

## THE IMPACT OF CHILD LABOR ON MODERN AFRICANS

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### Abstract:

The study adopted explanatory research design, qualitative research, cross-sectional research strategy, the population was seven authors, sampling design were case study on seven authors, the source of data was primary source and method of data collection was research. The problem statement was " Impact of child labor on most Africans" and the objectives of the study were achieved. The background of the study was brief introduction of child labor. The study discovered empirical evidence of child labor, causes of child labor, side-effect of child labor and solution for child labor. The generalized that child labor have had negative impact on modern Africans. The study recommended that pastors of the various churches should teach their congregation about side-effect of child labor and government must create platform to educate the general public about the causes and side-effect of child labor.

**Keywords:** Impact, Child, Labor, Modern, Africans, Empirical, Evidence, Causes, Side-effect and Solution

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

#### Introduction

Child labor is a work that prevents children from going to school. Throughout the world and U.S the difference between the rich and the poor in decades have compelled millions of young children to stop going to school and move into work. Children below the minimum age for work are involved in different kinds of work in the world because their families are very poor. Many children work at commercial agriculture, fishing, manufacturing, mining and domestic service. Other children engage in unlawful activities like drug trade, prostitution and traumatic activities such as serving as soldiers (laborcenter,n.d). Child labor is infringement of children's protection and right. The main causes of child labor is poverty. It hinders children from getting access to education so that they can out of poverty. Child labor is found in the poorest countries in the world. It is commonly found in areas where there is armed conflict ( worldvision,n.d). It is not all work that children do is considered as child labor. When children involve in a work which is above the minimum age for work and do not affect their health and personal development. This action is positive and should be encouraged. These activities are working in family farm, working to get house keeping money after closing from school and working after school vacation. These help children development, welfare of their families, give them skills, experience and enable them to be profitable in a society. Child labor is a work which negativity affect children's childhood, education, dignity, physical and mental development. Child labor is not about the forms of work but base on the children's age, type of work and the hours spend to do the work (ilo,n.d).

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To find out empirical evidence of child labor
- To find out causes of child labor
- To find out side-effect of child labor
- To find out solution to child labor

## **EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF CHILD LABOR**

In 2016 report declared that one-fifth of children in Africa were involved in child labor. This figure is more than twice in any other region in the world. About 9 percent of children are engaged in dangerous work which is the highest of the regions in the world. Africa has recorded the highest number of child laborers and 72.1 million Africa children are involved in child labor and 31.5 million engaged in dangerous work. From 2012-2016 child labor increased in Sub-Saharan Africa. Agriculture constitutes 85 percent of child labor and relates mainly to subsistence and commercial farming and livestock herding. Almost 8.1 million are involved in service sector and 2.7 million children in Africa in industry. Many children in child labor are not receiving salary (ilo,n.d). Africa has recorded the highest cases of child labor. In 2016 United Nations International Labor Organization confirmed that 1 out of 5 children were involved in child labor. The matter is serious in Sub-Saharan Africa where above 40 percent of children around 5-14 years labor for ends meet or nearly 48 million children. Child labor decreased but the COVID-19 Pandemic has compelled of children in Africa to work. Many children in Cameroon between 7 and 14 years work late in the night. Population growth, recurring crises, extreme poverty and insufficient social protection have caused 17 million girls and boys to involve in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa for the past four years.

**THESIS STATEMENT:** The problem statement of the study was "The impact of child labor on modern Africans. The study found out empirical evidence of child labor, causes of child labor, side-effect of child labor and solution for child labor.

## **CAUSES OF CHILD LABOR**

**Workers' rights:** Workers ability to organize unions affect the International Protection of Core Labor Standards including child labor. When workers are attack, it becomes hard to progress labor standards, living standards and eradicate child labor. In 2010 5000 workers were criticized and 2500 workers were arrested because of their union activities.

**Global economy:** When International Corporation extend beyond borders, countries compete for jobs, investment and industry. The competition promote child labor through encouraging corporations and government prefer low labor cost by limiting International Standards. A few of U.S legislation has stated to include labor standards and child labor as yardstick to monitor trade and federal contracts.

**Dest and children welfare:** Out of the region receives 10 billion pounds each year and spends more than 14 billion as a debt yearly. Malawi spends 40 percent of GDP to settle creditors and only 15 percent of GDP is spent on health and education. Kenya does not allow children who are 16 years old to involve in industrial work but permit them to do agricultural work. Bangladesh declare a minimum age for work and does not have rules governing domestic work.

**Decent:** Children who engage in child labor lack basic educational qualification which will help them to acquire skills to do white colored Job. If children cannot get white colored job, then the only alternative is to do poor work.

**Understanding:** The idea is that work is good in terms of character building and skills development of children. When families do not understand the hazards involve in child labor, it affect the health, well-being and future of children. Due to lack of understanding, they allow their children to work. Many cultural beliefs and social norms cause child labor.

**Natural disaster and climate changes:** In rural areas farmers whose crops are destroyed because of climate changes have no means but to instruct their children to work. If crops are destroyed, families find it hard to make ends meet and order their children to work in other neighbor farms.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many authors have written papers about child labor and educated the general public not to encourage child labor. Notwithstanding the views of the writers, the study investigated into impact of child labor on modern Africans. Because of this, the study considered writers who had treated the subject under study. In reference (reliefweb,2021) an article written entitled "Urgent action needed to stop child labor in Africa as COVID-19 pushes more children to work". This conference was held on 29th September 2021 at Accra, Ghana and immediate measures were taken to deal with the issue of child labor in Africa's agriculture sector and it was regional conference held by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Latest report indicated that there were a lot of children engaged in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa which was 86.6 million than the other part of the world. About four out of five children were involved in child labor at agriculture sector. The main causes of child labor were poverty, lack of access to quality education, insufficient labor saving technologies. Child labor must be eliminated in the agriculture sector so that we would not experience hunger. Child labor in agriculture sector destroyed children, agriculture sector and created poverty. Child labor is a work that affects children's educational life, health and safety. The work children do in agriculture sector does not fetch them money and it is done in their family work. This work include carrying heavy loads, using dangerous pesticides and working for long hours. Universally about 160 million children are involved in child labor. The International Labour Organization and UNICEF declared that the economic impact of COVID-19 compelled million of children in the world to work. In reference to (openknowledge,n.d) an article written entitled "Child labor in Africa: Issues and challenges". According to ILO over 40 percent of children in Africa work as twice as the children in Asia. Household survey proved that more than 95 percent of child labor occurred in private homes. Africans society value the culture of children working in the various homes and family farms. With respect to the views of the above mentioned authors, the study investigated into empirical evidence of child labor, causes of child labor, side-effect of child labor and solution to child labor.

## **SIDE-EFFECT OF CHILD LABOR**

- Children are prone to accident and injuries during work such as cult, burns, lacerations, fractures, tiredness, dizziness, excessive fears and nightmares.
- Girls are sexually abused by adults, experienced rape, prostitution, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexual transmitted Diseases.
- Inability to go school which result into lack of educational qualifications.
- Child labor causes corporal punishment, emotional maltreatment like blaming, belittling ; rejection.

- It causes physical and mental harm and makes children to go through severe emotional stress which can cause death.
- Children are unable to go school and it hinders their basic right and affect their future.
- It creates depression and anxiety which makes children to put bad behavior like smoking.

### **SOLUTION FOR CHILD LABOR**

Parents should hinder their children to work and give them better education. Child labor is accepted when parents have no alternative but to instruct their children to work. Government ought to live by internationally accepted agreement and various companies must work with mature people. Large and small business should not entertain child labor and try to contribute to education in various workplaces ; communities (responsiblebusiness,2018). We ought to careful of the products we buy and they were manufactured by unpaid, overworked children in cramped factories. We should address the problem and check how our government is dealing with the issue. We must discuss child labor issue with our families and friends. We should finance children's education especially those living in poor Africa countries or Asia countries. A lot of NGO on the internet like to link donors with needy children. Investors ought to assist companies that are not engaged in child labor to fight against child labor (17goalsmagazin,2020). Parents should be enlighten about the side-effect of child labor and government must enact laws against child labor. The laws ought to be implemented by Law enforcement Agency (savethechildren,2020). We must form union to protect children not to involve in child labor. A lot of unions and people will contribute to eliminate child labor from the system. We should educate the children about the consequences of child labor. This will them to know the better things ahead of them in the future. The general public ought to be educated so that they will not encourage child labor and it assist them to change the preconceived idea about child labor. We ought to set-up minimum family income in order to prevent children from involving in child labor (site,n.d) Agricultural stakeholders and rural communities should improve the living standards of farmers, encourage good and safe agricultural practices in order for families to send their children to school through the help of FAO. FAO work with national government to develop policies and programs to stop the activities of child labor. The European Union co-sponsored multi-year, multi-country FAO project to enable cotton farmers to improve their standard of living and to educate their children.

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### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter covers research design, research approach, research strategy, population of the study, sampling design, the source of data collection and the method of data collection. The research design used was explanatory because the study examined and explained how the objectives were achieved and the means to get accurate data. It is the best method to give reasons for collecting data. The research approach used was qualitative where the study found out the impact of child labor on modern Africans. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey where a number of writers were considered as a case study.

**Sampling design:** The work of authors who had written papers on the topic under study were thoroughly examined

**Population of the study:** The study considered seven authors.

**The source of data collection:** The source of data collection was primary source.

**Method of data collection:** The method of data collection was research. The study research into what other writers had written concerning the subject under study.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The study found out that it was not all work which should be considered as child labor but child labor is a work that negatively affect children's childhood, education, dignity, physical and mental development. Children below the minimum age for work are engaged in different kinds of work in the world. According to Global Estimates of Child Labour indicated that one-fifth of children in Africa were involved in child labor around 2016. From 2012-2016 child labor increased in Sub-Saharan Africa. The causes of child labor were lack of decent work and understanding about the concept of child labor. The side-effects of child labor were children would be prone to accident and injuries and result into corporal punishment and emotional maltreatment. The solution for child labor were discovered such as parents should give their children better education and government must live by internationally accepted agreement.

### **Conclusion**

The study discovered that child labor caused extreme physical and mental harm, made children unable to complete school and experienced severe emotional stress which could lead to death. Due to the above mentioned points, the study concluded that child labor have had negative impact on modern Africans.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Churches:** The pastors of the churches ought to educate their congregation about the side-effect of child labor and enlighten them to realize the need to send their children to school.

### **Government**

Government should create a platform to educate the general public concerning child labor especially the causes and consequences of child labor.

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