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ASSESSMENT OF STREET HAWKING AND ITS EFFECT ON THE GIRL-CHILD IN KARU URBAN, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS:
Assessment, Street Hawking, Girl-Child, Karu Urban, Nigeria

Abstract

Street hawking is the most dominant form of child labour in Nigeria. High prevalence is seen in most Northern part of the country. The study examined the socio-economic and environmental impact of street hawking on the well-being of the girl child. It also evaluated the causes of street hawking, and sought to know whether there are policies and regulatory framework in place to checkmate street hawking by children. The study research design adopted the descriptive cross-sectional survey design. Data collection was through the use of questionnaire administered directly to it sampled population. The data analysis was based on the questionnaire that elicited both qualitative and quantitative data presentation. Microsoft excel spread sheet was used to organize data collected. The result revealed that street hawking by the girl child was attributed to several factors poverty, unemployment, low educational status of parents, adverse economic conditions, weak policies and laws in place to curb the practices. Some of the social and environmental impact includes exposure to road accidents, increase in teenage pregnancy, school drop-outs, prostitution, disease outbreaks through water and environmental pollution with debris from wares of the hawkers, blockades of gutters and water channels. The study recommended that Government should ensure that existing laws and policies on child labour (the Child Right Act) be strengthened and effectively enforced to stop or reduce street hawking. Free and compulsory education plan be provided to the children especially for the girl child to encourage their participation in school and by implication reduce street hawking.

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Introduction

A widely accepted definition of sustainable development comes from 'Our Common Future', the 1987 landmark report of the Brundtland Commission. This state, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (World Commission on Environment and Development [WCED], 1987). Despite some perceptions that associate sustainable development mainly with the natural environment, it focuses on ways of meeting peoples' social and economic needs within natural resource limits-so that human development can be both sustainable and sustained. This means the continued advance of poverty eradication, human rights, and equity while also realizing more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, stabilizing climatic forces, and sustainably managing our common natural resource base (UNICEF, 2013).

Sustainable development must balance the scales of equity on all fronts to break cycles of poverty and ensure that the children of today and tomorrow are able to have and inherit a liveable, safe world (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2013). This requires adults today making development decisions that are good for both people and the planet; which avoid economic or social crises, such as those arising from gross inequalities and injustice; and which avert irreversible environmental damages that our children and their children will inherit. Focusing on the needs, capabilities and rights of children and young people is a crucial part of making these good, sustainable development choices – and represents an investment in everyone's future.

Children represent approximately one-third of the world's population and have the right to survive, live and grow up in a decent environment, with all that implies: attending school, enjoying good health and nutrition, and living and growing in safety and security. This is not only a moral assertion of the human rights inherent to children. It is also a legal commitment assumed by 193 governments through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty and the foundation for the obligations of governments and their international partners to children - and their development efforts with and for them. Children's rights depend on social progress that includes all sections of societies, supported by rising shared prosperity. However, this progress, and human rights, are increasingly threatened by current patterns of unsustainable and inequitable development that drive environmental degradation, disasters, climate instability, conflict and economic and social crises. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important instrument for sustainable development. It recognizes the importance of the natural environment for the well-being of children, while requiring State Parties to take account of the risks of environmental pollution, to educate children to respect nature, and to enable children to participate in decisions which affect them, in decision-making, Governments are obliged to consider the best interests of children (UNICEF, 2013).

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The relationship between children and sustainable development is symbiotic. Progress in sustainable development underpins child rights and well-being, and conversely, child rights and well-being underpin lasting and equitable development progress. Early life conditions of children have persistent and profound impacts later in life, with a broad range of implications not only for that individual child but for societies' overall development (Currie, & Almond, 2011; UNICEF, 2013). Safe, healthy and well-educated girls and boys provide an enabling foundation for individuals, families, and society as a whole to thrive. Evidence shows that lack of investment in basic child rights such as nutrition, health, and education, particularly of the most disenfranchised, can lock individuals and families into cycles of poverty for generations, and can be a barrier to future social and economic progress. Sustainable development needs active and consistent investment in core child survival, development, and protection to maintain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress and pursue the unfinished agenda. The example cases of investing in early childhood development; education; protection from violence; and pro-equity development, show why sustainable development starts with taking care of children and young people who represent 30% of the global population and the foundation of the future.

Research Problem

In Nasarawa State of Nigeria, child street hawking over the years has become so prevalent that is considered an acceptable phenomenon. This is moreso in Karu Local Government Area, usually considered the commercial hub of the State because of its proximity to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)-Abuja. The growth of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) over the past decades has had a huge impact on Karu Local Government, because of its proximity to the FCT, relatively affordable cost of living, and commercial potentials, thus making it a preferred choice of place of residence for majority of the work force in the FCT. The ripple effect however, is that the cost of living for majority of the locals and low-income families in Karu Local Government Area over the years has increased exponentially, thus increasing the need for survival. As a result of this, children-especially the girls, are forced to help out the family by engaging in hawking activities so as to boost the family income. From personal observation, the circumstances and experiences of these street children in Karu, astounded me. These children, usually between the average of 9 and 15 years of age ,in their desire and determination to sell their goods, put their bodies in harm's way without course of concern for their own personal safety under the watchful eyes of the whole society was a travesty of human responsibility. Their complex ways of survival are indeed difficult to comprehend. In most cases their lives have been reduced to the lowest ebb of human dignity, and society has allowed it to continue. What more, the activities of these children always leave trails of environmental concerns, hence undermining the goals of sustainable development.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Children who engage in street hawking more often than not are deprived among other things, the opportunity of being in school completely or partially because of the long hours they are expected to work. These children hawk in some of the most horrible conditions conceivable, where they faced with the likelihood of safety and health hazards from carrying heavy loads, inhaling harmful dust and particles while hawking, chronic illness, kidnapping extortion, sexual molestation, child involvement in robbery and other anti-social behaviours. Child hawking exposes the child to sexual defilement, sexual assaults, neglects and threat of punishment for speaking out these social vices against them exemplified above. For the girl-child, men may lure young female hawkers by buying up all their wares and giving them money in addition to this, or they may pay them to run errands. These girls may be exposed to pornographic pictures in magazines or pornographic video films (Onuzulike, 2007). Since these girls have been driven through poverty from homes to sell goods from door to door, their parents are happy to receive money which may in certain instances be vital to the family's survival (Hughes, 2009). The girl hawkers learn to adorn themselves daily to draw interest and attention+ before embarking on hawking business. Unfortunately, parents are unable to intervene since the girls keep their premature clandestine sexual activities undisclosed because of certain prohibitive societal taboos against sex discussion (Ross, 1996). This study therefore attempts to fill this gap by focusing on the prevalence of child street hawking and its effects on the girl-child in ;Karu Local Government /Area, the Commercial hub of Nasarawa State.

Conceptual Frame work and Literature Review

Concept of Child and Childhood

Questions about child and childhood, the nature of child, and how child should be included in society, are central to both economic and social development. Concepts of child and childhood carry discursive beliefs and assumptions about what the purpose of childhood is. Many discourses are problematic in that the particular constructions of child and childhood are produced, assumed or informed by a particular policy or educational practice. As a result of the prevailing discourses, marginalization or domination by adult over child, in matters that may affect child's status as an individual with rights, may occur (Rembach, 2012). Kennedy (2006) and Kohan (2011) argue for an expansive understanding of the child-adult concept in relation to one another, in terms of a causal model.

Modern Conceptions of Childhood

Contemporary philosophers such as David Kennedy, Gareth Matthews and Andrew Stables have focused their research on the discourse of philosophy of childhood, toward an interpretation that suggests a heightened need for researchers and practitioners to extend their thinking beyond empirical research to matters of child, schooling and adults' rights in making decisions for children. Their studies on child and childhood from a

philosophical perspective question the empirical findings in order to problematise the assumptions made and raise questions for philosophical enquiry. They suggest that viewing children as objects raises philosophical questions, but also raise other philosophical questions, such as, does all schooling benefit individuals and societies? Their theories challenge researchers and practitioners to look beyond the traditional constructs of childhood.

Livelihood

To be poor is to be deprived of the means for a decent life. Because poverty expresses itself in many ways, several approaches are used to assist those who are affected. Strategies focus, in varying degrees, on material and social deprivations such as those related to health, safety and living conditions, as it is easier to observe and measure these aspects than it is to observe and measure people's ability to achieve meaningful and dignified lives vis-à-vis other people. All forms of poverty are, in fact, relative and subjective because it is in relation to social contexts that they are judged unacceptable. Because poverty strips one of his or dignity and sense of worth, people generally engage in different livelihood in order to escape the unpleasant experience that comes with being poor.

Street Hawking

Street hawking otherwise known to many as street vendor has be conceptually defined by many scholars and authors around the world using different approach and terms. In spite of their differences in approach and use of terms in conceptualising street hawking, the definitions posited by scholars' overs the years thus far seems to encapsulate the same meaning. From a dictionary standpoint, the Webster dictionary defines street hawking as the process of engaging in frequent buying and selling of commodities on the street away from home, usually in search of quick profits. Anyanwu (1993) posited that street hawking as an activity in which the concerned individual carries his/her goods with a tray on the head, or by minor means of transportation such as wheel barrow, bicycle or trolley in search of customers; which process may be accompanied by at least one form of advertisement or the other, including shouting the name of the items on sale, use of a bell or special mannerism to attract the attention of interested public.

Literature Review

Demographic Structure of the Girl Child

The world is home to more than 1.1 billion girls under age 18 (United Nations [UN], 2020). Although sex ratios vary slightly across countries, with an average of 100 female births to every 107 male births, girls essentially make up half the world's child population (Central Intelligence Agency [CIA], 2008). Despite their relative population parity with boys, girls worldwide experience disproportionate rates of illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, forced domestic

labour, and low school enrolment (UNICEF, 2005, 2007, 2008; U.S. Department of State, 2004) and, in some regions, malnutrition, feticide, and infanticide (Rustagi, 2006; UNICEF, 2008). The past two decades has seen the emergence of a new term to describe this population: the girl child. This term was introduced in the early 1980s by feminist scholars in response to a growing recognition of the ways in which girls face discrimination and oppression, as evidenced by such emerging and often increasing trends as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and commercial sexual exploitation (Sen & Salma, 1995; World Vision, 2001).

Methodology

Location of the Study

Karu is a Local Government Area in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. It lies between Latitudes 9° 25″ 4′ and 8° 38″ 37′ N and Longitudes 8° 6″ 45′ and 7° 33″ 26′ E (Figure 3.1) . The Study area extends from the eastern boundary of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, (Old Nyanya) to Gora about 15 kilometers to Keffi. The planning area shares common boundaries with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja to the west, Keffi Local Government Area (LGA) to the south, Nasarawa LGA to the west in Nasarawa Sate and Jaba Local Government Area of Kaduna state to the north.

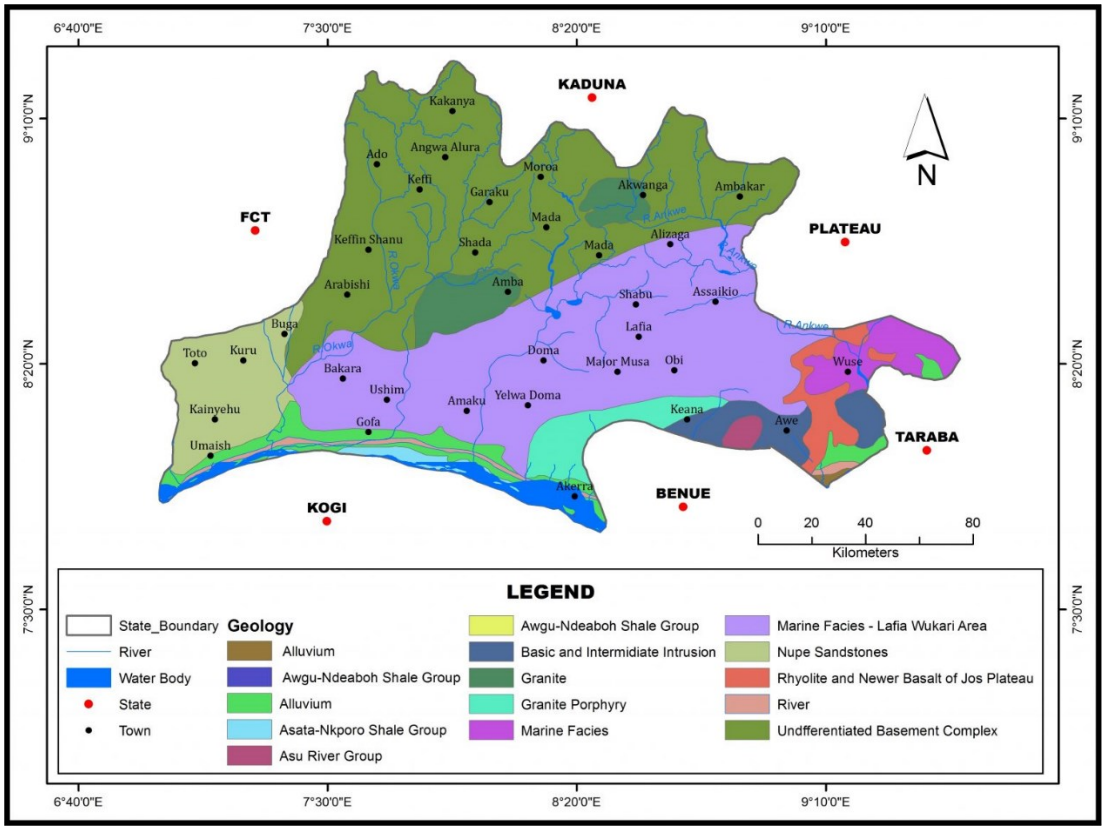

Fig: Nasarawa State Nigeria
Source: https://:www.nasarawastate.gov.ng

Population

Karu LGA is the second most populous Local Government Area in Nasarawa after Lafia, the State capital. According to the 2016 regional/sectoral population projection by the Nigeria Population Commission [NPC], and the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics [NBS] (2017), the population of Karu LGA of Nasarawa State was 291,900. With a population growth rate of 3.2%, the population of Karu LGA as at 2020 was estimated at 329,263. The male population distribution of the study area consists of 158,578 persons, while the female population distribution consists of 154,523 persons. The population of children in Karu LGA (between the ages of 0-19) consists of 163,473 persons. NBS (2017). As a place, Karu LGA is cosmopolitan in nature with various ethnic groups living together in harmony. The major indigenous ethnic groups in the area are Gbagyi, Koro, Yeskwa, Gwandara and Gade. There are many settlers comprising of Mada, Eggon, Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, Tiv, Yoruba, and Igbo who migrated to take advantage of the economic potentials in the area (Isma'il, Ishaku, Yahaya, Tanko, & Ahmed, 2015).

Research Design

This study adopted the descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The rational for this choice of research design was because the design is best suited to studies aimed at finding out the prevalence of a phenomenon, situation, problem, attitude or issue, by taking a cross-section of the population, thus providing an overall 'picture' as it stands at the time of the study (Kumar, 2011). More so, the descriptive cross-sectional survey design makes enough provision for protection against bias and maximise reliability, with due concern for the economical completion of the research study (Kothari, 2004).

Reconnaissance Survey

Prior to the research, a reconnaissance field survey of the selected locals in the study area was carried out, and the following was observed:

a) Karu Local Government Area is a commercial environ that is highly populated, crowded, and mostly pledged with traffic congestion
b) There is a highly level of street hawking/vendor, and street begging in the environ, with no special preference to gender.
c) There is a high level of solid waste littering, and pollution in the area.

Justification of Method

The techniques used by the researcher for collection of data as well as their sources were on the premises of the fact that these techniques are appropriate for the subject matter, considering its nature. The use of both quantitative and qualitative method of data presentation and analysis by the researcher was on the premise that these methods sharpen the understanding of the researcher of the problems and objectives of the study, and provides a valid conclusion of the research problem.

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Population of the Study

As Creswell (2009) posited, a target population is a group that a researcher is interested in gaining information, upon which generalization and conclusions can be drawn subsequently. Going by this assertion, the target population of this study was all teenagers between the age distribution of 9 years of age and 17 years in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. According to the National Population Commission, this group consist of 407,421 persons (NPC, 2006).

Sample Size

In determining the sample size of a given population, different methods abound. Thus, in determining the sample size of residents in the study area as participants of the study, the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for sample size determination was used. The sample size of residents in the study area was determined as follows:

$$S = \frac{x^2\, NP\, (1 - P)}{d^2(N - 1) + x^2 P\, (1 - P)}$$

Where:

S = Required Sample Size – (adolescents girls age 9-17 hawking in Karu urban)

X = The table value of Chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desire confidence interval (3.841)

N = Population Size

P = Population proportion (assumed to be 0.50, since this would provide the maximum sample size)

d = Degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (0.05).

$$S = \frac{3.841(407{,}421)(0.50)\, (1 - 0.50)}{0.05^2(407{,}421 - 1) + 3.841(0.50)(1 - 0.50)} = S = 385.06025$$

From the expression above, the sample size of the study was 385 teenage girls in the study area.

Sampling Technique

Sampling technique is a statistical method of selecting the sampling unit that would be representative of the population of the study. It can be classified into probability and non-probability sampling (Krishnaswami & Satyaprasad, 2011)., The simple random sampling as one of the various types of the probability sampling technique was used. The rationale for adopting the probability sampling technique was because, the probability sampling procedures has every item of the population given an equal chance of inclusion in the sample (Gay, Mills, & Airasian, 2009).

Nature and Sources of Data

The study employed the use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data used was a cross sectional survey data from the sampled participants of the study (teenage street

hawking girls), while secondary data used in the study were sourced from journals, articles, texts, and existing literature relative to the objectives and scope of the study.

Data Analysis

The analysis and interpretation of data used in this study was based on the research questions and objectives of the study. As earlier pointed out, the study elicits both quantitative and qualitative data. Hence, these data were processed and analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. In analysing the quantitative data used in the study, the researcher employed the use of Microsoft Excel, and IBM SPSS Statistical package version 26, to organize the data collected from the participants of the study via the survey questionnaires into manageable information that was understood. These data were edited by inspecting the data pieces before coding them. The process helped in identifying those items on the survey questionnaires that were wrongly responded to, spelling mistakes, and blank spaces left by the respondents. The data was then coded to facilitate data entry into the computer to allow for statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Socio-Economic Variables		Response Frequency	% of Response (%)
Age	9 – 15 years of age	114	64%
	16 – 18 years of age	89	36%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Religious	Christianity	73	36%
	Islam	113	56%
	Others	17	8%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Educational	No formal education	51	25%
	On going	89	44%
	Out of school	63	31%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Level of Termination of Education	Primary	13	21%
	Junior/Senior secondary	50	79 %
	Total	**63**	**100%**
Family Type	Monogamy	86	42%

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Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

	Polygamy	117	58%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Position in the family	1st and 2nd Child	100	49%
	3rd and 4th Child	70	35%
	5th Child or above	33	16%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Girls living with parents?	Yes	110	54%
	No	93	46%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Living with member of the family	Grandparents	11	12%
	Aunt/uncle	33	35%
	Brother/sister	49	53%
	Total	**93**	**100%**
Marital status Married Single/divorced	Yes	98	48%
	No	105	52%
	Total	**203**	**100%**
Lost parents Type Single/double	Yes	75	37%
	No	128	63%
	Total	**203**	**100%**

If parents are dead, who?	**Mother**		**26**	**43%**
	Father		31	31%
	Both		18	18%
	Total		**203**	**100%**
Parents/Guardian's Level of Education	PhD.		-	-
	Masters		13	6%
	Degree/HND		38	19%
	Primary/Post-primary		65	32%
	No formal education		87	43%

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

	Total		**203**	100%
Parents/Guardian's Occupation	Artisan		19	9%
	Driver		25	12%
	Trader		31	15%
	Farmer		32	16%
	Teacher		12	6%
	Civil servant		20	10%
	Entrepreneur		18	9%
	Security/Paramilitary/Military		29	14%
	Unemployed		17	9%
	Total		**203**	100%

Table 2: State of satisfaction with the life of street hawking

Variables	Response	Response Frequency	Percentage of Response
Level of satisfaction	Yes	69	34%
	No	107	53%
	Undecided	27	13%
	Total	**203**	**100%**

Source: Field survey, 2021

The result of the findings in Table 4.1 is discussed in line with the 14 variables analysed.

Causes of Street Hawking

The second objective sought to assess the causes of street hawking in the area. The result is presented in Table 3

Table 3: The Causes of Street Begging within the study area

Statement (Item)	Freq	Strongly Agreed (%)	Ranking Position
My parents are poor; therefore, I have to hawk in order to contribute to the family income	45	22	6th
My parents don't have a tangible job to sustain the family, that is why I hawk	37	18	8th
I have to hawk because I have nobody to pay for my education	43	21	7th
I perform poorly in school, so I have to hawk in order to compensate	31	15	9th

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

My parents/guardian usually use my mates that are hawking to challenge me; as such, I hawk so as make them happy.	58	29	4th
My parents do not want me to go to school	66	33	2nd
My parents/guardian pay less care and attentions to me/us, so I hawk in order to take care of myself/my siblings.	51	25	5th
The cost of living is very expensive, so I hawk in order to help my family/myself	71	35	1st
It is believed that as a child, I was born to help my parents, as such I hawk and make money as a way of helping them	60	30	3rd
I am not under the care of my parents, as such I have contribute and help my guardians as a way of appreciating them for taking care of me; that is why I hawk	50	25	5th
I hawk because my mates are doing it, providing for themselves and looking good	58	29	4th
Mean/Average value of (*X*) of Results	**X= 49.5**	**X= 51.8**	

Source: Field survey, 2021.

Findings showed that the major causes of street hawking in ascending order of ranking are high cost of living (35%, especially where they are so many mouths to feed and cater for by the parents; parents not wanting the female children to go to school (33%); the understanding by the parents that hawking is a means to improving family income and livelihood (30%) . In fact, the parents use other female children who hawk to challenge those who stay at home and do not hawk. In so doing, 29% engage in street hawking because their mates are doing it. Others hawk to take care of their younger siblings while yet some other hawk to contribute and help their guardians as a way of appreciating them for taking care of them. The reasons are as varied as the socio-economic variables of these children.

It can generally be deduced that street hawking by female children is driven by poverty, ignorance of the implication of street hawking to the environment, education and health of the children by both the parents, families and the children themselves.

Table 4: Effects of street hawking on the girl-child in the study area

STATEMENT (ITEM)	Freq	SA %	Ranking
In the course of hawking, I have developed the use of vulgar language frequently without remorse	60	30	2nd
Since I started hawking, I barely go to school on a regular basis and punctual	51	25	5th
I sometimes get involved in examination malpractices because I don't have time to study my books after hawking my goods	71	35	1st

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Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

In the course of hawking, I sometime involved violence with my customers and other people	55	27	4th
In the course of hawking, I often find myself being rebellious and disrespectful of others	50	25	5th
In the course of hawking, I have overtime developed a character of seldom honesty, petty theft, and various behavioural problems	61	30	2nd
In the cause of hawing, I was introduced to pornography, nudity, alcohol, smoke, and use of drugs	55	27	4th
In the course of hawking, I have started drinking alcohol, smoke, and use drugs.	31	15	31
In the course of hawking, I sometimes get involved in sexual relationship with older boys/men to make extra money	50	25	5th
In the course of hawking, I sometime allow my customer to touch me inappropriately, so as to entice them to buy goods.	58	29	3rd
Since I started hawking, I fall sick easily	58	29	3rd
Since I started hawking, I have been involved in accidents	49	24	6th
Since I started hawking I barley have dissent rest or sleep nor enough food to eat	71	35	1st
Since I started hawking, I have been pregnant/had an abortion	45	22	7th
In the course of hawking, I have been raped.	40	20	8th
Mean/Average value of (*X*) of Results		Total = 100%	

Source: Field survey, 2021

The findings from Table 4.3 revealed that 71 (35%) which constitutes majority of the respondents sometimes get involved in examination malpractices because they don't have time to study their books after hawking, it was also reveals since they started hawking they barley have dissent rest or sleep nor enough food to eat as indicated by other 71 respondents representing 31%. 60 respondents representing 30% have developed the use of vulgar language frequently without remorse in the course of hawking. Likewise, other 30% of the respondents have overtime developed a character of seldom honesty, petty theft, and various behavioural problems. It is however common among teenagers in developing such characters when mingling with peer groups particularly of questionable characters. 29% sometime allow their customer to touch them inappropriately, so as to entice them to buy goods. Similarly, 58 (29%) fall sick easily since they started hawking, this is attributed to the stress in moving round the streets or contacting communicable diseases in the course of their relationship with potential customers. 55 respondents representing 27% sometime involve in violence with customers and other people, while other 55 respondents which constitute 27% were introduced to

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

pornography, nudity, alcohol, smoke, and use of drugs thereby changing their mental state of reasoning and behaviour in the society. It is also pertinent to note, 51 (25%) barely go to school on a regular basis and punctual since they started hawking. Almost the same proportion 50 (25%) often find their selves being rebellious and disrespectful of others.

The results also showed that 49 respondents representing 24% have been involved in accidents since they started hawking. This situation is attributed to the teenagers below 15 years due to inexperience in understanding the road system particularly in fast growing city such as Karu. 45 (22%) have been pregnant/had an abortion in the course of hawking, while 40 (20%) have experienced rape in the same process. The aforementioned challenges have significant impact on social and their psychological development of girl child.

Environmental and Health impact of Street Hawking in Karu;

Findings from this study shows that waste is generated by street hawkers as a result of indiscriminate dumping along the streets; major roads, gutters and drainage. This refuse dumps are the major cause of blockades of gutters and drainages that has health implications to the people and the environment. For example, Scholarly Journal of Business Administration, Vol. 3(2) pp.26-35 February, 2012 posited the growing knowledge by city dwellers that sachet water consumption and trade is responsible for a number of health-related disorders ranging from waterborne infections (such as diarrhoea and gastroenteritis) to huge environmental nuisance created by the non-biodegradable nature of littered sachet water nylons. This suggest that because of the low level of education of girls that hawks on the street, they were less informed about sanitation situation and other effects of their activities, hence no efforts on their part to curb the situation.

Maduka (2006) identified some health problems associated with street hawking of female children to include increase in alcohol and drug addiction, rape, teenage pregnancy, high rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS among teenagers.



Plate 1: Debris along major road in Karu as a result of street hawking
Source: Field work, 2021



Plate 2. A drainage in Karu seen blocked with sachet water nylons, empty bottle water etc
Source: Field work, 2021

Conclusion

Street hawking is a negation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is indeed, inhuman for anyone to engage any child most especially the girl-child in money making venture at the detriment of their socio-economic development. Such a child is denied basic education which is another important right of every child. Moreover, a girl-child engaged in hawking or any hard labour may physically wear away before they actually reach the productive age in the economy. Some sustained lifelong injuries, become survivors of sexual assault and even get infected with lifelong infections which would hinder them from contributing meaningfully to the development and growth of the Nigerian economy. Many children had died as a resulting of hawking in traffics through accidents. The environment is speared either as the girls are not fully aware that their activities generate filth on the street which causes health related disorders to humans.

Nigeria as a responsible nation of the world is expected to practically demonstrate her commitment to the global fight against child abuse by ensuring states domesticate and implement the Child Rights law and the VAPP acts in all its ramifications

Recommendations

Based on the research findings and in order to curb the problems related to street hawking by the girl-child in Karu Metropolis, the researcher would like to make the following recommendations;

1. Enlightenment campaigns must be intensified through the use of radio jingles, TIV drama, role plays and role modelling. This reaches about 43% of persons with no formal education.
2. Government on its part should regularly engage waste management companies in cleaning of our streets to ensure the sanitation problems on our streets are drastically reduced
3. There should be free and compulsory education for all citizens. Policies that target free and compulsory education for the girl-child and by extension, the boy-child, should be given priorities by the law makers of Nasarawa state.
4. The government should also intensify its efforts in poverty alleviation and eradication. Since poverty, low education and lack of awareness of the dangers of street hawking/begging by parents and children are the root cause of child hawking, it then means that child hawking cannot be eliminated unless these problems are tackled.

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