

Parental Educational Status and Child Labour: Implication for Sustainable Child Development in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria.

Adekunle Victor Owoyomi¹

¹Department of Sociology, University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria
Correspondence: Adekunle Victor Owoyomi, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria.
Email: owoyomivictor@gmail.com

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Abstract: Child labour is one of the socioeconomic violence against children and violation of Child Right Act that hampers sustainable child development in most of the Nigerian popular cities including Lagos metropolis. Children involve in street hawking, domestic servant, trading, street begging to mention but few have become common endemic features of economic means of survival for many Nigerian children. Reason for this largely depends on factors like urbanization, high rate of illiteracy, high level of unemployment, adoption of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), excruciating poverty, communal clashes, insecurity, rural-urban migration, passive social welfare policy and other attendants' socio-economic crisis of contradiction of underdevelopment confronting the Nigeria state. This paper surmises with empirical evidence that child labour impacts negatively on child development and breaches the United Nations charter on child's rights. To extrapolate the issue critically, this paper anchored on social interaction theory of the family to explain the correlation between parental educational status and child labour in Lagos Metropolis which has not been sufficiently documented in extant Nigeria literature. In a cross-sectional survey that involved a four-stage sampling technique, 400 respondents, aged 7-17, took part in the survey. Descriptive statistics and chi-square tools were used to analyze both the univariate and bivariate variables. Findings show a significant relationship between parental educational status and child labour; employment status and child labor. It concluded that free education policy in Lagos State has not exonerated children from the economic violence of child labour while the literacy level of the parent can largely influence the involvement of children in child labour in Lagos state. The study, however, recommended among other measures affordable compulsory adult education for illiterate parent and employment opportunities for unemployed adult parents in order to protect and safeguard Nigerian children from the detrimental implications of child labour on child sustainable development.

Keywords: Parental Educational Status, Child Labour, Sustainable Child Development, Nigeria

1. Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine the empirical analysis of the nexus between parental educational status and child labour in Lagos metropolis, Nigeria's and Africa most populated commercial city. Understandably, not all work that children do is severe if a work does not hinder children's schooling or do not affect their health physically and mentally, then it is generally not categorized as child labour (ILO, 2002) but rather as child work. For instance helping parents at home, looking after siblings or working for pocket money after school hours and during holidays. However, child labour in the context of this study is any form of income generating activity that has potential for

exploitation and abuse of children which may be physical, emotional maltreatment or social neglect of a child which invokes lack of attention from parents or guardian as well as lack of provision of relevant and basic necessities for the sustainable child development. A child in this context is equally an individual below the age of 18 years. Putting it differently, child labour is when the task performed by a child is severe and detrimental to the child development; distort with her/his education as well as hinder her/his ambition for adult roles and responsibilities (Ida, 1999).

However, gaining insight on the issues of child labour from the system lens of Nigeria state is critical and served as a unique contribution to the ongoing scholarly discourse and a matchless arousal of interest for policymakers, both as a social neglect, child abuse and economic violence against children in Nigeria. To be sure, Adegun (2013) reports that the number of child labour in Nigeria has escalated from 12 million in 1995 to 15 million children under the age of fifteen in 2006. Added to this precarious situation was the UNESCO (2012) statistics on working children and education in Nigeria which indicated that 36.3% of children between aged 5-14 years engage in child labor with no education; although 61.7% of those aged 5-14 years attend school, 28.1% of children aged 7-14 years do combine work and schooling, 74.1% are within primary completion. This report gives an insight into the significance of the problem of child labor in Nigeria. This reverberation is more illuminated in child hawking from the rural areas to the major cities in Nigeria where children are found in the hawking business. Indeed, it is a common sight in Lagos metropolis to see children enmesh with daily struggles for survival and material gains. Previous studies on child labour had established how family size, poverty, rurality influence child labour, and how these have severe untold implications on children's access to basic education with a concomitant effects on their overall sustainable development (Balfour et al., 2008, Olatunji & Ajayi, 2016; Owoyomi et al., 2017).

Going by the dataset reported by World bank, Olatunji and Ajayi (2016) cited from Owoyomi (2017) pointed out that about two-third of Africa are rural communities, of which 70 percent lack access to functional modern basic education and adequate social support and these among other factors predispose many children to all forms of child abuse (Wolfe, 1999) while we have many of them migrating to the urban city and yet with limited access to educational facilities and this often concomitantly added more to their extant ordeals. This precarious situation of many Nigerian children is boxing them to a corner of inability to break through the vicious cycle of illiteracy and more importantly cycle of socio-economic quagmires. International Labour Organization (ILO, 2002) captures child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity which is harmful to their physical and mental development. For this study, child labour is any engaged economic activity for an individual below the age of 18 as means of livelihood. In this light, child labour poses a threat to a sustainable childhood development.

Apparently, the parental educational status appears to be one of the significant factors that can predetermine a child educational attainment; preventing economic violence of child labour and engendering overall sustainable child development provided parent are well educated. To be sure, Basu and Tzannatos (2003) argue that a person who receives more education as a child may grow up to have higher human capital which translates to higher labour income and as a result, such a person would prefer the child to attain the same feat. In sharp contrast, a person who supplies more labour and attains less education as a child may grow up to be poor as an adult; consequently, such conditioning is

sometimes or more often than not passed to the person's child or children, thereby, perpetuating child labour across generations or better still, propelling intergenerational poverty of child labourers. Added to this is the fact that ability of parents to assess the personal and social value of education depends on the information they have at their disposal; if their reference group is largely untouched by the experience of being educated, that information might be quite limited. Thus, capturing the notion that children bonded may tend to have parents who were bonded labourers (Burra, 1995).

Added to this analysis is the parental employment status. This implies that there is a correlation between parental employment status and child involvement in child labour. To be sure, Adegun (2013) alluded that unemployment of parents propels their children to engage in street hawking as a means of financial support to the family meagre income. For Ekpenyong and Nkereuwem (2011), high rates of unemployment and poor education impede parents to provide for the family, consequently, children engaged in child labour to either augment or complement their family infinitesimal income. Indeed, involvement in child labour by children in Nigeria is a manifestation of the attendant socioeconomic crisis of many parents, especially massive unemployment (Fawole et al., 2003). Indeed, parents in developing countries are relatively subjected to economic strains emanating from low income and unemployment which invokes alternative source of financial support such as child labour. Indeed, this view was further collaborated by many researchers that parental employment status has a direct link to parents with marginal incomes and the highly imperative to push children into work so as to supplement their family income (Siddiq et al, 2006; Bass, 2004). They re-echoed that children from poor families have to help generate family income and compensate for economic discrepancies in the society. In such situation, poverty breeds poverty. An unemployed parent has a high probability of staying poor since lack of family substantial family incomes carry with them high risks of illness, limitation on social mobility, and access to education. To further highlight this issue, this paper has been divided into five sections. Section one problematized the concept of child labour. Section two examined the theoretical postulations of the study theme. Section three explicates the method used for data collection and analysis. Section four presented the result and table of the findings. Section five discussed the study implications. The sixth and final section extrapolated the conclusion as well as recommendations for the study respectively.

1.1 Statement of Problem

Ideally, childhood supposes to be a period that should be safe and healthy for every child. This is why Nigeria is a signatory to many international instruments in order to protect and safeguard apparently every Nigerian child from all forms of violence including child labour. Children, however, compose not only a formidable demographic force but also make up the next generation of parents, workers and leaders. Their sustainable childhood development, therefore, has implications not only for the lives of children they bring into world, and for the societies they will build and maintain. Their ability to fill these roles effectively depends largely on the support of their families, communities and on the commitment of their government to their development especially through quality education and vocational training.

However, over 15 million Nigerian children are currently trapped under the quagmire of child labour (UNICEF, 2011) cited from (Owoyomi et al., 2017). Sadly, Bass and Van (1998) argue that child labour

propels negative effect on children educational development and performance. It invokes a negative effect on children education, frustrating government policy on education and overall human capital development. This social malady is invoked by substituting child education with child labour by parents; as a result, the children's precious time devoid of fear, safe from violence and protected from abuse and exploitation get distorted. It propels negative effects on child education, school attendance, grades literacy, leisure time and the overall human capacity formation of the child. Thus, increasing the rate of children who drop-out of school, bring to play juvenile delinquent and sex networking among children, invokes behavioural consequences on children such as: low self-esteem withdrawal syndrome, oppositional behaviours and learning difficulties among most children in the Nigerian popular cities including Lagos (Awosusi & Adebola, 2012). Added to this precarious situation of many Nigerian children is the UNESCO (2012) statistics on working children and education cited from (Owoyomi et al., 2017) which indicate that 36.3% of children between aged 5-14years engage in child labor with no education; although 61.7% of those aged 5-14 years attend school, 28.1% of children aged 7-14 years do combine work and schooling, 74.1% are within primary completion. This report gives an insight into the significance of the problem of child labor in Nigeria condition is Against the backdrop of worrisome human condition of many trapped Nigerian child labourers, a pertinent big question was raised by the researcher in order to fully grasp the overall aim of this study which focuses on the empirical analysis of the nexus between parental educational status and child labour: Implication for child sustainable development in Shomolu Local Government Area, Lagos State, Nigeria. Added to this logical deductive fact is the point that nexus between parental educational status and child labour in Nigeria has been poorly documented in extant Nigeria Literature. Hence, the following research questions were put forward in order to empirically and fully analysed the hub of this study:

1.2 Research Questions

- What is the nexus between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area, Lagos?
- Is there any relationship between parental employment status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area Lagos Metropolis?

1.3 Objectives

The general objective is to analyse the nexus between parental educational status and child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area, Lagos Metropolis Nigeria. More lucidly, the study attempt to:

1. Examine the nexus between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria.
2. Evaluate the relationship between parental employment status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria.

2. Theoretical Underpinning

In order to fully grasp the nexus between parental educational status and incidence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area, Lagos metropolis, interaction theory of the family will serve as the explanatory tool.

2.1 Social Interaction Theory

The Interactions' observation of society is best understood from the interactions as dynamic enablers which determine every phenomenon in the social world. The analysis of interaction theory focuses on the analysis of the interaction between the parent and their children as well as the other members of the family circle of influence. As such, the theorists are interested in how members of a family understand their role in everyday behaviour in a society. Interaction's theory examines the family focusing on how a family plays its role in socialising children, according to the norms and values of a given society. Interaction's theory observes how children act according to the norms and values of their society. Going by the application of this theory, it provides us with the insight on how parent and social institutions, in general, socialise children from age 7 to less than 18 years in order to prevent them from the detrimental effect of child labour through participative education especially among educated parents. However, the parental educational status will determine the employment status and will as well predetermined participation and non-participation of a child in child labour through the socialisation process within the family. Concepts used by interaction's theory gave the researcher opportunity to observe children and parents in the society by looking closely at social changes; social position and communication patterns. The researcher observed the values that parent and children have for education, and how their parents communicate such values to their children as something critical that can serve as a panacea to the menace of child labour in order to enshrine sustainable child development. To be sure, George (2005) cited from Bummer (1969) argued that families manipulate their roles of socializing and caring for children according to their cultural norms and values. Practically speaking, many parents in Nigeria often view children participation in economic activity-child labour as something fundamental to child socialization process without being mindful of what negative impacts such socio-culturally expected roles could have on a sustainable child development especially when substituting child labour for child education. However, such socio-cultural practice is widely common among parent with little or low educational status. To be sure, Basu and Tzannatos (2003) re-echoed that a person who receives more education as a child may grow up to have higher human capital which translates to higher labour income and as a result, such a person would prefer the child to attain the same feat compare to someone who substituted education for child labour as a child because such a person who has little or no value at all for education and the mode of socializing their own children based on the value of education will be very discouraging and sadly infinitesimal.

The central thrust of the interaction's perspective is that if a family is ethical, morally and idealistically stable and the family members especially if the parents are well educated and accountable to one another and the law of the country pertaining to child right to education and overall development are well known and upheld by the family members and there is adequate room for social interaction between the parents and the children on the value of quality education, there is little chance of having children substituting education for child labour within such a given family. As such, this plays out even in the

larger community and the society at large. This study agreed with this integrationist's assertion and thus took it on board in guiding formulation of research strategy and method, and identification of data collection techniques for this current study.

2.2 Research Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between parental educational status and child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos State

H₁: There is a significant relationship between parental educational status and child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos State

H₀: There is no significant relationship between parental employment status and child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos State

H₁: There is a significant relationship between parental employment status and child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos State

3. Data and Method

3.1 Research Design

This study examines empirical analysis of the nexus between parental education and child labour in Shomolu Local Government of Lagos Metropolis Nigeria. A non-experimental research design which consists of cross-sectional survey research method was adopted to evaluate the nexus between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in Lagos State, Nigeria. The correlation of key enablers like parental educational status and parental employment status are important independent variables tested against the occurrence of child labour to enhance clarity and accuracy about the characteristic of each factor and its correlation with child involvement in child labour. A self-structured questionnaire was used for data collection.

3.2 Study Area

This section provides insight into the administration of the research instrument (questionnaires) around the key enablers of child labour and the method of data analysis used in the study. This study was conducted in Lagos metropolis of Somolu LGA, (Southwest Nigeria). Lagos state composed of 27 local government areas (LGAs) during the time of the survey in 2015. The area was selected due to its high level of growing population as urban city coupled with the high concentration of commercial activities in this area that often encourage occurrence of child labour as noted in some of the previous studies conducted in South-western Nigeria (Fawole et al., 2003).

3.3 Study Population and Sample Size

The study employed survey research method to generate data. The questionnaires used in the survey were administered only to the children between the ages of 6-17 years that possess the characteristics of engaging in paid work for survival or not but who are living or trading in each of the randomly identified households in the study area. A sample of 400 children was recruited for the study. However, the

proportion of the respondents selected was based on simple random sampling and specifically lottery due to the non-existence of sample frame (i.e. the list of all children between the ages of 7-17 years in Lagos State) in the study area as at when the study was conducted.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The sampling techniques used in this survey, included four multi-stage random sampling technique, using the simple random sampling (lottery) method to select (400) four hundred (children between ages 6-17 years) respondents. The non-existence of a sampling frame (i.e. the list of all children between the ages of 7-17 years in Lagos State) necessitated the adoption of a multi-stage random selection technique in this survey exercise. The precise study location is Shomolu local government area (LGA) of Lagos State which was purposefully sampled for the study due to limited available financial, material and human resources. Shomolu Local Government (Lat. 6.540833° to 3.387222°) lies in the Ikeja Division of Lagos State, Nigeria. It has a population of about 403, 559 (NPC, 2006) and has a land area of 11.6km². Hence, it is bordered in the South by Lagos Mainland, in the West by Ikeja and Mushin and in the East by the Lagos Lagoon. There are eight wards in Shomolu Local Government Area. The wards are Ward A (Onipanu), Ward B (Bashua), Ward C (Ijebutedo), Ward D (Orile/Alade), Ward E (Okesuna/ Alase), Ward F (Bajulaiye), Ward G (Igbari), and Ward H (Fadeyi/Igbobi). The people of Somolu Local Government Area are predominantly Yoruba. They are composed of the Eko- Aworis and Ijebu. The local government has its territorial confines settlement like Somolu, Pedro, Bariga, Bajulaye, Morocco, Ilaje, Igbobi-Sabi, Obanikoro, Apelehin, Bashua, Igbari, Akoka, and Abule-Okuta. Large-scale commercial activities in the formal private sector, particularly printing press, are conducted in almost every available space while the arts and crafts of the cottage industries are veritable sources of substantial revenue. In the industrial sub-sector of the area, there are industries which provide employment for the inhabitants. These are part of the reason why this location was considered and selected for this kind of community-based study. The following stages were adopted in order to select the sample for the survey (i.e. the macro approach method).

In Stage one (1): Shomolu Local Government area of Lagos State has eight (8) political wards out of which four (4) political wards were randomly selected.

Stage two (2): Out of four (4) political wards selected were ten streets each randomly selected using simple random sampling technique specifically (lottery) and making the total number of streets selected forty (40) streets.

Stage three (3): Using the simple random sampling technique, ten houses were selected in each of the forty streets, bringing the total number of houses to 400. In selecting the ten houses, the number of each of the house in each street has been tiny in pieces of paper and ten pieces were randomly picked. The house number that was picked was selected for the study.

Stage four (4): In each of the house selected, the number of households was collected and using the simple random method, specifically the lottery method, a household was selected and an eligible respondent was chosen in each of sampled household based on a child within the age (7-17years) as stated under study population section.

3.5 Research Instruments

A self-structured questionnaire was employed to collect data in the survey. A total of 400 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the study population through a method of personal interview. This is highly appropriate since the method availed us the opportunity to fill the questionnaire properly because many of the children may not fill it completely as expected without adequate supervision. However, only 389 out of 400 questionnaires administered were found usable for the analysis. The survey was structured in such a way that adequate information was elicited on research objectives and hypotheses. Question asked bothered in five sections (A-E); the section A consists of respondents Socio-demographic background and their parents, section B focuses on circumstances leading to their involvement in economic activity, section C was on consequences of child involvement in child labour and section D bothered on their coping strategies while section E was on their general suggestions.

3.6 Data Collection

The fieldwork of this was carried out between September and October 2015. This quantitative data were collected with the aid of survey method.

Ten (5) male and (5) female interviewers (diploma students) who have taken courses on research methodology were recruited from Department of Social work, University of Lagos for the administration of the questionnaires in the study location. The reason for recruiting young students was because since the study focuses on children most of the respondents will feel free to discuss their involvement in economic activity with young individuals. These interviewers were trained for two days and their skills were pre-tested before the commencement of the major survey. Two supervisors, namely the principal author (graduate student) and Associate Professor of Sociology supervised and monitored all the activities of the research assistants (interviewers) on the field and they were duly appreciated at the end of the survey.

At the end of each day for the survey, the principal author who always on the field with other employed research assistants usually review and edit the completed and returned questionnaires in order to check for internal consistency, completeness, and other validity issues.

3.7 Data Analysis

The study meant to contribute to the existing knowledge by identifying the key socio-economic enablers that predict the occurrence of child labour among children in Lagos. Data generated in the study are quantitative in nature, hence data analyses require descriptive and inferential analytical techniques. In order to achieve this, various analytical methods were employed to analysed and explain the generated data. The univariate analysis involved the use of a table, frequency distributions and percentages. The bivariate analysis in the same vein involved the use of Chi-square (X^2) tool. These methods were used to test the two formulated hypotheses. The data collected were sorted and analysed with the aid of SPSS version 2.0.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Written and oral informed consent was obtained from the respective parent/guardian, and employers on behalf of the minor and confidentiality of the information were received. Added to this is the fact that the information was kept confidential and was used purposely for this research work and its publication.

3.9 Limitation of the Study

It was difficult to get appropriate answers from the children since most of them were minor and could not respond to the questions adequately. In addition, fear and anxiety forced them to remain silent, which led to misleading answers on some occasions. Much has to be elicited, hence, through observation. The researchers always endeavoured to avoid the notion which may miss-represent the findings. Some parents and guardians hid the information that the child is not an earning member but tried to pose that they send the child to work so overcome idleness and from being a victim of anti-social vices. It is instructive to note here that employers of child labourers were very hesitant of the interview as they considered the researchers as a government official deputed for collecting information about the abuse of child labour in handicraft. In fact, many declined their informed consent on behalf of the child

4. Results of the Study

Four hundred questionnaires were distributed but 389 were collected and analysed given a response rate of 97%.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Status and Family Background of the Respondents N=400

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age Group		
7- 10years	7	1.8
11-14years	189	48.6
15-17years	193	49.6
Total	389	100.0
Sex of Respondent		
Male	228	58.6
Female	161	41.4
Total	389	100.0
Ethnicity Affiliation		
Yoruba	281	66.6
Igbo	78	31.1
Others	23	1.3
Hausa	7	1.0
Total	389	100.0
Family Type		
Extended Family	113	29.0
Nuclear	244	62.7

Single-Parent Family	32	8.3
Total	389	100.0
Family monthly income		
Less than ₦50,000	174	44.7
₦ 51,000- ₦ 100,000	73	18.8
₦ 101,000- ₦ 150,000	23	5.9
₦ 151,000- ₦ 200,000	15	3.9
₦201,000 and above	26	6.7
No response	78	20.1
Total	389	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Four hundred questionnaires were distributed but 389 were collected and analysed given a response rate of 97%. Of the 389 children who engaged in child labour majority (49.6%) were in the age range of 15-17 years, (48.6%) were in the 11-14 years while (1.8%) fell within the range of 7-10 years. Sex distribution also shows that majority 228 (58.6%) were males while 161 (41.4%) were females. Understandably, more than sixty-six percent (66.6%) of the children belong to Yoruba ethnic group, (31.1%) belong to Igbo ethnic group (1.0%) were from Hausa ethnic group while (1.3%) constituted other ethnic group aside from the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria. More than sixty-two percent (62.7%) of children engaged in child labour were from the monogamous family-nuclear family background (i.e. couples living together with their children), (29%) of the respondents were from extended family type while (8.3%) of the respondents belong to a single-parenthood family. Family monthly income distribution of the respondents shows that majority 44.7% were from low monthly income earners with less than ₦50,000 (\$USD 125), 18.8% earned between ₦51,000-~~₦~~100,000, 5.1% earned between ₦101,000- ₦150,000, 3.9 % of the respondents family earned between ₦151,000-~~₦~~200,000, 6.7% of the respondents family earned between ₦201,000 and above while 20.1% of the respondents did not indicate their family monthly income.

Testing of Hypotheses I

Table 2: Chi-Square Analysis Cross tabulation showing the relationship between parental educational status and involvement in child labour

Parental educational status	Do you involve in paid work as a means of livelihood?		Total
	Yes	No	
No formal education	18(50.0%)	18(50.0%)	38(100.0%)
Primary education	22(52.4%)	20(47.6%)	42(100.0%)
Secondary education	37(37.8%)	61(62.2%)	98(100.0%)
Tertiary education	44(30.6%)	100(69.4%)	144(100.0%)
Total	121 (37.8%)	199(62.2%)	320 (100.0%)

$\chi^2 = 9.290$, $df = 3$, sig (p-value) = 0.026

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

From the table 2, the null hypothesis (H_0) is thus rejected.

The result from the analysis revealed that calculated (X^2) is 9.290 at a degree of freedom 3 and the 'p' value is 0.026, which is less than the level of significance of 0.005. Hence, the Null Hypothesis (H_0) is rejected while the Alternative Hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. We therefore conclude that there is a significant relationship between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in the study area as indicated above.

Testing of Hypotheses II

Table 3: Chi-Square Analysis Cross tabulation showing the relationship between parental employment status and involvement in child labour

Parental employment status	Do you involve in paid work as a means of livelihood?		Total
	Yes	No	
Employed	130 (53.7%)	112 (46.3%)	242 (100.0%)
Unemployed	46 (31.3%)	101(68.7%)	147 (100.0%)
Total	176 (51.3%)	213(58.8%)	389(100.0%)

$\chi^2 = 18.566$, $df = 1$, sig (p-value) = 0.000

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

From the table 3, the null hypothesis (H_0) is thus rejected.

The result from the analysis revealed that calculated (X^2) is 18.566 at a degree of freedom 1 and the 'p' value is 0.000, which is less than the level of significance of 0.005. Hence, the Null Hypothesis (H_0) is rejected while the Alternative Hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. We therefore conclude that there is a

significant relationship between parental employment status and occurrence of child labour in the study area as indicated above.

5. Implication for Sustainable Child Development

Empirically, this study examined and established that there is a nexus between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government of Lagos State, Nigeria. A sample size of 389 children participated voluntarily in the study. It was observed that practice like child labour has severe implication for sustainable child development because it can distort their academic performance, exposed them to other forms of abuse like rape, accident and ill-health status that can keep them completely from schooling. However, Parents who lack education should strive and be educated so that they can value their child education and in turn discourage this illicit act of child labour in the study area.

Findings from this study revealed that there is a significant relationship between parental educational status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos Metropolis. This finding is consistent with that of Basu and Tzannatos (2003) who argue that a person who receives more education as a child may tend to grow up to have higher human capital which translates to higher labour income and as a result, such a person would prefer the child to attain the same feat rather than substituting the value of education for immediate minute economic satisfaction from their involvement in economic activity that could be detrimental to their sustainable childhood development. Similarly, Badmus and Akinyosoye (2008) posit in their empirical study that there is an association between socio-economic incidence of child labour as well as years of education of parent. Hence, participation of children in paid employment is high where the level of education of their parent is low and the rate of participation reduces as the educational status of the parent improves. In the same vein, it was noted from another study that when parents have worked as child labourer in their childhood there is every likelihood that their children will go through the same vicious circle especially if such parent does not value education because once their children are grown up, they become uneducated and low skilled with slim chances for earning good income that can be capable enough to break through the extant vicious cycle of ignorance predisposing them to the illicit economic activity of child labour (Aqil, 2012). However, one can infer that the nexus between parental educational status and child labour hold a severe implication for sustainable child development as empirically demonstrated in this study.

Also, finding from the study indicated that there is a significant relationship between parental employment status and occurrence of child labour in Shomolu Local Government Area of Lagos Metropolis. This corroborated the view of previous several studies that parental employment status plays a significant role to determine a child involvement in child labour because it has direct relationship with the marginal incomes of a parent which may directly or indirectly influence the children participation in child labour in order to supplement their family income (Siddiq et al., 2006; Bass, 2004). They further lamented that children from low income families have to assist in generating-augmenting family income and compensating for economic discrepancies in the society. As such, an unemployed parent has a high vulnerability of remaining poor since lack of family substantial and constant incomes hold for them high

risks of illness, poor child nutrition, and limitations on social mobility and lack of access to quality education (Siddiq et al., 2006; Bass, 2004).

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Evidently, this study shows the nexus between parental educational status and child labour as it has severe implications for sustainable child development in Shomolu Local Government Area, Lagos Metropolis. Having parent substituting a child time for schooling, play and leisure for exploitative works and all forms of abuse as well as social neglects due to high level of parental illiteracy and ignorant of the detrimental effects of child labour on the sustainable child development is an unfashionable violence against children that is still lingering in Nigeria society. Closely to this sobering reality also is the parental unemployment status which equally served as a propelling factor for child participation in child labour as indicated in this study. This study, however, concluded that parental educational background poses that fundamental propensity to influence their value for their children's education as well as their sustainable development. Therefore, for government to fulfill its historical responsibility of attaining human progress, a strong political will, transparent and judicial management of resources and an effective implementation of children protection policies is quite imperative; this will invariably x-ray a strong sense of purpose and responsiveness to the plight of the people, especially children who are mostly and always at the receiving end.

In furtherance to the above findings, the following recommendations were proffered:

- The local government, state government and indeed, the federal government authorities in conjunction with civil societies, community based organisations, non-governmental organisations, and community leaders through the mass media and town hall meetings must organize a public awareness programmes as well as provision of affordable access to adult educational facilities and programmes, especially at the grass root areas that would educate illiterate/ignorant parents and guardians concerning the detrimental implications of substituting childhood time with labour. Hence, proper public enlightenment about the dangers and hazards of child labour and its effect on the sustainable child development process is imperative in this context. Indeed, this would allow children to enjoy their precious time devoid of fear, safe from violence and protect them from abuse and exploitations.
- Government at all levels must proffer a proper plan or strategy for economic palliative measures to support the unemployed families in order to cushion the effect of the economic recession in the country. Indeed, small-scale business, vocational skills, soft loan, credit facilities to mention but a few would go a long way to reduce economic hardship and apparently safeguard many Nigerian children from the quagmires of child labour.

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