Demographic Analysis of Child labor in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Official data from the 2006 Nigerian population census indicate that nearly half of the Nigerian population is aged below 17 years, two-third of who are 6–17 years old. Additional evidence indicates three out of eight children in Nigeria, aged 6–17 years old, engage in child labour, and 40 percent of these are out of school. Nigeria contributes the highest incidence of child labour globally, mostly in hazardous situations; Nigeria alone contributes to more than 25% of child labour issues in the region, and more than 5% globally. The demographic assessment of child labour in Nigeria has been reported only poorly. This study examines the correlation between family size, sibling composition, birth order and child labour activities in the Lagos metropolis, Nigeria's commercial capital city, West Africa's commercial capital, and Africa's most populated urban area. In a cross-sectional survey that involved a four-stage sampling technique, 400 respondents, aged 6-17 years old, took part in the survey. Descriptive statistics and analysis of variance (ANOVA) tools were used to analyse the variables. Findings show a correlation between family size, sibling composition and birth order and child labour. The study draws insights from the failings of extant government policies on family planning and public orientation programs. In particular, a large family size could be detrimental to the economic well-being of children.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between key enablers of child labour in the Lagos metropolis, Nigeria's commercial capital city, West Africa's commercial capital, and Africa's most populated urban area. Understanding the issues of child labour from the lenses of Nigeria is a significant contribution to extant knowledge, both as a social abuse issue and as an economic abuse problem. Previous studies have shown how rurality contributes to intense poverty and social neglect, and how these impact children's access to basic education (Balfour et al., 2008; Olatunji and Ajayi, 2016). Using a dataset published by the World Bank, Olatunji and Ajayi (2016) sumise that about two-third of Africa are rural communities, 70 percent of which are without access,to functional basic education and appropriate social support are amongst key drivers of child abuse (seeWolfe, 1999). A significant agenda of the international community for sustainable development goals is to grow the appropriate stimulus for the world to function collectively in addressing the scourge of child labour, and to eliminate the scourge by 2030 (ILO, 2015).

The International Labor Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) (2013), defines child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, ability to fulfill their potential and dignity, as well as activities that are harmful to their physical and mental development. This also includes harmful work that impacts children mentally, physically and socially, and is morally dangerous; that interferes with their schooling, including depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; forcing them to leave school prematurely and/or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with work that is excessively long and heavy. In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the street at a very early age. Child labour is a complex phenomenon, with varying implications across countries and cultures. Several dimensions to this had been in different studies (e.g. see Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995;Hindman and Smith, 1999).

UNESCO (2012) statistics on working children and education indicate that 36.3% of children between aged 5-14years engage in child labour 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 labour in Nigeria. Bhat and Rather (2009) argue that poverty, parents' illiteracy and ignorance are a part of child labor causation in Nigeria. Meanwhile, these demographic variables are important causation – e.g. family size, family birth order and sibling composition. However, they have not received sufficient attention in extant Nigerian literature. This study aims to investigate these socio-demographic factors; their interdependencies and their joint and shared relationship with child labour activities and severity. It is hoped that the findings from this will enrich reservoir of knowledge necessary for policy makers and make substantial contributions to SDG-8.7, which aims to secure prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour ,including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms (See,ILO,2017)

Hypotheses

  H_1 There is no correlation between family size and child involvement in child labour.

  H_2 There is no correlation between family birth order and child involvement in child labour.

  H_3 There is no correlation between family sibling composition and child involvement in child labour.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

 Research Design

This study examines demographic analysis of child labour in Lagos Metropolis Nigeria. A non experimental research design which consists of cross-sectional survey research method was adopted to identify the significant of key demographic enablers for child labour in Lagos State, Nigeria. This research design was adopted to minimise possible errors by maximizing the validity and reliability of the data. The correlation of key enablers like children family size, birth order and sibling composition are important independent variables tested against occurrence of child labour to enhance clarity and accuracy about the characteristic of each factor and its correlation with child involvement in child labour in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria. A structured questionnaire was used for primary data collection in form of personal interview.

Study Area

This study was conducted in Lagos metropolis of Shomolu LGA, (Southwest Nigeria). Lagos state composed of 27 local government areas (LGAs) during the time of the survey- the year 2015. The area was selected due to its high level of growing population as urban city coupled with 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 (See, Fawole et al.,2003).

Study Population and Sample Size

The study employed a cross-sectional survey research method to generate it primary 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 economic activity as a means of livelihood or not but who are living 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 non-existence of sample frame (i.e. the list of all children between the ages of 6-17 years in Lagos State) in the study area as at when the study was conducted.

Sampling Techniques

The sampling techniques used in this survey is 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 6-17 years in Lagos State) necessitated the adoption of a multi-stage random selection technique in this survey exercise, and as such to enhance equal representative. 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 to cover the entire state. 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 Shomolu 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 numbers of households were 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.

Research Instruments

A structured questionnaire is 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 was highly appropriated since the method avails us the opportunity to fill the questionnaire properly because many of the children may not fill it completely as expected without supervision. However, only 389 out of 400 questionnaires administered were found useful for the analysis. The survey was structured in such a way that adequate information was elicited on research objectives and hypotheses. Question asked bothered on 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 paid work, section C was on social and health consequences of child involvement in child labour and section D bothered on their coping strategies while section E was on their general suggestions for policy options.

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 (Social Work Diploma students) who have taken courses on research methodology were recruited from Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos for the administration of the questionnaires in the study locations. 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 activities 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 the correspondent author (Senior Lecturer) supervised and monitored all the activities of the interviewers on the field.

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

Data Analysis

Data generated in the study are quantitative in nature; hence data analyses require descriptive and inferential analytical techniques. In order to achieve these, various analytical methods were employed to analysed and explain the generated data. The univariate analysis involved the use of the table, frequency distributions and percentages. The bivariate analysis in the same vein involved the use of Chi-Square statistical. These methods were used to test the hypotheses formulated on social consequences of child labour in Lagos State. The data collected were sorted and analysed with the aid of SPSS version 2.0.

Ethical Consideration (Informed CONSENT).

Permission for the study was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee in the University of Lagos through the head of Sociology department. Written and oral informed consent was obtained from the respective parents/guardians, and employers on behalf of the minor and confidentiality of the information were received. The responses which formed our data eventually were analyzed and interpreted in aggregate without any link to a specific respondent. Besides, the information was kept confidential and was used purposely for this research work and its publication.

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 in 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 to 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. Majority of the children who engaged in child labour were from poor backgrounds.

3 .0 Results

3.1. Socio-demographic factors and Family Background.

Four hundred questionnaires were distributed but 389 were collected and analysed given a response rate of 97%. Of the 389 respondents, a majority (49.6%) were in the secondary school age range of 12-17 years, while (48.6%) were in the primary school age range of 7-11 years. Sex distribution also shows that majority were males (58.6%), (Table 1). More than sixty-six percent of the respondents were Yoruba, while other ethnic nationalities constituted the remaining 33.4%. More than sixty-two percent of respondents were from monogamous family and nuclear family background (i.e. couples living together with their children).

Data on family income indicate that majority of the respondents' 44.7% family earned less than #50,000 as income in a month while 6.7% respondents were from a family that earned #201,000 and above as income per month. The majority of the respondents were from low-income backgrounds.

Data on Family size of the respondents indicate that majority of the respondents (42.2%) were from 5-6 family size, (37.3%) were from less than 4 family size, (19.8%) were from 7 and above while (0.8%) did not indicate their family size.   Data on Siblings Composition of the respondents indicate that (3.1%) had no sibling, (14.4%) had one sibling, (21.6%) being the majority had two siblings, (20.6%) had three siblings, (16.2%) had four siblings, (20.1%) had five and above siblings while (4.1%) did not indicate the number of their siblings.

Data on Birth Order of the respondents indicate that majority (36.5%) were the first child, (21.1%) were the second child, (20.3%) were the third child, (9.0%) were the fourth child while (9.0%) belong to other categories. However, (4.1%) did not indicate their birth order.

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

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age Group		
Less than 6years	7	1.8
7-11years	189	48.6
12-17years	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 Size		
Less than 4	145	37.3
5-6	189	42.2
7 and above	164	19.8
No response	193	0.8
Total	**389**	**100.0**
Siblings composition of the respondents in numbers		
None	12	3.1
One	56	14.4
Two	84	21.6
Three	80	20.6
Four	63	16.2
Five and above	78	20.1
No response	16	4.1
Total	**389**	**100.0**
Birth order of the respondents per position		
First Child	142	36.5
Second	82	21.1

Third	79	20.3
Fourth	35	9.0
Others	35	9.0
No response	16	4.1
Total	**389**	**100.0**

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2015

3.2 Testing of hypothesis
3.2.1 Hypothesis I

H_0 There is no correlation between the children's family size and their involvement in child labour.
H_1 There is a correlation between the chldren's family size and their involvement in child labour.

Table 2: Correlations of children's Family size and their involvement in Child labour
CORRELATION

	Children's Family Size	Involvement in Child labour
Pearson Correlation Family Size Sig.(2-tailed) N	1 389	0.32 .539 375
Pearson Correlation Family Size Sig.(2-tailed) N	1 375	0.32 .539 375

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2015

The Table 2 shows the correlation of children's family size and involvement in child labour. The table 2 shows that there is a positive correlation (0.32) between children's Family size and child labour. However, the correlation is not statistically significant at a P-value of .539

3.2.2 Hypothesis II

H_0 There is no correlation between the children's birth order and their involvement in child labour.
H_1 There is a correlation between the chldren's birth order and their involvement in child labour

Table 3: Correlations of children's' Birth order and their involvement in Child labour
CORRELATION

	Children's Birth order	Involvement in Child labour
Pearson Correlation Family Size Sig.(2-tailed) N	1 389	.-145** .005 375
Pearson Correlation Family Size Sig.(2-tailed) N	1 375	.-145** .005 375

Source: Researchers' Field Survey, 2015.

The Table 3 shows the correlation of children's Birth order and their involvement in child labour. The table shows that there is a negative correlation (.-145**) between children's Birth order and involvement in child labour. Also, the correlation is statistically significant at a P-value of 0.005

3.2.3 Hypothesis III

H_0 There is no correlation between the children's sibling composition and their involvement in child labour.
H_1 There is a correlation between the chldren's sibling composition and their involvement in child labour

Table 4: Correlations of the children Sibling composition and their involvement in Child labour
CORRELATION

	Children's Sibling Composition	Involvement in Child labour
Pearson Correlation	1	.-301**
Family Size Sig.(2-tailed)		.000
N	389	375
Pearson Correlation	1	.-301**
Family Size Sig.(2-tailed)		.000
N	375	375

Source: Researchers' Field survey, 2015.

The Table 4 shows the correlation of children's sibling composition and their involvement in child labour. The table shows that there is a negative correlation (.-301**) between children's sibling composition and their involvement in child labour. In addition, the correlation is statistically significant at a P-value of 0.000

4.0. Discussion of Findings

4.1 Family Size and involvement in child   labour

Apparently, family plays a quite significant role in shaping the child's personality. The family background of the respondents assumes more significance because it is the family where the child learns basic social skills to cope with the social norms, values and demands. It has its own pattern of interpersonal relations, acts as an agency of socialization which in terms is influenced directly or indirectly by the socio-economic background of the family. In this present study, an attempt has been made to gather salient information about the socio-economic conditions of the family with the aim of evaluate its impact on the child. Accordingly, we decided to find out the **size of the child labourers respective family,** which is indicated from **Table 1**.

Majority 164(42.2%) of the respondents were from 5-6 family sizes, 145(37.3%) of the respondents family sizes fell between less than 4 while 77(19.8%) of the respondents had a family size of 7 and above. However, 3 (0.8%) of the respondents did not indicate their family size. The impression from the study indicates that nuclear family system still hold true in the study area. However, this finding support Fawole et al (2003) report which indicated that large family predisposes a child to hazardous labour in Nigeria. Fetugal et al (2005) add that there is correlation between child labour and large family size. In addition, Bunchmann (2000) adds that family size can predetermined unequal distribution of resources within household because to some could be for schooling while to others for labour. Culture also plays a part: regardless of family size, some parents may prefer to send their male children to school over their females, and vice versa; and older siblings could bear the responsibility to care for younger siblings and vice versa (Boyden et al., 1998).

4.2 Respondent sibling composition and involvement in child labour

Edmonds (2006) added **sibling differences** as another key dimension to child labor causations also. The study shows parents care equally for all children, however that siblings differ in comparative advantage in household production even though parental preferences and credit constraints are not least important. Edmonds found older female children are more likely to engage in hazardous labor than males, and that females work longer hours than males, and that this increases significantly as household sizes increase. The author also found how the different types and amount of work performed by older siblings correlate with the gender of younger siblings. For example, for both male and female children, adding a younger male to a household is associated with more time spent in market work, agriculture and a wage employment. However, the study did not find how adding a younger female impact change time allocation for older males, rather an increase in time spent by females on domestic chores. Meanwhile, the present study as indicated in **Table 1** shows that majority 98(25.2) of the respondents did not have any sibling, 68(17.5%) of the respondents have just one sibling each, 56(14.4%) had two siblings each, 54(13.9%) had three siblings each, 42(10.8%) had four siblings each while 62(15.9%) had five and above siblings composition. However, just a few of 09 (2.3%) did not indicate their siblings composition. This impression of large sibling composition shows that is a significant demographic enabler for child involvement in labour. This assertion was supported by another study conducted in Costa Rica which adds that fewer siblings' size was significantly associated with more provisional opportunities for especially girls' child education as opposed subjecting them into the economic violence of child labour. (See, Jing Li etal, 2014).Nina etal (2010), identified sibling differences among other factors as an enabler for child labour causation in Indonesia. Edmonds(2008) adds that older children may have to engage in paid work or domestic chores and their labour may probably create opportunity to go to school for their young siblings especially in family with severe economic violence. Reason for this is because the sibling composition might also be very significant predictor of child labour particularly, girls involved mostly in domestic work. (See, Webbink, et.al. 2011).Edmond (2006) adds that it is imperative to differentiate the presence of brothers and sisters in a family because children with more brothers as

siblings may probably involved less in commercial jobs because they believe precisely that many people are available to do the works since the variation in child labor as a result of sibling composition seem to associate with time in domestic work, it is logical to assume that **household production** plays a role in child labor too. When a family has a large sibling composition, older siblings are likely to engage in child labor because they have had to share in their parents' responsibilities to look after their siblings. Boyden et al.'s Save the Children in Sweden (1998) shows most children start to work on command or at least by a request from their family. In many cases children work simply for the reason that they are told to, some voluntary and some against their will. Most children work because the families need help both with contributing to the family income and help with unpaid household work (e.g. looking after younger siblings).

4.3 Birth Order is another dimension to child labour. Rodgers et al (2000) reported that child labour impacts on child's psychological and social development The present study as indicated in **Table 1** shows that majority 142(36.5%) of respondents were first child, 82(21%) were second child, 79(20.3%) were third child, 35(9.0%) were fourth child while 35(9.0%) indicated other birth order positions.

However, 16(4.1%) did not indicate their birth order positions. The implication from this findings shows that a child holding first position in the family based on order of birth is more likely to involve in child labour than the child with the last position. This assertion was proudly supported by Emerson and Souza's (2003) work is also instructive. Using a household survey data from Brazil, the authors show how older children's earnings abilities press on them the automatic responsibility to work (and less likely to go to school) so they can support their siblings.

Their study also found this very consistent across sexes. However, Alvi and Dendir (2011) found an environmental dimension to this. They found a first-born child in rural areas is more likely to attend school than younger siblings. They also found the chances of participation in market work are higher for older males, domestic work for older female children. Chesnokova and Vaithianathan (2008)elicit the correlation between birth order and child labor. In particular, the authors used a theoretical model which explains how, in developing countries, eldest children are more likely to be child laborer than their younger siblings. The model shows how credit-constrained parents use income from the labor of their eldest child to fund the education of younger children. All the studies reviewed on the effects of birth order on child labor implies that child labor is largely unaffected by the gender of the younger siblings or by the age difference with the last   child.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation
Evidence from the findings, it is recommended that government/CBOs at all levels should organizes public enlightenment programmes that will educate the general public on the detrimental effect of the socio-demographic enablers of child labour especially with reference to factors like large family size and birth order pattern, which must be profoundly discouraged. Hence, this is necessary to protect the main interest of every child.

Finally, the ideology of many parents/guardians taking advantage of using large sibling composition as an illicit justification for forcing many children to involve in paid work has to be forestalled. The study however has established that there was an association between family size, birth order, sibling composition and child involvement in child labour. Following these findings, this study hence has concluded that certain socio-demographic factors can predict child involvement in child labour in Lagos metropolis, Nigeria as indicated in this study.

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