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Impact of Child Labor on Academic Performance: a case of students in Ikotun High School,
Ikotun Lagos Nigeria

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Master in Sociology

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Department of Sociology

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Resumo

A nível mundial, milhões de crianças estão envolvidas em trabalho infantil. No entanto, os países em desenvolvimento como a Nigéria são os mais afectados. Este estudo centrou-se no impacto negativo do trabalho infantil nos desempenhos académicos das crianças na escola secundária de ikotun e arredores de ikotun. O estudo explora a correlação entre o trabalho infantil e os desempenhos académicos utilizando um método de investigação quantitativa especificamente ilustrado com "pacote social para pacote estatístico de ciências sociais (SPSS)" para chegar a um resultado conclusivo. Ficou provado que actividades extenuantes para crianças menores de idade provocam baixos desempenhos académicos. Além disso, foi utilizado um método de investigação qualitativa para obter a informação necessária sem utilizar números. Isto foi conseguido com discussão, entrevista e observação em grupo. O estudo concluiu que o governo, a nível federal, ainda não está à altura das suas expectativas de erradicar a pobreza que leva ao trabalho infantil. a sua incapacidade de proporcionar emprego aos pais leva-os a empurrar os seus filhos para o trabalho infantil. o investigador conclui fornecendo recomendações sustentáveis que podem eliminar o trabalho infantil e as suas consequências.

Palavras-chave: trabalho infantil, desempenhos académicos, crianças menores de idade, pobreza

ABSTRACT

Globally, millions of children are involved in child labor. However, developing countries like Nigeria are most affected. This study focused on the negative impact of child labor on academic performances of children in ikotun high school and ikotun surroundings. The study explores the correlation between child labor and academic performances using quantitative research method specifically illustrated with “social package for statistical package of social science (SPSS)” to arrive at a conclusive result. It was proven that strenuous activities for underage children causes low academic performances. Furthermore, qualitative research method was used to get necessary information without using figures. This was achieved with group discussion, interview and observation. The study concluded that government, at federal level are yet to live up to their expectation to eradicate poverty which leads to child labor. their inability to provide job for the parents lead them to push their children to child labor. the researcher concludes by providing sustainable recommendation that can eliminate child labor and its consequences.

Key words: child labor, academic performances, under aged children, poverty.

Index

Appreciation

Abstract

Glossary

Introduction

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

1.1.1 Historical Perspective

1.1.2 Theoretical Perspective

1.1.3 Conceptual Perspective

1.2 STATEMENT PROBLEM

1.3 Purpose of Study

1.4 Objectives of The Study

1.4.1 General Objective

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

1.5 Research Questions.

1.6 Scope of The Study

1. 6.1timescope

1.7 Limitation of The Study

1.8 Significance of The Study

1.9 Operational Definitions of Terms

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Forms of Child Labor
- 2.3 Effect of Child Labor on Education
- 2.4 Ways of Minimizing Child Labor in Nigeria

CHAPTER THREE

Methodology

- 3.0 Introduction
- 3.1 Research Design
- 3.2 Study Population
- 3.3 Determination of Sample Size and Selection
- 3.4 Data Collection Methods and Instruments
- 3.5 Data Collection Instruments
 - 3.5.1 Questionnaire Method
 - 3.5.2 Interview Method
 - 3.5.3 Data Analysis

CHAPTER FOUR

Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis of Findings

- 4.0 Introduction
- 4.1 Demographic Characteristics
 - 4.1.1 Gender of Respondents
 - 4.1.2 Age of Respondents
 - 4.1.3 Academic Qualifications of Respondents

4.1.4 Marital Status of Respondents

4.1.5 Religion of Respondents

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations and Areas Of Further Research

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, the research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study (geographical scope, time justification of the study) and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

Children are regarded as the heritage of the society as they occupy a special place in societal survival and continuity. They are also considered a gift from the Divine Being. In every culture, children are treasured, highly esteemed and appreciated and their proper upbringing is most paramount. The essentiality of having children, proper socialization and internalization to make them a responsible being is woven and embedded in every society. In an African setting, children are prioritized above material wealth. Little wonder a Nigerian proverb state that “children are the gains of life”. (Asamu 62). Children are special link between the present and future generation, they are pride of every parent. Childhood is a stage everyone passes through and must be nurtured under the guidance of a parent. According to Orazen (2003); childhood is a phase of life when a child is free from all tension, fun-loving, plays and learns new things. Apparently, not all children go through the beautiful stage of childhood; most children went through this period in full tension and burden to maintain their families. This is called child labor. According to Anukam (1986), Waboso (2000), Esu (2002), Okpechi (2005), child labor is the worst ills of humanity. A child is said to be abused if he or she is denied basic rights like any other, citizen. In essence, he is subjected to a lot of maltreatment and forced to live under the most un-conducive environment.

Child labor is a complex phenomenon, commonly found in both rural and urban in areas in Africa. According to Ehiemere (2000), child labor constituted street hawking, farm work and domestic chores such as taking care of babies, fetching water and firewood, preparing and cooking food, individual cleanliness and washing. It is evident from most of the research that child’s labor age usually affects under fifteen to eighteen years of age. This affects the child academic performance. Child labor gained scientific attention around the industrial revolution. Industrialization created manual jobs and there isn’t enough hand to carry it out. however, many countries have conducted research and concluded that child labor is connected to economics instability of a country. Child labor was part of the Millennium Development Goals, which

explicitly calls for eradication of child labor by 2030. Parker reported that child labor is associated with certain exposures like silica in industries, HIV infection in prostitution and prolonged health issues. Additionally, child labor may be associated with maternal illiteracy and poverty. Some under aged girls who were impregnated while in school may not have financial support to cater for themselves and their unborn child. They are likely to be forced into child labor.

Nigeria has one of the highest number of children engaged in child labor in Africa. In 2017 Nigeria made a moderate in effort to eliminate child labor in Nigeria. Despite all the measures put in place to eradicate child labor, insurgents (boko haram) in the northern part of Nigeria, change in government policies, scarcity of infrastructure causes setback in implementation of rules. More than 500,000 displaced children increased the level of child labor in Nigeria. For the growth of a child to be complete into being a responsible adult, proper education, access to natal care and social development must not be denied to them. The cognitive, emotional and social capacities of a child is crucial especially at the developing stage. Toxic stress may damage developing brain which lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior, physical and mental health. (Harvard 2003). Unfortunately, children in Nigeria are equally exposed to ills and worst forms of labor beyond their control. This could also be accrued to the incessant rate of poverty, after effect of civil war, diseases, loss of parents or migration.

The Nigeria constitution does not completely prohibit child work, children can participate and help in house chores provided the work is performed outside school hours, and does not interfere with their school activities, physical and moral development. However, any labor that strains children below their working age is what the constitution frowns at. The right of every individual to respect the dignity of each person is protected under section 34 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

*According to that section Every individual is entitled to
respect for the dignity of his person and accordingly (C)
no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory
labor.*

The “person” contemplated by the above provision of the constitution may be a man, a woman or a child. Children are to be protected against harsh exposure. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is: Every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable

majority is attained earlier. Article 2 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child states that a child is: Every human being below the age of 18 years. The Child's Right Act 5 adds that a child is: A person under the age of eighteen years. The agreement as it appears is that anyone that is yet to attain the age of 18 is universally considered to be a child. Although a child is not necessarily portrayed by a fixed age. Children's abilities and maturities are said to vary so much that defining a child's maturity by calendar age can be misleading.

Nigeria introduced free and compulsory secondary education in line with the implementation of millennium Development Goals (MDG,2008) to tackle the rate of drop out among school children and to eradicate child labor. This ongoing initiative has proven effective yet, children are still seen hawking, mining, and involves in sort of hazardous activities in most urban areas. Child labor is rampant among children in Ikotun Local Government, Lagos State in Nigeria. As observed personally by the researcher. According to the local community leader, child labor has been in existence there for a very long time. Child is meant to learn not to earn. The study was to establish the impact of child labor on academic performance of Ikotun high school and children engaging in child labor in the surroundings. It is observed that the same students who attend the school are mostly seen in ikotun market. (Personal observation).

1.2 Purpose of Study

The study is guided by the theoretical model on exploitative child labor by Carol and Swinnerton in which empirical evidence of a link between rising national income and a decrease in the incidence of child labor. However, once a national affluence is attained, the relationship between national income and child labor weakens substantially. Therefore, an analysis of the relationship between poverty and child labor is likely to yield more relevant results when undertaken at the household level.

Carol and Swinnerton (2002) also stipulate in their theory that a ban on exploitative child labors is desirable because it allows children to go to school. This study addresses independent variable and dependent variable namely child labor and academic performance respectively. Theoretical model above explained that labor is driven by ignorant parents, high poverty levels and retrogressive cultures. The breakthrough of the vicious cycle of child labor is through education, observance of human and enforcement of labor law to ensure that a child goes to school. The productive work force has enhanced education, enforced labor laws and observed human rights. All these are said to have enhanced the level of income and reduced the poverty levels.

Child labor has been in existence in Nigeria for many years. During the pre-independence days, children were sent by their parents to work in farms in order to earn money to pay taxes. Today, due to high increase of poverty, the changing family structures and value systems children work in the commercial agriculture sector, stone mining, in order to assist their family. Even with the introduction of free education, there is still poor enrollment of students, high dropout rates and low retention rates in secondary schools. Employing children could have an adverse effect the children ability to develop into productive members of the society. When children are left to work and at the same time go to school, they will always perform poorly in school and therefore will not be able to acquire the quality of education. Poor performance may discourage learners to continue in school, and consequently dropout of school. There is high dropout rate in secondary schools in Ikotun as observed by in NECO officials. (National Education Council examinations) The level of poor school performances and the rate of children hawking during school hour prompt the researcher to embark on this research

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General objective

The general objective of the study was to establish the impact of child labor on academic performance of students in secondary schools in Ikotun high secondary school, in Ikotun local government

1.4.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study were.

- I. To determine the forms of child labor in Ikotun surroundings
- II. To examine the effects of child labor on academic performance at Ikotun high school
- III. To seek suggestions on ways of minimizing child labor at Ikotun high school and its surroundings.

Research hypothesis

Hypothesis 1

1. Child labor is not significantly dependent on the socio economy status of parent and guardians

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship in the academic performances scores of students who engaged in child labor compared with their counterpart who do not engage in such activities

1.5 Research questions.

The study intended to provide answers to the following questions:

- What are the forms of child labor at ikotun market.?
- What are the effects of child labor on academic performance of students at ikotun high school?
- What are the suggestions for eradicating child labor at ikotun high school?

Scope of the study

The study considered the framework of assessing the impact of child labor on academic performances.

1.6. Time scope

The research will be conducted in a period of our months from March 2022 to May 2022 The research will be conducted in Nigeria, ikotun local government, Lagos state.

1.7 Limitation of the study: The researcher conducting a study on negative impact of child labor and academic performance faced some problems. One of them is covid19 restriction and money which made it hard to conduct the study well. Aside the time and financial constraints there was an issue of suspicion from some teachers and parents who were not fully ready to co-operate in responding to the questionnaires. Another limitation of the study was inadequate data collecting tools.

1.8 Significance of the study

The beneficiaries of the study may include the administrators, teachers, learners, curriculum developers, parents, community and NGOs. The outcome may assist the administration to have increase in school enrollment, decrease low dropout rates. the society will have harmony, and petty crimes will be reduced. The finding of this study may raise public awareness about the child labor and may sensitize the community help in eradicating the menace. Teachers may devise ways of attracting students to schools. The finding of this study may help to improve the home and school environment for the benefit of the child. The results may be used by curriculum developers to review and to render refreshed courses to suit the learners. The outcome of the results may also help NGOs to organize workshops and seminars on importance of eradicating child labor in the society.

1.9 GLOSSARY

Child laborer: - Is a person below the age of 18 years, out of school, who is engaged or employed in any work outside their homes with or without payment.

Child labor: - refers to (1) work that's mentally, physically, socially harmful to children. It also includes work or activities that interfere with school attendance.

Hazardous work which by its nature or the circumstances under which it is performed jeopardizes the health, safety and morals of a child.

Retention rate: is the rate at which students remain in schools and those students who can proceed to the next class in the education level.

School enrollment: is the number of students admitted in a year, in every class in a school

CHAPTER TWO

Literature review

2.0 Introduction

Several researchers have carried out studies on child labor over the years and have concluded that the child labor has a direct impact on academic performance of students in secondary schools. In this chapter, a discussion on the impact of child labor on academic performance in secondary schools was done in the following areas: forms of child labor, effects of child labor and suggestions for minimizing child labor.

2.1 History of Child Labor in Nigeria

In Nigeria, children are profoundly loved and cared for with much enthusiasm. Consequently, having many children is like an achievement in a cultural sense. Hence, having children has both sociocultural and political economic dimension. Sociocultural sense, children are seen as the essence of consummation of matrimonies. Political and economy wise, children are economic assets for material wealth, possession and power as they provide additional labor power for increased productivity. It implies the place of children in the society, and it is only those who live to be buried by their children who claim to have children. This is more illustrated in a proverb which says “when a rabbit is of age, it naturally depends on its offspring for survival.

Children are social insurance against future uncertainties especially in the patriarchal system which is more permissive in mode of social organization. The first son must carry the baton left by the father to continue the lineage. The idea of child labor in Nigeria is a contemporary one. Two major factors can have said to be accountable for child labor in Nigeria, work occupies a central position in Nigerian culture. It is generally believed that hard work is the panacea to poverty and a collective believe as it that hard work doesn't kill rather idleness does. A common orientation, occupational training for skill acquisition and social wellbeing of children into the culture of responsible citizenry, sense of community, and obedience and respect were culturally from work at the core of children's involvement in work in traditional Nigerian society. The exclusion of children from work was not in the interest of society, as it portrays negative and dysfunctional implication for the integration of children, oloko (2003).

Child labor in Nigeria has its unique geographical peculiarity. Certain forms of child labor are predominant in some certain geographical location in the country with which born out of specific fauna,

occupational imperative, religious or cultural orientation of those areas. Cattle rearing and almajiri is specific to the northerners while child pawning or bonding is peculiar to the western and eastern region. On the contrary different forms of child labor exist in varying degrees and intensities all over Nigeria. In this regard the definition of child labor is defined by different scholars.

Child Labor

What is child labor? Child labor has received considerable attention mostly in all disciplines. But sociologist defined child labor as.

“The work that deprived children of their childhood through which, the child’s performance, dignity potential is harmed. It is observed that the children are unaware of the things, which are very essential for them. The children are unable to go to school and their knowledge is lacking. Children are deprived of the opportunity of attending school by acquiring the combination of excessively long and heavy work. Hazardous child labor is the worst form of child labor, which affect the nature and circumstances which are cared out, and it harms the child’s mental health safety” and morale of the children” AB bilal 2010 cited 36

Early writers tend to focus on child labor solely through the lens of labor demand. Friedrich Engels (2008) wrote extensively on the conditions of working children in the early industrial revolution. Bark (2009) stated that, quite a few children preferred taking petty jobs to going to school. Even those who were sent to schools were usually not performing well in academic work. Grant (2011) observed that more than one hundred (100) million children, including at least sixty (60) million girls had no access to primary schooling. Grant (2011) similarly stated that most of the children found in rural areas were usually town rovers. Most of them were deprived of health and education, and almost all of them were victims of crime, prostitution and drug abuse. Scar (2013) took a constructivist factors, arguing that children constructed their realities from many possible realities that are latest in their environment. Erickson (2011) viewed the child who

proposed the “eight (8) stages of development” stressed the importance of middle childhood as a time when children moved from home into wider social contexts, which strongly influenced their development. International Labor Organization (ILO, 2005) stated that the most recent data indicated that about twenty-six percent (26%) of children aged ten to fourteen (10-14) years in Nigeria were engaged in economic activities. This has also made it necessary to investigate on the impact of child labor on school attendance and academic performance of a child. Hassan and Dehnath (2000) stated that socially, children in industries were found to experience negative consequences in their educational development and performance. The prevalence of illiteracy, low school attendance and low enrolment has been attributed to children’s economic participation. According to Lopez-Calva (2001), Bass (2004), the global phenomenon of child labor can be attributed to several factors. The rapid population growth in many developing countries, high rates of unemployment, inflation and low wages are all factors facilitating child labor. The International Labor Organization (ILO, 2006) stated one hundred and ninety-one (191) million children aged five to fourteen (5-14) years of age were engaged in economic activities throughout the world in 2004. More than one third of these children 74.4 million were involved in employments which were hazardous to their physical and mental health.

2.3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

There are several definitions of child labor by many scholars, according to Gunnarsson and Orazem (2003) child labor means work done by children under fifteen (15) years of age and generally takes two forms, these are: unpaid child’s work in the household or on a household farm, and the paid child’s work or labor which is outside the home in the market or enterprise. According to Ehiemere (2000), child labor constituted street hawking, farm work and domestic chores such as taking care of babies, fetching water and firewood, preparing and cooking food, individual cleanliness and washing. Most of the research findings stated earlier affirmed that child’s labor age to be under fifteen to eighteen years of age as most affected. Child labor, according to Kissekka (2009), refers to the participation of children in productive labor on a full-time basis. Ankam (1995) defined child labor as any physical engagement of child either paid or unpaid directed at alleviating adult burden outside or inside the home to make a living. The International Labor Organization (2005) defined the term as engagement of children below fifteen (15) years of age on work or employment on a regular basis with the aim of earning a livelihood for themselves or their families. Aina and Zechum (2009) defined a child as a person who is physically, mentally, socially underdeveloped within

the age period from birth to eighteen (18) years old. Odusanya (2002) defined a child as someone who is under fourteen (14) years of age that is time of care, protection and learning. During this period, there are many issues that the child cannot deal with: the parents and society are expected to take responsibility for whatever a child does during this period and determine the kind of adult he/she will become. On the other hand, labor is defined by Hornby and Wakefield (2006) as bodily or mental work. Thus, labor in the context of the research is work of any form, for productive ends. The Standard Dictionary (2009) defined labor as a physical or mental exertion, particularly for some useful or desired end. Schultz (2007) emphasized the importance of foregone earnings in human capital accumulation.

2.4 Causes of Child Labor

Childhood is the most innocent stage in a human life. However, if this stage is not properly nurtured, it can cause damage to a child's physical and mental health.

(i) Poverty and Unemployment Poverty is the primary cause of child labor. Poor parents send their children to work, not out of choice, but for reasons of economic expediency. Poor children and their families may rely upon child labor in order to improve their chance of attaining necessities. About one- fifth of the Worlds six billion (6,000, 000,000) people live in absolute poverty.

(ii) Adult Unemployment and Urbanization

Adults often find it difficult to find jobs because factory owners find it more beneficial to employ children at cheap rates. Adult exploitation of children is seen in many places. Elders relax at home and live on the labor of poor helpless children (<http://www.childlabour> (2011)).

(iii) Access to Compulsory Free Education is Limited

Approximately one hundred and twenty-five (125,000,000) million children in the world do not attend school, limiting future opportunities for the children and their communities. The Global Campaign for Education estimates that free, quality education for all children would cost ten (10,000,000,000) billion dollars. Bennett et al (2004).

(iv) Existing laws or codes of conduct are often violated

Even when laws or codes of conduct exist, they are often violated. Child labor laws around the world are often not enforced or include exemptions that allow for child labor to persist in certain sectors, such as agriculture or domestic work. Even in countries where strong child labor laws exist, labor departments and

labor inspection offices are often underfunded and under-staffed, or courts may fail to enforce the laws. Similarly, many state governments allocate few resources to enforcing child labor laws.

Categories of Child Labor

- a) Children working in public places such as streets and markets which involves the following types of work, A. Streets vendors in mobile and stationary position.
- b) Young beggars, who work alone or with parents/relatives.
- c) Shoe repairers (cobblers), boys.
- d) Car washers.
- e) Young scavengers who worked alone or with their families.
- f) Head loaders/feet washers in markets.

2) Children Working in Semi-Public Settings Namely Cottage Industries and Mechanical Workshops. This kind of work involves.

- a) Apprentice mechanic and vulcanized.
- b) B. Bus conductors.
- c) Iron and metal workers.
- d) Carpentry.
- e) Tailors and weavers.
- f) Domestic and barbers.
- g) Domestic Servants in Private Households

2.4 Forms of child labor

In Nigeria, child labor means an underage child below the age 18 involved in some manner of work. It could be domestic, income generating or to acquire skill. In other words child labor is synonymous to “forced or exploitative labor. In Nigeria, in section 28 of the act, what the law condemns is forced and exploitative labor. This kind of child labor is considered worst form of labor. Nigeria law condemn child labor in this context because not all labor is considered as bad labor. What is not accepted as bad labor is explained in section 28 of Nigeria’s child’s right act ‘

“For the purpose of defining a policy towards child labor, both the nature of the work and the

The nature of the relationship between the child and the employer, must be considered. A key

Element is whether the arrangement is “exploitative”. In the extreme, this can take the form of bonded labor, quasi slavery, or feudal relationships .in many cases a debt incurred by the Parent is the “bond “which forces the child to work towards the payment of the debt...however Other aspect of child labor can also be exploitative such as when the child starts full time work Too early an age, or work too many hours or when the work put excessive physical, social and Psychological strains on the child and hampers the child’s development in these areas”

- a) Agricultural child labor- one of the major traditional occupations in Nigeria is Agriculture. It is a primary economic unit and labor intensive which usually include all family members. This was partly the reasons for high procreation rate in most part of Nigeria in the nineteenth century. In fact, the number of a man’s children indicate how wealthy and prosperous he would be. Expectedly school is out of the question. According to otite (2000) in the past, as now, a child is a blessing, another hand, an addition to the human capital in the process of survival and social interference. The Fulani and the Hausa (northerners) practice nomadic farming which involves cattle rearing. A Fulani without his cattle is considered empty and useless. The initiation of children into pastoralist agrarian culture from young ages was a normal practice, despite the risk attached to it. Both Fulani boys and girls are involved in pastoring. At the age of 7 a boy is considered strong enough to care for some cattle. This involves trekking a long distance which may have an adverse effect on the child growth and wellbeing. In both western and eastern part of Nigeria, children always fall victim of cheap labor for production of cash crops and subsistence food. Despite the emergence of education children still engage in subsidence farming, going to school during the week and farming on weekends.
- b) Street trading- industrialization, urbanization gave way to increase economic activities in the city and trading is one of the common activities engaged in. Child hawking is a dated back to the 1920s to 1930s. Isamah and Okunola (2003). Child trading is considered legitimate in the north as wife’s are kept in purdah which explain the reason children are allowed to hawk. Also, in west mothers are considered too busy engaging in household chores and while fathers a farm and children hawks to sustain the family, it was considered a division of labor as hard work at a young age is advocated for.

- c) Domestic servitude- urbanization and increased employment opportunities for women in both public and private sectors immediately after independence led to increased demand for domestic help. Children were taken from village to the city to help with household chores in return for education or occupational skills. In most cases, these children are exposed to child abuse, worst form of labor, sexually abused, even death. These children unlike children of their benefactors are often maltreated. This also leads to child trafficking across neighboring countries and hinterlands i.e., Republic of Benin to Lagos, Calabar, Badagry, Saki in Oyo state. Trafficked children are mostly abused by middlemen who brought them to the city. This is common among the Edo people. There is also pawning of children. This practice is seen in the Ilorin Emirate. (O'hear2003). Children are sent to master craftsman where children are apprentice for many years learning vocational skills like black smith, bead making, pottery. Additional reason for pawning children is to inculcate discipline, hard work, diligence in children.
- d) Child bondage- this is another form of child labor which constitutes a child working for a serf or landowner in replacement of a debt owned. It quite common in 18th century but its fragment can still be found among Saki, Oyo state. The children undergo unspeakable mistreatment and pain during their stay with the serfs.
- e) Child begging- this is a very old practice that has religious and cultural connotation. Children are sent out by parent or guardian to beg for alms. in some part of the country, some women hired these children from their parent as bait for suspecting members of the public. The parent got paid for the children service. among the Yoruba, ibeji (twins) begging is much prevalent till today. Mother of the twins is required to dance round the market, failure to do that might lead to death. Among the Fulani, child begging is legal. The most common among the child begging are the almajiris street beggars. Though this practice is often seen as a product of Islamic religion, which emulates humility as it is instructed in the holy Quran. the real reason is just because the parent is too poor to provide for the number of children they have.
- f) Child marriage- this controversial issue is prevalent among the northerners who still uphold the sharia law. According to sharia law, a girl child must be married off soon she sees her first menstrual circle. This is a deep sociocultural and religious problem that made it difficult to abolish child labor in Nigeria.
- g) Street children are those who live on the streets and who work to support their street existence. They carryout work such as head loading (Dako) and scavenging to sustain themselves. Some are

exploited by older youths and men to carry out domestic and economic tasks in return for food and other essentials for survival. In Bicksteth Oloko (2013), it was found that most apprentices stopped schooling before or after primary six. Further study showed relatively low academic performance for those still in schools. This is associated with "intendancy or poor motivation". Dyorough (2010) cited in Mohammed (2013) that in bus conducting the ratio of child to adult bus conductor is one to six (1-6) in major cities

2.6 Theoretical framework

Child labor and School Attendance Alio (2003) observed that social status and educational level of parent influence school attendance. They claimed that geographical location of school, student's attitude towards school and subjects, inadequate supervision of student's activities by teachers and parents and poor teaching methods, lack of facilities affects students school attendance. Okewele (2003). Khanam et al (2005) stated that on the other hand, child labor may impede school attendance and the quality of learning achievements of children. Child Labor and Academic Performance is often a complex issue. According to Garrison (2003) "Reliability of young people to embrace the opportunities for employment will depend to a large extent upon the type of education and training they receive". In Nigeria, education can hold the key towards successful livelihood, while lack of it can spell doom for the individual. For instance, Singh (2013) reported that working long hours while in school affects standardized test scores and grades. According to Marxian theory, the process of exploitation is a part of the redistribution of labor. The use of this theory in this study is appropriate since a child may be forced into labor in order to meet the needs of the family as a result of unequal distribution of wealth.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the procedure that was adopted for the study. This includes design of the study, population of the study, area of the study, instrument for data collection, validation of instrument, reliability of the instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.1 Research design

Trochim (2004) defines a research design as the scheme, outline or plan that is used to generate answers to the research problems. According to him research design “provides the glue that holds the research projects together. A research design can be regarded as an arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance with the research purpose. In that manner a descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. This was because people’s views and opinions were sought and described accordingly, and it established how child labor affects academic performance. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used because they complement each other. The qualitative approach was mainly used to describe subjective assessments, analyses and interpretation of attitudes, opinions, and behaviors of the respondents as expressed verbatim from interviews and focus group discussion. The quantitative methods helped in generating numerical data, which was statistically manipulated to meet required objectives through descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages).

3.2 Study population

The study was done at ikotun junior high school, ikotun. It comprises of student, teacher/parent and non-academic staffs. Students were randomly sampled between the age of 10, 12,14,16, and 18. Under the supervision of the teacher and the school principal students 50 students were administered questionnaire and affected student with low performances were interviewed. A class was set aside for the interview and answering of the questionnaire. Students were enthusiastic and responsive.

3.3 Design of the study

The study was done at ikotun high school and ikotun market. 100 respondents were used which comprises of members of ikotun high school to carry out the qualitative research and quantitative research. 50 students were shared questionnaire and interviewed.

3.4 Determination of sample size and selection

A sample size of 100 respondents was determined using statistical tables of Krejcie and Morgan (1970), as cited by Amin (2005), and included various categories as specified in Table 1 below.

NO	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS	(Numbers of the respondents)	Age of the respondents	SAMPLING TECHNIQUE
1	Academic staff	20		Simple random sampling
2	Parents	10		Stratified sampling
3	Students in school	50	10-18	Purposive sampling
4	Children not in school	20	10-18	random sampling

Table 1: Research respondents by category and sample No. Category of Sampling technique respondents / Academic Staff Simple random sampling 20, parents 10, student in school 50 and children not in school 20.

Key: N — Population Size, S — Recommended Sample Population (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970)

3.5 Data Collection methods and instruments

This study used both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Quantitative data was collected using questionnaires that were filled by the academic and administrative staff and qualitative data was obtained from focus group discussions with the support staff and key informant interviews with the school management.

3.6 Data Collection instruments

A well-structured questionnaire on impact of child labor on school attendance and academic was developed by the researcher and administered to the respondents. Interview were prepared for children on the street hawking and for others involved in child labor.

3.7 Questionnaire Method

A questionnaire is a data collection instrument used to gather data over a large sample or number of respondents (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). This structured questionnaire was developed following recommended guidelines by various scholars that include Kothari (2005), Sekaran and Bougie (2013) and Saunders et al (2009). The first section of the instrument addressed issues of demographic data and other sections addressed the views following the objectives that were stated in chapter one of this research report. In each section, the respondents were given clear instructions on how to complete the item. The questionnaire was refined once the instrument was piloted.

3.8 Interview guide

An interview guide is a set of questions that the researcher asks during the interview (McNamara, 2009). The researcher designed an interview guide which was used during the interview of the key respondents - the College Management. The researcher posed questions intended to lead the respondents towards giving data to meet the study objectives and probed the respondents in order to seek clarification about responses provided. A structured interview guide was used for the school management to stimulate them into detailed discussion of child labor impact on academic performance. Structured interviews are useful not only because they show excellent validity in meta-analytic research (Hunter and Schmitt, 1996), but also because they provide a chance to probe the answers of the management and understand precisely what they mean. Interviewing is a very useful approach for data collection because it allows the researcher

to have control over the construction of the data and it has the flexibility to allow issues that emerge during dialogue and discussion to be pursued (Charmaz, 2002).

3.9 Validity and Reliability

As observed by Vogt (2007), several studies have used this instrument and found both their reliability and validity values to be acceptable to the population being studied and in a different context thus recommended for testing the validity and reliability of the instruments. Validity of instruments Vogt (2007: 117) defines as the truth or accuracy of the research. Saunders et al (2009) add that it is the extent to which the data collection instrument is measured as well as the appropriateness of data. (Saunders et al, 2009; Vogt, 2007; and Sekaran & Bougie, 2013).

3.10 Data analysis

This refers to the interpretation of the collected raw data into useful information (Kombo and Tromp, 200). After editing and sorting out the questionnaires for completeness, returns and coding analysis was done. The quantitative data analysis, descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data to give the percentages and frequencies. Data was presented in form of tables which helped to explain the relationship between the variables of study. Qualitative data analysis was carried out on qualitative data from the opened ended question. Themes were created and this helped in explaining the data. Computer software, statistical package for social sciences were used.

Ethical consideration This involved; 1 Seeking permission from the heads of the secondary schools.

2.The respondents will be ensured of confidentiality of their information given.

3. The respondents were neither required to disclose their names nor the names of their parents, as some parents didn't want their children to reveal their activities to the interviewer. The principal refuses the taking of pictures and recording of voices notes, however the questionnaires were submitted, and the answers provided were satisfactory. The picture of the school that was used to carry out the project was inclusive in the response of the respondents.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter comprises of the findings that were gathered by the researcher from Ikotun Junior High School, Ikotun district and topic, Impact of child labour on academic performance. The data was represented and interpreted in view of the objectives mentioned in chapter one of this research. The interpretation also seeks to answer the research questions that were raised in chapter one. Presentation and interpretation of data in this chapter has been done with the aid of quantitative and qualitative methods, for example the use of tables, graphs, percentages and personal analysis and interpretation presented in essay form. Questionnaires were provided to 50 respondents who filled them to the best of their knowledge.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics

The primary respondents are children between the age 10-18 years old. 60% are students in school, 20% have dropped out of school and 20% couldn't afford to go to school. The secondary respondents are the teachers, parents and guardians.

4.1.1 Gender of respondents

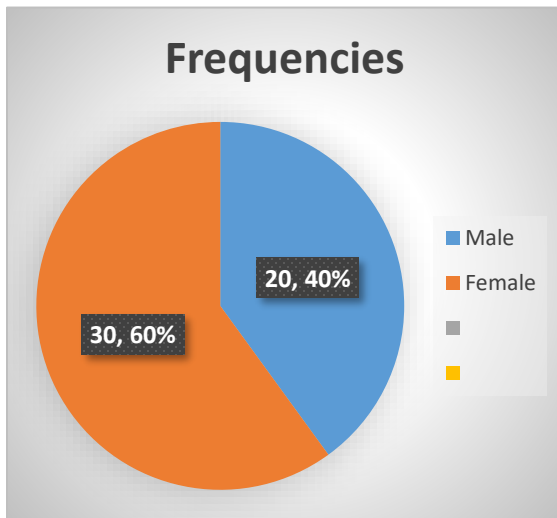
Table i: Showing Gender of respondents

Gender	Age brackets	Frequency	Percent
	Female	30	60.0
	Male	20	40.0
	Total	50	100.0

Source: primary data 2022

Showing the gender of respondents

This is a pie chart represents the frequencies of gender below.



Source: Primary Data 2022

From the above table and figure, the highest respondents are female 30 in number represented at 60%. The male respondents are 20 represented at 40%. From the above presentation, though many of the respondents were female representing the highest percentage, the issue of gender sensitivity was adhered to by few females who were selected.

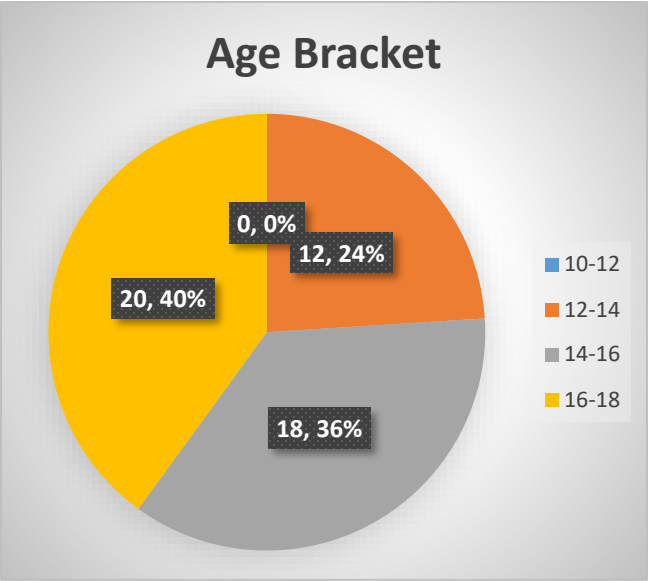
4.1.2 Age of respondents

Table ii: showing the Age of Respondents

Age group	Age bracket	Frequency	Percent
	12-14	12	24.0
	14-16	18	36.0
	16-18	20	40.0
	Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary Data 2022

Age group of Respondent



From the table and figure, 16-18 years of age has the highest percentage of 40% because they are matured, and they understand the question better than the ones in lower class. This was followed by respondents who fall in the age bracket of 14-16 with 36% of total respondents and followed by those of 12-14 with 24% who fall in age brackets.

Question 1: Do you live with your parents.

Do you stay with your parents or guardian			
Guardian	Mean	15.33	
	N	18	18
	Std. Deviation	1.455	
Parents	Mean	14.59	
	N	32	32
	Std. Deviation	1.604	
Total	Mean	14.86	
	N	50	50
	Std. Deviation	1.57	

From the above chart it was deduced that 18 respondents live with guardian while 32 stay with their parents.

4.1.3 Academic Qualifications of respondents

Table iii: Showing academic qualifications of the respondent

Question2; What is the level of your education?

Education	Frequency	Percent
Valid Primary school	1	2.0
junior secondary school	17	34.0
secondary school	18	36.0
no formal education	9	18.0
vocational skills	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Primary Data, 2022

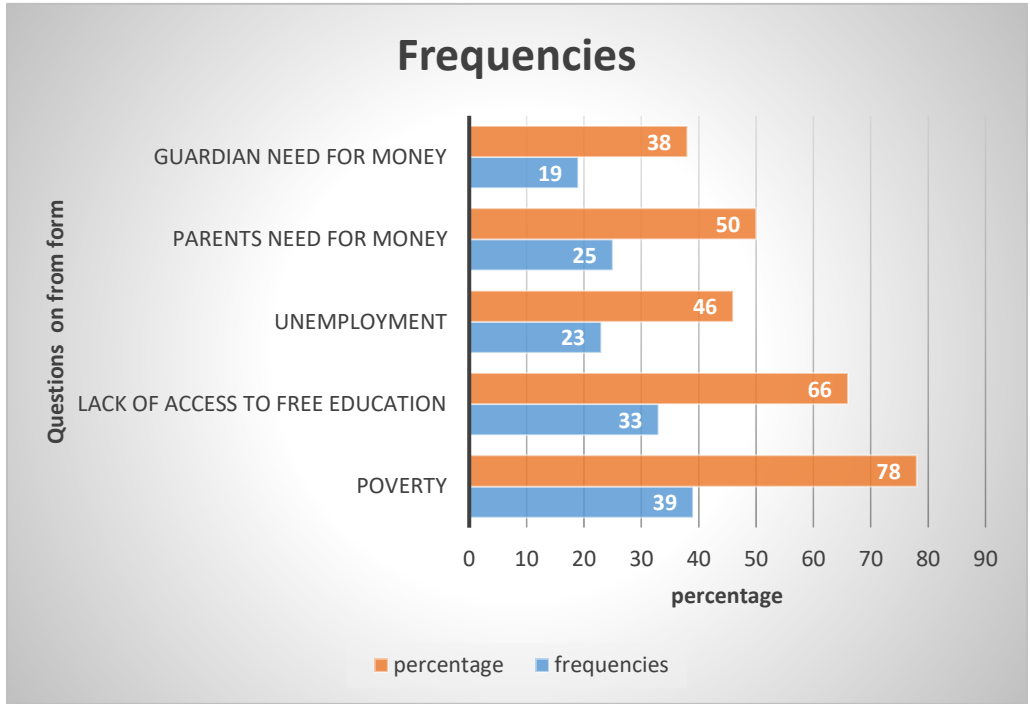
From the above table it was observed that most of the respondents are students from the Secondary School in Ikotun Lagos, are of 36% followed by junior secondary at 34%, next is respondents with vocational skills represent 10%, (few that dropped out of school due to lack of funds) followed by primary school by 2%. It was equally observed that the respondents from secondary school are more responsive than those in the lower classes.

Question3; what do you think is the causes of child labour

Table for the above multiple response.

Response	Frequencies	Valid percentage
Poverty	39	78%
Lack of access to free education	33	66%
Unemployment	23	46%
Parents need for money	25	50%
Guardian need for money	19	38%

Source: Primary Data 2022



The Bar chart indicate the frequencies and percentage and the most important factors that were selected from respondents. The above bar chart shows that poverty carry the highest percentage at 78% followed by lack of access to free education which is 66%.

Source: Primary Data, 2022

From the table above, 78% represents the most important factor which is poverty. This is concluded because most of the student chorused the answer. The next important factor which is lack of access to free education is 66% while 23% represent unemployment. They explain that their parent couldn't afford them basic amenities because they are unemployed. Parent need for money is 25%, 19% represent guardian need for money. The illustration indicates that child labour stems from poverty. The children lamented that they couldn't function well in their studies because of lack of funds.

Source: Primary Data 2022

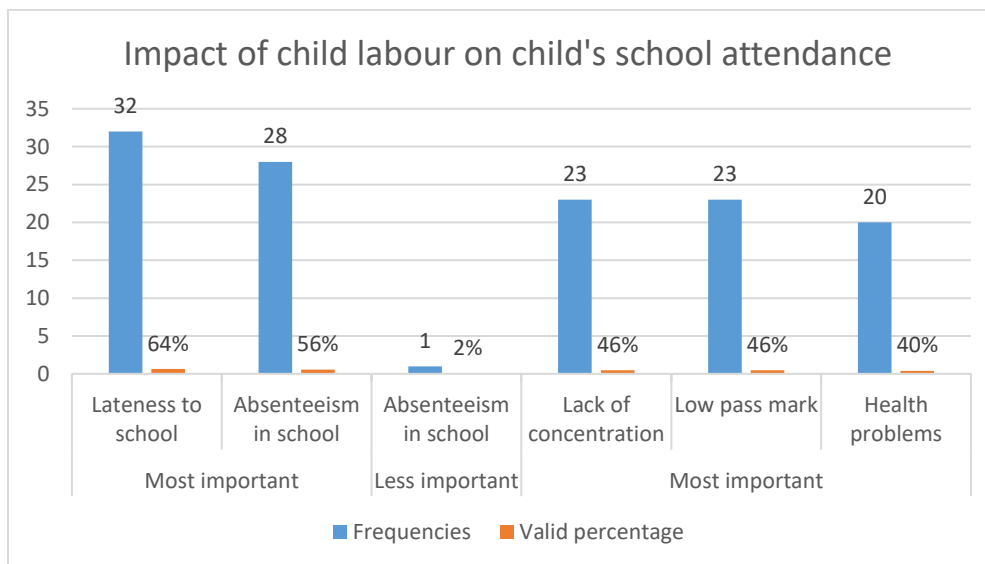
Question 4; The possible impact of child labour on a child's school attendance

The second objective of the study was to examine the possible impact of child labour on academic performance of children schooling in ikotun. The responses to this objective were gathered based on a

Likert scale measure of 1-3 measuring responses. Table vii: showing response to the impact of child labour on academic performance at ikotun secondary school.

Table for the above multiple response summary.

Multiple response	Questions	Frequencies	Valid percentage
Most important	Lateness to school	32	64%
	Absenteeism in school	28	56%
Less important	Absenteeism in school	1	2%
Most important	Lack of concentration	23	46%
	Low pass mark	23	46%
	Health problems	20	40%



Source: Primary Data 2022

From the table above, 64% represents lateness to school, the level of assimilation is affected once they miss some classes. 56% represent absent from school. Sometimes they miss the most important lesson when absent from school., 2% represent the less important factor of being absent from school that is for

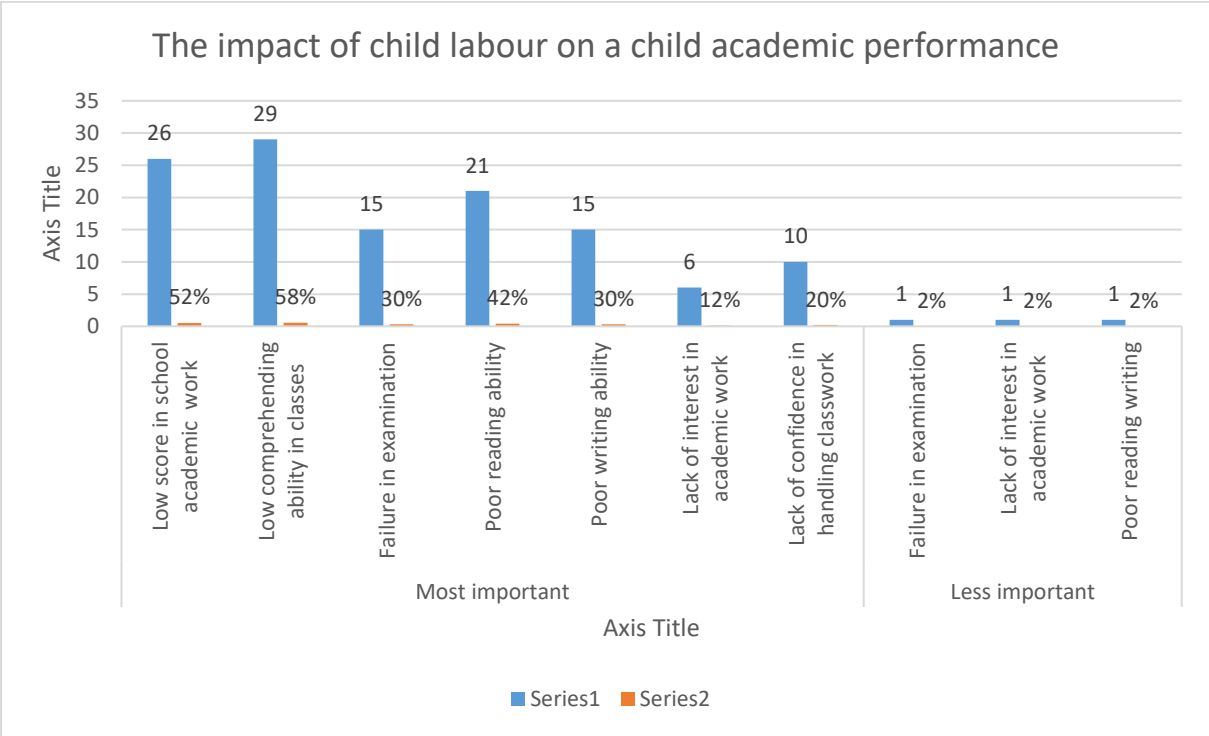
the junior class because the class could be reviewed. lack concentration in the class represented at 46% and low pass mark respectively. Children involved in stressed work will lack concentration in class. They could be feeling sleepy or tired in the class., 40% represent health related problems unable to continue their studies.

The column cluster chart indicates the frequencies and percentage at the most important and less important factor picked by the respondents. The above column cluster chart indicates the highest percentage which is 64% of children late to school followed by 56% representing children that are absent from school which indicates the next most important factor.

Question 6; The impact of child labour on a child academic performance

The respondents were asked about the impact of child labour on school performances.

Multiple response	Questions	Frequencies	Valid percentage
Most important	Low score in school academic work	26	52%
	Low comprehending ability in classes	29	58%
	Failure in examination	15	30%
	Poor reading ability	21	42%
	Poor writing ability	15	30%
	Lack of interest in academic work	6	12%
	Lack of confidence in handling classwork	10	20%
Less important	Failure in examination	1	2%
	Lack of interest in academic work	1	2%
	Poor reading writing	1	2%



Source: Primary Data 2022

The cluster column chart above represents the multiple response from 45 respondents out of 50, both male and female. The highest percentage which is 58% indicating low comprehending ability. Students involved in hard labour have low retentive memory. Low score in school academic work is 52%, 42% represent poor reading skill among the respondents. Both failure in examination and poor writing ability is 30% respectively. In addition, 12% represent lack of interest in academic work and 20% lack of confidence handling classwork. The less important are 1% respectively which are failure in examination, lack of interest in academic work, poor reading and writing ability. The effect of child labour affects the children at different levels. Apparently, the respondents confirm that they can't juggle being a worker and a student because it interferes with their studies.

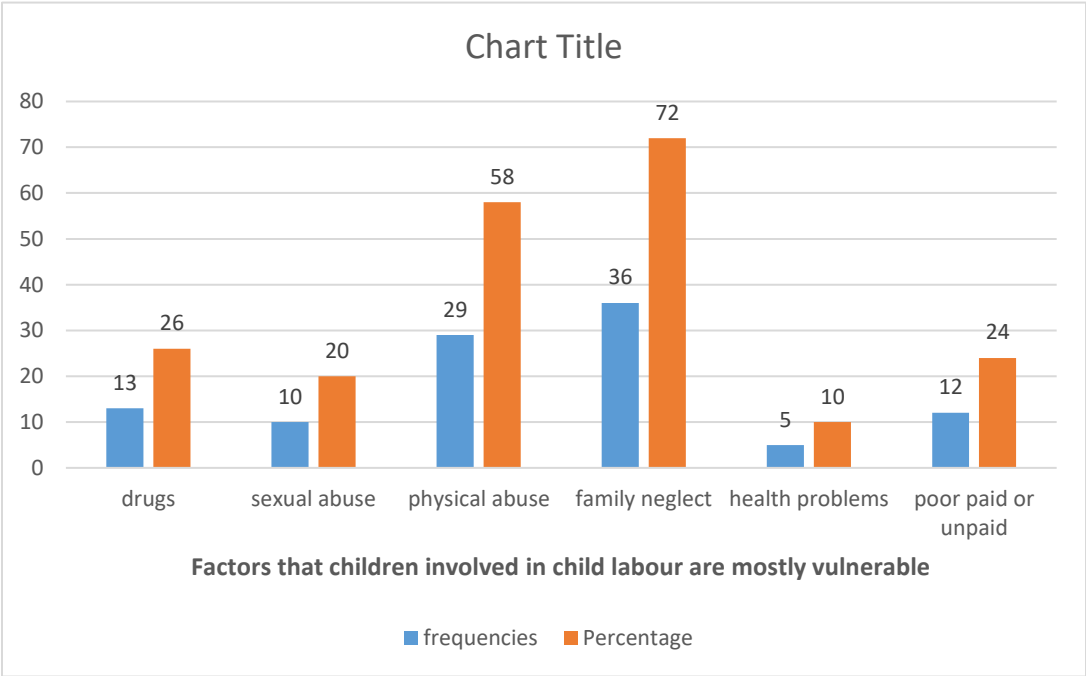
Question 7; factors that children involved in child labor

	Drugs	13	26%
	Sexual abuse	10	20%
	Physical abuse	29	58%
	Family neglect	36	72%
	Health problems	5	10%

	Poor paid or unpaid	12	24%
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Source: Primary Data

These are summary of the factors that make the children vulnerable vices as illustrated below and the cluster column chart below.



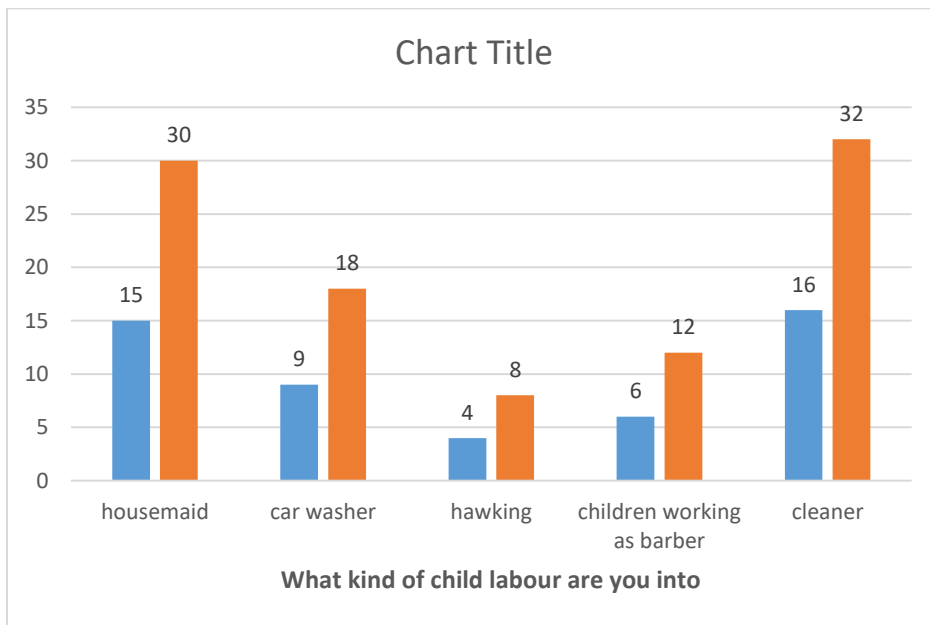
The cluster column above indicates that 72% represent family neglect which implies most children are trained by single parents with no financial support. Some are product of broken home or from polygamous home who are deprived of necessary attention. Respondent that are physically abused are 58%. Being a child, they are vulnerable and unable to defend themselves against harmful situation. children involved in drug abuse is 26%. All sort drugs are found among this delinquent youth to escape their pain. Most of them go through mental melt down because they are not matured enough to handle the harsh reality before them. Underpaid or unpaid Children is 24%, while 20% represent sexually abused children. The girls are exposed to prostitution at their tender age leaving them no choice than to use their body to get want they want. Lastly the children having health challenges is 5%.it is observed that some of these children developed health issue like chronic cough, scabies, malaria and many more. A bunch of them are suffering from severe malnutrition.

Question8; What kind of child labour are you involved in?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Housemaid	15	30.0
	car washer	9	18.0
	Hawking	4	8.0
	children working as barber	6	12.0
	Cleaner	16	32.0
	Total	50	100.0

This column indicates the kind labor most the children are into; housemaid, car washer, hawking, children working as barber and cleaner.

This is represented in a Column Cluster Chart below.



The Column Cluster chart represent the data of the children involved in child labour. Children that are cleaners is 32%. Most of them work at the bank or big super store as cleaner very early in the morning before preparing for school. They are either tired or exhausted. The next data represented is the housemaid categories by 30%. These children don't live with their parent. They work as a maid and their employer send them to school. At times they go through abuses and their employer are not held accountable. Some work as car washer and are represented at 18%, 12% represent children working as

barber and 4% represent children hawking on the street. The children on the street are usually exposed to cruel weather and even death. A lot of children are found dead by hit and run driver while hawking.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

From the above graphic illustration and from the answers gathered from observation and interview some facts are being deduced:

- **POVERTY**

Children involved in child labour they are living with their biological parent, and they are living in abject poverty. Poverty is certainly the greatest single force driving children into workplace. When families cannot meet their needs like food, water, education or health care, they have no choice but to send their children to work to supplement the household income. The harsh economy in the country is not giving the parent enough facilities to train their children through school. The rising cases of child labour in Nigeria is as a result of the increasing poverty among the populace. The challenges in the fight to eradicate child labour and poverty increased with the pandemic covid 19. It became difficult to control.

- **LACK OF FREE ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

Access to compulsory, free education is limited. Most parent who couldn't afford to pay school fees opted for the alternate means which is engaging their children in forced labour. There aren't enough government owned school in the ikotun district and the only one is not accessible to all. Free education should be one of the primary provisions from the government to the citizen. There is a link and recognition that child labour elimination and universal basic education and are interrelated. One cannot be achieved without the other. Many parents cannot even afford the free education for their children, some complained that the uniform is too expensive, or they don't have money to buy school sandal.

- **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Unemployment is on the rise in the past two decades. The effect of unemployment in developing countries like Nigeria are often worsen by large interest in payment on development loan. The structural adjustment associated with these loans often require for government to cut education, health, and other basic amenities. All these implementations affect the child welfare and increase pressure on them to become child labourer. This factor played another role why parent forced their children to work. Some parents are

handicap, some have lost their job, some have been unemployed or under employed. Parents who even have one or two children are unable to feed their children let alone several children. This causes a great set back and the children wouldn't have choice than t to hit the street for lively hood. The side effect varies from lateness to school, low pass mark, health issues, low score mark and mostly victim of social vices.

- **OVERPOPULATED CLASSES.**

A class interviews had 250 students in a class. Many are seated on the floor. A bunch of them were hanging around the school corridor. The school infrastructure is not enough to accommodate the students. Due to this fact, some dropped out of school to work, and some hanged around school compound, creating nuisance in the community. once vulnerable, they are exposed to bad company and start indulging in in crime activities. Government law enforcement agencies are not so strong in implementing the law. Children hawk item during school hours and there are no consequences. Result of this study affirmed that children who engage in child labour performed academically poorer than their counter parts who do not take part in the activities. The poor performance was attributed to the inability of the labourers to concentrate on their schoolwork as opposed to the non-labourers. The child labourer combine labour with schoolwork and often than not, labour before going to school in the morning and immediately after school dismissed. They have little or no time to do their class assignments or homework.

Furthermore, it was deduced that children from

- **BROKEN HOMES, POLYGAMOUS HOME, ORPHANS.**

Children from the above category grow up having a disturbed psychology. Their opinion on almost everything is negative and believe that they are bad that was why they parent abandon them. They had to work to feed themselves. There isn't enough government intervention for children who fall in these categories.

Most of the children from the age10 to 18 interviewed chorused the same answers: their parent incapacity to cater for them because their father abandoned their mother, or they lost their father or their father preferred one child to another. This is a major social issue. A sane home will produce sane children.

- **POOR ACCESSIBILITY TO SCHOOL**

The respondents confirmed that the distance to their school affect their academic performances, they trek a long distance to school. In a district there should be at least 10 government school. Ikotun's belongs to Alimosho local government which is 11,456,783 million in population (Lagos state population census) and

there only 45 government school leaving only 2 to each districts. Therefore, for 19km distance to a government school wear these children off. It takes them 1hore and 45 minutes to get to school by feet. No school buses! That distant discouraged them to go to school. On getting to school, they are tired to even concentrate on their studies. Ikotun have a bad road network The road has been destroyed by gully erosion. During rainy season they rather stay at home than to go to school. They usually fail woefully in their examination. they are asked to repeat a class, they drop out and opt for alternate measures which include selling, hawking, car washing, maid or even prostitution.

- **LOW GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION**

The government careless attitude towards childcare in Nigeria is questionable. On the other hand, parent lamented that the economy is harsh. Demographically the government may not be able to see to needs of the size of vulnerable children exposed to child labour in ikotun district nevertheless the rate is alarming. It exposes the weakness of government intervention in the community. At least in if not completely eradicated, during school hour young children below 18 should be in school not seen roaming about. The government are not investing enough in the future of these young adult. They keep pursuing white elephant projects, abandoning what is essential. With a country that ranks number 8 in crude oil production, child labour should be of minimum level. The subsidy from petroleum product is diverted to project other than child welfare.

- **THE PANDEMIC**

Corona virus pandemic 2019, crippled many businesses, forced them out of their jobs and have no choice that to involve they're under aged children in various labour to make ends meet. Most surviving business lost patronage during the lock down. People became hungry and desperate. The children had to start hawking nose mask and sanitizers on the highway. Brothels and hotel started recruiting young hungry girls into prostitution. The rate of human capital became high. Industries started exploiting the children with cheap labour.

- **OVERPOPULATION**

One of the foremost factors of overpopulation is the economic inequality which swiftly lead to child labour. There have been several debates on how many children should a nuclear family be made up of. This means that a family in Nigeria should not be more than four. But there is link between poverty and overpopulation. An idle man will cannot be as resourceful as a working-class man who comes home tired than laying around

with the wife. The wife on the other hand does have access to family planning. They produce unwanted children that they can't carter for. By so doing the country is overpopulated. As at 2021 Nigeria population is 211.4 million (National population and census board) This is another factor causing child labour and low academic performances. A family of eight members can hardly be supported with meagre salary only by a parent in the present economy. Children exposed to child labour since young can be distorted or disabled due to carrying heavy loads or forced into unnatural positions at work for long hours.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the summary, conclusion and recommendation of the subject matter: the effect of child labor on academic performances. Undoubtedly child labor is a menace to the society. It has become canker worm that eat through every sphere of life. if not curbed the nation might be heading towards a big peril. In a situation where child labor has disrupted the process of growth of a child there will be shortage of manpower. Child labor can result in extreme bodily and mental harm and even death. Children involved in child labor are both a cause and consequence of lack of economic development. Widespread child employment affects future economic growth through its negative impact on child development .and depresses current growth by reducing unskilled wages

The importance of education cannot be undermined. it is crucial for growth of every nation. As it is said in a popular adage: *“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it”*. Consequently, a child that is denied access to education, forced into harsh labor may not reach its full potential in the long run. The strength of a country largely depends on the percentage of youth input economically, physically and intellectual wise. Overstressed children will be too fatigued for schoolwork, to read, assimilate and contribute to what is being taught in school. There are strong negative impacts of child labor on school attendance, for children who manages to combine work and education performance at school suffers.

5.1 SUMMARY

The purpose of the study of the study was to establish the impact of child labor on academic performance of students ikotun. and it was carried out on the three research objectives which included to: determine the forms of child labor at ikotun district and ikotun high school, examine the effects of child labor on academic performance at ikotun high school. and to seek suggestions on ways of minimizing child. The findings reveal that child labor have a negative impact on student academic performance at ikotun high.

In Chapter one, the researcher was able established the place of children in the society and how important raising them to be responsible adult is imperative for nation building. It was further explained child labor is ingrain in most African settings. It is a permissive socio-cultural problem in Nigerian and it takes a strong measure to eradicate it. Child labor is undoubtedly an impediment to good academic performances. Nigeria is yet to prioritize primary education and free access to education. Chapter two

focused on literature review of different scholars on child labor. Various definition postulated on child labor point to a direction: it is involving an under aged child in commercial labor with or without their consent. It further explained the forms of child labor according to their geographical location in Nigeria

Chapter three is on research methodology and the instrument used to carry out the research. Both qualitative and quantitative method are used. Oral interview was used with respondent who count read and write. Group discussion for parents who are reluctant to answer the questionnaires.

Chapter four is the data presentation, analysis and discussion. The data reveal that poverty has the highest percentage followed by unemployment on the part of the parent. Other factors facilitating child labor include, lack of quality education, lack of basic amenities in school, distance from home to school. The pandemic surge made the situation worst. It affected everyone but the most affected are the one already living below standard. The children must go through hard labor to survive.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings revealed that child labor has got several negative effects both positive and negative on academic performance in ikotun high school. There is damage to health and psychological development problem with children that undergo strenuous work. The findings reveal that there are suggestions on ways of minimizing child labor at ikotun high school and its surroundings. majority of the respondents, agreed with Parents and school staff that any form of child abuse or exploitation happening around them, should be reported. The management should encourage businesses to put pressure on government officials to take appropriate action and on businesses that use child labor to sustain. the respondents agreed that to stop and prevent child labor and there should be free education for all. It is concluded that there are other ways to combat child labor. This is a through short play in school to create awareness of the importance of education. Result of this study affirmed that children who engage in child labor performed academically poorer than their counter parts who do not take part in the activities. The poor performance was attributed to the inability of the laborers to concentrate on their schoolwork as opposed to the non-laborers. They have little or no time to do their class assignments or homework.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the research findings, the following recommendations were made:

- There is need for the government and other stakeholders to discourage child labor from the family level, since poverty emerged as the most constraining factor on working children. Consequently, policy reforms and poverty reduction strategies remain fundamental upstream concerns and must be pursued to tackle inequality and poverty.
- The children should be sensitized about the importance of education and need for them to learn other than getting involved in child labor since this would mean a bright future for the children. The school management should encourage both the parents to send their children to school since this eventually would reduce poverty in their homes when their children have received education. Parents should be sensitized on the importance of education their children rather than using them to supplement to family income. Hence this should give parents the courage to face challenge and overcoming them without stopping their children from going to school.
- The government can help in curbing dropout rates by empowering parents through self—help programs. Hence children who have dropped out of school to help their parents will be able to continue with their education more effectively. Education officers at national and country levels should work with children’s officers to achieve this goal Spread Awareness
- Speak up, the negative impact of child labor cannot be overemphasized. Awareness ensures communities tap into growth, education, employment opportunities and create a healthy economic environment where children suffer much less. Parental awareness of the evils of child labor is very important because aware communities and parents can respond better to children’s issues much more effectively.

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