

CHILD TRAFFICKING ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN ODUKPANI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA IN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA: SOCIOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT

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Abstract

The study focused on child trafficking and academic achievement of primary school pupils in Odukpani Local Government Area in Cross River State, Nigeria. The ex-post-facto design was used using a structured questionnaire to gather data from the pupils (respondents) in selected Junior Secondary Schools in Edo State. The sampling technique adopted was the stratified sampling technique. The population for the study is 3,410 pupils consisting of victims and non-victims of child trafficking. And a sample of 341 pupils were used in the study. The instrument for data collection was a well-structured questionnaire divided into four sections. Section A contains the bio data of the respondent, section B has academic achievement. Data collected from the subjects were analyzed using SPSS statistical package Version 20 and the following major findings were drawn from the study: A significant relationship between forced labour and pupils' academic achievement, there is also a significant relationship between sexual slavery and pupils' academic achievement. Again there is a significant relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement of pupils. It was recommended among others that victims and non-victims of child trafficking should be sensitized on the effects of child trafficking on personality and academic adjustment in school.

Keywords: *Child Trafficking, Academic, Achievement and Sociological Viewpoint*

INTRODUCTION

Having children is a thing that calls for celebration. In most societies, animals are killed for celebrations, neighbours come to also celebrate the newborn king. This practice is continued in any home where a child is born. The importance of children cannot be over-emphasized in the old days, the task of caring and bringing up a child was not only that of the parents but also the entire community. In those days parent and guardians treat their children with much love and affection. They tended to their children, give attention to their needs, and protect their interest in the cultural and social lives of the community. The above fact is without prejudice to the many forces and conditions in our society today, which vilitate the complete development of children and the unfolding of their potential. One of these conditions that militate against the well-being of the child these days is child trafficking (Odigie & Chinenye, 2008). This then calls for the good upbringing of the child to become a potential leader of tomorrow. In recent times, child trafficking is a phenomenon that is currently generating a lot of concern globally, in African countries like Nigeria and the Odukpani Local Government area of Cross River State in particular, where it is highly prevalent. It is the third largest criminal activity in the world today after arms robbery and drug trafficking (Tola, 2008). In the last decade, child trafficking has considerably increased throughout the world and most especially in Nigeria. Every year, millions of children are misled or forced to submit to servitude. The United nation convention against transactional organized crime (2000) recognized children's rights and has provided a legal basis to combat child trafficking in West Africa, where the term "trafficking" "abduction" or "sales of children" have different meanings in different countries.

Muthigani (2005) child trafficking may affect pupils' academic achievement, but it also affects or disrupt teaching and learning in schools. Victims of child trafficking may also show or display habits such as withdrawal, excessive aggression shy or one form of maladjustment or the other. Hence, there is a need for these children to be properly rehabilitated and re-integrated into the school system because their successes in negotiating these challenges predict school success.

According to the United Nation children's Fund (UNICEF), (2007), children are trafficked for the purpose of domestic services, prostitution and other forms of exploitative labour (UNICEF, 2007). There has been a serious concern about the cause of child trafficking in Africa as a whole and Nigeria as a country and Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State, in particular, UNICEF (2007) has identified poverty, large family size and rapid urbanization among others as the major factors why many Nigerian children and Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State, in particular, are vulnerable to trafficking.

In recent times, child trafficking has come to be considered as a social problem of significant expects which had attracted much international attention and interest. Child trafficking does not only exist in Odukpani Local Government of Cross River State but is a global issue that has not across all socio-economic groups as reported by United Nations Fund (UNICEF, 2002). Furthermore, the search for greener pastures or white collar jobs in the cities resulted in a massive movement from rural areas to the urban areas or centres, therefore, most parents engage in a daily pursuit without regarding opined that depression may give rise to mental illnesses in which a person experiences deep, unshakable sadness and diminished interest in nearly all things including learning.

According to Pinzo and Hofferth, (2008) forced labour is a far-reaching and complex problem in developing countries. It has existed in various forms (forced labour, trafficking and street trading) in different parts of the world since ancient times. The types of child labour vary according to the country's culture, and family culture, rural or urban residency, socio-economic condition and existing level of development among other factors. A survey by Global March (2008) states that child labour emerged as an issue during the industrial revolution when children were forced to work in dangerous conditions for well up to 12 hours a day.

Despite the various views on the effect of child labour and the contradictory opinions by some authorities, in all, time spent in school is a poor measure of learning in school. Above, it was separately indicated that child labour and time in school may be inversely related, even if child labour does not harm learning.

Sexual slavery is passive in every part of the world. According to United Nations BBC reported in September 2014 1 in 10 girls had experienced sexual violence at the early stages of their lifetime (Herrenkohl, 2005). Child sexual slavery is one of the health and human rights challenges in Nigeria. The National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) report in 2008 suggests that over 25% of adolescents in Nigeria often experienced sexual slavery at the age of 15 (NDHS, 2014). However, cases reported by the law enforcement agent of Nigeria (Nigeria police) are less than unreported cases by parents or guidance of the victims. News agency in Nigeria reported in 2013 that 1,200 girls were sexually enslaved in Cross River State, particularly in Odukpani Local Government Area.

In some countries, specifically Nigeria, Odukpani Local Government Area inclusive, the practice of marrying under children makes it inevitable for young teenage girls to be sexually enslaved, under the name of marriage, poverty and lack of parental care are the major causes of sexual slavery in Nigeria. Imona (2006) ascertain that sexual slavery is not gender restricted. In some areas of South Asia, especially Pakistan, underage boys and used as homosexual partners to older men. While in some cases children are sexually violated by their own parents or family members. These practices tend to bring shame, discomfort, depression, anxiety, and fear and hinder the child's academic achievement generally as those fears being exposed and name calling can also lead to withdrawal from active class activities.

Theoretical Framework

The theory chosen to be used and to back up the child trafficking on the academic achievement of primary school pupils is Aaron Beck's cognitive theory of depression.

Aaron Beck, an American psychologist's theory of depression. Beck (1961) in Cohen (2009) emphasized the role of irrational thought processes in an individual that is depressed. Beck in his theory stated that depressed people tend to view themselves, their environment and the future in a negative light because of errors in their thinking. These errors include focusing on the negative aspects of any situation, misfortune. This negative thinking makes the situation seems much worse increasing the risk of more depression.

He further said that people with traumatic experiences are prone to this depression. According to him, such traumatic experiences or events include rape, bullying, child abuse (child trafficking) and child labour). In Beck's view, prolonged exposure to traumatic, uncontrollable and inescapable events such as child abuse (child trafficking inclusive) leads to apathy, permission and loss of motivation. He also argued that depression is helplessness. The

hopelessness leads to patterns of negative thinking in which people blame themselves for negative life events and even have thought of committing suicide, all these experiences affect the academic achievement of primary school pupils.

Statement of the Problem

Personal interaction and experience have revealed that victims of child trafficking are not always willing to go back to school after they have been rescued and recovered from the trafficking the attraction, the villagers disclosed that victims when recovered from the traffickers exhibit certain unpleasant characteristics which were not common to them before they were trafficked such characteristic they said include; social exclusion intolerance, sadness, despair and lack of interest and pleasure in nearly everything that would ordinarily excite young individual. They also noted that even if these victims are kept in school, some of them may withdraw (have drop-out tendencies) on their own. Based on this observation and revelation from these individuals, the researcher is prompted to embark on investigating the phenomenon. If researchers and educationists understand the level of influence of child trafficking on academic achievement among primary school pupils, ways and means could be devised to boost the academic achievement of the victims and enhance their level of achievement in school so that they would be able to stay in school for proper education and reintegration into the society. Based on the background, therefore, the researcher is prompted to investigate the topic of child trafficking on academic achievement of primary school pupils in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research project was to find out the child trafficking on the academic achievement of primary school pupils in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State. The study intends to:

1. Examine the relationship between forced labour and pupils /pupils' academic achievement.
2. Determine the influence of sexual slavery and pupils' academic achievement.
3. Ascertain the influence of Street hawking and pupils' academic achievement.

Research Questions

To guide this investigation, the following research questions are formulated.

1. What is the relation between forced labour and pupils /pupils' academic achievement?
2. To what extent does sexual slavery relate to pupils' academic achievement?
3. What is the relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement?

Statement of Hypothesis

The following statement of the hypotheses was formulated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant relationship between forced labour and pupils' academic achievement
2. Sexual slavery does not significantly relate to pupils' academic achievement.
3. There is no significant relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. Survey research is directed towards determining the nature of a situation as it exists at the time of investigation. Isangedighi (2012) asserts that the research design involves objectively describing existing phenomena. This implies that the researcher has no control over the independent variables because they had already occurred and therefore can no longer be manipulated or controlled. Studies that make use of this approach are employed to obtain a picture of the present conditions of a particular phenomenon.

Area of the study

The research area for this study was Odukpani LGA of Cross River State. Cross River (The People's Paradise) is a coastal LGA in Calabar Nigeria. The LGA is situated in the Atlantic Ocean. Its Coordinates are 5°45'North, 8°30'East / 5.750°North 8.500°East. Its capital is Calabar, and its name is derived from the Cross River (Oyono), which passes through the state. French, Boki, Ejagham and Efik are the major languages of this state. Another Interesting Festival in Cross River state is Anong/Bahumono Festival which holds in Anong Village, during which different cultural dances are showcased, including Ikpobin (acclaimed to be the most entertaining dance in the state), Ekoi, Obam, Emukei and Etangala Dances. Obanliku New Yam Festival.

The population of the study

The population distribution of primary six pupils in the study area is 3410 from the 13 wards which comprised 212 males and 261 females.

Sampling Technique

Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were adopted in the study. The first stage was to stratify the words based on gender. The final stage was to use simple random sampling to select the total respondents from the respective wards. In using a simple random sampling technique, the researcher utilize the hat and draw method in which pieces of paper were put in the hat comprised of Yes and No, only the one drawn with the inscription of Yes was used in the study while the one with the inscription of No were not considered in the study.

Sample

In other to determine the sample size of 341 pupils was used for the study which represents 10% of the population of pupils in the zone. This is presented in Table 2.

Instrumentation

The instrument for this study was a research-developed instrument titled Child Trafficking and Academic Achievement Questionnaire CTAAQ. The first section demands demographic information from respondents such as name of institution, sex and age. Section B measured the sub-dimensions of child trafficking and section C was a 10-item structured question on academic achievement in social studies

Validation of the instrument

The validation of the instrument was established after consultation and discussion on the Packaging of the questionnaire with the thesis supervisors and other experts in test and measurement. The discussion covered the relevance of items to the objectives and the hypotheses of the study; the language of the instrument about the cognitive level of the subjects, the scoring state of each item about the statistical presentation and analysis as well as the number of items about the interest of the respondents. The final items in the questionnaire have been scrutinized by the thesis supervisor and clarified to be suitable for use as a data collection instrument for the study.

Reliability of the instrument

To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, it was pilot tested using 35 primary six pupils. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents and scores obtained were analysed using Cronbach Alpha reliability method to determine the internal consistency of the research instrument. The results of the analysis formed the reliability estimates for the instrument which range from .69 and .78, this is shown in Table 3. Following the results, the instrument was found appropriate in terms of internal consistency and this therefore guided the usage of the instrument for this study.

Procedure for data collection

The instrument, CTAAQ was administered directly to the selected respondents in the respective primary schools by the researcher. The respondents were informed of the exercise and also told to be honest in their response

to the items as the information obtained was treated with all amount of confidentiality and used as data for the research. In the end, the researcher collected the questionnaire from each of the respondents and carefully scanned through them for possible mistakes and proceed to analyse the data.

Procedure for data analysis

The null hypotheses formulated for the study, the variables in each hypothesis and the statistical method of analysis that will be used are stated below:

Hypothesis one:

There is no significant relation between forced labour and pupils /pupils academic achievement

Independent variable: Forced labour

Dependent variable: Academic achievement

Test statistics: Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation

hypothesis two

Sexual slavery does not significantly relate to pupils’ academic achievement.

Independent variable: sexual slavery

Dependent variable: Academic achievement

Test statistics: Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between street hawking and pupils’ academic achievement

Independent variable: street hawking

Dependent variable: Academic achievement

Test statistics: Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

The result of this study are presented hypothesis by hypothesis as shown below

Hypothesis one

There is no significant relation between forced labour and pupils’ academic achievement. The major independent variable in this hypothesis is forced labour which is referred to in this context as (X-variable) while the dependent variable is pupils’ academic achievement (Y-variable). To test this hypothesis, Pearson’s Product moment Correlation was employed as presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation forced labour and Pupils’ academic achievement (N=341)

Variables	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	Df	r-cal	Sig.	Decision
Forced labour	2566		46794		37199	146	0.76	.000	Reject H ₀
Academic achievement	2089		31589						

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

It can be discerned from Table 3 of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the hypothesis that states “There is no significant relation between forced labour and pupils’ academic achievement ” while forced labour has a $\sum x$ of 2566, $\sum x^2$ of 46794 and academic achievement has $\sum y$ of 2089 and $\sum y^2$ of 31589 their sum of product for both scores ($\sum xy$) is 37199 with 146 degrees of freedom, the r-calculated value was found to be 0.76 (sig

.000). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between forced labour and pupils' academic achievement in Social Studies.

Hypothesis Two

Sexual slavery does not significantly relate to pupils' academic achievement. The major independent variable in this hypothesis is sexual slavery which is referred to in this context as (X-variable) while the dependent variable is academic achievement (Y-variable). To test this hypothesis, Pearson's Product moment Correlation was employed as presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Pearson's Product Moment Correlation with sexual slavery
and academic achievement in social studies (N=341)

Variables	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	df	r-cal	Sig.	Decision
Sexual slavery	2389		40835		34485	146	0.740	.001	Reject H ₀
Academic achievement	2089		31589						

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the hypothesis that states "sexual slavery does not significantly relate with pupils academic achievement .", while sexual slavery has an $\sum x$ of 2389, $\sum x^2$ of 40835 and academic achievement has $\sum y$ of 40835 and $\sum y^2$ of 31589 their sum of product for both scores ($\sum xy$) is 34485 with 146 degrees of freedom, the r-calculated value was found to be 0.740 (sig .000). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between sexual slavery and academic achievement.

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement. The major independent variable in this hypothesis is street hawking which is referred to in this context as (X-variable) while the dependent variable is an academic achievement (Y-variable). To test this hypothesis, Pearson's Product moment Correlation was employed as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation with street
and academic achievement (N=341)

Variables	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	df	r-cal	Sig.	Decision
Street hawking	2426		41710		35038	146	.315**	.000	Reject H ₀
Academic achievement	2089		31589						

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

It can be discerned from Table 3 of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the hypothesis that states "There is no significant relationship between street hawking and pupils academic achievement " while street hawking has a $\sum x$ of 2426, $\sum x^2$ of 41710 and academic achievement has $\sum y$ of 2089 and $\sum y^2$ of 31589 their sum of

product for both scores ($\sum xy$) is 35038 with 146 degrees of freedom, the r-calculated value was found to be .315 (sig .000). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies there is a significant relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement

Discussions of finding

Forced Labour and Student Academic Achievement

The finding revealed that forced labour has a significant influence on student academic achievement. The findings are in line with that of Pinzo and Hofferth, (2008) who found that forced labour is a far-reaching and complex problem in developing countries. It has existed in various forms (forced labour, trafficking and street trading) in different parts of the world since ancient times. Also, March (2008) states that child labour emerged as an issue during the industrial revolution when children were forced to work in dangerous conditions for well up to 12 hours a day. In 1860, 50% of children in England between the ages of 5 and 15 were said to be working. However, 1919 saw the world systematically begin to address the issue of child labour and the international labour organization (ILO) adopted standards to eliminate it.

The finding also agrees with Psachropoulo, (2007) who found that child labour is a disinvestment of social and human capital, a compromising of the development of the individual, and a hindering of the development of skills, abilities, and knowledge necessary to make a significant contribution to society, Convention on the rights of the child

Sexual Slavery and Pupils' Academic Achievement

The finding revealed that sexual slavery has a significant influence on Pupils' Academic Achievement. Thus, sexual slavery is passive in every part of the world. According to United Nations BBC reported in September 2014 1 in 10 girls have experienced sexual violence at early stages of their lifetime. The finding agrees with the United States, approximately 15% to 25% were sexually enslaved when they were children. Furthermore, in 1999 the BBC reported on the RAHI Foundations survey of sexual slavery in India, in which 76% of respondents said they had been enslaved as children. 40% of those stating the perpetrator was a family member (India's Hidden incest, BBC News, 1999) similarly, in many cases abusive are male, and about 20% of all sexual abusers are female. Such abuse can be sexual teasing and fondling, which involves confusion and shame of more blatant abuse. Boys are spared the problem of unwanted pregnancy that many sexually enhanced girls experience, but they often turn their anger outward. Also, the finding agrees with Imona (2006) who ascertained that sexual slavery is not gender restricted. In some areas of South Asia, especially Pakistan, underage boys and used as homosexual partners to older men. While in some cases children are sexually violated by their own parents or family members. These practices tend to bring shame, discomfort, depression, anxiety, and fear and hinder the child's academic achievement generally as those fears being exposed and name calling can also lead to withdrawal from active class activities.

Street Hawking and Pupil's Academic Achievement

The present finding revealed that street hawking and pupils' academic achievement. This Involves children hawking goods in the street is an emerging trend in Nigeria particularly in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River state is an issue of concern. The finding agrees with Michae and Awa, (2012) most of these children hawk before going to school in the morning and continue after until late night. Street hawking has left many children out of school as they drop out, are withdrawn by their parents or do not enrol. School-age children estimated to be 10.5 million are out of school in Nigeria. In the same vein, Okoji (2013) despite research finding on how to improve the academic achievement of pupils, low achievement and failure in examination has been reported. This indicates that there is a need to carry out more research on pupils' academic achievement.

Summary

The study revealed the influence of child trafficking on the academic achievement of primary school pupils in Odukpani Local Government Area in Cross River State, Nigeria. It was also observed that pupils who are not involved in child trafficking had higher academic achievement. The study was presented in five main chapters which this section intends to summarize. Chapter One introduced the study and the general background of the study. The

study has three research questions, three null hypotheses and three basic assumptions that guided the research. The scope of the study is victims and non-victims of child trafficking in Junior Secondary Schools in Edo State. Chapter two presents a detailed review of related literature and the conceptual studies related to the study. Also in chapter two, child trafficking as a concept was reviewed, incidences of child trafficking, causes of child trafficking, effects of child trafficking and measures to prevent child trafficking. Also presented in this chapter is the concept of academic achievement. Some related theories such as Hans Eysenck's theory of personality, Bandura and Lewin's theory of adjustment, and Aaron Beck's cognitive theory of depression were reviewed in chapter two. The chapter also reviewed some related empirical studies chapter three discussed the study's methodologies adopted. The ex-post-facto design was used using a structured questionnaire to gather data from the pupils (respondents) in selected Junior Secondary Schools in Edo State. The sampling technique adopted was the opportunistic sampling technique. The population for the study is 3,410 pupils consisting of victims and non-victims of child trafficking. The instrument for data collection was a well-structured questionnaire divided into four sections. Section A contains the bio data of the respondent, section B has academic achievement. Data collected from the subjects were analyzed using SPSS statistical package Version 20 and the following major findings were drawn from the study:

1. That significant relationship between forced labour and pupils' academic achievement.
2. That significant relationship between sexual slavery and pupils' academic achievement.
3. That significant relationship between street hawking and pupils' academic achievement of pupils.

Conclusions

The main objective of this study is to assess child trafficking on the academic achievement of primary school pupils in Odukpani Local Government Area in Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, the following conclusions can be deduced: Forced labour influences academic achievement. Similarly, sexual slavery influences academic achievement. Also, street hawking influences the academic achievement of pupils in the study area.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher hereby provides the following recommendations:

1. Victims and non-victims of child trafficking should be sensitized on the effects of child trafficking on personality and academic adjustment in school.
2. Workshops, seminars and lectures should be organized for both victims and non-victims of child trafficking to provide social support.
3. School psychologists and counsellors have to help victims of child trafficking to come out of the nightmare of the traumatic experience.

SOCIOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT/SIGNIFICANCE

It is hoped that the findings of this study or research work will be beneficial to classroom teachers of sociology and another related fields of study in methodology as a result of individual differences among children. The findings of this study would enable classroom teachers to effectively handle victims of child trafficking for optimal adjustment to teaching and learning in the school.

School sociologists, psychologists and counsellors would also find this study useful in behaviour management and counselling of victims and even non-victims of child trafficking. Policymakers and educationists have a lot to gain from this research in terms of curriculum planning and development, packing into consideration children who are victims of child trafficking.

Also, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as UNICEF would find this research useful in providing intervention programs for victims of child trafficking to benefit from the findings of this research.

The government can make use of the recommendations of this study through its agency, such as the national agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to reduce the incidences of child trafficking.

Victims and non-victims of child trafficking would as well benefit from this study by being sensitized on the effects and dangers of child trafficking which are all contained in this work. This will prepare and equip them against deceit from any trafficking agent. Similarly, it is hoped that the finding of this study will be significant to society in general. This is because if the society is aware of the detrimental effect and danger posed by child trafficking on academic achievement in school society itself can mount a campaign to frustrate the effort of the trafficking chain.

Finally, it is hoped that futures researchers would also find this work of immense importance, as it would serve as a reference material for their work

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