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Underlying Factors Affecting Child Labour and Child Trafficking in Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT:

This study investigates the fundamental elements that influence child labour and trafficking in Suleja, Niger State. A model was created using the analytical ideas proposed by Basu and Van (1988) and Fan (2011). The study used a multistage sampling methodology to gather data from three specifically chosen rural districts within the Suleja Local Government Area in Niger State. The data was collected by distributing questionnaires to 367 families in the 3 chosen rural areas of Suleja Local Government Area. The study findings indicate that an increase in household size relative to household income is associated with higher rates of child labour and child trafficking.

Conversely, employment and the acquisition of skills are linked to a decrease in child labour and child trafficking. Children from households with income below the subsistence level are primarily susceptible to child labour and trafficking. It is advised that individuals and the government pay close attention to and actively participate in efforts to combat child labour and trafficking. This is necessary to limit children's involvement in these harmful practices.

Keywords: Child Labour, Child Trafficking, Domestic Trafficking, International Trafficking, Sub-Sahara Africa

1. INTRODUCTION:

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2017), over 218 million children globally are impacted by child labour. Based on the latest child labour estimate, over 102 million children globally engage in employment during their early years. This includes 64 million girls and 88 million males, which accounts for nearly one-tenth of all children. Because of their active engagement in subsistence agriculture, rural households bear the primary responsibility for perpetuating child labour. This has a detrimental effect on children's involvement in educational activities and results in below-average performance (ILO, 2018). The United Nations (2020) reported that Africa has 72.1 million child labourers, of which 31.5 million are in hazardous working environments. The prevalence of child labour is a severe issue in sub-Saharan Africa, where over 40% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 engage in work for their bare existence. This corresponds to over 48 million children. Consequently, a large number of juvenile labourers in sub-Saharan Africa face the possibility of experiencing various work-related health problems soon, which could also put their long-term scholastic prospects at risk.

Child labour in Nigeria pertains to the employment of individuals under 18 in a manner that restricts or hinders their ability to engage in early childhood development and education (Musa et al., 2023). Child labour is prevalent in every state nationwide (Magaji, 2005). Children often endure hazardous working conditions, lack of safety measures, extended work hours, poor remuneration, exposure to pesticides, and reliance on chemical fertilisers as they are used as forced Labour. Furthermore, many marginalised youth engage in solicitation and Labour as carriers and collectors (Magaji & Musa, 2015).

Obtaining precise statistics on the extent of child labour and child trafficking is challenging. However, the International Labour Organisation has estimated that there are approximately 160 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are engaged in child labour, and around 1.2 million children are trafficked annually (International Labour Organisation, 2000). 9% of children in Africa are engaged in child labour. The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are around 72.1 million African children engaged in child labour, with 31.5 million of them involved in hazardous jobs (2016 Global estimates of child labour). According to the UNICEF global databases for the year 2023, which include data from demographic and health surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), surveys conducted by other countries, censuses, and vital registration systems from 2014 to 2022, the

percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are currently involved in child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa is 26%. The percentage of individuals in Eastern and Southern Africa is 26%, whereas in Least Developed Countries it is 22%, and in West Africa it is 26%.

Recent estimates from the International Labour Organisation in 2022 reveal that approximately 1.8 million children were trafficked from West Africa over the past five years. Based on the most recent mapping conducted by the African Committee of Experts on Children's Rights and Welfare, it has been determined that from 2015 to 2018, over 600,000 children in West Africa fell prey to cross-border trafficking.

The International Labour Organisation reports that a minimum of 43% of children in Nigeria are ensnared in child labour. In actuality, Nigeria faces both domestic and international trafficking of children. The internal trafficking of children involves the recruitment and transportation of children from rural areas to urban and city centres for various types of Labour. On the other hand, external trafficking of children refers to the trafficking of children across national borders for different forms of Labour. Child trafficking in Nigeria includes both internal and exterior forms, characterised by exploitative and enslaving situations. In 2016, Nigeria's government body responsible for addressing trafficking said that 75% of minors who were trafficked within the country were transported across several states, while 23% were trafficked within the same state, and 2% were trafficked outside the country. The mean age of minors who are victims of human trafficking in Nigeria is 15. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is an organisation in Nigeria dedicated to combating human trafficking. According to the NAPTIP report of 2014, children make up 28% of the identified victims of human trafficking in Nigeria.

According to UNICEF, minors were responsible for 20% of the suicide attacks in Nigeria. Recent reports indicate that youngsters in Northern Nigeria are being coerced by the terrorist organisation Boko Haram to engage in suicide attacks, representing the most extreme form of exploitation. The International Labour Organisation estimates that over 250 million children aged 5 to 14 work in underdeveloped countries such as Nigeria. Approximately 61% are in Asia, while around 32% are in Africa. Child labour and child trafficking are prevalent in developing nations and have become pervasive in various economic sectors, including both urban and rural areas of Nigeria. This includes the Emirate of Suleja communities, where these practices are observed. Suleja, a local government area in Niger state, is notorious for its high prevalence of child labour and child trafficking. The region is renowned for its agricultural pursuits, encompassing farming and livestock husbandry, which offer employment prospects for numerous households. Nevertheless, these prospects frequently entail a substantial expense, particularly for minors compelled to toil for extended periods in arduous circumstances, often receiving minimal or no remuneration. Researchers have extensively investigated the intricate relationship between household income chi, LD labour, and child trafficking in Nigeria.

A study undertaken by UNICEF revealed that poverty played a crucial role in the continuation of child labour in Nigeria. The study uncovered that many parents lacked the financial means to provide education for their children, resulting in their decision to send them to work instead. The perpetuation of child labour and the challenges in escaping its grip are fueled by the cycle of poverty and limited educational opportunities (Magaji & Adamu, 2011).

According to a separate study, child labour is more common in rural areas because of inadequate savings, few career prospects, and poor levels of education (Magaji & Yahaya, 2012). Child labour was found to be more prevalent among children from impoverished households, thereby emphasising the correlation between poverty and child labour (Magaji, 2002).

The correlation between household income and child trafficking in Nigeria is equally alarming. The exploitation of children through trafficking is a very profitable enterprise that flourishes by taking advantage of the dire circumstances faced by impoverished families (Musa et al., 2022). Human traffickers frequently make enticing offers of substantial financial compensation to families in return for their children, who are subsequently coerced into engaging in Labour that exploits them or subjects them to sexual slavery. Child trafficking is a prevalent issue in the Suleja local government region, where numerous children are being trafficked to different states within Nigeria or even to outside countries. The proximity to the capital city of Abuja and its well-connected road network makes it a highly appealing destination for traffickers. Moreover, the region's high poverty rates and limited availability of education and employment prospects foster a favourable atmosphere for child trafficking (Aluko & Magaji, 2020).

In order to tackle the problem of child labour and child trafficking in the Suleja local government area, it is crucial to address the root causes of poverty and the limited availability of education and employment prospects.

Research Question

The question this research work aims to answer is;

i.   What are the underlying factors that link household income to child Labour and child trafficking in Suleja?

Objective of the Study

The specific objective of the study is to

Determine the underlying factors that link household income to child Labour and child trafficking in Suleja.

Statement of Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis guides the research;

There is no significant relationship between household income and child Labour and child trafficking in Suleja.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

There are three key concepts to understand here and they are child labour, child trafficking, and household income. These concepts will be dissected in subsequent sections, and their relationship will be clarified.

2.2 Concept of Child Labour

Child Labour, defined by UNICEF (2022), refers to any form of work that poses physical, mental, social, or moral risks to children and hinders their access to educational and developmental possibilities. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a child is defined as an individual who is less than eighteen years old. The Convention highlights the imperative of safeguarding children from violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse, as well as from labour exploitation and perilous occupations. The International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2022) defines "child labour" as work that robs children of their childhood, potential, and dignity while also causing harm to their bodily and mental development. Child labour encompasses tasks that are detrimental to children's well-being, both mentally and physically. It also includes activities that hinder their education, such as preventing them from attending school, forcing them to drop out prematurely, or burdening them with excessive workloads while trying to balance school attendance. The classification of "child labour" is contingent upon factors such as the age of the child, the kind and duration of the employment, the working conditions, and the goals set by each country. The response differs across nations, as well as across individual states of those nations (ILO, 2022).

Child labour, as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2017), refers to any work or duty performed by a child under the age of 18, with the expectation of receiving compensation in the form of money, goods, or for any other purpose, that hinders their physical well-being, education, and overall growth. The Labour performed by minors is considered child labour since these youngsters are below the legally mandated minimum working age of 18 years, as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) minimum age convention of 1973, precisely Number 138 (1). Suda (2001) and Edmond and Watson (2008) define child labour as the use of children for economic purposes, which is both dangerous and often involves significant exploitation. Child labour is commonly regarded as the perilous employment of children, resulting in harm to their well-being. Child labour is any form of employment that hinders a child's physical and mental growth, as the International Labour Organisation defined in 2012.

Child labour has a global impact on 215 million underage individuals, as reported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2012. Moyi (2011) perceives child labour as a form of exploitation due to its association with meagre remuneration and extended periods of strenuous Labour. Such types of Labour are often exploitative because of their lack of maturity and fair treatment. However, Aqil (2012) argues that not all employment is inherently harmful or exploitative. The extent to which work can be considered exploitative relies on factors such as the specific work setting, the amount of hours provided, and the overall working environment. Hence, this phenomenon can be observed in various societies where individuals reach adulthood at different stages of their lives (Bhat, 2011). Child labour is often viewed as a beneficial practice in Africa and Asia because youngsters possess the capacity to acquire valuable skills.

Kielland and Tovo (2006) perceive child labour as incorporating children into various societal tasks, which helps them discover their future duties as they grow older. Some studies analyse it from the income standpoint, as it typically generates a regular income (Phoumin, 2008). According to Udry (2006), child labour is a trade-off where families forfeit future income to obtain more excellent cash during crucial periods. This financial factor typically hinders the child's academic performance at an early stage; some children choose to balance education with overly long hours of strenuous Labour (Ruchi, 2012).

2.3 Concept of Child trafficking

Child trafficking is a widespread occurrence that exists globally. Tola (2008) ranks it as the third most significant criminal activity globally. According to the United Nations Human Rights (2018), child trafficking refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, housing, or reception of children to exploit them. This form of exploitation can occur within a country's borders and across national boundaries, and it is not restricted to the use of unlawful methods. Child trafficking is a social problem which is sometimes ascribed to unemployment encountered by some parents (Magaji & Musa, 2015). Traffickers deceive these parents into believing that their quality of life and that of their children will improve (Ayua, 1999). Children are being forcibly taken away from their families, friends, communities, and support networks. This puts their growth and survival at significant risk as they are compelled to live in dire conditions and deprived of economic autonomy.

Child trafficking, as defined by specific sources such as Dottridge (2008) and Staiger (2005), encompasses all individuals under the age of 18 who have been relocated from one location to another. Kid trafficking is a form of human trafficking which comprises the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, housing or receiving a kid to exploit them. This practice is a significant violation of human rights that impacts millions of children worldwide. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published this information in 2018.

2.4 Theoretical Review

The poverty hypothesis theory posits that child labour and child trafficking are inevitable consequences of poverty. It suggests that in many underdeveloped countries with limited technological advancement, increasing unemployment rates, and decreasing household incomes, children are

forced to participate in Labour to alleviate economic strain and fulfil the consumption needs of their households. This theory is supported by studies conducted by Amin (1994), Khathar, Malik, and Malik (1998), and Verlet (1994). In this situation, child labour and child trafficking can become necessary for families to survive. During economic recessions, when parents lose their jobs, many children may be forced to work to support their families. Research conducted in underdeveloped areas of Africa has substantiated the poverty hypothesis by establishing a significant link between economic hardship and the prevalence of child labour and trafficking.

2.5 Empirical Review

2.6 Child Labour

In a study conducted by Abdu, Rabiu, and Usman (2020), the researchers investigated the impact of child labour on the education of children in Northern Nigeria. Data analysis involved the utilisation of both descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings indicated a notable association between the degree of engagement in child employment, the contributing factors, and the perceived impact on education. Additionally, it demonstrates a substantial correlation between family income, a mother's occupation, and the observed effect. Oli & Nweke (2021) investigate the factors that influence and the common types of child labour practices in eastern Nigeria. The study employs a research strategy that combines both qualitative and quantitative methods. The primary tool employed for data gathering was the questionnaire. The study's findings indicate that key factors contributing to child labour practices are low household income, poverty, parents' educational level, family size, cultural beliefs, and residing in a slum region. The results also indicate that the most common types of child labour practices are hawking, street begging, household work, farming, and working in factories.

Oladokun, Dada, Agulanna, and Adenegan (2020) investigate the factors that influence child labour in agricultural households in Nigeria. An analysis was conducted to examine the factors that contribute to child labour. The study utilised data from 765 families in rural Nigeria obtained from the General Household Survey (GHS 2015/2016). The data was divided into the six Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria: North-Central, North-West, North-East, South-East, South-South, and South-West. The study extracted socioeconomic characteristics such as age, household size, marital status, education years, and cooperative society membership. This data was analysed using descriptive statistics and logit regression at a significance level of $\alpha 0.05$. The study's findings indicate that child labour has a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of children.

Olukunmi (2017) examines the socioeconomic factors influencing child labour in Ilorin, Kwara state. The data was gathered through the use of questionnaires. 400 questionnaires were distributed in the five local government areas of Ilorin city. The data was analysed using both descriptive statistical methods and inferential statistics, specifically the chi-square test. The findings indicate that a low level of home income is a significant factor in determining child labour across various households. The size of a family and the educational status of parents have a respective impact on child labour.

Musa and Magaji (2023) conducted a study that investigated the relationship between household income and child labour in Northeastern Nigeria. They utilised the logit regression methodology for their analysis. The findings indicate that household income is the primary factor influencing child labour and trafficking, among other socioeconomic determinants. The study suggests that governments should focus on creating work opportunities and increasing household income.

Additionally, Mackintosh and Wori (2021) investigated the impact of parental socioeconomic status on child labour in the Port Harcourt Metropolis. The significant data-gathering tool used in the study was a 14-item "Parental Socioeconomic Status on Child Labour" (PSSCL) questionnaire. The study had a total sample size of 126 respondents, consisting of 45 parents and 81 children. The study employed a descriptive survey research design to collect dependable data. The data obtained from primary and secondary sources were analysed using statistical measures such as mean and standard deviation. The study's findings revealed a substantial correlation between parents' socioeconomic position and the prevalence of child labour. The study was done exclusively in Anambra State's Awka South Local Government Area. Musa, Magaji, and

Tsauni (2022) investigates the socioeconomic factors that influence child labour in the Northeastern region of Nigeria. Their study utilises multistage sampling strategies to gather necessary data from specific local government areas in three states of Northeastern Nigeria, specifically Adamawa, Bauchi, and Yobe States. Their research employed standardised questionnaires. The acquired data were examined via the Tobit Model. Their research reveals that the factors influencing child labour include the age and gender of the children, their relationship with the head of the household, the education level of the household head, the occupation of the household, and indicators of poverty such as the income of the household head, the size of the family, access to clean piped water, and distance from school.

Nevertheless, specific findings were determined to have statistical significance at different degrees. In their study, Musa and Magaji (2023) analyse the relationship between household income and child labour in Northeastern Nigeria using the logit regression methodology. The findings indicate that home income is the primary factor influencing child labour and trafficking, among various socioeconomic determinants. The study suggests that governments should focus on creating work possibilities and increasing income levels.

Shehu, Kangiwa, and Umar (2015) investigate the impact of home poverty on child labour in Nigeria. The study utilised nationally representative household-level data from Nigeria to empirically investigate the impact of poverty on the probability of impoverished households including their children in work activities. The analysis utilised a univariate probit model and revealed that per-adult consumption spending, which serves as a proxy for household wellbeing, had a considerable adverse impact on the decision of households to engage in child work. The projected outcome also indicates that the attributes of the kid, parent, home, and community substantially impact whether or not to engage in child work within the household.

Amao and Akinlade (2015) studied child labour in horticultural households in Bauchi State, Nigeria, focusing on gender differences. The study gathered information on the characteristics of children, households, and communities. The data was examined using descriptive statistics and the multinomial logit regression model with a significance level of p=0.05. The data revealed a higher proportion of female youngsters (29.30%) attending school exclusively than men (18.85%). Male children had a higher level of engagement in work outside the home, particularly in tasks related to the family farm (74.62%).

Conversely, girls were primarily active in domestic duties (56.69%) and dedicated more time to these activities than attending school. The likelihood of youngsters engaging in child work is higher as they grow older, regardless of gender. Having farmland ownership in a household raises the probability of male children participating in all available activities. More preschool-aged children (0-4 years) in the household increase the probability of female children working full-time.

Agu (2015) investigates the relationship between child labour and economic development in Nigeria, specifically focusing on a case study of Ekiti State, Nigeria. A stratified random selection strategy was employed to select 535 respondents who were identified as being involved in child labour. This identification was done through interviews, the distribution of questionnaires, and focused group discussions. The data collected from the field were analysed using Regression analysis and Chi-square tests conducted on SPSS to assess the level of statistical significance. The findings indicate a direct association between poverty, Unemployment, school dropout rates, and child labour.

2.7 Child Trafficking

Abdul Rashed and Oladipo (2013) examine the correlation between Unemployment and human trafficking using a conventional regression estimator. The study's findings indicate that human security provisioning was evaluated based on factors such as poverty, purchasing power parity, and food security. On the other hand, Unemployment was evaluated solely based on the jobless rate. The study employed a comparative survey research design. We utilised both primary and secondary data sources. The study's findings indicate a negative relationship between food security and youth unemployment in the Gambia.

Additionally, the jobless rate in Nigeria is greatly influenced by purchasing power parity. There is a positive correlation between youth unemployment and the provision of human security in both countries. Moreover, the study empirically found that the main factor contributing to the vulnerability of young people is the absence of basic needs due to Unemployment. Consequently, the study recommends that Nigeria and the Gambia governments implement a pragmatic approach to reduce youth unemployment and decrease human trafficking. This study focuses exclusively on The Gambia, the sole country in West Africa under investigation.

Ezeh and Oli (2021) analyse the socioeconomic factors that contribute to the susceptibility of children to trafficking in the Awka South Local Government Area, located in Anambra State, South East Nigeria. The study employs a research design that combines qualitative and quantitative methods and uses a sampling approach involving multiple stages to choose participants. A sample size 384 was determined using Cochran's formula for sample size calculation. Descriptive statistics were employed to analyse the data. Their discovery demonstrates that avarice and destitution are significant contributors to the susceptibility of youngsters to trafficking.

Nwokeoma (2010) conducted a study that compared thoughts and perceptions on the variables influencing human trafficking in the Imo and Edo States of Nigeria. The study employed a cross-sectional survey methodology and utilised a multistage sampling procedure to obtain a sample size of 1200, as necessary. The study included a combination of primary and secondary data sources. The research revealed a significant prevalence of human trafficking in both states. However, it is worth noting that Edo State exhibited a greater prevalence of trafficking in women, whereas the researcher documented a significant incidence of child trafficking in Imo State. The investigation revealed that the individuals involved in trafficking were primarily immediate family members and parents. The age groups most susceptible to being trafficked are 15-24 years for women and 6-15 years for children. The survey additionally revealed that those who were unemployed and not enrolled in school were primarily targeted as victims of trafficking. Another crucial determinant that showed a significant correlation with people trafficking was households characterised by a substantial number of offspring.

Ndiora (2011) conducted a study on the popular view of Onitsha residents regarding female trafficking and organised crime in Nigeria. The study employed a cross-sectional survey design and utilised cluster and systematic sampling procedures to select a sample size of 636 respondents. Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered by administering a questionnaire schedule and conducting in-depth interviews. The study revealed a lack of awareness among a significant number of residents in Onitsha on the occurrence of female trafficking. Additionally, it established a direct correlation between poverty and the prevalence of female trafficking. The study additionally discovered a substantial correlation between the degree of education and trafficking. Furthermore, it identified the desire for financial gain as the primary motivating element for traffickers.

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governments implement a pragmatic approach to reduce youth unemployment and decrease human trafficking. This study focuses exclusively on The Gambia, the sole country in West Africa under investigation.

In a study by Dada (2013), the researcher examines the factors that determine the consequences of child street hawking in Agege, Lagos State, Nigeria. The 100 individuals from the Agege Local Government Area of Lagos State were selected using the purposive sampling approach. Basic percentages and frequency distribution tables were employed as data analysis techniques. The study revealed that the afflicted youngsters had a limited understanding of the inherent dangers of child hawking. The study also found a substantial correlation between the problem of child labour and factors such as parents' degree of education, parents' occupation, and family size. Impoverishment compels economically disadvantaged families to enlist their children in labour to contribute and furnish economic sustenance for their households.

Oluseye and Christianah (2014) analyse the phenomenon of trafficking in women and children, investigating both the trends and the variables that contribute to it. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative research designs. The study population comprised women aged 15-49 and children aged 10-14. The sample was selected using a multistage cluster sampling technique. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Out of all the women who were interviewed, 16.8% had encountered trafficking before the poll. Commercial sex was the most prevalent form of trafficking, accounting for 46.7% of cases, followed by child labour at 34.5%. The primary culprits of women and child trafficking were those who were educated and enlightened, accounting for 57.3% of cases. They were closely followed by intimate or close associates, responsible for 32.1% of incidents. The study identifies several key factors that contribute to the trafficking of women and children. These include poverty (58.7%), parental discrimination favouring boys over girls (51.4%), lack of awareness about human slavery and trafficking (33.6%), family disintegration (21.5%), increased school dropouts, inadequate government monitoring, unfavourable working conditions, and poor socioeconomic conditions. Hence, the study suggests that addressing human trafficking requires the implementation of comprehensive legislation that clearly defines substantial penalties for individuals involved in trafficking.

Adesina (2014) examines the correlation between child trafficking and poverty in the country. This study centres on child trafficking and poverty in Nigeria as instances of modern-day enslavement. The author asserts that human trafficking in Nigeria, explicitly concerning children, has escalated into a grave concern. The study focused on domestic child trafficking to fill a gap in the existing literature. It utilises theories of limited opportunity. The study's findings suggest that extreme poverty, which is strongly linked to Unemployment, is a significant catalyst for child trafficking in Nigeria. Additional factors encompass the absence of dependable institutions and a pervasive lack of knowledge.

Ezeh and Oli (2021) investigate the socioeconomic factors that contribute to the susceptibility of children to trafficking in the Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, located in the southeastern region of Nigeria. The study employs a research design that combines qualitative and quantitative methods and uses a sampling approach that involves multiple stages in selecting participants. A sample size 384 was determined using Cochran's formula for sample size determination. Analysed using descriptive statistics, the data were examined. Their discovery demonstrates that avarice and destitution are primary contributors to the susceptibility of youngsters to trafficking. The study was exclusively done inside the geographical boundaries of Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State.

In their study, Musa and Magaji (2023) analyse the relationship between household income and child labour in Northeastern Nigeria using the logit regression methodology. The findings indicate that home income is the primary factor influencing child labour and trafficking, among various socioeconomic determinants. The study proposes that governments at all levels should focus on creating work possibilities and increasing income levels.

3. METHODOLOGY:

3.1 The Study Area

The study focuses on the population of Niger State. Niger is a constituent state located in the North-Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, with Minna serving as its capital city. Niger state was founded in 1976, emerging from the former North–Western states. The country derives its name from the Niger River and has a population of 3,934,772 individuals. It covers a surface area of 76,363 square kilometres (29,484 square miles). Niger state is bordered by Kebbi and Zamfara to the north, Kwara to the south, and the federal capital area to the east. Additional prominent urban centres in the state encompass Suleja, Bida, and Kontagora. Suleja will serve as the subject of investigation for this research. Suleja local government is a significant local government territory in Niger state, encompassing a land area of 2980 square kilometres and a population of 261,000 individuals.

3.1.1 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises residents of the Suleja local government area of Niger state is 261,000.

3.1.2 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

This study will mainly utilise random sampling to examine the variables. The study's sample size was established using the Taro Yamani Formula. The sample size for this investigation was established using the Yamani (1968) formula for calculating sample size.

$n = $ N

$$\overline{1+n(e)^2}$$

Where: n= sample size

N= 261,000 (population size)

e= 0.05(sample error level of significance)

1 = constant

$$n = \frac{261,000}{1+261,000 \ (0.05)^2} \qquad n = 400$$

The sample size is 400 respondents

3.1.3 Instrument of Data Collection

The primary data-gathering method would involve administering surveys directly to the respondents. The questionnaire will be divided into two sections: section one will gather information on the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, such as age and gender.

The second portion will examine the perspective of the participants regarding the influence of household income on child labour and child trafficking in Suleja, Niger State.

3.1.4 Nature and Source of Data

Primary and secondary sources were used to generate data to address the research objectives. Primary data sources were basically field surveys done in the study area. Secondary data was collected from publications like books, journals, seminar papers, and written reports considered relevant to the subject of study.

Method of Data Collection

Two primary data collection methods were used to collect information from the field in addition to the secondary sources of data. Questionnaires and personal interview methods are the primary data collection methods. The oral interviews would also be administered to the individual, and questionnaires with close-to-close-ended and open-ended questions relating to the target of the study would be well structured. The secondary data sources involve already documented information in books, journals, seminars and written reports considered relevant to the subject of study.

3.1.5 Method of Data Analysis

Data gathered through the questionnaire was analysed using frequency counts, simple percentages and correlation analysis.

3.1.6 Model Specification

The analytical model used in this study was derived from the works of Basu and Van (1998), Fan (2011), and Zapata et al. (2011). The logit model is defined in its implicit form as:

$Z_i = \beta_o + \beta_1 x_{ik} + u_i$ ………………………………………… (1)

Where:

Z_i = Financial Inclusion (dummy, 1= = Child Labour and trafficking and 0, otherwise).

B_o = constant

B_1 = coefficient

X_{ik} = set of explanatory variables (i=1,2,..k)

U_i = random error disturbance term.

The explicit form of the model is specified as:

$Z_i = In P_i$ ………………………………….. (2)

$1 - P_i = \beta_o + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + u_i$ …………………..… (3)

Where: Z_i = Child Labour (dummy, 1= = Child Labour and 0, otherwise).

β_o = constant term β_n = parameters to be estimated.

X1= household income (1=household income, 0, otherwise). X2=poverty (1=poverty, 0, otherwise). X3 = Unemployment

(1 = Unemployment, 0, otherwise).

Ui = random disturbance term.

The model is specified below:

Model

Child Labour and Trafficking = f (Hs, E, S)

Where;

Hs= Household size

E= Employment

S= Skill

The binary logistic model was chosen due to its capacity for a logically significant interpretation and its ability to incorporate many variables. In addition to its essential computational simplicity, the research aimed to uncover the essential variables that influence a decision with a binary conclusion while being highly adaptable and user-friendly. Due to the binary nature of the dependent variable, the ordinary least square (OLS) technique needed to be more suitable for estimating the model.

3.1.7 Estimation and Evaluation Techniques and Procedures.

Ominivous Test: This test will show whether the overall model is accepted.

We are dealing with P-value. If the P-value is less than 0.05, we can interpret that the model fits well in the data. Here, the null is that the model has no good fitting. We will then infer whether the overall model is accepted or not.

Goodness of fit: This is the correctly predicted value. This statistic will demonstrate how the independent factors can explain variations in the dependent variables, indicating whether all the independent variables are significant in explaining these changes.

Odd Ratio: This is the probability of an event happening. It signifies the consistent impact of a predictor X on the probability of a particular outcome happening. The term "relative risk" is also used to refer to a logit model. It quantifies the likelihood of y being equal to 1 compared to y being equal to 0. An odds ratio of 2 indicates that the probability of the outcome y=1 is twice as high as the probability of the outcome y=0. An odds ratio of 1 indicates that the likelihood of y=1 is equal to the likelihood of y=0. An odds ratio greater than 1 suggests that y=1 is more likely, while an odds ratio less than 1 suggests that y=0 is more probable.

Nagelkerke R-Squared: This is an alteration of the Cox and Snell R-Squared. It is considered the most acceptable measure of Pseudo R-squared because it has a minimum value of zero (0) and a maximum value of one (1). It quantifies the amount of variance in the dependent variable that can be attributed to the predictors in a model.

Predictive Probability: After estimating the models, we predict the probability that y=1 for each observation because of their functional form. This ensures that the model is correctly predicted.

$P= pr [y=1/x] =F(x'\beta)$

The predicted probability is limited between 0 and 1.

The predicted probability indicates the likelihood of y=1.

Hypothesis Test: H0: $\beta 0 = 0$ (the parameter estimate is statistically significant)

H1: $\beta 0 \neq 0$ (the parameter estimate is not statistically significant)

Decision Rule: For p values >0.05, reject H0

The acceptance or rejection of any hypothesis mentioned above will depend on the probability of the parameter's predictive ability and the statistical significance of each parameter. When conducting a two-tail test, we reject the null hypothesis if the p-value is more significant than 0.05. We accept the null hypothesis if the p-value is less than or equal to 0.05. When the p-value is less than 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis if the computed value is smaller than the tabular value in the normal distribution table; otherwise, we accept the null hypothesis. If the predicted probability indicates the probability of y=1, and if the anticipated probability is below 0.05, we can confidently predict that y=1. Otherwise, we predict that y=0.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS:

4.1 Data Analysis

An Adult member of several households in Suleja, Niger state, was given a total of 400 questionnaires, and most were retrieved and completed. The methods employed the data collectors who not only gave out questionnaires to the respondents but interviewed them individually about each question in the questionnaire and also guided them to understand and answer the questions in the questionnaire and instructed them on how the proper answers could be recorded, can be credited to the overall success of this. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaires distributed following the sample size, 369 were retrieved, and all 369 were analyzed. The findings are displayed below.

Response rate

Displayed in Table 1 are the results of the questionnaire administered for the study. Four hundred questionnaires were distributed to be completed and returned, and 369 were completed and returned, corresponding to a 92% response rate across the four locations of interest included in the study. Of the 369 returned questionnaires, all 369 were chosen for analysis, following the calculated sample size. According to Brooks (2008), a response rate of 60% or higher is considered sufficient for academic research. Based on this criterion, a 92% response rate can be considered adequate for this current academic study.

Table 1: Distribution of administered questionnaire response rare

Location	Number distributed	Number returned	Percentage returned	Selected questionnaire
Unhuwan Tudu	140	127	90	127
Madallah	129	119	92	119
Maje	130	122	93	122
Social welfare office, church road	1	1	100	1
Total	400	369	92	369

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

Table 2: Distribution of responses based on age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-30	39	10.57
31-40	156	42.28
41-50	149	40.38
50 & Above	25	6.78
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The results in the Table 2 show that the respondents aged between 18 and 30 are 39, representing 10.57%; those between 31 and 40 are 156, representing 42.28%; those ages 41 to 50 are 149, representing 40.38%; and those above 50 are 25, representing 6.78%. This shows that most of the respondents are in the middle age group.

Table 3: Distribution of Responses based on GenderGender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	223	60.43
Male	146	39.57
Total	369	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*

From the result in the Table 3, the respondents identified as Female 223, representing 60.43%, and the respondents identified as Male 146, representing 39.57%. This shows that most of the respondents are Female.

Table 4: Distribution of responses based on family Income

Income	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 10,000	150	40.65
10,000 - 50,000	163	44.17
50,000 - 100,000	43	11.65
100,000 & Above	13	3.52
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The results in the Table 4 show that the respondents with family incomes of less than 10,000 are 150, representing 40.65%; those with family incomes between 10,000 and 50,000 are 163, representing 44.17%; those with family incomes between 50,000 and 100,000 are 43, representing 11.65%; and those with family incomes of 100,000 and above are 13, representing 3.52%. This shows that most of the respondents' family incomes are between 10,000 and 50,000.

Table 5: Distribution of responses based on Child Help

Child Help	Frequency	Percentage
No	109	29.54
Yes	260	70.46
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The results in the Table 5 show that 260 respondents, representing 70.46%, have children who help in businesses or farms, and 109 respondents, representing 29.54%, do not. This shows that most of the respondents have children who help in their household.

Table 6: Distribution of responses based on household Size of Respondents

Household Size	Frequency	Percentage
2 – 3	3	0.81
4 – 8	88	23.85
9 – 14	166	44.99
15 & Above	112	30.35
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The results in the Table 6 show that the respondents with a household size of 2-3 are 3, representing 0.81%; those with a household size between 4-8 are 88, representing 23.85%; those with a household size between 9-14 are 166, representing 44.99%, and those with a household size from 15 and above are 112, representing 30.35%. This shows that most of the respondents have a household size ranging from 9 to 14.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents based on Child Labour

Child Labour	Frequency	Percentage
No	101	27.37
Yes	268	72.63
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in the Table 7, the respondents with child labourers are 268, representing 72.63%, and those without child labourers are 101, representing 27.37%. This shows that most respondents have child labourers in their household.

Table 8: Distribution of responses based on child trafficking

Child Trafficking	Frequency	Percentage
No	192	52.03
Yes	177	47.97
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in the Table 8, the respondents with trafficked children are 177, representing 47.97%, and those without trafficked children are 192, representing 52.03%. This shows that most of the respondents do not have trafficked children in their households.

Table 9: Distribution of responses based on the gender of the child/children affected by child labour and trafficking

Gender affected	Frequency	Percentage
Female	54	14.63
Male	27	7.32
None	102	27.64
Both	186	50.41
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in the Table 9, the Gender of the child affected identified as Female is 54, representing 14.63%; the Gender of the child affected identified as male is 27 representing 7.32%, 102 representing 27.64% of the respondents do not have any child/children affected by child labour and trafficking, and 186 representing 50.41% of the respondents identified both male and female as the GenderGender of the child/children affected. This shows that a majority of the respondents identified both male and Female as the gender of the child/children affected by child labour and trafficking in the sclera.

Table 10: Distribution of responses based on the causes of child labour and trafficking

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	137	37.13
Low level of Education	6	1.63
Unemployment	70	18.97
Greed	5	1.36
Large family size	42	11.38
School dropout	3	0.81
All of the above	106	28.73
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in Table 10,137, representing 37.13% of the respondents, selected poverty as the cause of child labour and trafficking,6, representing 1.63% of the respondents, selected low level of employment as the cause of child labour and trafficking,70 representing 18.97% of the respondents selected unemployment as the cause of child labour and trafficking,5 representing 1.36% of the respondents selected greed as the cause of child labour and trafficking,42 representing 11.38% of the respondents selected large family size as the cause of child labour and trafficking,3 representing 0.81% selected school dropout as the cause of child labour and trafficking, and 106 representing 28.73% selected all of the above options as the causes of child labour and trafficking. This shows that most of the respondents selected poverty as the cause of child labour and trafficking in sclera.

Table 11: Distribution of respondents based on Parents' level of employment

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployed	135	36.53
Employed	36	9.76
Underemployed	198	53.66
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in the Table 11, 135, representing 36.53% of the respondents, selected unemployed as the parents' level of employment that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked, 36 representing 9.76% of the respondents selected employed as the parents level of employment that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked, 198 representing 53.66% selected underemployed as the parents level of employment that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked. This shows that most of the respondents selected underemployed as the parent's level of employment and that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked in the sclera.

Table 12: Distribution of responses based on Parents Level of Skill

Skill	Frequency	Percentage
Skilled	48	13.04
Unskilled	225	61.14
Semi-skilled	95	25.82
Total	369	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the result in the Table 12, 48, representing 13.04% of the respondents, selected skilled as the parents' level of skill that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked, 225, representing 61.14% of the respondents selected unskilled as the parents level of skill that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked, 95 representing 25.82% of respondents selected semi-skilled as the parents level of skill that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked. This shows that most of the respondents selected underemployed as the parent's level of skill that their children are likely to be labourers and trafficked in the sclera.

Presentation and Analysis of Regression Results

Table 13 presents the regression analysis results for the study's objective. It shows the inferential statistics and the justifications for testing the study hypothesis.

Test of the Hypothesis

This study examined the third hypothesis using the logit regression technique. The tested null hypothesis is that:

H0: There is no significant relationship between household income on child labour and child trafficking in Suleja.

Table 13: Result on underlying factors that link household income to child labour and trafficking

	Child Labour	Child Labour with Income	Child Trafficking	Child Trafficking with Income
Independent Variable	1	2	3	4
Household Size	7.1227***	1.446635***	2.7500***	0.6890***

	(1.0583)	(0.17520)	(0.2923)	(0.0917)
Employment	0.2938	-0.3510***	0.0933	-0.2088***
	(0.3179)	(0.0909)	(0.1481)	(0.0667)
Skill	0.3421	-0.9856***	-0.1639	-0.6204***
	(0.5215)	(0.1478)	(0.2334)	(0.1025)
N	369	369	369	369

Note: Standard error in parenthesis, *** is Significant at 1%

Source: Authors Computation

In identifying the underlying factors that link household income to child labour and trafficking, the result in Table 12 shows the regression results of the equation for the study's objective, which determines the factors that influence income to affect child labour and trafficking. The result in 1st column shows the influence of the factors without link with household income. The result shows that household size, employment and skill are likely to increase child labour, but only household size is significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, the result shows that an increase in household size is significantly likely to increase child labour. At the same time, employment and skill are significantly likely to decrease child labour, given the coefficient of 0.35 and 0.99, respectively. This indicates that given household income, household size may likely increase child labour, while employment and skills may likely decrease child labour.

For child trafficking, examining the factors alone without the influence of household income, household size, and employment is positive and more likely to increase child trafficking. However, household size is significant, and employment is not significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, it shows that an increase in household size concerning income significantly increases child trafficking by 0.69. However, employment and skills, when linked with household income, show a negative and significant decrease in child trafficking, with coefficient values of 0.21 and 0.62, respectively. This shows that given household income, household size increases child trafficking, while employment and skills decrease child trafficking.

4.4: Implication of Findings

In this study, objective one aims to investigate the underlying factors that link household income to child labour and child trafficking in Suleja. The result shows that household size, employment and skill are likely to increase child labour, but only household size is significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, the result shows that an increase in household size is significantly likely to increase child labour. At the same time, employment and skill are significantly likely to decrease child labour, given the coefficient of 0.35 and 0.99, respectively.

For child trafficking, examining the factors alone without the influence of household income, household size, and employment is optimistic and more likely to increase child trafficking. However, household size is significant, and employment is not significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, it shows that an increase in household size with respect to income significantly increases child trafficking by 0.69. However, employment and skills, when linked with household income, show a negative and significant decrease in child trafficking, with coefficient values of 0.21 and 0.62, respectively.

This study shows that given household income, household size increases child labour and child trafficking, while employment and skills decrease child labour and child trafficking.

Overall, the results of this study indicate that low household income and large household size increase child labour and child trafficking, and employment and skills decrease child labour and child trafficking in Suleja.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study examined the underlying factors influencing child labour and child trafficking in Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria. The objective of this study was achieved through the inferential statistics of the logit model regression technique employed, revealing results for the specific objective, which shows that household size, employment and skill are likely to increase child labour, but only household size is significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, the result shows that an increase in household size is significantly likely to increase child labour. At the same time, employment and skill are significantly likely to decrease child labour. This indicates that given household income, household size may likely increase child labour, while employment and skills may likely decrease child labour. For child trafficking, examining the factors alone without the influence of household income, household size, and employment is optimistic and more likely to increase child trafficking. However, household size is significant, and employment is not significant. However, when the factors interact with household income, it shows that an increase in household size with respect to income significantly increases child trafficking. However, employment and skills, when linked with household income, show a negative and significant decrease in child trafficking. This shows that given household income, household size increases child trafficking, while employment and skills decrease child trafficking. These findings suggest that increasing the income of households, as well as addressing the employment and skill level of parents, may play a role in

reducing child labour and trafficking in Suleja. Furthermore, the results also indicated that household size, employment status and skill level play a significant role in determining child labour and trafficking in Suleja. The diagnostic test showed that the model was overall significant.

Due to the concerning frequency of child labour, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria, immediate action is necessary. Implement focused awareness initiatives to educate communities, parents, and employers of the adverse consequences of child labour. Enhance the legislation around child labour, guaranteeing its inclusion of risky occupations and sufficient safeguards for underage employees. Enhance the capabilities of rural households and marginalised populations by offering alternate means of earning a living. Give priority to ensuring healthcare and providing high-quality education for child labourers. Address child trafficking by implementing cross-border collaboration, enhancing border surveillance, exchanging intelligence, and prosecuting individuals involved in trafficking. Every child is entitled to a childhood that is devoid of exploitation, and by working together as a group, we can establish a future that is both safer and more promising for them.

5.1 Contribution to Knowledge

This analysis's contribution to comprehending the underlying factors influencing child labour and trafficking in Suleja is substantial. Through a meticulous exploration employing regression modelling, relationship checks, and questionnaire administration, the study unearthed pivotal insights into the drivers and implications of those drivers on child labour and trafficking in the Suleja.

This analysis Points out the importance of proper education, empowerment schemes, and the efficiency of social welfare officers and policymakers. It furnishes policymakers with solid directions for formulating strategies targeted at reducing or ending child labour and child trafficking.

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