



ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME ON CHILD LABOUR IN BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA

Ibrahim Musa¹ and Sule Magaji²

^{1,2}Economics Department, Faculty of Social Science, University of Abuja, Nigeria

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Corresponding author

Ibrahim Musa
ibrahim.musa@uniabuja.edu.ng
Phone NO: +2348061313583



Abstract

This study examines the impact of household income on child labour in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State during the period of March, 2023. The study employed the survey research design through questionnaire administration. Data were obtained from 50 respondents who reside in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The study used percentage analysis and chi-square for data analysis and tables for data presentation. The results show that low household income and lack of economic opportunities are the major determinants of child labour in the area, with an inverse relationship between household income and child labour. The research finds that a large majority of respondents (80%) do not receive grants or support from the government. Therefore, the study recommends policies that will provide more employment opportunities and household income schemes.

1. Introduction

Child labour is a worldwide phenomenon. It is estimated that there are 160 million child labourers in both industrialized and developing countries (UNICEF, 2022). In Africa, it is estimated that about 26% of children between the ages of 5 and 17 years are involved in child labour-related activities (UNICEF, 2022). In Nigeria, it is estimated that 12-15 million minors work more as a consequence of abject poverty, hunger and destitution.

Various research studies on the social characteristics of children susceptible to child labour linked the phenomenon to the socio-economic status of poor parents who subsist at the periphery of the urban economy (Magaji &

Musa, 2015). These parents are found among three identifiable economic groups: the small farmers, the petty traders, the employed and the unemployed (Okojie, 2017). These are people whose income, more often falls below the figure established as the poverty line and are counted as poor because they lack the resources to sustain a socially acceptable minimum standard of living in terms of income and consumption (Magaji, 2005). The gap between the poverty line and household consumption is therefore an important determinant of child labour (Musa, Magaji & Tsauni, 2022).

Child labour is broadly defined as a worker or economically active if he/she is remunerated for the work he/she does or if the output of the

work the child does is destined for the market (ILO, 2020). As noted by the World Bank, (2021), this definition is very narrow and it excludes several activities such as household domestic activities. As the result, this narrow definition leads to an underestimation of the extent of child labour in the household mainly from girls. This narrow definition presumes that child labour should only include economic activities that are hazardous to the child. According to ILO (2018), any work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and is harmful to physical and mental development.

In Nigeria, the government policy considers child labour as any economic activity that employs a child less than the age of 14 years. Any activity that exploits a child, or prevents a child from attending a school that negatively impacts the health, social, cultural, psychological, moral, religious and related dimensions of a child's upbringing is child labour (Musa, Magaji & Tsauni, 2023). The temporal aspects of child labour include working seven or more hours per week. There is no clear-cut distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous child labour and therefore, any work done by children below 14 years old in any activity is classified as child labour (ILO, 2018).

Economic hardship exacts a toll on millions of families worldwide and in some places, it comes at the price of a child's safety. Roughly 160 million children were subjected to child labour at the beginning of 2020, with 9 million additional children at risk due to the impact of COVID-19 (UNICEF, 2022). This accounts for nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide. Almost half of them are in hazardous work that directly endangers their health and moral development. Children may be driven into work for various reasons. Most often, child labour occurs when families face financial challenges or uncertainty whether due to poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver, or job loss of a primary wage earner.

The consequences are staggering. Child

labour can result in extreme bodily and mental harm and even death. It can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation. And in nearly every case, it cuts children off from schooling and health care, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures. Migrant and refugee children – many of whom have been uprooted by conflict, disaster or poverty –also risk being forced into work and even trafficked, especially if they are migrating alone or taking irregular routes with their families.

It is on the basis of the occurrence of child labour related activities, child trafficking and other child related socioeconomic problems that this study was formed. Therefore, the objective of this study is to examine the analysis of the impact of household income on child labour in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria.

2. Literature review

2.1 Conceptual issues

Two key concepts are critical to this study. These concepts include Child Labour and Household Income. The following sub-section discusses these important concepts.

Concept of Child Labour

The concept under discussion does not align with an easy definition. This is because the person considered to be a child in one context may not be a child in another while labour in one may not be so in another.

UNICEF (2022) defines Child Labour as work that is physically, mentally, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and tends to deprive them of opportunities for development and schooling. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as a person below the age of eighteen years. The Convention emphasizes the need for children to be protected from violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse as well as from work exploitation and hazardous jobs.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2022), the term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:

Is mentally, physically, and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among states within countries (ILO, 2022).

Household income

Based on the definition of OECD countries (2022), household disposable income is the sum of household final consumption expenditure and savings (minus the change in net equity of households in pension funds). It also corresponds to the sum of wages and salaries, mixed income, net property income, net current transfers and social benefits other than social transfers in kind, fewer taxes on income and wealth and social security contributions paid by employees, the self-employed and the unemployed. The indicator for the household sector includes the disposable income of non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH). The price deflator used to obtain real values is consistent with that used to deflate the final consumption expenditure of households and NPISH. The term household income generally refers to the combined gross income of all members of a household above a specified age. Household income includes every member of a family who lives under the same roof, including

spouses and their dependents. The incomes of everyone count even if they aren't all used to support the household. Household income also includes anyone living in that home even if they're not related. Household income is an important risk measure used by lenders for underwriting loans and is a useful economic indicator of an area's standard of living.

2.2. Theoretical framework

Theory of Child Labour

This sub-section discusses the theory of household decision-making about the employment of children. Greater emphasis will be placed on the more recent literature that addresses the role of income, particularly household income and its relationship with child labour. The ultimate objective of the review is to identify the household characteristics that ought to emerge in the empirical analysis as statistically significant determinants of child labour.

Becker's New Household Economic Theory

The traditional consumer theory with all its weaknesses is an incomplete interpretation of consumer behaviour and particularly of the behaviour of a household. The so-called alternative model which still represents neoclassical models of consumer behaviour has incorporated some of the elements missing from the traditional theory.

Gary Becker (1962) considers the family to be the most fundamental societal institution in the society and his theory; the new household economic theory was originally adopted to describe resource allocation decision-making and utility maximization processes of households in the USA, Japan and Israel. Later the theory was also applied to developing countries and particularly to the analysis of agricultural households. Becker's approach brings noteworthy new insights to the traditional consumer theory; for example, he considers the household as both a consumption and a

production unit. However, many of Becker's ideas on household economic behaviours have been presented earlier and thus cannot be regarded as thoroughly new. Nevertheless, his presentation was formalized to a greater extent than any of the earlier ones. Neoclassical models of household decision-making are commonly employed in the analysis of child labour and are typically derivative of Becker (1962).

Models of household bargaining fall into two broad categories: those in which children have no bargaining power and those in which children have some intrinsic value in the family. In models in which children have no bargaining power in the household, parents make decisions that serve their interests, without regard for the impact on the child. This class of models lends analytical support for public policies that constrain the choices that parents are allowed to make for their children, e.g. compulsory schooling, minimum age of work, and a ban on bonded child labour.

2.3. Empirical review

Abdu, Rabi'u & Usman (2020), examine the effect of child labour on children's education in Katsina State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 216 child labourers from three senatorial districts of Katsina State. The structured interview schedule was used to collect data on respondents' socioeconomic characteristics, involvement in child labour, causes and effect. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in analyzing data. The results show that there is a significant correlation between the level of involvement in child labour, its causes and perceived effects on education. The results also show that family income and the mother's occupation have a significant relationship with effect. The study recommends total free and compulsory primary and secondary education in the state should be taken seriously and sanctions meted out to parents who may attempt to deny their children schooling opportunities. This study dwells on the effect of

child labour on children's education even when it was found that there is an inverse and significant relationship between family income and child labour.

But Oli & Nweke (2021) examine the determinants and prevalent forms of child labour practices in Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State and Southeast, Nigeria. The target population consisted of only adults who were 18 years and above. The study adopts a mixed-methods research design. A sample size of 200 was statistically generated using the Taro Yamane formula. The study used a multistage sampling procedure which involved simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques in selecting respondents. The major instruments of data collection used were the questionnaire schedule which is a quantitative method and the in-depth interview guide which is a qualitative method. Quantitative data collected from the field study were processed with the use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The findings of the study show the determinants of child labour practices include low household income, poverty, educational level of parents, family size, cultural beliefs and living in a slum area. Also, results from the study show that prevalent forms of child labour practices in Awka South Local Government Area include hawking, street begging, domestic work, farming and working in factories. This study was conducted only in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State in Southeastern Nigeria.

However, to cover more areas and more socioeconomic determinants of child labour, Musa, Magaji & Tsauni (2022), examine the determinants of child labour in Northeastern Nigeria using the Tobit regression model as the methodology. Their findings reveal that among the socioeconomic determinant of child labour, household income was found to be the major determinant. Therefore, their study recommends necessary actions such as severe punishment for those involved in child labour-related activities,

enlightenment on the effect of child labour and adequate provision of basic infrastructures. Even though, the study covers Northeastern Nigeria and many socioeconomic factors that determine child labour, it does not dwell more on household income and does not come with a clear-cut explanation regarding the extent to which household income affects child labour.

Olukunmi (2017), investigates the socioeconomic determinant of child labour in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The data for the study was collected using questionnaires. 400 questionnaires were administered in the five Local Government Areas of the Ilorin metropolis. The data were analyzed using the descriptive statistical method and inferential statistics of Chi-square. The result of the findings shows that low household income is a major determinant of child labour concerning different households. Family size and educational background of parents also affect and influence child labour respectively.

Ugal and Undyaundeye (2009), examine the issue of child labour in Nigeria. While trying to investigate the major cause and consequences of national development, he created a broad definition of the concept and analyze the issue of child labour from various perspectives. However, his research concludes that the concept of child labour is inevitable in some societies as the poverty and socio-economic conditions of the families push the mouth and only when this is improved that the trend can stop. It can also be stopped by adopting the remedies given above. Meanwhile, some situations call for stringent measurements as their condition does not warrant this scenario yet the only way out is to make the parents know the dangers of not educating their children we shall conclude with a word from Mill (1970) who stated that for a parent not to educate the child is a breach of duty not only towards the child but towards the members of the community generally, who are all liable to suffer seriously from the consequences of ignorance and want of

education in their fellow citizens. Hence children and young person's not yet arrived at maturity should be protected from being overworked, labouring for too many hours in the day or working beyond their strength should not be permitted. This study dwells more on household education rather than household income.

Therefore, there is a need for a study which investigates household income as a sole determinant of child labour particularly, in Bauchi State, Nigeria, being one of the states that have the highest incidence of child labour. This forms the basis of study on the analysis of the impact of household income on child labour in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research design

In line with the previous literatures, this study was a survey research design. Survey research is defined as "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions" (Check & Schutt, 2012). This type of research allows for a variety of methods to recruit participants, collect data, and utilize various methods of instrumentation. Survey research can use quantitative research strategies (using questionnaires with numerically rated items), qualitative research strategies (using open-ended questions), or both strategies (mixed method). As it is often used to describe and explore human behaviour, surveys are therefore frequently used in social and psychological research (Singleton & Straits, 2009).

The choice of survey research design was informed by the fact that the research was a social survey with management variables. The design was useful to answer research questions. One of the merits of this method is that it has a wide scope which allows a great deal of information to be obtained from a large population that is geographically dispersed (Ndiyo, 2016).

3.2 The Study Area

Bauchi State is a state in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, bordered by Kano and Jigawa to the north, Taraba and Plateau to the south, Gombe and Yobe to the east, and Kaduna to the west. It takes its name from the historic town of Bauchi, which also serves as its capital city. The state has a land mass of 45,893 km² with an area of 2,630 km² and was created on 3rd February 1976. Bauchi Local Government is the biggest local government and the state capital in Bauchi State where the study area has a land mass of about 2,640km².

3.3 Population, Sampling Technique and Research Instrument

The population of the study comprises residents of the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. 50 persons constitute the population of the study which consists of child labourers and household heads. The sampling technique adopted is the random sampling technique. Fifty (50) respondents were randomly selected to represent the population of the study which consists of child labourers and household heads.

The instrument used for this research was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: Section A and B. Section A was on the demographic data of respondents while Section B provided the answer to the question developed by the researcher on the

nexus between child labour and household income.

3.4 Data collection procedure

Fifty (50) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents within the Bauchi Local Government area of Bauchi State. These copies were personally administered to explain portions that were not clear to the respondents. The assignment was carried out within one week, and copies of the questionnaire were administered and retrieved on the spot to ensure 100% return and avoid waste.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

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

4. Results

4.1 Data Analysis and Presentation

The results of the data analysis were presented in tables while the interpretation followed immediately.

A total of 50 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the resident of the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. All the copies of the questionnaire distributed were filled, retrieved and found useable, making a 100% response rate. The high response rate could be attributed to the self-administration of the instrument by the researcher and the cooperation received from the respondents.

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	31	62.0	62.0	62.0
Female	19	38.0	38.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 shows that 31 (62%) of the respondents were males while 19(38%) were females. This indicates that male respondents form the majority of the sample. Table 2 Reveals that 35

(70%) of the respondents consist of household heads while 15(30%) of the respondent are made up of child labourers. Table 3 reveals that 7 (14%) of the respondents belong to the age range

of 18- 30 years, 4 (8%) are within the range of 31-40 years and 15 (30%) belong to the age range of 41-50 years while 23 (46%) fall between age range 51-above. This shows that

respondents with age 51-above years had the highest frequency.

Table 2. Category of respondents

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Household head	35	70.0	70.0	70.0
Child labourers	15	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 3. Age of respondents

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-30	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
31-40	4	8.0	8.0	22.0
41-50	16	32.0	32.0	54.0
51-above	23	46.0	46.0	98.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 reveals that 11 (22%) of the respondent's household constitute a range of 2 – 4 people, 25 (50%) of the respondent household constitute a range of 5-8 people, 9(18%) has between 9-14

people in their household while 5 (10%) of the respondents have between 15people or more in their household with a range of 5-8 people having the highest number in their household.

Table 4. Number of people in the Household

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2-4	11	22.0	22.0	22.0
5-8	25	50.0	50.0	72.0
9-14	9	18.0	18.0	90.0
15-above	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 reveals the household income of the respondent. 7(14%) of the respondent's

household income falls between N16,000 – N30,000, 17 (34%) of respondents' household income falls between N31,000 – N50,000; 26 (52%) of the respondent household income falls between the range of N51,000 – above. This shows that the majority of the respondent's households earn between N51,000 – above.

Table 6 reveals that about 10(20%) of respondent children do not receive any formal education while 40(80%) of respondent children or children receive formal education. This shows that a larger population of the respondent children are educated.

Table 5 Household Income

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
16,000-30,000	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
31,000-50,000	17	34.0	34.0	48.0
51,000-above	26	52.0	52.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6. Education: Do your children receive any form of education?

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
NO	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
YES	40	80.0	80.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 reveals that about 10(20%) of respondent children do not assist either in business or farms while 40(80%) respondent children or children assist one way or the other either in business or farms. This shows that a larger population of the respondent engage in child labour. Table 8 reveals that about 46(92%)

of respondent children do not receive any child support or grant from the government while 4 (8%) of respondent enjoys child support from the Government. This shows that a larger population of the respondent are self-dependent on their income.

Table 7 Do your children help in business or farms?

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
NO	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
YES	40	80.0	80.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 8. Are you currently receiving any child support or grant from the Government?

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
NO	46	92.0	92.0	92.0
YES	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 9. Family or household income is said to be a major determinant of the increase or decrease in the rate of child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
NO	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
YES	44	88.0	88.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 9 puts forth the opinion of the respondent on whether household income is a major determinant of child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi state. 6(12%) of the respondent disagree with the opinion that household income forms a major determinant of an increase or decrease in child labour while 44 (88%) agree to the fact that family or household income constitute a major

determinant of the changes in the rate of child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State. However, a larger part of the respondent is in support of the hypothesis. This could also imply that there is a relationship between household income and child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi state.

Table 10. What is the highest level of education our child has completed

	Frequency	Per cent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary Certificate	16	32.0	32.0	32.0
Secondary Certificate	26	52.0	52.0	84.0
Post-secondary Certificate	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 10 reveals the highest level of education of the respondent child, 16(32%) attended up to the primary level of education, 26(52%) attained up to secondary school education, and 8(16%) only attained post-secondary school education.

However, it could be deduced that the level of education of respondent wards with the highest frequency is those with a secondary certificate with 26 (52%) respondents.

Table 11: Correlation between household income and participation of wards in labour
Household Income

Do your wards help in Business or Farms?	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	-.567
	Sig.(1-tailed)	.	2.124
	N	50	50
Household Income	Correlation Coefficient	-.567	1.000
	Sig.(1-tailed)	2.124	.
	N	50	50

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 11 reveals that there is a negative and inverse relationship between household income and child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi state, this relationship is however significant as evaluated with the t-stat of 2.124 which shows that it is statistically significant.

In line with this, we would reject our null hypothesis (H_{01}) and conclude that there is a significant relationship between household income and child labour in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Discussion of findings

This research investigates the relationship between household income and child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State. The result from this research indicates that a large majority of respondents (80%) do not receive grants or support from the government, which may contribute to the high rates of child labour in the area. This suggests that government support and social programs may be necessary to address the issue of child labour in the area. Additionally, the research found that 52% of respondents had a monthly earning within the range of #52,000 and above, which highlights that poverty is not the only driver of child labour and there may be other factors such as lack of economic

opportunities, cultural norms, or poor access to education and social services.

It is also important to note that while a large percentage of respondents (80%) allow their children or ward to receive a formal education, this does not necessarily mean that this is not child labour. Children who are also engaged in work may not have enough time to go to school or have enough energy to perform well in school. This highlights the need for education and child labour policies that address the intersection of work and education, and ensure that children can attend school while also contributing to their families' livelihoods safely and sustainably.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study examines the analysis of the impact of household income on child labour in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The research finds that poverty and lack of economic opportunities in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi state are major drivers of child labour. To effectively address this issue, it is important for the government to provide support and social programs to families in need, and to create economic opportunities for adults in the area, to reduce the dependence on child labour. It is also important to consider other factors such as

cultural norms and poor access to education and social services and to implement policies that balance the needs of families for livelihoods and the rights of children to education and protection from harmful labour.

Based on the research findings, it would be beneficial to conduct further studies that delve deeper into the other factors that drive child labor in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria. For example, a study that specifically examines the cultural norms and attitudes towards child labor in the area and how they contribute to the problem.

Additionally, it would be interesting to investigate the effectiveness of different types of government support and social programs in reducing child labor. This could include a study that compares the impact of cash transfers, education subsidies, and vocational training programs on child labor rates. Furthermore, it would be valuable to study the impact of interventions that target families and children simultaneously, such as conditional cash transfers linked to education attendance, in order to understand how best to support families and children in the area.

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