

Original Article

Impact of Unemployment on Child Labour Practice in Nigeria

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Abstract: *This study examines the impact of unemployment on child labour practice in Oyo State, Nigeria. The study uses primary data. The data were collected using interviews, and questionnaires were analyzed using a multinomial logit model. Findings revealed that Poverty, low household income, and high unemployment rates influence the increase in child labour in Oyo state, Nigeria. The study concludes that families facing economic hardship often rely on their children to contribute to household income, leading to children engaging in various forms of work at the expense of their education and well-being. As a result, the study suggests that the government should implement targeted economic empowerment initiatives focusing on poverty alleviation, especially in marginalized communities. These programs could include skills training, microfinance opportunities, and entrepreneurship support for parents to enhance household income.*

Keywords: *Unemployment, Child Labour, Multinomial Logit Model.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Child labour is a significant global social problem and a major developmental concern, where children are employed in ways that are harmful and detrimental to their well-being, depriving them of their childhood and exposing them to dangerous working conditions. This issue has gained increased attention in the past three decades, particularly in developing regions such as Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Sally (2014) notes that child labour garnered more focus in the 1990s due to heightened concern for the immediate welfare of millions of underprivileged children worldwide. This growing awareness was driven by media coverage of child-related issues and increased governmental documentation of child labour practices. Child labour remains an enduring challenge worldwide, as highlighted by the latest global estimates from 2020, revealing that a staggering 160 million children, 63 million girls and 97 million boys, were trapped in child labour, accounting for nearly 1 in 10 children globally. Alarming, 79 million of these children, almost half of those in child labour, were exposed to hazardous work, posing direct threats to their health, safety, and ethical growth (ILO, 2020).

Despite efforts, progress against child labour has hit a standstill since 2016, with the percentage of children engaged in child labour remaining unchanged. Shockingly, the absolute number of children involved surged by over 8 million, while hazardous work rose by 6.5 million children (ILO, 2020). This predicament disproportionately affects rural areas, with 122.7 million rural children and 37.3 million urban children impacted. The prevalence of child labour in rural regions stands at 13.9 per cent, almost three times higher than in urban areas at 4.7 per cent. The agricultural sector continues to be the primary domain for child labour, encompassing 70 per cent of all child labourers, totaling 112 million children. This includes many younger children, emphasizing agriculture's role as a starting point for child labour. Notably, over three-quarters of children aged 5 to 11 engaged in child labour are in agriculture (ILO, 2020).

Sub-Saharan Africa witnessed an alarming increase in child labour, rising from 21% to 28% among children aged 5-14 years in 2016. Despite targeted policies by African governments to combat child labour, this region experienced a surge in child labour from 2012-2016, while other regions witnessed a decline (UNICEF, 2016; ILO, 2017a). Africa has the greatest number and prevalence rates of child labor, so the ILO (2017a) executive note called for an achievement there. It stated that decreases in the region would be essential in ending child labor globally and accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goal of finishing child labor in all forms by 2025. Further study is required to understand why child labor numbers in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to rise, even if the summary linked the region's regression to larger demographic and economic trends that run counter to government initiatives.

Child labour remains a significant concern in Nigeria, a Sub-Saharan nation, despite the implementation of legislative measures (ILO, 2014). The last documented national child labour survey in Nigeria dates back to 2000-2001, and since then, no further reports or surveys have been conducted or recorded. It is plausible that the Nigerian government has not pursued subsequent surveys due to insufficient funds or a lack of desire and incentives. The aforementioned report also emphasized how the lack of state, zonal, and national statistics on the different facets and patterns of child labor in the area impeded the efficient execution of measures to address this problem (International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour, IPEC, and



Federal Office of Statistics of Nigeria, 2001). Out of the 80 million child laborers in Africa, the estimate for Nigeria alone indicates that over 12 million children around the ages of 10 and 14 are employed to augment their family income, according to the prevalence of child labor and street trade. Street trade is strongly linked to destitution and subpar service. (Musa, Magaji, Abdulmalik & Eke, 2022). Scholars have offered a number of explanations for why kids get involved in street trade. These include things like poverty, parental exploitation, children making poor decisions due to apathy, children's early concerns about money, parents' financial situation, children's desire to support their parents or the culture's belief that children should support their parents, high unemployment rates, and quick population growth. (Ijere, 2015; Aluko & Magaji, 2020).

Despite concerted efforts to address child labour, it remains a pressing concern in Nigeria. Enacted in 2003, the Child Rights Act sets the age of a child at below eighteen years and emphasizes prioritizing a child's best interests in all matters. However, despite this legislation being in place for sixteen years, the prevalence of child labour remains a significant challenge, with millions of children still involved in such activities. Addressing the complex nature of child labour requires the identification and understanding of specific aspects of the problem. In this study, we focus on analyzing the economic factors that influence child labour practices in Oyo state, Nigeria. This study therefore, tries to answer the question as what are the impact of unemployment on child labour practices in Oyo State, Nigeria. The main objective of this study is to examine the economic factors that influence child labour practices in Oyo State, Nigeria. Finally, the hypothesis of the study, which is in null form, is to state that unemployment does not have any impact on child labour practices in Oyo State, Nigeria.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A) Conceptual Review

There are Major concepts to understand here and they are child labour and household income. In subsequent sections, these concepts will be dissected, and the relationship between them will be made clear.

a. Child Labour

Defining a child universally refers to an individual yet to attain adulthood, aligning with international frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Child Rights Act (CRC) of 1989, all recognizing individuals below the age of 18 as children. The International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2011 defined child labour as work carried out by children below the legally specified minimum age for that work, believed to be harmful and detrimental to their well-being, thus prohibited. Essentially, child labour involves employing children under 18 (though this age may vary across societies), restricting their access to basic education and hindering their development. Various perspectives depict child labour differently. Edmonds and Pavcnik (2005) consider child labour abusive when children engage in work under adverse and hazardous conditions. Suda (2011) defines it as work harmful to children's health or educational pursuits, while Moyi (2011) characterizes it as low wages, extended hours, and abuse. Bhat (2010) contends that defining child labour is complex, encompassing the challenging concepts of "child," "work," and "labour," with childhood being defined by age, albeit variably across societies. Across societies, the definition of child labour varies. In Africa and Asia, work by fifteen-year-olds may not be considered child labour; instead, it is seen as an avenue for children to acquire skills. Distinguishing between child work, viewed as part of a child's training to become a responsible adult, and child labour, perceived as exploitative, is common (Omokhodion&Odusote, 2006). Aqil (2012) posits that not all work undertaken by children is inherently harmful, emphasizing the significance of the type of work, working hours, and work conditions.

Conversely, Weston (2005) argues that any work undertaken by children can potentially harm their health due to abuse, exploitation, or hazardous conditions. ILO (2018) presents four premises to define child labour, encompassing work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, interferes with their education, or is physically, mentally, socially, or morally harmful. Okyere's (2012) ethnographic study on mining children in Ghana emphasizes that child labour's essence lies in the cultural context within which it occurs and the nature of the work undertaken.

b. Unemployment

Considering the definition of unemployed, people generally agree on it. To put it plainly, "unemployment" is the state of not having a job. Both the World Bank (1998) and the International Labour Organization (2017) define unemployment as the state in which people are actively looking for employment despite not being employed at the moment, regardless of whether they left their positions intentionally or due to a loss of employment. Adebayo (2013) highlights further that people become unemployed when they actively look for jobs but are unable to obtain acceptable employment. It also indicates that individuals were unemployed due to a deficiency in education, a consequence of child labor. (Musa & Magaji, 2023b). According to Okafor (2018), unemployment and joblessness result from a surplus supply of labor relative to the requirement for it. Young individuals may be forced to work in the government sector in temporary or non-traditional capacities due to a lack of job prospects, which could result in underemployment. (Magaji et al., 2022). The research has discovered and acknowledged a number of different types of unemployment, such as structural, cyclical, frictional, and

seasonal unemployment (Adebayo, 2013). Research on unemployment frequently focuses on current staff members (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020; Obadan & Odusola, 2018). According to Magaji and Adamu (2011), those who do not currently hold a job yet are actively seeking one during the moment of the survey are classified as unemployed. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020), a nation's labor force is the totality of its citizens who are able and willing to work for compensation. The inability to employ people 15 years of age and older who are prepared for work but have trouble finding employment promptly is referred to as youth unemployment. There are several subgroups of young people without jobs; they include those with no higher education who look for work as laborers or housekeepers. Graduates from primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions are divided into several job segments according to their level of education.

B) Theoretical Review

To underpin this study, the Culture of Poverty Theory is used and linked to it.

a. The Culture of Poverty Theory

The theory of the culture of poverty provides insight into child labour through the lens of poverty. Originating in the late 1950s from the work of American Anthropologist Oscar Lewis, this theory emerged from his observations among the urban poor in Mexico and Puerto Rico. Lewis argues that poverty, wherever it exists, induces feelings of marginalization, helplessness, inferiority, and dependence among individuals. In Nigeria, those grappling with poverty often adopt diverse coping strategies, navigating their circumstances in unconventional ways.

These emotions prompt actions and involvement in various activities, including child labour, which is perceived as a norm within their community. Lewis (1996) outlines key facets of the "culture of poverty" theory, focusing on individuals, parents, caregivers, and guardians experiencing these emotions. This leads to weakened psychological structures, impulsive behavior, and a limited capacity to delay gratification. This mindset fosters resignation, fatalism, and unstable family structures. Consequently, the belief emerges that the sole avenue for hope lies in involving their children in labour to augment family income (Ering, 2000).

Lewis suggests that these patterns of poverty create a self-perpetuating cycle, transmitting from one generation to the next, manifesting in lifestyles, beliefs, and values that go beyond mere adaptation to low income. Subsequent generations may unwittingly perpetuate child labour, replicating the actions of their predecessors. However, critics argue that the theory falls short in delineating specific areas where the impoverished exhibit vulnerabilities. It tends to generalize poverty, disregarding its diverse and distinct characteristics (Shaba, Obansa, Magaji & Yelwa, 2018). Additionally, critics highlight its limited applicability to Western societies. In Africa, research indicates robust community initiatives, such as the Esusu Thrift Contribution, showcasing communal action and engagement in self-help projects (Okolo, 2002). Family heads actively participate in political endeavors and private practices to supplement their finances, challenging the theory's universality.

C) Empirical Review

Oladokun, Dada, Agulanna, and Adenegan (2020) investigate the factors that lead to child labor in Nigerian farming homes. The General Household Survey (GHS 2015/2016) provided data on 765 rural Nigerian households, which were used to explore the factors that contribute to child labor. The six Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria (North-Central, North-West, North-East, South-East, South-South, and Southwest) were used to separate the data. The descriptive statistics and logit regression models at $\alpha 0.05$ were used to extract data on socioeconomic variables (age, family size, marital status, years of schooling, and participation in cooperative society) and the usage of child labor. The study concludes that labour is harmful to the well-being of children.

In Katsina State, Nigeria, Abdu, Rabi, and Usman (2020) investigate the impact of child labor on the education of kids. Three senatorial districts in Katsina State were chosen, along with 216 child laborers, using a sampling method with multiple stages. To gather information on respondents' socioeconomic traits, engagement in child labor, causes, and effects, a structured interview schedule was employed. In order to analyze the data, descriptive and inferential statistics were employed. The findings indicate a strong relationship between the causes, perceived consequences on education, and the degree of child labor involvement. The outcome also demonstrates a substantial association between the effect and the mother's career and family type.

Bifarin, OduwaleAkinrinsoye & Abu (2020) Determinants of the Use of Child Labour in Crop Production in Estako West Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. The study used multistage random sampling techniques in the sample selection process. The study randomly selected six communities from which 17 respondents were randomly selected from each six communities making a total of 102 respondents. The data obtained were analyzed in descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The result shows that 61.8% of the respondents were between the ages of 11 and 14 years, with a mean age of 14

years. 52.9% of the children were males, while 47.1% were females. The regression results indicated an R^2 value of 0.893, which implies that 89.3% of the variability in man-hours of child labour (Y) is being accommodated by the independent variables (Xs) specified in the model, with household (X_3) and experience (X_4) significant at 5% level.

The 2016 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey provided evidence for Jephtah, Panse, Abdullahi, and Jeremiah's (2021) analysis of the contributing factors to child labor in Nigeria and its implications for SDG 8. Both primary and secondary information were employed in the investigation. The 2016 MICS was used to extract the secondary data. 33,901 households from 2,239 enumeration regions made up the nationally representative sample in a two-phase sampling frame. Three age-specific thresholds were used to administer 61,109 surveys to children between the ages of 5 and 17. The study applied a logistic regression approach to identify the relevant elements of child labor and tabulations, which involve frequencies and percentages, to examine the data at the basic level. The findings demonstrated that there was still a high rate of child labor in the nation and that children from the poorest homes were more likely to be employed as minors.

The frequency and predictors of child labor among junior secondary school pupils in Enugu, Nigeria's Enebe, Enebe, Agunwa, Ossai, Ezeoke, Idoko, & Mbachu (2021) study. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted on 332 junior secondary pupils enrolled in public schools in the Nigerian city of Enugu. The six secondary schools and the study participants were chosen using a multiple-stage sampling procedure. The questionnaire asked questions about the respondents' work type, number of hours worked per week, and socioeconomic background. To determine the prevalence of child labor, UNICEF's standardized criterion for child labor was employed. Child labour socioeconomic indicators were identified through the application of logistic regression analysis. According to the data, the prevalence of child labor, in general, was 71.7%, but the frequency of child labor in the home and economy was 52.1 and 34.0%, respectively.

Stephen & Oduaran (2021) Thus, the study looks at the experiences of kids in Africa who were supposed to be in school but were instead seen working in the unofficial market. Methods: Non-discriminative snowballing and referrals were used to gather qualitative data. The study involved forty-eight individuals from the Aleshinloye and Bodija markets in Southwest Nigeria (48-KII 2, IDI 10, FGD 6–6 persons in each group, a total of 36). The findings indicate that the prevalence of child labor in Southwest Nigeria's informal market space can be attributed to a number of factors, including peer pressure, parental poverty, inadequate educational facilities, and periodic strikes by pre- and colleges and universities.

The factors that contribute to and the most common types of child labor practices in the Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria, are examined by Oli and Nweke (2021). The target demographic was limited to adults who were at least eighteen years old. A mixed methods research methodology was used for the investigation. The Taro Yamane formula was used to statistically produce a sample size of 200. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling methods were employed in the study's multistage sampling procedure to choose respondents. The two main tools used for gathering data were a comprehensive guide to interviews and a questionnaire schedule, both of which are qualitative and quantitative methods. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program was used to process the quantitative data that were gathered from the field investigation. The study's conclusions demonstrate that factors such as poverty, parents' educational attainment, family size, cultural beliefs, and residing in a slum area are associated with child labor practices. The study's findings also demonstrated that work in industries, farming, hawking, and begging on the streets are common kinds of child labor in the Awka South Local Government Area.

Mackintosh and Wori (2021) analyze the impact of parental socioeconomic status on child labor in the Port Harcourt Metropolitan Area. The primary data collection tool for the study was a 14-item questionnaire called the "Parental Socioeconomic Status on Child Labour" (PSSCL). The survey included 126 respondents in total, 45 of whom were parents and 81 of whom were children. To collect trustworthy data, the study used a descriptive survey research approach. The mean and standard deviation were used to examine data derived from primary and secondary sources. The study's conclusions demonstrated a substantial relationship between the frequency of child labor and the socioeconomic position of the parents.

Musa, Magaji, and Tsauni (2022) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the fundamental infrastructural influences on child labour in Northeastern Nigeria. Their study employed a multistage sampling approach to gather data from selected local government areas across three states in the region. Structured questionnaires were utilized and administered to 810 children and their household heads across three wards within each selected local government area. The researchers employed the Tobit Model for data analysis. The study outcomes revealed noteworthy insights. Firstly, the presence of access to electricity exhibited no significant impact on children's involvement in work activities.

Similarly, access to clean; piped water showcased no significant effect on children engaging in work. Interestingly, the distance of schools from households, measured in kilometers, demonstrated a significant positive correlation with children's engagement in work—an important finding highlighting the influence of distance on children's labour participation. Contrastingly, the distance between hospitals and households, measured in kilometers, did not exhibit a significant impact on

children's involvement in work. Furthermore, an increase in the distance between hospitals and households, measured in kilometers, displayed the potential to reduce the likelihood of children engaging in work as an insightful observation suggesting a potential correlation between distance from hospitals and decreased child labour participation.

Musa and Magaji (2023) investigate the relationship between household income and child labor in the Bauchi Local Government Area. Their study used a survey research design, administering questionnaires to participants. Fifty respondents who live in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State provided the data. In their study, data were analyzed using percentage analysis and chi-square and presented using tables. The findings indicate that there is an inverse association between household income and child labor in the area, with low household income and a lack of economic possibilities serving as the main causes of child labor. According to the study, 80% of respondents say they don't get any funding or assistance from the federal government. As a result, the study suggests strategies that will increase household income as well as job prospects.

III. METHODOLOGY

A) Research Design

This research uses Multinomial Logistic Regression (MLR) as its approach. Both nominal and ordinal values make up the raw data set. When there are more than two categories and a nominal dependent variable, multinomial regression is employed. The independent variables don't naturally occur in any particular order. The inability of the independent variables to predict the dependent variable accurately in every situation is one of the tenets of multiple regression analysis. It is the Binomial Logit model expanded upon. The maximum likelihood ratio is used in multinomial regression to calculate the likelihood that the dependent variable is categorically represented. Since multinomial logistic regression does not make any assumptions about normality, linearity, or homoscedasticity, it is a good fit for this set of data. (Starkweather, 2011).

B) Population of the Study

Nigeria's Oyo State serves as the study's population. Inland, in southwest Nigeria, is Oyo State. Its capital, Ibadan, was formerly the second most populated city in Africa and currently ranks third in the nation. Oyo State is the fourteenth largest state in terms of area, with 28,454 square kilometers. NBS (2017) projects that Oyo State will have 7,840,864 residents in 2016, making it the sixth most populated state in Nigeria. The entire population cannot be covered due to time constraints, resource constraints, and the requirement for follow-up; thus, a sampling technique that can be used to select participants at random to reflect the study's full population must be used.

C) Sampling and Sampling Techniques

According to Neuman (2000), the objective of collecting a sample is to obtain specific cases, events, or actions that can enhance comprehension and provide greater insight. Nwana in Uzoagulu (1998) suggested that the sample size should not be a fixed number or percentage but rather should be based on the specific circumstances of the study. Therefore, the appropriate number or percentage of the population to be studied should be determined based on the situation. The Taro Yamani Formula, according to Okeke (1995), can be used to calculate sample size. As a result, the sample size for this investigation was established using the following Yamani (1968) sample size calculation formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$= \frac{7,840,864}{1 + 7,840,864 (0.05)^2}$$

Where: n= sample size

N= population size

e= sample error level of significance

1 = constant

Therefore;

$$= \frac{7,840,864}{1 + 7,840,864 (0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{7,840,864}{1 + 7,840,864 \times 0.0025}$$

$$= \frac{7,840,864}{19,603.16}$$

$$= 399.9$$

$$= 399.9$$

$$= 399.9$$

$$= 399.9$$

Therefore, approximately the sample size (n) = 400.

D) Instrument of Data Collection

The major instrument for data collection used would be the primary source of data collection, which would be through the administration of questionnaires to the respondents. The questionnaire would be divided into two sections (one and two); section one would capture information on the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents these include, including age and gender, among others.

The second section will capture the view of the respondents on the impact of household income on child labour in Oyo State, Nigeria.

E) Nature and Source of Data

To generate data to address the objectives of the research, primary and secondary sources were used. The source of primary data was basically from the field survey done in the study area.

Secondary data was collected from publications like books, journals, seminar papers and written reports considered relevant to the subject of study.

F) Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire is an assembly, array, or group of questions that are typically contained in a single document that is duplicated numerous times and is meant to be completed by multiple people in order to gather data for a certain goal. Primary data, according to Barnes 2000 as referenced in Linus (2006), are first-hand findings from the study. This could come from questionnaire responses or interviews. The researcher used interviews and questionnaires to gather data for this study.

G) Method of Data Analysis

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

H) Model Specification

To assess the economic factors that influence child labour practices in Oyo state, Nigeria, The study adapted the model of Erkan (2016) as used in their study “Using Multinomial Logistic Regression to Examine the Relationship Between Children’s Work Status and Demographic Characteristics” with a modification:

a. Model Three

$$= \frac{\ln(P)}{\ln(1-P)} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 UMP + \mu$$

Where:

L = 1, if Unemployment influences child labour in Oyo state; (1-P), if otherwise.

UMP = Unemployment rate

The Multinomial Binary Logistic Model was selected due to its ability to support a large number of variables and allow for a logically coherent interpretation. In addition to being a very versatile and user-friendly function with straightforward mathematical computation, the research aimed to pinpoint the critical factors influencing a choice with a binary result. The model could not be estimated using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique because the dependent variable was binary.

I) Estimation and Evaluation Techniques and Procedures

a. Omnibus Test:

It tells us whether the overall model is accepted or not. We are dealing with P-value. If the P-value is less than 0.05, then we can interpret that the model has a good fitting in the data. Here, the null is that the model has no good fitting. We will conclude here whether the overall model is accepted or not.

b. Goodness of Fit:

This is the percent correctly predicted value. If all of the independent factors have significance in describing modifications to the dependent variables, this statistic will demonstrate the predictive ability of the variables that are not dependent.

c. Odd Ratio:

This is the likelihood of the occurrence of something. It represents the constant effect of a predictor X, on the likelihood that one outcome will occur. It is also called the relative risk of a logit model. It measures the probability that

$y=1$ relative to the probability that $y=0$. An odd ratio of 2 means that the outcome $y=1$ is twice as likely as the outcome of $y=0$. Odd ratio of 1 means equally likely and >1 means $y=1$ will be more likely, and < 1 means $y=0$.

d. Nagelkerke R-Squared:

It is a modification of the Cox and Snell R-Squared. It is the most acceptable of Pseudo R-Squared because it has a lower bound of zero (0) and an upper bound of one (1). It explains the variation in the dependent variable accounted for by the predictors in a model.

e. Predictive Probability:

After estimating the models, we predict the probability that $y=1$ for each observation because of their functional form. This ensures the correct prediction of the model.

$$P = \text{pr}[y=1/x] = F(x'\beta)$$

The predicted probability is limited between 0 and 1.

The predicted probability indicates the likelihood of $y=1$.

f. Hypothesis Test:

$H_0: \beta_0 = 0$ (the parameter estimate is statistically significant)

$H_1: \beta_0 \neq 0$ (the parameter estimate is not statistically significant)

g. Decision Rule:

For p values >0.05 , reject H_0

The decision guiding the acceptance or rejection of any hypothesis stated above will be based on the likelihood of the predictive power of the parameter and the statistical significance of each of the parameters. Applying the two-tail test for p-values > 0.05 , we reject the null hypothesis; if otherwise, we accept the null hypothesis. For p-values <0.05 , if the calculated value is less than the tabulated value in the normal distribution table, we reject the null hypothesis; otherwise accept the null hypothesis. If the predicted probability indicates the likelihood of $y=1$, if the predicted probability is less than 0.05, we can predict that $y=1$; otherwise, $y=0$.

IV. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

A) Data Presented

An adult member of several households in Oyo state was given a total of 399 questionnaires and most were retrieved and completed. The methods employed the data collectors who not only gave out our questionnaires to the respondents but interviewed them individually about each question of the questionnaire and also guided them on how to understand the questions on the questionnaire and instructed them on how the proper answer could be recorded, can be credited to the overall success of this. Out of 399 copies of the questionnaire that were distributed following the sample size, 384 were retrieved, and 364 were analyzed due to outliers and the findings are displayed below.

a. Response Rate

Displayed in the table below is the result of the questionnaire administered for the study. There were 399 distributed questionnaires. 384 questionnaires were retrieved from respondents, and they constitute 98.2 per cent of the total questionnaires. The respondents did not return 15 questionnaires. 20 questionnaires were considered to be outliers and were unused in the study. In the end, only 364 questionnaires were used for final analysis, and they constituted 92.2 per cent of the total 399 distributed. As such, 92.2 percent is enough representation of the whole sample and, by extension, the population at large.

Table 1: Summary of Questionnaire Administration

Case Processing Summary			
		N	Marginal Percentage
Child Labour	0	3	2.9%
	1	100	97.1%
Gender	1	71	68.9%
	2	32	31.1%
Age	1	36	35.0%
	2	28	27.2%
	3	27	26.2%
	4	12	11.7%
Marital Status	1	13	12.6%
	2	46	44.7%
	3	44	42.7%

Academic Qualification	1	45	43.7%
	2	12	11.7%
	3	26	25.2%
	4	20	19.4%
Valid		364	100.0%
Missing		35	
Total		399	
Subpopulation		302	
a. The dependent variable has only one value observed in 302 (100.0%) subpopulations.			

Source: Authors Computation, 2024

b. Descriptive Analysis

Table 2: Distribution of Responses based on the gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	204	77.4
Male	160	22.6
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

From the result in the table, the respondent's Gender Female is 204, representing 77.4%, and Male are 160, representing 22.6%. This shows that the majority of the respondents are Female.

Table 3: Distribution of Responses based on the Age of the Respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20 - 30	70	25.7
31 - 40	195	38.5
41 - 50	83	28.3
51 - Above	16	7.5
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

From the result in the table above, the respondents aged between 20-30 are 70, representing 25.7%, and those between 31-40 are 195, representing 38.5%. Also, those that range from 41-50 are 83, representing 28.3%, and those above 50 years of age are 16, representing 7.5%. This shows that the majority of respondents are within the middle age.

Table 4: Distribution of Responses based on Academic Qualification

Academic qualification	Frequency	Percentage
BSc/HND	54	13.3
NCE/OND	204	59.2
O'Level	106	27.5
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

From the result in the above table, the respondents academically qualified with BSc/Hnd is 54, representing 13.3%; those that are qualified with Nce/Ond are 204, representing 59.2%; and those qualified with O'Level are 106, representing 27.5%. This shows that the majority of the respondents are Nce/Ond holders.

Table 5: Distribution of responses based on Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	90	38.1
Married	254	54
Divorce	20	7.9
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

From the result in the above table, the respondents that are single are 90, representing 38.1%; those that are married are 254, representing 54%; and those that are divorced 20, representing 7.9%. This shows that the majority of respondents are within the middle age.

Table 6: Distribution of responses based on Average Monthly Income

Average Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
N5000-N10,000	68	15.5
N11,000-N20,000	109	38.5
N21,000-N30,000	150	40
N31,000-N40,000	37	6
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 7: Distribution of Responses Based on Reasons for Child Labour

Reasons for child labour	Frequency	Percentage
Economic necessity	84	24
Tradition or cultural practice	35	13.2
Lack of access to education	220	54
Others	25	8.8
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 8: Distribution of responses based on Primary source of income in Oyo state

Primary source of income in Oyo State	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	187	47.2
Formal employment	58	20.8
Informal employment	84	25
Others	35	7
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 9: Distribution of Responses Based on Children Involved in Work due to Finances

Children involved in work due to financial necessity	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	268	78.6
No	96	21.4
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 10: Distribution of Responses Based on Overall Economic Situation in Oyo State

Overall Economic Situation in Oyo State	Frequency	Percentage
Very poor	91	25.4
Poor	23	13
Average	205	35.6
Good	35	16
Very good	10	10
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 11: Distribution of responses based on Employment Status

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Employed	109	32
Unemployed	32	4.8
Self-Employed	155	48
Student	68	15.2
Total	364	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 12: Distribution of Responses Based on do You Believe Child Labour is a Significant Issue in Oyo State

Do you believe child labour is a significant issue in Oyo state	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	358	98
No	6	2
Total	364	100

Source Field Survey 2024

i) Presentations and Analysis of Regression Results

The regression analysis result of the study's objective is presented in Table 1.0 below. They show the inferential statistics and the justifications for testing the study's hypothesis.

ii) Test of the Hypothesis

This study examined the hypothesis using the logit regression technique. The tested null hypothesis is that:

H2: Unemployment does not influence child labour in Oyo state.

c. Result for the Impact of Unemployment on Child Labour Practices in Oyo State

It was observed that the estimated odds ratio of unemployment is 674 times more likely to influence child labour activities in Oyo state. The result shows that unemployment has a probability level of 0.001, which is less than 0.05 (5% level of significance). This implies that unemployment has a significant impact on child labour activities in Oyo state.

Table 13: Parameter Estimates

Child Labour ^a		B	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval for Exp(B)	
								Lower Bound	Upper Bound
0	Intercept	3.959	1.368	8.376	1	.004			
	Unemployment	.674	.354	.000	1	.000	1.004	.502	2.009

a. The reference category is 1.

Note: Standard Error, in parenthesis, is Significant at 5%.

Source: Authors Computation

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**A) Conclusion**

The study examines the impact of economic factors that influence child labour practices in Oyo state. Using the multinomial logit model, the findings revealed that Poverty, low household income, and high unemployment rates are closely linked to increased instances of child labour. Families facing economic hardships often resort to sending their children to work, viewing it as a means of supplementing household income.

Based on the findings, the study concludes that Poverty is a significant driver of child labour in Oyo State. Families facing economic hardship often rely on their children to contribute to household income, leading to children engaging in various forms of work at the expense of their education and well-being. Low household income exacerbates the vulnerability of families, compelling children to seek work opportunities to support their households. Inadequate income sources limit access to education and essential services, prompting children to enter the labour force prematurely. High unemployment rates contribute to the prevalence of child labour. When adults in a household are unemployed or underemployed, children might be compelled to work as a means of filling the income gap and supporting the family.

Here are recommendations that can help address the impact of poverty, household income, and unemployment on child labour in Oyo State. Government should provide:

- Economic Empowerment Programs: Implement targeted economic empowerment initiatives focusing on poverty alleviation, especially in marginalized communities. These programs could include skills training, microfinance opportunities, and entrepreneurship support for parents to enhance household income.
- Education Accessibility: Ensure universal access to quality education. Establish and enforce policies that guarantee free and compulsory education for all children, irrespective of socioeconomic background. Provide scholarships or financial aid to vulnerable families to cover educational expenses.
- Vocational Training for Parents: Offer vocational training programs for unemployed or underemployed parents, equipping them with skills for better job opportunities. This could reduce reliance on child labour as a supplementary income source.
- Social Support Services: Strengthen social welfare services to support families facing economic hardships. This might include access to healthcare, food assistance, and housing support, reducing the pressure on children to work for survival.
- Awareness and Advocacy: Conduct awareness campaigns and community-based initiatives to educate families about the risks and long-term consequences of child labour. Advocate for policy changes and societal shifts to discourage child labour practices.

B) Contribution to Knowledge

This analysis significantly contributes to understanding the influence of household income on child labour. Employing rigorous methods such as regression modeling, relationship checks and questionnaire administration, the study revealed crucial

insights into the factors driving and the consequences of these issues in Oyo state. By emphasizing the significance of quality education, empowerment programs, and the effectiveness of social welfare officers and policymakers, this analysis provides policymakers with good and clear guidance to develop strategies aimed at reducing or eliminating child labour in Oyo State, Nigeria.

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