



Doomed Fate for the Nigerian Child? A Theoretical Analysis of the Economic and Legal Ramifications of Child Labour in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria made only limited progress in its attempts to eradicate the worst forms of child labour in 2021. Official approval has been given to the National Policy on Child Labour and the National Action Plan to End Child Labour. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also launched a new initiative to assist low-income families in areas with high rates of child labour by providing them with start-up capital. But some of the worst types of child labour, like artisanal mining, granite quarrying, commercial sexual exploitation, and use as combatants, are found in Nigeria.

The objective of this paper is to theoretically examine the economic and legal policies and practices of child labour in Nigeria in the context of a severe economic downturn in which children are forced to work at a young age in order to survive. Based on theoretical conceptions of childhood that consider the needs and realities of the children and families whose lives they want to improve, these initiatives are supported by economic measures and legislation.

The methodology used was that of secondary data gathered from studies on child labour in Nigeria and other developing countries. The discussion was also influenced by international documents, especially human rights agreements like the CRC.

According to the results of an independent study conducted to address the problem of child labour and used to support this research, a greater proportion of respondents agreed that the country should create more jobs in order to lessen the prevalence of child labour. As a result of the decrease in national poverty, children will no longer be required to support the family's income. The second-largest group of respondents supported free education for everybody, while the fewest said that the government should stimulate the economy.

The study's conclusion offers a realistic plan as a viable alternative to recognizing and defending human rights, especially those of children; it also indicates that the aim must be freely reached in the capability measure approach by utilizing the best available tools for preserving human security, welfare, and economic survival.

Keywords: Child labour, economy, education, protection, rights

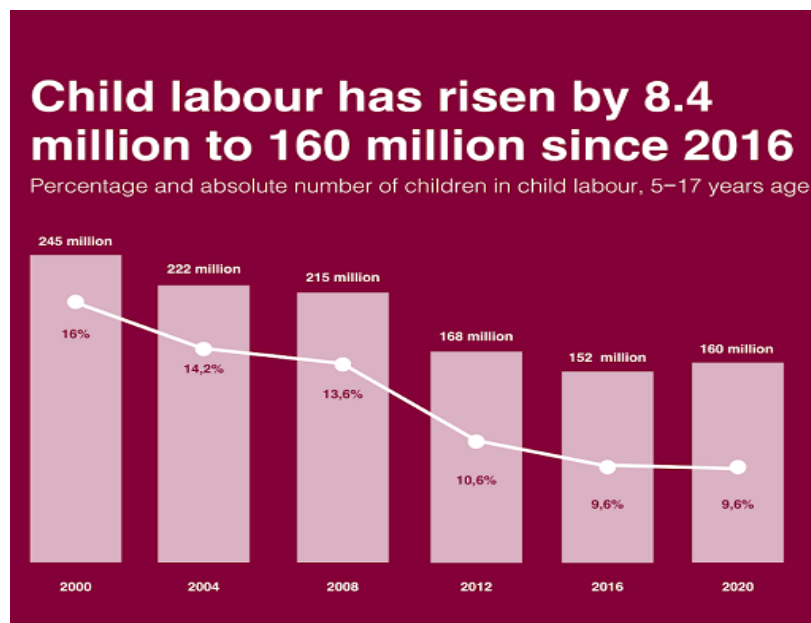
Introduction

Generally speaking, "child labour" refers to youngsters' ongoing and routine work. It is frequently seen as the hiring of minors under the legal age limit. Child labour is typically thought to be harmful, interfere with children's education, and adversely affect children's physical and mental development. Nearly all international agreements about children's rights deem any component of child labour undesirable since it is considered detrimental to children's physical, emotional, psychological, and social development or to interfere with their education. State parties to these instruments have reflected the desire to end child labour in their legal documents because they recognize the specific protection and care children require.

Despite the existence of laws intended to stop it, child labour is nevertheless a significant cause for concern in Nigeria. Work that is hazardous to children's minds, bodies, social, or moral development and denies them opportunities for education and growth is called "child labour." Nigeria is expected to have 15 million working children under the age of 14, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Particularly troubling is the prevalence of complex and tiresome tasks that kids perform in hazardous environments. These occupations include street salespeople, beggars, car washers, watchers, and shoe shiners. While many work as domestic helpers and farm workers, others are apprentice mechanics, hair stylists, and bus drivers.

As ascribed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC 1989), children's rights are violated when they work. Because it prevents children from developing emotionally, physically, mentally, and socially following their potential, child labour is viewed as harmful and violating their rights. The CRC protects children from "economic exploitation and from engaging in any work that is likely to be dangerous or to obstruct the child's education

or to be detrimental to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development." Another presumption is that working kids don't go to school very often; if they do, it's with little interest. When children's right to education is violated, child labour is held responsible.

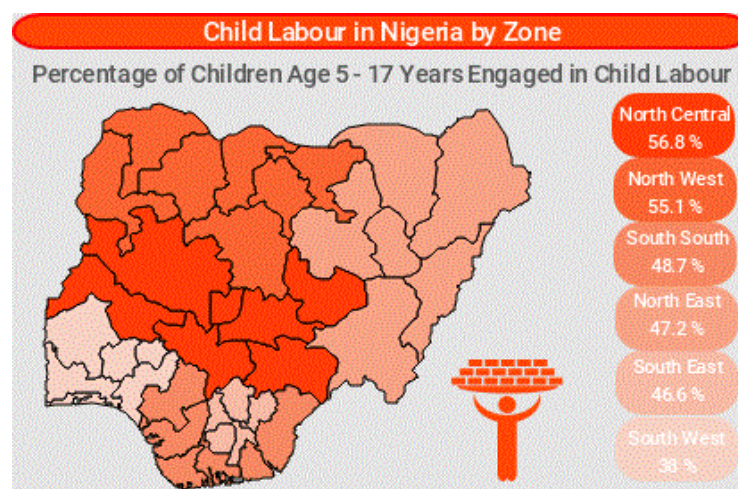


Source: international labour organization (2021)

Figure 1: 160 million children work as children around the world today, making up over 10% of all children.

Nigeria has a very high rate of child labour, which many people have come to accept as a part of daily life. The practice, however, is only an aberration that threatens the nation's future by robbing millions of children of their innocence. According to estimates made by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2010, 215 million children worldwide were working as youngsters. Out of these, 115 million kids are engaged in the most detrimental types of child labour, which include activities that are bad for their health, safety, or morals, as well as slavery-like practices, debt servitude, offering kids as prostitutes, and utilizing kids for illegal activities. 15.5 million Children work as domestic workers (ILO 2010). That which is "inexcusable under all circumstances and must be abolished without delay" can be summed up as this type of child labour.

In other words, 90% of young people who work do so in jobs that are inherently harmful to their mental and physical health. These include jobs that require children to be under the legal minimum age for doing them, dangerous jobs, and child labour that need to be outlawed. For sustainable social and economic growth, it is now widely acknowledged that the worst types of child labour must be eliminated. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 received 115 nations' ratification as of February 1, 2002. The convention acknowledges that any individual under the age of 18 should be categorically forbidden from engaging in any type of child labour that has been shown to be harmful to a child's wellbeing or to be an unconditional violation of a child's fundamental human rights.



Source: MICS 2016/17

Figure 2: Percentage of children age 5-17 engaged in child labour

Over the past two decades, there has been a heated debate among academics, decision-makers, and advocates for human rights about the possibility of young children working long hours in inhumane circumstances. Attempts have been made by the public and policymakers to understand the origins and effects of child labour since the industrial revolution of the middle of the 19th century. The coordination of the official response has made the issue of working children more complex and morally murky. While there has always been some level of child labour, it is now more obvious how harsh the circumstances are.

Children were compelled to work in factories, which increased the visibility of child labour in the middle of the 19th century. Due to the rise in the number of kids creating goods for export, child labour has recently gained increasing attention. Rapid population expansion, high rates of unemployment, inflation, poverty, starvation, corrupt officials, and poor salaries have increased the number of youngsters working as children in most developing countries.

Additionally, globalization has been blamed for child labour because it frequently shows up in the expansion of industries in many less developed nations. Children continue to work in almost every area of the economy, including households, farms, businesses, and the informal sector. Children's labour is broadly categorized as an "economic activity" in this context. All worthwhile endeavors a child engages in, whether for pay or not, whether they are focused on the home or the market is included. These common economic activities will be referred to as "child labour" in this study to distinguish them from the unconditionally worst forms of abolition, which are defined as slavery, trafficking, bondage, forced recruitment in armed conflict, and other types of forced labour.

Objective of the Study

One of the fundamental focuses of this study is to determine how economic development and growth—as indicated by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita—affect the prevalence of child labour. The second goal is to describe how, at a low level of development, the early stages of economic development may cause a decrease or increase in the prevalence of child labour. We are aware that child labour and poverty are positively correlated. In theory, the rate of child economic activity should decrease as income increases.

Our understanding of child labour has been limited by the identification of poverty as the primary contributor to child labour and the implementation of mandatory schooling as a solution. Despite basic schooling becoming free in most states in the country, there is still a problem with child labour. Even while it is believed that formal education will end child labour, its applicability to families where children are employed faces serious obstacles. The formal education curriculum has been criticized, according to Kielland et al. (2006), as it does not adequately address the needs of those whose lives are heavily reliant on the economic contributions made by all household members, including children, and whose parents are desperate to receive their children's earnings.

There is a lot of empirical evidence to back this up. It is alarming that child labour appears to be on the rise in the 21st century, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Third World countries. Since it was established on October 1, 1996, Most Municipalities in the country have noticed an increase in the number of kids that swarm the streets in search of work. As a result of its side effects, social vices like drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution, rape, and thuggery have increased.

Methodology

The study uses secondary statistics from research studies on child labour in Nigeria and other developing nations. This discussion has been guided by international documents, particularly human rights conventions like the CRC. There was a lot of utilization of books and scholarly journal articles. Regarding the development of human rights in general and child rights in particular, these offered important academic viewpoints.

A sizable fraction of the material reviewed demands the urgent abolition of child labour. Many times, justifications offered for ending child labour are overly simplified. For example, it is widely held that child labour is a direct result of extreme poverty and that the only way to address it is to require children to attend elementary school. However, just forbidding child labour and mandating that all children attend school may not be sufficient.

The seeming dearth of career possibilities for university graduates and those who complete secondary school presents another obstacle to the formal education option. Therefore, it is unlikely that it will appeal to those who are struggling financially.

Principle Issues

Principle issues are founded on two core notions, including:

- a) The Culture of Poverty Principle
- b) The Functionalist Principle

- a) *The Culture of Poverty Principle*

From the standpoint of poverty, the principle of the culture of poverty explains child labour. Oscar Lewis, an American anthropologist, first proposed the concept of a "culture of poverty" in the late 1950s. His studies with the urban poor in Mexico and Puerto Rico served as the basis for the notion he created.

According to him, those who live in poverty demonstrate attitudes of reliance, helplessness, inferiority, and marginalization whenever they are found. The underprivileged in Nigeria frequently devise different coping mechanisms, including finding creative methods to solve problems.

They are compelled by these emotions to act and engage in a variety of activities that will allow them to quickly escape the hardships of poverty, one of which is child labour. Since it's prevalent among them, it's regarded as the norm. Lewis (1996) asserts that the "culture of poverty" theory has the following components: on an individual level, parents, caregivers, and guardians who experience the aforementioned emotions have weak ego structures, little impulse control, and little capacity to postpone gratification, a sense of resignation and fatalism, and an unstable family structure.

Due to these characteristics, they begin to believe that the only way to have hope is to employ their children as labourers in order to supplement their family's income. Lewis believed that these people demonstrate several self-perpetuating patterns and echoes of poverty, which following generations may adopt and display as living styles, beliefs, and values that go beyond simple adaptation to poverty. In the future, even the kids themselves might force their own kids to work as children so that they might follow in their parent's footsteps and pass this on to the next generation.

Because the idea is unable to demonstrate the specific area where it is discovered that the impoverished are egoistically weak, it has come under fire. It frequently depicts a general form of poverty when in fact; it exhibits distinct and particular traits. It has also been criticized on the grounds that it is inapplicable to Western countries, and research even in Africa demonstrates that there is a high level of community engagement in participating in self-help initiatives like the "Esusu Thrift Contribution". Political activism is becoming more common among family heads, who also start their own practices to increase their income.

b) The Functionalist Principle

As a result of his frequent use of biological analogies, Durkheim (1858–1917) is most strongly linked to functionalism. His organic analogy, which views society as an organic whole with each of its constituent parts striving to preserve the others just as body parts do the same, is the most notable. His concept of organic solidarity is based on this notion, which distinguishes between functional and historical explanations and acknowledges the necessity of both. A functional explanation, according to Durkheim, explains the existence of a phenomenon or the performance of an action in terms of its effects and contributes to upholding a stable social whole.

Similar to other organizations, religion promotes and upholds social cohesion. Historical justifications are based on how similar behaviors changed over time. Currently, modified functionalism is experiencing resurgence in research societies; these modern functionalisms are typically linked to the writings of Parsons (1902–1979) and Merton. In his writing, Merton makes a distinction between apparent functions (intended consequences or effects that participants are aware of) and latent functions.

According to functionalist theorists, social structures and human beings are organic entities that coexist and support one another. Every aspect of society, in the functionalist's view, serves a purpose in maintaining and sustaining society as a whole. A breakdown of the entire civilization is caused by one person's performance failure. This suggests that every component, no matter how small, has an essential function to fulfill if the survival and cohesiveness of the whole are desired. Therefore, child labour arises from the inability of society to function well by failing to give poor families the necessary socialization, education, incentives, responsiveness to human problems, equality of access to resources and opportunities, infrastructure, as well as the needs and provisions needed for a decent or ideal standard of living.

The functionalists also hold that child labour exists because poor families have similarly fallen short in their roles and responsibilities as parents, and as a result, they are to blame for the occurrence and pervasiveness of child labour in society. They also assert that because child labour provides these low-income families with resources, it also arises naturally and becomes a way of life.

Child Labour's Economic Repercussions

A realistic and measurable goal for sustainable development is the abolition of child labour, according to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The effects of child labour on child development, wages, and technological adoption have the potential to impede economic growth.

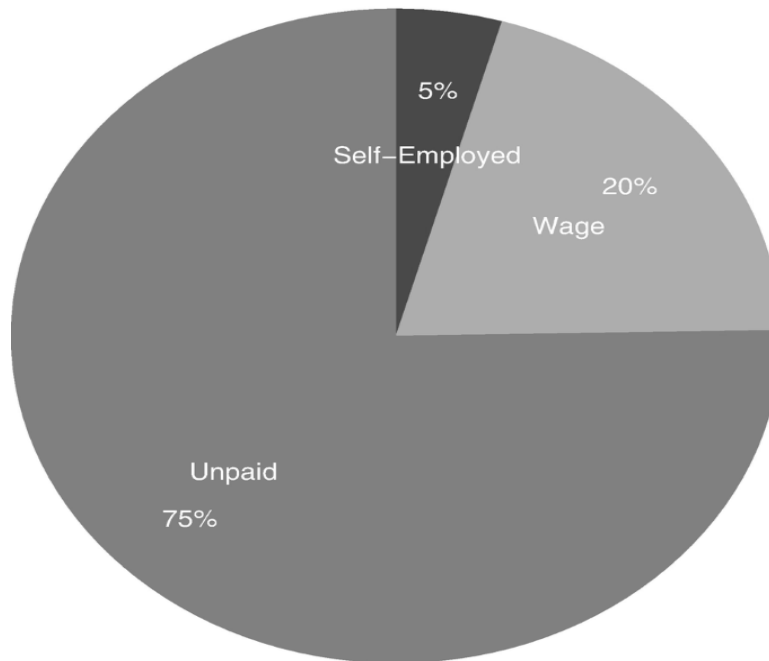
The height of abuse and exploitation is having children in the workforce. They are frequently the targets of their employers and, on rare occasions, their parents. The need to make money ruins a childhood that was designed by nature to be filled with play, learning, and enlightenment. They can sometimes become disabled, ill, and, most critically, illiterate; low productivity as a result. Before they turned 18, many young labourers would have passed away without having any lasting effects on the future of the globe.

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Source: Child Labor and Economic Development/SpringerLink

Figure 3: is a table constructed using data from the World Development Indicators. In the countries where data on the pay status of employed children is available, 75% of those who are working do so in unpaid jobs.

The principal source of income for a working child is the assistance she provides to her family. The majority of the time, this assistance is in the form of household or agricultural work that frees up the adult to pursue activities that generate cash. Children often help out in family businesses or farms because working in a family business or farm is the most common way for kids to make money.

Child labour is one of the reasons for poverty in Nigeria. Undoubtedly, the nation's social and economic circumstances contribute to the astounding number of children who work. Children from low-income homes are trapped by their living circumstances. They are unable to visit schools since their families depend on every working hand. Children are employed by numerous industries. Children can only work in vocations that require physical effort and little ability. Children are most frequently employed in Nigeria's cocoa, gold, sediment, street-selling, household work, and peddling industries.

According to the CIA World Factbook, almost 70% of the population of Nigeria lives below the poverty line, which is a direct cause of a large portion of child labour. Children are frequently used as a source of extra money by families who are having financial difficulties. Many families would be unable to survive without a strong welfare system. Some orphaned workers are compelled to take on the responsibility of supporting their younger siblings, creating an even more perilous position. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development of Nigeria has discovered that around 17.5 million children in the nation end up as orphans or are placed in other vulnerable circumstances.

Child Labour, Deprivation and Education

A sizable amount of the work on child labour addresses it from an economic perspective. The idea that poverty leads to child labour makes the assumption that there is always a direct correlation between the two, even if this is not always the case. In order to support their families, poor parents are frantic to have their children work for a meager wage. Parents must decide whether to send their kids to school or put them to work so they can survive.

Children are eventually permitted to work to help support the immediate needs of the household, such as food, clothes, and shelter. This implies that the right to survival takes precedence over the right to education. Given that education continues to be the main tool for combating child labour in Africa, it

is important to recognize the many functions that schools fulfill, including serving as a framework for cultural reproduction. The state owns certain sets of values and thought patterns that are taught in schools, allowing the state to uphold its "cultural hegemony."

So, rather than being a liberating force, education can be understood as a fundamentally conservative force that only serves to reproduce and maintain the existing status quo. The notion that requiring formal education will prevent child labour is challenged by this perspective on education. Although it is widely acknowledged that teaching children fundamental skills in primary schools can give them confidence and increase their possibilities later in life, it has been suggested that the standard of education and the relevancy of the curriculum are sometimes in doubt. Due to this, many parents believe that their kids' time would be better spent elsewhere.

The formal sector, which itself struggles with only hiring a small portion of the qualified labour force, benefits more from the skills obtained through formal education systems. So, most parents still want their kids to work as apprentices for local craftspeople in the hopes that their kids will learn more useful skills right away.

In addition to teaching practical skills, children's work is seen as a valuable socialization tool. Before the modern age, "education" did not only take place in a classroom or via a textbook. Education took place everywhere, and kids picked it up by watching and imitating more knowledgeable neighbors.

In the majority of traditional communities, this type of schooling is still practiced today. Formal schooling does not appear to be the cure for child labour for the reasons mentioned above, in addition to this. Therefore, it is hard to view child labour as a violation of children's rights when its elimination frequently leads to new issues for kids. Although the CRC offers guidelines for the promotion of children's rights, the implementation of those rights must take into account actual circumstances influenced by the motivations, history, and cultural politics of childhood.

Nigerian Legal System's Policies on Child Labour

Nigeria and the governments of Niger, Burkina Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire have signed Memorandums of Understanding to combat human trafficking. The Child's Right Act was also adopted by the states of Jigawa and Sokoto. The measure has also been adopted by the legislatures of Kebbi and Yobe States, which now only need their governors' signatures to become effective.

Table 1: Approval of International Conventions on Child Labour

<u>Convention</u>	<u>Approval</u>
ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour	✓
UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

Source U.S Department of Labour (2021)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) codifies the fundamental concepts that govern children's rights in Nigeria. The CRA can only become law if every state has ratified it and put it into effect within its borders. But only 29 of the 36 states have confirmed and put the CRA into effect. This means that the legal systems in the other seven states in northern Nigeria need to meet international standards for making it illegal to use children in illicit activities.

Furthermore, the CRA supports parts of the Labour Act that violate global rules against child labour. In contrast to the CRA, which only allows children under 18 to work in light delivery for family members, Section 59 establishes the minimum age for employment at 12. The minimum age for employment is lower than the age for completion of compulsory education, which may tempt kids to drop out before they have finished.

The Labour Act outlaws the employment of minors under 18 in jobs that are harmful to their health, safety, or morals, but it does not specify what kinds of hazardous work are prohibited for minors under 18. In 2013, there was an official published report identifying hazardous child labour in Nigeria. But the government still needs to say in a law or regulation what kinds of dangerous work aren't allowed for young people.

The Labour Act also allows minors of any age to perform light domestic and agricultural work if they are assisting a family member, which is against international standards. Additionally, children who work for themselves or in the unregulated sector of the economy are not covered by the Labour Act's regulations for minimum employment ages. Last but not least, under the Terrorism Prevention Act, children are not exempt from the mandatory life sentence for aiding terrorist acts.

Nigeria's enforcement of child labour laws

The government has put in place institutional procedures to ensure that child labour rules and regulations are followed. But there are problems with how their enforcement agencies work that could make it hard to follow their child labour laws. These organizations and agencies are:

- **Organization:** *Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MLE)*

Role: *Enforces federal child labour rules by deploying labour inspectors throughout the 36 state labour offices and the federal capital region. On April 15, 2021, the Ministry started celebrating the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The focus of the celebrations was ending child labour, forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking.*

- **Organization:** *National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP)*

Role: *Implements legislation that prohibits exploitative labour practices and human trafficking. Collaborates with state governments and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development to provide social services to child labour survivors and reunite trafficked children with their families; operates hotlines for survivors in Abuja and at each zone command center.*

- **Organization:** *Nigeria Police*

Role: *All laws that forbid child labour or commercial exploitation of children must be upheld. Tackle human trafficking together with NAPTIP.*

- **Organization:** *Nigeria Immigration Service*

Role: *Assists NAPTIP in executing legislation against child trafficking.*

- **Organization:** *Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking*

Role: *Implements other anti-human-trafficking legislation as well as the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Law, and it also looks into all allegations of child trafficking and forced labour. Has a Security and Investigations Unit whose job it is to stop and find cases of human trafficking.*

Due to a shortage of resources for inspections, such as office space, vehicles, fuel, and other essentials to conduct the necessary reviews, the enforcement of child labour regulations has remained a problem. Additionally, procedures to enforce current safeguards for youngsters working in the informal economy were not discovered through research.

With about 60 million workers, Nigeria's workforce is too small to support the total number of labour inspectors. Nigeria will need to hire roughly 4,005 labour inspectors if the ILO's technical recommendations of one inspector for a specific number of workers in industrializing economies are followed.

Nigerian law enforcement agencies made efforts to address child labour in 2021. However, there are operational flaws in criminal enforcement organizations that could prevent effective criminal law enforcement, including resource allocation.

No children were being held in military detention, according to an official memo from the Ministry of Defense dated November 2020, and since the memo's signing, children who have been rescued from Boko Haram camps have gone through a de-radicalization process that is visible to international observers and other interested parties. These actions were taken in reaction to earlier reports of abuse and exploitation that had taken place within the military's custody system in earlier years.

Societal Initiatives to Combat Child Labour

Activities that aim to end or prevent child labour were supported by the government in 2021, and it also took part in these programs. There are, however, some problems with these social initiatives, such as the fact that not enough is being done across all sectors to deal with the problem, as shown below:

Initiatives: *NAPTIP Shelters*

Description: *Ten shelters in Nigeria are run by a government-funded program that can house 315 victims of human trafficking. Shelters offer survivors referrals to NGOs for further care, as well as legal, medical, and psychiatric help, as well as business management training and skills. Throughout the reporting period, shelters remained open.*

Initiative: *Safe Schools Initiative*

Description: *Government and international organizations are implementing a donor-funded program with the goal of enhancing access to education in northeastern Nigeria. Research couldn't tell if this project was still going on during the time frame of the report.*

Initiative: *Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa (20*

Description: *A regional initiative supported by the ILO with the goal of eradicating child labour in supply chains, with an emphasis on those used in the production of cocoa, coffee, cotton, gold, and tea. Collaborates on public policy, good governance, empowerment, representation, partnerships, and knowledge sharing with global supply chain participants working in Africa. Research couldn't tell what the status of this project was at the time of the report.*

Initiative: USDOL-Funded Projects

Description: Operations financed by the USDOL with the goal of ending child labour. These initiatives include the ILO Global Accelerator Project, a \$10 million initiative, and the Measurement, Awareness-Raising, and Policy Engagement Project on Child Labour and Forced Labour. Both of these initiatives aim to conduct research, develop new survey methodologies, raise awareness, strengthen government capacity and policies, and foster partnerships to address child labour and forced labour. The USDOL website has further information available.

Initiative: World Bank-Funded Programs

Description: Initiatives are designed to expand access to education. Included are the Better Education Service Delivery for All (2017–2022) project, a \$611 million initiative to increase access to education for youth who are not currently enrolled in school and to boost literacy, and the National Social Safety Nets Project (2016–2022), a \$50 million initiative to provide primary school lunches and conditional cash transfers based on children's enrollment. The National Social Safety Nets Project kept up its efforts to sign up participants in 2021. Its focal states—17 of them—have adopted one or more types of intensive reading programs across 21,035 formal basic education schools. (55) Since their beginning, the Better Education Service Delivery for All projects has contributed to a decrease in the number of kids who aren't in school.

Additionally, USAID announced a five-year grant program called "Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement" This initiative will target preventing trafficking in persons by assisting civil society organizations in their efforts to improve their capacity, coordination, and services for preventing trafficking in persons.

The circumstances at shelters housing victims of human trafficking are a growing source of concern. There have been reports of people being held against their will for long periods of time in shelters run by the NAPTIP. These shelters also have bad housing options, food shortages, and low stipends.

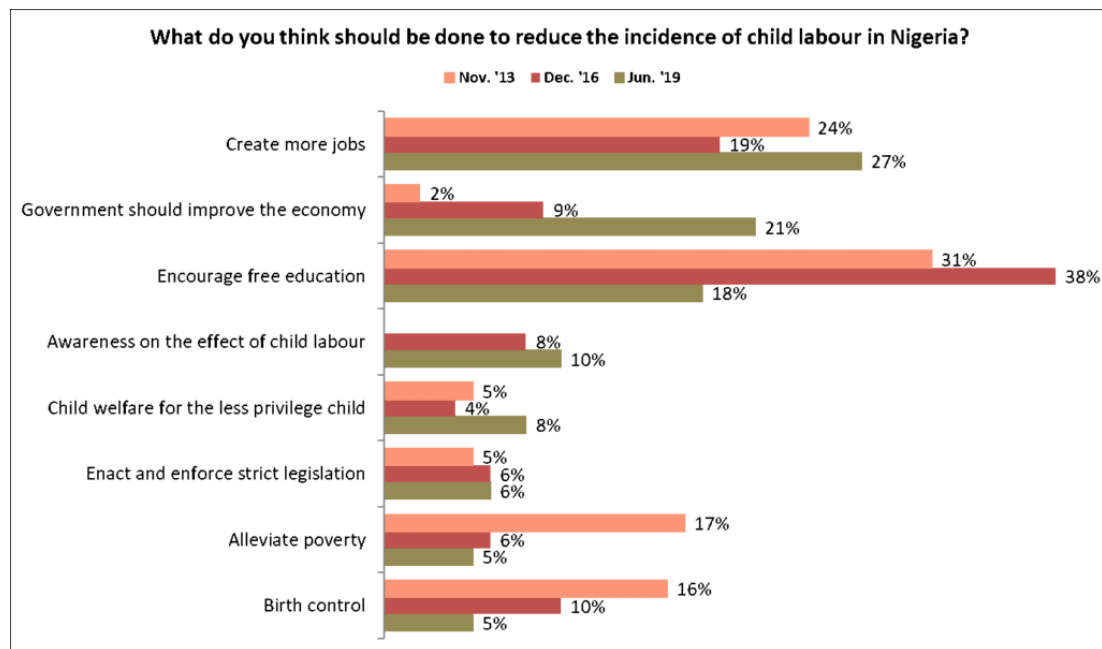
Conclusion

An approach to understanding and defending both child rights and general human rights is provided by Amartya Sen (1985, 1999, and 2005). In addressing issues of global justice, his theses emphasize people-centered policies. It also highlights the necessity of promoting human variety. Supporting children's diverse experiences and demands in this environment is essential for building a more robust economy.

The most delicate members of society are children. They have little chance of influencing political decisions because they lack a voice to speak up for their rights. A child should be properly educated in school so that they can use that education to create a bright future for themselves as well as for the society in which they live. Adults and those in positions of authority have a duty and moral obligation to put basic human rights above the glittering advantages of cheap labour and to permanently put an end to this practice.

The faces you see in market places, the voices you hear in parks, and the little hands that construct the massive structures in the neighborhood served as the basis for my argument on the threat of child labour in contemporary Nigeria. Today's child labour has progressed from forced labour in factories to a relatively lax situation in which children aged 9 to 15 are now left to engage in some kind of commercial activity and odd jobs rather than being in the classroom for learning.

Most of these kids lack even the most basic education. They typically make less than half of what an adult male makes per day and are employed as inexpensive labour on building sites. Wheelbarrows are used to transport items at markets, and people sell goods on the streets. As the majority of the children I encountered engaged in hazardous labour activities that interfered with their schooling, this condition undermined the United Nations Article on the Child's Right Convention.



Source: NOIPOLLS –June 2019

Figure 4: When asked how the country should reduce the prevalence of child labour, a larger percentage of respondents (27 percent) said that more jobs should be created. In turn, there will be less need for children to supplement family income as a result of the country's overall poverty being reduced. 18% advocated for universal free education, while 21% indicated that the government should boost the economy.

These kids have nothing to live for, potentially making them vulnerable to manipulation by unscrupulous people. As a result of their lack of affection and respect as children, radicals and terrorist organizations use them as weapons to wreck society. These youngsters are weak, and as they grow up, they will be easy and inexpensive targets for brainwashing by terrorist organizations. This study has demonstrated that child labour persists in major cities due to the socioeconomic context rather than a lack of labour.

The impoverished are especially vulnerable, as evidenced by the fact that they have limited incomes and must support very large families. The results are a high percentage of insecurity in the nation where this group of people is prevalent, which leads to rape, drug use, and savagery. Such a despairing populace will succumb to any vice, which could gravely harm the nation's economy. Similar to the infamous terrorist group in Nigeria, this has created a very serious threat to investment in Nigeria. By failing to fulfill its political mandates, the government has fallen short of expectations.

As a result, they are unable to fill positions and have subpar infrastructure, low-quality education, and other issues. They are shoving kids onto the streets on their own initiative. Due to this condition, national revenue will be lost or reduced, productivity will decline, and the investment climate will not be favorable for investors. The entire economy will experience a recession. Therefore, it is imperative that the government implement the suggestions offered in order to maintain and enhance the economy.

Recommendations

Nigerian law says that the government should raise the minimum age for employment until school attendance is required. The government should also make sure that the minimum age for employment is the same in all of the country's laws. This will protect all children, including those working in the unorganized sector and for themselves, and ensure that they are all protected. They should make sure that all children under the age of 18 are forbidden from engaging in any work that has been judged by law or regulation to be hazardous for minors.

As a matter of urgency and significance, it should also be made clear that it is contrary to the law for non-state armed groups to recruit minors under the age of 18 into their ranks. Make sure that using, obtaining, and providing a child for the trafficking of drugs is illegal in every state. Additionally, make changes to the Terrorism Prevention Act to forbid punishing kids for their involvement with armed groups.

The government should also implement a policy that covers all pertinent cases of child labour, including unsolicited labour in the production of granite, gravel, and cocoa, as well as juvenile sexual exploitation for commercial purposes. Make certain that actions are conducted to implement government policy, and that information about these actions is made public during the reporting period. Make sure that every state starts to offer free education and that existing programs to help poor children, especially girls, pay for tuition and other school costs are expanded.

In its capacity as a responsible adult, the government should make sure that there are enough qualified instructors and that the necessary facilities are in place to enable children—especially girls—to attend school. Create initiatives to keep kids out of the worst types of child labour, such as criminal activity,

commercial sexual exploitation, and armed warfare. Lastly, do research to compile thorough data on child labour, including actions performed by kids engaged in fishing, to guide initiatives and legislation.

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