerian population in 2012.

Table(5):The age structures of the Nigerian population.

| Age Range | Percentage |
|--------------------|------------|
| 0 -14years | 40.9% |
| 15 -64 | 55.9% |
| 65 and above years | 3.1% |

Source: Mundi, 2012 estimate and Hamisu, 2012

Theoretical Framework

From literature, Boyden et al,(1998), Suggested four theories of child labour, namely ;

- i) Child labour as a contribution to the Family
- ii) Child Labour as a means to self- actualization
- iii) Child labour as a consequence of family- dynamics
- iv) Child labour as a result of poverty

This paper has its relevance with the theory of child labour as a result of poverty and as a contribution to family income. Within the context of the Nigeria environment, poverty has been

seen as an explanation for Child labour in some states in northern Nigeria (NBS, 2010). The poverty theory explained child labour as a safety strategy or an immediate means to even out the risk of losing economic income. Thus, children's income are crucial since when and what to eat depend on it (Jennie, 2009). ILO (2007) revealed that child labour commonly represent 20% of households income, and as poor families spend majority of its income on food, consequently, it has become common in most poor families for children to work in order to increase their household income. This decision of the family on child labour is based on **“what is in our interest”** rather than **“what is in the child interest”**. Most children work because they value themselves as part of the family unit and with good feelings that they are contributing to their family monetary situation, hence, the decision of the child is a consequential outcome of the fear of losing family support and being left alone if they do not do what the family imposed on them (Jennie, 2009).

Figure 1 shows the direct effect of child labour, all the three channels do not lead to positive benefits nor in poverty reduction but poverty trap. The greatest side effect is the opportunity cost (**B**) in which the child has been prevented from early basic education, exposure to hazardous life, and deprived of social interaction with peer groups. Under pressure to survive, employment wages may be low and these children are more likely to spend an entire life time doing routine unskilled job that will trap them in poverty (**C**). Thus, child labour helps in creating unequal opportunities that could lead to poverty trap despite working earlier in life. If a parent makes the child work, that work lowers the child's future income and, therefore, the transfer to the parent(**A**). In relation to health, Children's physiological, anatomical and psychological characteristics differ biologically from those of adult and these differences make them more susceptible to hazards in work place. When children work in excessive hot, damp, dusty or unsanitary conditions they may be exposed to communicable diseases or sometimes toxic chemical poisoning that may cause neurological or respiratory disorder. Fatigue, stress, ergonomic strains are sickness associated with work overload, these can cause injuries and impaired growth and development, disability and other adverse effects(WHO,1996). Burra (1995) pointed out that the link between poverty and child labour has been a debate as far back during the industrial revolution. Burra (1995) opined that when children start work at early young age, they remain illiterate, Unskilled, and unable to demand their right for equal wages and better conditions of work, thus remain trap in poverty (a generational type of poverty).

Sources of Data and Analysis

The major sources of data were both primary and secondary. The secondary data were essential to compliment primary source. Given the nature of the primary data, Descriptive statistics was used in the analysis i.e frequencies, percentages, and tables, The choice for this type of analysis is basic due to the rationale behind the paper –to examine the existence of child labour in the form of domestic servants in the three states and to evaluate whether the remuneration to such children is significant in poverty reduction. The bench-mark for assessing the remuneration is using the World Bank 1dollar per day which is equivalent to ₦160.00 per day in current exchange rate per dollar.

Sample Frame and Size

The simple random sampling was employed to select 100 child domestic – Servants in some selected locations in the three states. With each state having 100 respondents, that gives a total of 300 respondents. The Girl-child was purposely selected because this type of labour is the most common type of child labour in Northern Nigeria where poverty is the highest- (see table 5). The instrument of the survey was structured questionnaire with both qualitative and quantitative questions.

The Theoretical Framework

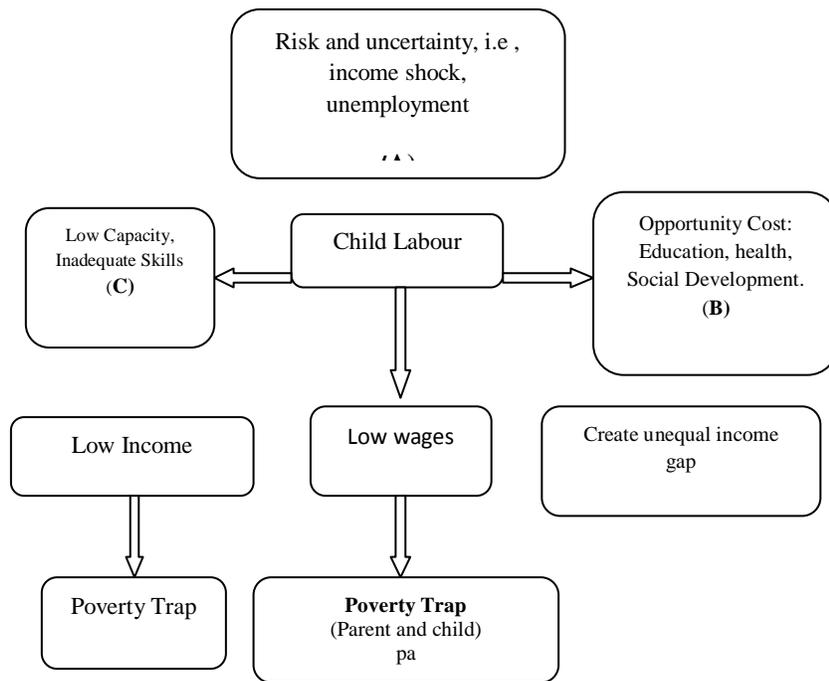


Figure 1. Child Poverty and Economic Constraints

Source: Author's Thoughts

Result and Discussion

The analysis of the result is based on the objectives of the paper. The general and specific location analysis was done and then a comparative.. Table(6) presents the result;

| Variable | Bauchi % | Kaduna % | Kano % | General % |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1)Ages | | | | |
| 10-May | | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 15-Nov | 7 | 30 | 48 | 28 |
| 16-17 | 93 | 60 | 43 | 65.3 |
| 18-20 | | | | |
| 2) Tribe | | | | |
| 3) Source of child Labour supply | | | | |
| Father | 95 | 82 | 99 | 92 |
| 4) Schooling | 89 | 63 | 71(No) | 60.3 |
| Primary | 15 | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| Secondary | 74 | 52 | 16 | 50.3 |
| 5) Source of sponsorship | | | | |
| Parent | 68 | 30 | 4 | 34 |
| Employee | 4 | 19 | 10 | 11 |
| relatives | 12 | 11 | 5 | 10 |
| 6) parent alive | | | | |
| Yes | 62 | 65 | 56 | 61 |
| No | 38 | 34 | 42 | 38 |
| 7) Guardianship | 65 | 69 | 37 | 57 |
| 8) Nature of Job | | | | |
| House chores | 35 | 63 | 61 | 41 |
| Cook | 29 | 9 | 13 | 17 |
| Baby sitting | 11 | 11 | 17 | 13 |
| 9) Forced Labour | | | | |
| Yes | 2 | 18 | 51 | 23.7 |
| No | 98 | 76 | 49 | 74.3 |
| 10) Monthly wages | | | | |
| ₦500–₦ 1,500 | | 17 | 15 | 10.7 |
| ₦2,000 – ₦3500 | 5 | 25 | 33 | 21 |
| ₦4,000 – ₦6,500 | 58 | 27 | 40 | 41.7 |
| ₦7,000 – ₦ 10,000 | 37 | 22 | 11 | 23.3 |

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 11) Uses of wages | | | | |
| Self support | 34 | 44 | 28 | 33.7 |
| Contribute to family income | 33 | 43 | 48 | 34.6 |
| Saving for marriage | 33 | 5 | 28 | 24.7 |
| 12) Number of annual visitation | | | | |
| 1-2 times | 32 | 34 | 55 | 40.6 |
| 3-4 times | 37 | 19 | 21 | 25.7 |
| 5-6 times | 25 | 21 | 4 | 16.7 |
| 13) Employer's contact with Parent | | | | |
| Yes | 70 | 64 | 69 | 64.7 |
| No | 30 | 24 | 23 | 25.7 |
| 14) Setting of Wages | | | | |
| Self | 29 | 17 | 41 | 29 |
| Parent | 17 | 22 | 46 | 28.3 |
| Employer | 38 | 42 | 2 | 28.3 |
| At prevailing Market price | 16 | | 8 | 11.4 |
| 15) Residence of Child Labour | 66(yes) | 54(yes) | 75(yes) | 65(Yes) |
| 16) Years Spent in the Job | | | | |
| 1-2 years | 47 | 20 | 60 | 42.3 |
| 3-4 years | 33 | 33 | 22 | 29.3 |
| 5years and above | 8 | 21 | 7 | 12 |
| 17) If given chance to Leaving the Job | 98(yes) | 82(yes) | 88(yes) | 89.3 (Yes) |
| 18) Child perception of parent status | | | | |
| Poor | 95 | 47 | 47 | 63 |
| Very poor | | 29 | 37 | 22 |
| Extremely poor | | 6 | 4 | 3 |

General

Majority (65.3%) of children in employment ages between 16 – 17years while 28% are between 11–15years. The main source of supply (92%) is through the father (consent). Access to schooling is 60.3% with 50.3% in secondary school and 10% in primary school. The main source of school sponsorship is parent (34%) only 11% are sponsored by employees. Analysis of the respondents by form of child labour revealed house chores, cook, and baby sitting as very common with 41%, 17% and 13% respectively. Even through, the children are working, 74.3% of the were not forced into it , the source of induction into employment are prompted by parent while 23.7% made their decision. The monthly income of the majority(41.7%) is between

₦4,000 – ₦6,500 monthly, equivalent to \$25 – \$40.6 per month and between \$0.85 – \$1.35 per day at ₦ 160 per Dollar. This amount is very very insignificant in reducing poverty. Amongst the respondents only 23.3% earns between ₦7,000 – ₦10,000 equivalent to \$43.75 – \$62.5 per month. i.e \$0.27- \$2.083 per day. Self support, contribution to family income and savings for marriage are the main usage of the wages. From the report, 29% of the respondents set the price of their labour, while 28% of the respondents confessed that their parent and employees set their prices. Thus, the labour market is not a significant factor in Price Setting. On the average 65% of the children reside in the private homes they work but do pay visitation to their parent/relative 1-2 times annually (40.6%), while 25.7% do so 3-4 times and 16.7% about 5-6 times. Most of the children (64.7%) said their employees have contact with their parent, thus there is maximum support and understanding between parent and employees which partly explain why this trade has flourished over the years in these state despite its ugly side.

The number of years spent on the job ranges from 1-2 years (42.3%), 29.3% have spent 3-4years while (12%) have spent 5years and above. The possibility of leaving the present job shows 70% of them would leave the present job if given another opportunity.

Bauchi

The age of the children in this employment ranges between 16 – 17 years (92%) only 7% are between 11 -15 years. The main sources of induction into child employment are prompt by parent especially with father's or guardian's consent (95%). Thus, majority of the children (98%) in this state are not forced into it. 68% of them stay with their parent. Accessibility to education by the Children is prominent in this state as majority of them are schooling (89%). Those in secondary school constitute 74% and 15% in primary. The source of sponsorship is mainly by parent, relatives and employees with 68%,12%, and 4% respectively. The form or nature of job employed are house chores, cook and baby sitting with 35%, 29% and 11% of the respondents respectively The economic status using \$1.00 = ~~₦~~ 160.00 as at may, 2014. The result showed that the monthly wages of about 58% of the respondents is between ₦4,000 – ₦6,500 (\$25 - \$40.6) per month, while 37% earn between ₦7,000 – ₦10,000 (\$43.75 – \$62.5) per month only 5% earn between ₦2000 – ₦ 3500. These amounts if measure in per day showed the 58% earns between \$0.83 to \$1.35 per day (₦ 133.33k- ~~₦~~ 200.00, while the 37% earns between \$1.46 - \$2.083 (₦ 233.33k - ₦ 333.33k) per day. The 5% that earns \$12.5 – 12.87 per month have \$0.42 - \$0.729 (₦66.7k k ₦ 3.7k)per day. Wage usages by the respondents in this state are for self support, contribution to support family income and saving for future marriage expenses. Duration in employment showed 47% have spent between 1-2yr, 33% have spent between 3-4yrs while 8% have spent above 5yrs. The visitation per annual of the respondents revealed 37% do visit home 3-4times annually, 32% visit 1-2 times and 25% visit 5-6 times annually.

The setting of price/ wage is not market driven, because 38% of the children allowed employers to decide on the price while 29% is by the children themselves, and parent set the price for about 17% at the prevailing market price. Thus, in this state employers play a role in the setting of the price.

Kaduna

The employed children in this state age between 16 – 17 years (60%) while 30% of them ages between 11-15yrs while 8% ages between 5-10yrs. Hence, there is existence of child labour with 38% of the respondents below 16years. The major source of induction like the other two states is with the fathers' consent (82%). 63% of the respondents have access to education with 52% in secondary schools and 11% in primary school. School fees were being paid by parent (30%) while 11% were by relative & employers. The economic statuses of the respondents' parent show majority are alive while 34% have guardians.

The nature of the jobs in this state were house chore (63%), baby sitting (11%) and 9% were employed as cooks.

The economic status of the children in employment based on monthly and per day income shows 27% earn between ₦4,000 – ₦6,500, while 25% earn between ₦ 2000 – ₦ 3500, others about 17% earn between ₦ 500 – ₦ 1500 and 22% earn from ₦ 7,000 – ₦ 10,000. The wages and this state are not set by employers(42%), 22% of the price are set by parent and 17 by self. Thus, Wages are set by market as each employer bargain the price to pay based on the age of the child, the experience in the job and the parent bargaining power then. The main uses of the wages were for self support, support for family income and a source to save for marriage.

Kano

The age of the children in this employment ranges between 5 – 15 years (55%), while 25% are between 15- 20 years and 18% are between 21-25years. The main sources of induction into child employment are prompt by parent especially with father's or guardian's consent (99%). Thus, majority of the children (51%) testified that they were forced into accepting to work. Non accessibility to education by the Children is prominent in this state as majority of them are not schooling (71%). Those in school constitute only 29% with 14% are in primary while 16% are in secondary section. The source of sponsorship is mainly by parent, relatives and employers with 4%, 5%, and 10% respectively. The form or nature of job employed are house chores (49%), cooks (13%) and babysitting (17%), Laundry (12%) and errand girl (6%) respectively. The economic status using \$1.00 = ₦ 160.00 as at May, 2014. The result showed that the monthly wages of about 40% of the respondents is between ₦4,000 – ₦6,500 (\$25 - \$40.6) per month, while only 11% earn between ₦7,000 – ₦10,000 (\$43.75 – \$62.5) per month. About 33% earn between ₦2000 – ₦ 3500. These amounts if measure in per day showed the 40% earns between \$0.83 to \$1.35 per day (₦ 133.33k- ₦ 200.00), while the 11% earns between \$1.46 - \$2.083 (₦ 233.33k - ₦ 333.33k) per day. The 33% that earns \$12.5 – \$12.87 per month have \$0.42 - \$0.729 (₦66.7k - ₦ 3.7k)per day. Wage usages by the respondents in this state were contribution to support family income, self support, and saving for future marriage expenses. Duration in employment showed 60% have spent between 1-2yr, 22% have spent between 3-4yrs while 12% have spent above 5yrs. The visitation per annual of the respondents revealed 22% do visit home 3-4times annually, 55% visit 1-2 times and 6% visit 5-6 times annually.

The setting of price/ wage is not market driven, because 46% of the children allowed parent and guardians to decide on the price while 41% is by the children themselves, and employers set the price for only 2%. The labour market price was only set for 8% of the respondents. Thus, in this state parent and the children play a role in the setting of the price.

Conclusion

The result above confirmed the existence of Girl – child labour in the three states, especially in Kano and Kaduna state. The result also shows that majority of the child- labourers earn less than \$2.00 per day in the location studied. The prices are not market driven, the decision on what to charge is based on the location and how best the guardian, the child and employers can charge. Thus, child –labour is not a means of reducing poverty but a survival strategy to reduce economic hardship by way of supplementing parents income.

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APPENDIX 1

Some of Nigerian's Poverty Reduction Policies / Reforms since 1999- 2011

| Strategy/Programme/Policy | Objectives | Target Groups |
|--|--|--|
| Girls Education program | To encourage girl child education and to increase enrolment rate | Females |
| Establishment of Vocation and Technical colleges | To build and develop Human Capita | General |
| Establishment of National Services Commission/ Agency | To improve the Education sector and provide means of funding and managing the 52 tertiary health care facilities in the country | General |
| Enactment of the National Health Bill | To outline the role and responsibility of all the three tiers of government | Government |
| Introduction of the National Health Insurance scheme | To provide efficient and affordable Health Services | Both sexes / public and private workers |
| Adoption of Public Private partnership Policy in consonance with the NEEDS and SEEDS | A synergy between government and private firms to redirect an efficient economy | General |
| NEEDS(1&2) SEEDS | | General |
| NEPAD | | Public & Private |
| SMEEIS | Create credit and employment | General |
| Hiv/AIDS | Prevention and Treatment of Patients | General |
| The Basic Education System (3, 3,9) | Achieve universal primary education. | General |
| Mandatory Attachment Programme | To attach graduates of tertiary Institution to public/private sector | Graduates of tertiary Institution |
| Poverty Alleviation Programme(PAP) | Create jobs for unemployed in the face of increasing youth restiveness | Youth |
| NAPEP | To eradicate absolute poverty through four schemes | general |
| Adoption of MDGs | Measurable targets for combating poverty, disease, hunger, Illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women by 2015. | The most significant of these goals are goal 1,2,3,4,and 5 because they are gender focused and are interrelated. |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Integrated Almajiri School System | Encourage School Enrolment among Children, Reduce Child abused through Almajiranci and encourage a better system of learning the Qur'an | All states in Northern Nigeria, and children aged from 6years and above |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|

Computation of the Author, from various Vision 2020 technical reports,2009, NBS reports Various years