

Poverty and Child Labour: It's Economic Implication on Itiam Community

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Abstract: This study examined the issues relating to poverty and child labour and its economic implication on Itiam community with particular references to economic status of parents, income of parents and economic status of parents at childhood. Using Chi-square method for the analyses, a total of 473 questionnaires were distributed to randomly selected secondary schools in the three villages that make up Itiam community. Out of the 473 questionnaires, only 316 were returned. Given the above information while there is a positive relationship between poverty and child labour, we observed that almost all indigenes and resident in Itiam community are living below US \$2 dollar per day. Hence, further inquiry shows that child labour is significantly dependent on the level of societal orientation and rights of children. The evidence also suggests that not all children in labour are from poor homes. Based on these findings, improved and well developed social and welfare service organizations both at local, state and Federal government levels are recommended to improve their status.

Key words: Poverty, child labour, relationship, community, Fedral government, inquiry

INTRODUCTION

The issue of poverty is as old as man, however; Rigorous studies on poverty according to Haralambos and Holborn (2008) can be traced to the industrial revolution when cost of living as well as the search for industrial jobs increased. Poverty is inevitable because it operates at different levels it could be relative, absolute, situational, mind-set, rural, urban, generational and even educational. This has led Ifeanchio, (2012) to opine that describing poverty is enormous as it changes within society and from one society to another. Poverty is a state of lack, economic deprivation social exclusion and the inability to keep up with the changing economy (Haralambos and Holborn (2008). Over the years there have been an increased number of children in labour. Against its manifestation prior and during the industrial revolution it is more covert in contemporary times. Child labour has its roots in the industrial revolution of the 17

and 18th century during which factory owners found new sources of labour children who provided cheap labour and were more malleable (Basu, 1999; Osment, 2014). In implication, as machines were invented to replace human labour, subsistence agriculture became impossible due to the enclosure system introduced by the government in the then British society with a burgeoning population from the rural to urban areas were the industries were situated jobs were not enough to accommodate the many adults and their high wage demands, however, the flexibility in children and their enthusiasm to work no matter what warranted their employment to work as bonded labourers. With the advocacy of religious and health organizations, laws against child labour began to grow in the 19th century.

As at 2008 the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, passed a law to prohibit child trafficking. Heedless of this, child labour is still going unabated. This has raised a pertinent question what necessitates child labour? In an

attempt to provide answer (s) to this question (Siddiqi and Patrinos, 1995) are of the view that child labour is driven by variety of reasons, especially, poverty. Thus, economic status of children in recent time has been worsened by their inability to secure the basic necessities for survival especially in Itiam community and this has lured a reasonable number of children in the community into labour to keep up with their personal and family needs. Furthermore, in Itiam community, activities such as street hawking, vulcanizing, brick laying, garbage cleaning, cleaning of roads and domestic attendants are common activities children between the ages of 5 and 17 involve in to make up for their parents. This is evidence in Anonymous (2013) survey which estimated about 215 million children between the ages of 5-14 hawking worldwide. Following the earnest demand to survive, most of these children have become truants, begging and loitering around the streets without any concern and control. Child labour is a cause of worry not only to the child but to the larger society because it burdens the child and can evolve into delinquency, child labour renders children subservient and denies them the joys of childhood. Also, a lot of poor families perceive their children as desirable assets, that is why Siddiqi and Patrinos (1995) asset that 62% of children inducement in labour is caused by their parents. This can be because poor families experience insufficient food, poor living condition, neglect and social exclusion, poor health and the inability to make choices.

Following the age long saying that “Health is wealth” asserted that social and economic resources shape the health of individuals and populations. Children of economically disadvantaged homes are forced to go beyond normal, often neglecting school and involving in paid jobs which exposes them to series of physical assault, psychological and emotional trauma including risks such as sexual harassment, battering, trafficking and even crime. While trying to make ends meet, education suffers hence most often than not, these children, tend to have low capacity for education. Poor families lack social security they experience low levels of consumption because they lack capital and social assets. Against the back drop of the problems and its economic implication on Itiam community, this study aims at understanding the nature of poverty in the study area, analysing the various forms of poverty and its peculiarities to the study area, and understanding the nature of child labour in the study area and examining the relationship between poverty and child labour. This research differs from other studies in the sense that it re-examine conventional assertions (Siddiqi and Patrinos, 1995) on poverty and child labour in Itiam community. This study is divided into five

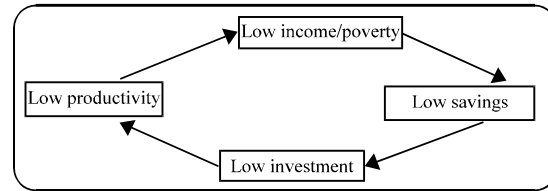


Fig. 1: Poverty, child labour and the society

sections, section two reviews relevant literatures, section 3 outlines the study methodology, section four presents and analyzes data while section five discusses findings and recommendations.

Literature review

Conceptual framework: The concept of poverty is generic as it affects various aspects of individuals and society. In view of the above definition, poverty is viewed to border around, denial of choice and opportunities, violation of human dignity, lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society and inadequate provision of food, health and basic education, caused majorly by inability to grow food and job creation to earn ones living (Anonymous, 1998). Consequently this has results to high level of insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of household's members and communities from full participation in economic activities of their respective communities making them susceptible to violence due to exposure to fragile environment (Fig. 1).

As an agrarian community, the population of Itiam is predominantly low income earners. Hence, as implied from the diagram above, since, the income of the population is low, there is a corresponding fall in savings as reiterated by Keynes. When savings is low, its multiplier effect spread round the society through its contagious effect resulting from poor households experience, low quality food consumption, lack of quality education, unsanitary environment, illness, malnutrition, lack of skills and knowledge as well as child labour. Owing to the above scenario, children from poor households begin to get involved in paid jobs to satisfy family and personal needs and subsequently result to child labour which was found to be a common practice in Itiam community. Thus, following UNICEF conception, child labour is mentally, physically, socially or morally harmful and dangerous to children, depriving them of opportunities for human development.

In the view of Osment (2014), poverty forces poor families to send their children to work which leads to serious problem in the community. It is for this reason that Siddiqi and Patrinos (1995) conclude that 62% of children inducement in labour is caused by their parents. Child

labour as one of such resultant effect of poverty is a tool of exploitation as children work for long periods of time for very little and insignificant pay. Following the biological nature of a child and their characteristics, certain jobs do not befit a child. It is true that children legitimately undertake jobs for their age to earn pocket money especially on holidays or free school periods but it is also evident that in the long run, most of these children end up being objects of exploitation. This has led, Boyden (1991) and Aqil (2012) to object that the problem of child labour is not that children under the adult age work but the kind of work they do, work conditions and hours worked, contradicting (Siddiqi and Patrinos, 1995) understanding. When a household experiences all of these, investment becomes low giving rise to unemployment, high level of restiveness, increased importation and vandalism. A community cannot be productive with all the consequences of low investment hence, low productivity amounts to low growth rate of the economy, scarcity of food and high cost of living. As shown in the diagram above, low productivity eventually plays back to low income/poverty, giving birth to poor standard of living, low per-capita income and poor welfare/wellbeing. This process rotates in a cycle till it becomes what Lewis (1961) calls "A culture of poverty."

Theoretical review: Many debates have been staged against the causes and prevalence of poverty and child labour. Akarro and Mtweve (2011) argued that child labour is a reflection of poverty. They are of the opinion that tackling poverty could have a positive impact on child labour. This suggests that poverty is a root cause of child labour. Therefore, an attempt made in solving the problem of child labour could positively reflect the eradication of child labour. Hence, identifying its causes and proffering possible solutions will tackle child labour to a large extent. According to concept of cycle of poverty, poverty begets poverty. This means that there is a tendency for poverty to remain continuous and go cyclical if proper intervention is not given. This theory stresses that poverty is hinged on low income which spearheads a number of reactions that move in a circle and remain continuous till it becomes what Lewis (1961) refer to as the culture of poverty which is thus, handed over from one generation to the next. As deduced from the works of Nurkse, the vicious circle of poverty expresses "The circular relationships that afflict the demand and supply side of capital formation in economically backward areas". There are sets of interrelated factors or events by which poverty once started is likely to continue unless adequate and proper intervention. This relationship revolves around low

income, low savings, low investment and low consumption. This theory, thus, points to low income as a major cause of poverty and how its existence, necessitates other poverty related factors such as child labour. As opined by Maslow, man has needs. However, the satisfaction of one need leads to the growth of another, creating a continuous circle of needs and wants in essence man cannot attain a perfect state of satisfaction and thus will continue to have needs. When a household or individual earns a low income, efforts are being put in place to meet up with household needs; Savings become difficult, neglecting investment. A low income warrants low consumption and certain deprivations, it warrants the absence of certain needs that can drive economically disadvantaged children of such households to seek for the satisfaction of such needs through labour.

Related empirical literature: A number of studies have been carried out to analyse the extent to which poverty drives child labour. One of such studies is the research of Siddiqi and Patrinos (1995) during which they stated that "Working children are objects of extreme exploitation in terms of toiling for long hours for minimal pay" in line with this, they opined that children work for a variety of reasons one of which is poverty. They are of the view that poverty is one of the many reasons why children labour. Also, they asserted that 62% of children inducement in labour is caused parents. Suggesting that often, parents induce child labour as they have such powers to encourage it or otherwise. More, so, they argue that legislations in all parts of the world have been able to tackle child labour in the formal sectors. In addition, accessing the works of Aqil (2012), child labour depends on the type of work and hours worked. It also depends on the condition and work environment. This is in agreement with the postulation of Boyden (1991) when he also stated that "The problem of child labour is not that children are involved in labour but rather the conditions under which it operates. To buttress his facts, Aqil (2012) stresses that 115 million boys and girls worldwide between the ages of 5 and 17 work in hazardous jobs. This assertion according to him is said to be possible because he assumes that parents who had poor background and worked in their childhood will have their children work also creating what Lewis (1961) refer to as a culture of poverty or generational poverty.

For Francis (2001), inequality causes poverty. In other words, he perceives poverty from the perspective of inequality hence he adds that "It is not by a person's unwillingness to work his inability to work, lack of resources or lack of skills but inequality which emanates

from the egoistic nature of man that takes away the significant part of income that is due to the poor man” in implication poverty exist not because individuals lack money, resources, skills or are unwilling to work but because inequality exist in the society which leads the dominant population group out of their greed and selfish tendencies, to accumulate extreme wealth including that which belongs to the poor. In the assessment of child labour in Oron local government area in Akwa Ibom State, Ekerette and Ekanem showed that free education is a check on child labour. However, studies have shown that even with free education it has been observed that a lot of children still involve in economic activities. Although Ekerette and Ekanem, failed to provide reasons why child labour is opted for as a remedy to poverty. Anonymous (2013) assert that “poor households without access to credit are less likely to be able to postpone children’s involvement in work and invest in their education and more likely to have to resort to child labour in order to meet basic needs and deal with uncertainty”. This is to say that a child is subjected to labour as a result of poverty because funds and income are not enough to keep up prevailing needs hence working to augment available resources becomes an option.

As pointed by Adegun (2013) and Osment (2014), the number of children in labour rose from 12 million in 1995-15 million in 2006. This implies that comparatively, the number of children involvement in labour continues to grow. In support of this argument (Anonymous., 2013) as cited in Osment (2014) supports Adegun (2013) by asserting that out of 25% of 192, 896, 799 (Based on United Nation estimates on 26th November, 2017) that involved in labour, 80 million are children under the age of 14. However, the incidence of child labourers in Itiam community of Uyo local government area of Akwa Ibom State is difficult to verify because most child labourers are invisible and bounded by threats. According to the International Labour Organization-ILO (2009), “The worst form of child labour is child trafficking” in the study, child trafficking is an inhumane act that violates the rights of the child it exploits and can lead to the death of the child. According to the United Nations convention on the rights of the child as cited in ILO (2009) “A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” this is to say that it is a generally accepted notion by the united nations convention on the rights of the child that a child is one under the age of 18 years, however, individual societies or countries can stipulate an adult age which might be earlier or later than 18 years. Furthermore, following the assertions of the World Health Organization (WHO) as

cited in Patil (2013), “Poverty is the greatest cause of suffering on earth”. This is to say that child labour which is one of the resultant effects of poverty is a great suffering and children are unfortunate to be the objects of such suffering necessitated by poverty.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This section consist of the study area, the population of the study, the research design, sampling size and sampling technique, types of data and instruments for data collection, validity test and reliability of instrument for data collection, method of data collection, problems encountered and analysis of data.

The study area: This study is undertaken in Itiam community of Uyo local government area of Akwa Ibom State. Itiam community is one of the over 79 villages that make up Uyo local government area which on the other hand plays dual role of a local government headquarters and the capital city of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Akwa Ibom state is located in the coastal Southern part of Nigeria. The state is bordered on the east by Cross River State on the West by Rivers and Abia States and on east by the Atlantic Ocean. Uyo local government headquarters and capital city on the other hand is bordered by Abak, Itu, Uruan, Ibesikpo Asutan and Etinan local government Areas. Itiam community which is made up of 3 villages; Itiam Ikot Ebia, Itiam Etoi and Itiam Edem Akai has nursery, primary and secondary schools, established by the state government, community, private individuals and religious organizations as well. The main occupation of the Itiam people are farming, processing and trading of farm produce such as vegetables, corn and cassava etc. Itiam community has a population of over 20,000 persons, inhabited by both indigenes and non-indigenes, educated and uneducated, employed and unemployed as well as singles and married.

The population of study: The population of the study includes all students in the 4 randomly selected post primary schools in the three villages in Itiam community, including parents and all children who do not go to school but are involved in paid jobs.

The research design: According to Anikpo a research design will ordinarily refer to the plan or structure of any aspect of the research procedure. Just as every building has a design or drawing to represent what the building will look like how it will be built, it’s finishing and beauty on completion the skeletal and proposed look of the building, so, every research has a design of how it should

be carried out and completed as to look beautiful at completion. The research design employed in this study is Chi-square. The survey research design according to is non-experimental in nature because the researcher has no control over any of the variables in the study and as such, cannot manipulate or determine the behaviour of the variables. With descriptive survey design, the researcher merely observes, describes and discusses keenly what is currently happening to a sample. It describes the current situation, the status quo of the sample under study. The co-relational survey design involves establishing relationships between two or more variables in a study. According to Kpee, it deals with associations, relationships, group similarities and the extent to which variables in the research relate to each other.

Sampling size and technique: Out of the 8 schools in Itiam community an average of 4 schools was randomly selected to eliminate bias. Out of the 4 sampled schools with a total population of 4,547 students, 10% of the population of each school was taken to ascertain the number of students to be sampled. In each class, another 10% of the population was taken and a systematic sampling method employed to draw the exact number of student's representative of the whole class. Because domestic child labourers are invisible and hard to get, out of 20 children who hawk wares around the city centre mostly the traffic light areas, participate in building construction and motor repairs, 10 reside and come from Itiam community, hence, they were interviewed one on one based on an already prepared list of questions. In all, a total of 473 respondents were sampled to elicit desirable responses for the purpose of this study.

Methods of data collection: Both primary data is used in this study. Primary sources of data are those obtained directly from the respondents on the other hand. The instruments to be used for data collection are questionnaires and interviews. A well-structured questionnaire divide into 5 sections (A-E) and an interview was administered. The reason for using questionnaires and interview instruments is to cover a representative number of respondents and establish a close relationship with respondents in order to elicit desirable, valid and truthful answers. A well-structured questionnaire of 5 sections (A-E) and a face-to-face interview was administered and conducted to gather primary data from students of basic education age, parents, students who work and go to school and those other minors who do not go to school but are involved in paid jobs either for money or other forms of assistance. Also, the interview the services of 5 already experienced

enumerators will be employed for easy access and coverage of sampled population. In addition, a sample of 30 students and parents was carried out which involved 10 children who do not go to school but are involved in paid jobs, making a total of 70 respondents. To accept the instrument as reliable, it must have a coefficient of reliability (r) must be above 0.5.

Problems encountered: Some of the problems envisaged during the study include but not limited to; Inaccessibility to domestic child labourers for fear of being punished by guardian (s), inaccessibility to Senior Secondary 3 (SS3) students due to their Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE), non-compliance of some children who are involved in labour but do not go to school for fear of being sanctioned by guardian. Due to the listed challenges, out of the 4 sampled schools with a total population of 4,547, a total of 473 respondents were sampled while 316 questionnaires were returned.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results presentation and data analyses: Under this sub-topic, we present and discussed the results on the relationship between poverty and child labour in Itiam community. The hypothesis of positive relationship between poverty and child labour was tested using Chi-square technique and the results shows a significant positive relationship between poverty and Child labour. Thus, the estimation procedure and the result of hypothesis testing are presented below:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(O_1 - E_1)^2}{E_1} + \frac{(O_2 - E_2)^2}{E_2} + \dots + \frac{(O_n - E_n)^2}{E_n} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(O_k - E_k)^2}{E_k}$$

The Chi-square statistic measures the difference between observed and expected counts in a statistical experiment. These experiments can vary from two-way tables to multinomial experiments. The observed counts are from observations, the expected counts are typically determined from probabilistic or other mathematical models. In the above formula, we are looking at n pairs of expected and observed counts. The symbol O_k denotes the observed counts and E_k denotes the expected counts. The result of this process is a nonnegative real number that tells us how much different the actual and expected counts are. If we compute that $\chi^2 = 0$, then this indicates that there are no differences between any of our observed and expected counts. On the other hand, if χ^2 is a very large number then there is some disagreement between the actual counts and what was expected given:

Table 1: Categories of schools

Category (#)	Yes	No	Total
Uyo high school	176 (176.4)	1 (0.7)	177
Evangel high school	42 (41.9)	0 (0.1)	42
Heritage college	37 (36.1)	0 (0.1)	37
Bright star model college	50 (49.8)	0 (0.2)	50
Others	10 (9.07)	0 (0.03)	10
Total	315	1	316

Table 2: Economic status of parents

Category (#)	Distribution	Percentage
Employed	210	66.5
Unemployed	38	12.0
Others	7	2.2
Not specified	61	19.3
Total	316	100.0

Table 3: Income of parents in a month

Category (#)	Distribution	Percentage
2,000-5,000	31	9.8
6,000-15,000	29	9.2
16,000-25,000	27	8.5
26,000-35,000	18	5.7
36,000-45,000	15	4.7
45,000 and above	107	33.9
Not specified	89	28.2
Total	316	100.0

- A level of significance = 0.05
- A degree of freedom (v) = 10
- $\text{Cal } \chi^2 = 1.0$
- $\text{Tab } \chi^2 = 3.94$

When the calculated χ^2 value (1.0) is less than the tabulated χ^2 value (3.94), the difference between the observed and expected frequency is not statistically significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no positive relationship between poverty and child labour is rejected (Table 1).

Test of hypothesis:

- H_0 : there is no positive relationship between poverty and child labour in Itiam community

In addition, the tables presented below show aggregated responses gathered from 316 respondents. The summary of the response were used in analysing the relationship between poverty and child labour as indicated below:

As shown in Table 2 while 66.5% of parents are employed, 12.0% of parents are unemployed and 2.2% of parents are neither employed nor unemployed but earn some income. From the results, 19.3% of parents are indecisive. In like manner, the results as shown on Table 3 below represent the distribution of the responses and the percentage income earned by the parents in the selected villages of Itiam community. Thus, Table 3 shows that parents who earn #45,000.00 (Naira) and above

Table 4: Amount spent per-day on food and other basic needs

Category (#)	Distribution	Percentage
200-1,500	28	8.90
1,600-5,500	159	50.30
5,600-9,500	9	2.80
9,600-13,500	12	3.80
13,600-17,500	2	0.60
17,600-20,000	4	1.30
20,000 and above	1	0.39
Indecisive	101	31.96
Total	316	100.00

Table 5: Parents who worked for money as children

Category	Distribution	Percentage
Yes	104	32.9
No	160	50.6
Others	52	16.5
Total	316	100.0

constitute the bulk of the population with 33.9% earned income. However, 28.2% of the income earn by parents are unspecified. In addition, we observed that 9.8% income is earned by parents whose monthly income falls within #2,000.00 and #5,000.00 Naira while 9.2% were recorded on parents on income within #6, 000 to #15, 000.00. But to our greater surprise there was a decline in percentage income of the parents. In addition, as the category of income of parents per month increases , the percentage earnings decreases but this continued up to a point when the earnings of the parents in the category of #45,000.00 and above appreciated significantly. Thus, subsequent analysis shows those parents within the income category; #16,000.00-#25,000.00-#26,000.00 and #35,000 and #36,000.00-#45,000.00 earn month monthly income in the range of 8.5, 5.7 and 4.7%, respectively.

Evaluating the amount spent per-day on food and other basic needs as presented in Table 4, we observed that 50.3% of the population spend between #1,600.00 and #5,500.00 Naira per day on food and other basic needs. While 8.9% of the population spend between #200.00- #1,500.00 Naira per day, 2.8% spend between the rate of #5, 600.00 and #9, 500.00 Naira per day. In addition, 3.8% of the population spend between #9, 600.00 and #13,500.00 Naira per day while 0.6% of the population spend from #13, 600.00-#17, 500.00 Naira per day. Thus, we observed an insignificant numbers of the population with about 1.3 and 0.39% spending within #17, 600.00-#20, 000.00 and #20, 000.00 above per day, respectively. However, further investigation shows that 31.96% of the income spends per day to be indecisive. From the analyses, it implies that most inhabitants of Itiam community spend relatively less on food per day with a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 15 persons in a home (Table 4). In accessing the economic status of parents during their childhood, it was observed that 32.9% of parents were involved in labour during their

Table 6: Children that work and at the same time go to school

Category	Distribution	Percentage
Yes	55	17.4
No	249	78.8
I work but do not go to school	10	3.2
Indecisive	2	0.6
Total	316	100.0

Table 7: When do you work?

Category	Distribution	Percentage
Before school	2	0.6
Afterschool	49	15.5
During school hours	11	3.5
Before and after school	3	0.9
Total	65	100.0

Table 8: Do your parents/guardian consent to your working?

Category	Distribution	Percentage
Yes	40	12.7
No	5	1.6
They are unaware that I work	20	6.3
Total	65	20.6

Table 9: What causes child labour?

Category	Distribution	Percentage
Poverty	315	99.68
Others	1	0.32
Total	316	100.00

childhood while 50.6% parents did not engage in labour. Out of the total population, 16.5% of parents neither worked nor had their own parents cater for them at childhood (Table 5).

Table 6 shows a distribution of children according to related variables. The results shows that 17.4% of the population constitutes the children labour that work and at the same time go to school while 78.8% of the population are not involved in labour. While 3.2% are involved in labour but do not go to school, 0.6% are indecisive. From the result, a total of 65 children are involved in child labour activities in Itiam community.

In assessing the child labourers, based on the periods they work, 0.6% of children work before school while 15.5% work after school. We also observed 3.5 and 0.9% children work during and before and after school hours (Table 7).

Table 8 and 9 indicates that out of the 65 children who work for money, 12.7% of their parents/guardian are aware that they work and consent to their labour while 1.6% of parents do not consent to their children being in labour and 6.3% of parents are unaware that their children work. This satisfies the earlier notion by Siddiqi and Patrinos (1995) that "Parents are 60% inducement to child labour".

Assessing the relationship between poverty and child labour, 99.68% of respondents were observed to assert that poverty is a major root cause of child labour while 0.32% of respondent are of the view that broken

homes and single parenting are causes of child labour. Suffice it to say, therefore that there is a relationship between poverty and child labour and that relationship is manifested in the ratio and situation of children and households who are poor and are involved in labour activities to make ends meet (Table 9).

CONCLUSION

This study investigated, analysed and discussed issues relating to poverty and child labour and its economic implication on Itiam community with particular references to economic status of parents, income of parents and economic status of parents at childhood. The research participants consisted of 4 randomly selected schools with a total population of 4,547 students. Out of which 10% of each of a schools population was taken including 10 child labourers who do not go to school, making it a total of 463 respondents with 316 questionnaire returned. The basic study design used survey research method. The analysis and data interpretation was done with the help of Chi-square using primary data. The primary data made up of a well-structured questionnaire and interviews which were administered and conducted. Two hypothesis were formulated to guide the study.

The findings of this study indicated that poverty is the root cause of child labour which is a common practice in Itiam community. Evidence from the findings also suggests that parents/guardians are major inducements to child labour. Parents, whether educated or uneducated, depending on their awareness of the right of the child, subject their wards/children to labour. Also, the investigation shows that parents, employed or unemployed subject their children to labour depending on the amount of income they earned, number of persons in the home and their level of awareness on the child rights law. Though, the evidence shows that not all children in labour are from poor homes and almost all indigenes and inhabitants of Itiam community live below the UN US\$1 dollar per day poverty thresh hold analysis.

Why must the child be subjected to labour as a result of poverty? Based on the findings of this study, children are driven into labour for a wide range of reasons one of which is poverty, to meet up with basic needs. It is true that there have been child right laws protecting the children, especially from the worst form of child labour which child is trafficking. It is also evident that child labour is still unabated. Though, the widely accepted conception that all children in labour are from poor homes was refuted from our findings indicating that not all children in labour are from poor homes. These findings

draw our attentions to works of Aqil (2012) and Boyden (1991) which asserted that the problem of child labour is not that children work but the conditions under which they work, the length of time worked and kind of task being carried out. In other words, this means that child labour may be driven by other factors other than poverty. More so, it is pertinent to know that child labour hinders mental and physical development because of the strain it causes on the children owing to their helpless state, vulnerability to risk and its effect on their academic performance. Looking at the negative consequences of child labour, it is advisable to all parents to give serious attention to their children because, at extreme cases, child labour can lead to untimely death.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Against the backdrop of the findings of this study, the following recommendations have been made to eradicate child labour and secure a better economic status for poor individuals and households; Policies made as regards violations of the rights of the child should be reviewed and severed by the government to bring to book child right violators with appropriate sanctions for effective deterrence. The government should strengthen and revive her welfare and social security services to pay closer attention to domestic child labourers; The house boys and the girls who suffer worst cases of child labour unknown to the public eye and also ensure that economically disadvantaged children are catered for through revenue allocation. As a measure, the funding of welfare institutions is also important to properly take care of the needy children. More homes and clinics should be built by government and religious organizations, welfare and social service organization should come to the aid of the street and homeless children.

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