The Nexus of Street Trading and Juvenile Delinquency: A Study of Chanchaga Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria

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I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, the number of working children has been decreasing around the world in recent years, but child labour has continued to be a widespread problem today, especially in developing countries (Paola, Viviana, Flavia & Furio2007). International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC 2016) reported that between 2012 to 2016, about 182 million children in the developing world aged 5-14 years were engaged in work. Against this background, governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have focused their efforts on tackling in particular the worst forms of child labour such as forced and bonded labour, which put children in physically and mentally harmful working conditions (Bunnak 2007).

According to Ekong (2016), in most developing countries, 1 in every 5 children work; and 1 in every 3 children work in Africa, though there are significant differences in economic activity rates across these regions. Child labour is widespread and has been on the increase in Nigeria, where 45percent of the total population, of over 140 million people, has been found to be children under the age of 15 years (Dimeji and Arielle 2008). A huge 15 million children, under the age of 15 years, are engaged in one form of labour or another in Nigeria. A majority of these children are exposed to long hours of work in very dangerous and unhealthy environments (Bada 2015). Children in Nigeria are employed in public places and markets: as street vendors (64%); beggars and shoe shiners (4%); car washers/watchers (6%); scavengers (5%); and feet washers (8%) (Mustapha & Mustapha 2014). In northern Nigeria, children who survive on the street by begging are referred to as `almajirai'. The rise in the rate of child labour in the country might have been a consequence of the demand for cheap labour and poverty (Dammert and Galdo 2013), although, children have always worked in Nigeria.

However, the philosophy of most cultures in Nigeria, have encouraged children to work with their families, in order to learn skills they would need in adulthood. Children today are forced to work as a survival strategy for themselves and their family. The money earned by child labourers' has formed a significant part of poor families' income. Okojie and Effiong (2014) posited that child labour has led to mass drop out from primary and secondary schools, increased involvement of children in crime and drug related habits, hampered human capital development, and the development of the potentials of developing countries like Nigeria. There is widespread belief, that employment is destructive to a child's' intellectual and physical development, especially that of young children. Children in Nigeria have been found to spend their time in four main activities, namely: work, school, work/school, and leisure/idle. United States Bureau of International Labour Affairs (2002) and UNESCO (2018) affirmed that 24.2 percent of children in Nigeria between the age's of10 and 14 years have worked. The latter situation was said to have been responsible for the increased rate of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria.

However, the issue of juvenile delinquency is an age long problem; it seems that the juvenile delinquency of the past cannot be compared with that of the present era. The anti-social behaviours often associated with the juvenile delinquents, such vices as vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy, school drop-outs, to mention but a few. According to Bartol and Anne (2009), until something is done to curb the trend of juvenile delinquency, the prospect of a better, safer and more prosperous and crime society emerging in Nigeria will remain elusive.

Statement of the Problem

Most children start hawking at a very tender age, when they are still in their formative years. On the other hand, general standards of morality and social norms that govern acceptable patterns of behaviour are on the decline. When children are, by street hawking, exposed to the corrupting influences of the debased society without commensurate or even more positive influence from the family circle, they may develop patterns of speech and behaviour that may deviate considerably from socially desirable and acceptable standards. These hawkers may become trained to indulge in bad behaviours which may thwart their progress in life. Thus, this study seeks to ascertain the nexus of street trading and

juvenile delinquency in Nigeria. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

I. Does trading on the streets lead young people to juvenile acts?
II. Are young people who are engaged in street trading juvenile delinquents?

The following hypotheses are developed to guide the study

I. Young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents than those who do not
II. Young people who indulge in delinquents behaviours are more likely to be street traders than those who are not

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

There is no universal definition of a Juvenile or Delinquency. The laws of different nations stipulate different age brackets for the juveniles. Juvenile delinquency refers to the violation of the criminal codes regulating the behaviour of young persons in the society. Besides, the concept of a juvenile is sometimes used interchangeably with other concepts like a child, an adolescent and a youth. But the law is usually more specific in its definition of a child or juvenile or youth. The Children and Young Persons Act (2014), defines a child as a person under the age of fourteen years. Also, the law defines a young person as a person who has attained the age of fourteen years. The law, however, did not define a juvenile. However other indicators in the law show that the term refers to a person under the age of seventeen years. Juvenile delinquency broadly defined refers to any act in violation of criminal law, committed by a person defined under law as it juvenile, which if had been committed by an adult will be treated as crime or criminal conduct (Alemika and Chukwuma 2008).In addition to conducts which constitute delinquency for the juveniles and crime for the adults, there are other behaviours that do not constitute crime for adults but which are defined as delinquency, when manifested by children and young persons. These are referred to as status offences. Such behaviours are prohibited among juveniles because of the status of the young person. Status offences under juvenile delinquency laws of different countries include diverse behaviours like truancy from school, running away from home, drinking alcohol in public, associating with disrepute persons - criminals, prostitutes, etc.

Ruch (2006) in Sambo (2008), defined juvenile delinquency as the problems caused by the youth in the community which are now universal accepted as crimes frequently committed by young people under the age of 21 years. Bass (2004) and Hamblem (2019) posit that delinquency occurs in a child when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action.

Omokhodion and Uchendu (2009), cross-sectional study was carried out among working children in a large market in Ibadan, south-west Nigeria. A total of 225 children, 132 females and 93 males, participated in the survey. Their age range was 8–17 years. The findings revealed that a total of 106 (47%) children perceived they as exploited and less fortunate than their peers. Obayelu and Okoruwa (2005), found future implication of the exploitation of child labour will not only damages the children concerned but also inhibits the emergence of a skilled workforce, but will force Nigeria into a cycle of impoverishment. It will lead to high child mortality rate as a result of working too young, for too many hours, and in hazardous conditions. By the time such children reach adulthood they are often damaged physically, emotionally, morally and intellectually and would have lost the opportunity for an education that would open up a better futures and the amount of schooling in children today determines the wage they command as adult tomorrow. Additional problems found to be associated with street hawking include smoking, cult involvement and conducts problems (Ugudulunwa, Anakwe, & Mustapha, 2004)

Aransiola and Zarowsky (2014), examines the experience of street children and other stakeholders' perceptions in three urban cities (Lagos, Kaduna and Port Harcourt) in Nigeria. The study used quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the perspectives of five major stakeholders: Government Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, the Community, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and street children themselves. The findings revealed that street children are perceived to be perpetrators as well as victims of crime. They are exploited, abused and used as drug mules, pressed into commercial sex, and manipulated or bribed into the fire-bombings and violence in Nigeria

Adegoke (2015), ascertained factors responsible for an increasing juvenile delinquency and crime. Three research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Fifty delinquent and fifty non-delinquent juveniles were randomly selected from ten schools across Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria and research questionnaires administered to solicit information. The hypotheses were tested using chi square statistic at p≤.05 level of significance and appropriate degrees of freedom. Results indicate broken home, poverty and peer influence are the main sustainers of juvenile delinquency.

Animasahun and Aremu (2015) investigated the influence of age, family warmth and school connectedness on juvenile delinquency among secondary school adolescents in the State of Osun, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey of the ex-post type. Using a multi-stage sampling technique, three hundred students were selected for the study. Two schools were selected from each local government through simple random sampling method. From each school, 50 SS2 students were randomly chosen for the study based on balloting. The age of the students ranged from 14-16, with a mean age of 14.45. Three hypotheses were raised and answered at 0.05 level of significance. Data was collected

using three validated research instruments: Family Warmth Scale, School Connection Scale and Self-Report of Delinquency Scale. Analysis of data was done using Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis. Findings indicated that the three null hypotheses were rejected as significant relationship was found between each variable and juvenile delinquency. This indicate that the family from which the child comes, his current age and the kind of school must be taken note of in finding lasting solutions to adolescents' delinquency.

Nsisong and Eme (2012) determined the opinions of Faculty of Education Students of University of Uyo on the behavioural problems of juvenile street hawkers in Uyo metropolis. Five research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. This cross-sectional survey employed multi-stage random sampling technique in selecting 200 regular undergraduate students in the Education Faculty of the University of Uyo for the study. The Juvenile Street Hawkers Opinioniare (JUVSHO) developed by the researchers was used in data collection. The hypotheses were tested using chi square statistic at p≤.05 level of significance and appropriate degrees of freedom. Results indicate that juvenile street hawkers develop maladjusted patterns of behaviour, which in turn impair their academic, moral, social, physical, and psychological growth and development thus affecting their future negatively.

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Nduka and Duru (2014), determined the socio-demographic characteristics of hawkers as well as the health and social implications of street hawking and the factors contributing to it. This was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted among 300 hawkers who were recruited by simple random sampling from major streets, busy markets and the central motor parks in Aba, South- East Nigeria in January 2014. Data was collected through in-depth interview and observation of the participants and the use of interviewer administered questionnaires. Interviews were recorded and extracts presented in related themes. SPSS version 17 was used for analysis. Of the 300 respondents, 108 (36.0%) were males while 192 (64.0%) were females giving a male: female ratio of 0.6:1. Over half; 174 (58.0%) were children between the ages of 10 and 19years. Fifty-two (17.3%) did not have any formal education. Major reason for engaging in hawking was to support the family income however, the majority 216 (72.0%) were willing to quit hawking if offered an alternative means of livelihood. The awareness of HIV/AIDS vulnerability and HCT services among the respondents were low but this was not statistically significantly (X2=0.56; P=0.45 and X2=0.79; P=0.37 respectively).This study revealed that unemployment and poverty were factors contributing to hawking activities. Street hawking poses numerous risks and hinders educational development.

Ogbonna, Nwaeze and Okoye (2016), ascertained reasons why vendors in Aba have continued to return to the streets despite all forms of harassments meted to them by city authorities. The survey research design was use for the study. It involved questionnaire administration and personal observation in data collection. 400 randomly selected vendors were surveyed. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient was used to analyse the strength of association between the resilience of the street vendors, and their survival options. Findings revealed a significant negative correlation between the availability (or not) of alternative means of survival to street vendors, and their proclivity to continue the act of street vending. It also showed that struggle for survival, exacerbated by pervasive and endemic poverty has kept vendors on the street despite the attendant dangers surrounding the enterprise.

Nkrumah-Abebrese and Schachtebeck (2017), investigated characteristics and factors influencing street trading in the Tshwane CBD, South Africa. The study follows a case study approach and is qualitative in nature, making use of semi-structured interviews with 30 street traders. A non-probability sampling approach was followed by means of snowball sampling. Data was analyzed by means of content and thematic analysis. Results indicate that main factors driving street trading in Tshwane CBD include unemployment and poverty, migration and urbanization, survivalist entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial intentions. Two-thirds of respondents indicated that they had been street traders for 10-20 years, with little to no trading experience. Respondents also indicated a number of survival challenges, such as low incomes and poor working conditions. Difficulty in understanding municipal by-laws governing street trading was also identified.

Bogoro (2015), ascertained effects of street trading on cities in Nigeria. Three urban areas Bauchi, Lagos and Port Harcourt were sampled to study the impact of street trading in Nigerian urban areas. 100 questionnaires were administered to each of the three urban centres selected. It is found that 40.59% of streets traders are migrants from the rural areas The study discovered that most of the streets traders indiscriminately disposed of their refuse by burning and dumping in the drainage there by blocking the drainage channels causing flood during rainy season and 24.75% dumped their waste right on the roadside. There is disorderliness in the arrangement of different methods used in displaying of items by street traders there by making the study area appear as an insightful and unpleasant urban environment thus displeasing visual effect and 28.71% of streets traders

encroached into the road with up to 11.5m and above causing serious traffic problem.

Ebuehi and Omogbemi (2011), the study is to determine the factors associated with juvenile delinquency. A cross-sectional study was conducted among sixty (60) students of the approved sheltered girls' school, Idi-Araba, Lagos, using a structured interviewer administered questionnaire .Findings revealed that the respondents were within the ages of 10-18 years with a mean age of 14.2 + 2.0 years, 70% had attained primary school education. Of the 53.3% that dropped out of school, 65.6% did so from financial problems, 6.3% as a result of poor performance and peer pressure accounted for 28.1%. A total of 71.7% of the students were brought to the school by the police; 52.5% on account of roaming while lack of parental control, stealing, and robbery and fighting accounted for 16.9%, 11.9%, 10.2%, and 8.5% respectively. Majority (58.6%) of the students had both parents alive while 12.1% had both parents deceased. About 25 (41.7%) of the respondents admitted to committing a crime out of which 88% was stealing, 4% were involved in armed robbery and 8% in house breaking. Of all the socio-demographics characteristics of the respondents explored, only their educational level was found to be significantly associated (p=0.0197) with criminal behaviour. Mother's educational level (p=0.0245), maternal alcohol consumption (p=0.0173) and kind of treatment (0.0245) received from step mums were significantly associated with criminal behaviour.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the cross-sectional survey design in generating data to answer the research questions as well as test the hypotheses. The study was carried out in Chanchaga Local Government Area (L.G.A) one of the twenty-five Local Government Areas in Niger State of Nigeria. The target population for the study was adults aged 18 years and above in Chanchaga. The choice of the target group is because it's the legitimate age for one to be considered as adult in Nigeria and therefore can give required information on child labour. A sample of 200 respondents was used for the study. This was drawn from the communities that make up Chanchaga LGA. The multi-stage cluster sampling was used in this study and this entailed successive selection of community clusters, villages, housing units and respondent. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection in this study. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the analysis.

IV. RESULTS

Hypothesis One. Substantive hypothesis: Young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents than those who do not

Null hypothesis: There is no statistically significant relationship between trading on the street and juvenile delinquency.

Test Statistic: The Chi square (χ2) statistic is employed in testing this hypothesis.

Significance Level: A significance level (α) of 0.05 was used in testing this hypothesis.

Statistical Computation

Table 1: Cross tabulation of trading on the street with juvenile delinquency

Street trading	Juvenile delinquency		Total
	Being arrested	Not being arrested	
Selling of items on the street	125(88.7%)	16(11.3%)	141(100.0%)
Not selling of items on the street	25(53.2%)	22(46.8%)	47(100.0%)
Total	150(79.8%)	38(20.2%)	188(100.0%)

χ2= (N=188), 27.485; df=1, p<.000, critical value=3.841.

Source: Field Survey 2019.

Table 1 above presents data on which hypothesis one is tested. To test the hypothesis, street trading was cross tabulated with juvenile delinquency. Street trading involves an index built from question on selling of items on the streets. Delinquency status on the other hand was measured with reported juvenile delinquency from questions on whether respondents have been arrested for violation of criminal law.

Rejection region: If p ≤ .05 reject the null hypothesis (H₀), but if p >.05, we accept the null hypothesis. The test is a one-tailed test.

Decision: With the computed χ2= 27.485; df=1, critical value =3.841 the test shows that there was a statistically significant relationship (P<.000) between street trading and juvenile delinquency. Therefore, the substantive hypothesis which states that young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents than those who do not is hereby upheld. As a result, the null hypothesis which states that there is no statistically significant relationship between trading on the street and juvenile is hereby rejected.

Hypothesis two. Substantive hypothesis: Young people who indulge in delinquents behaviours are more likely to be street traders

Null hypothesis: There is no statistically significant relationship between indulgent in delinquent behaviour and trading on the street

Test Statistic: The Chi square (χ2) statistic is employed in testing this hypothesis

Significance Level: A significance level (α) of 0.05 was used in testing this hypothesis.

Statistical Computation

Table 2: Cross tabulation of indulgent in delinquent behaviour with trading on the street

Indulgent in delinquent behaviour	Trading on the street		Total
	Yes	No	
Actions that warranted arrest	19(14.6%)	111(85.4%)	130(100.0%)
Actions that warranted no arrest	0(19.2%)	58(80.8%)	58(100.0%)
Total	19(10.1%)	169(89.9%)	188(100.0%)

$\chi2=$ (N=188), 9.430; df=1, p<.002, critical value=3.841.

Source: Field Survey 2019.

Table 2 is a cross tabulation of indulgent in delinquent behaviour and trading on the street. Indulgent in delinquent behaviour involves an index built from question on whether the respondents have indulged in acts that warranted arrest. Trading on the street on the other hand was measured with reported response of respondents from whether they are trading on the street. The category of yes was recorded as into "actions that warranted arrest" while the category for no was recorded as "actions that warranted no arrest."

Rejection Region: If $p \leq .05$ reject the null hypothesis (H_o), but if $p > .05$, accept the null hypothesis. The test is a one-tailed test.

Decision: With the computed $\chi2= 9.430$; df=1, critical value =3.841 the test shows that there was a statistically significant relationship (P<.002) between indulgent in delinquent behaviour and trading on the street. Therefore, the substantive hypothesis which states that young people who indulge in delinquents behaviours are more likely to be street traders than those who do not is upheld. As a result, the null hypothesis which states that there is no statistically significant relationship between indulgent in delinquent behaviour and trading on the street is hereby rejected. In other words, indulgent in delinquent behaviour is indeed influenced by trading on the street

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the test result of hypothesis one, it can be said that young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents than those who do not trade on the streets. This finding agrees with the submission of Ugudulunwa, et al (2004) who found in their study that street hawkers have high potential for delinquency, among other behaviour problems. It could thus be submitted that street hawking is detrimental to the development of the hawkers.

The result of hypothesis two showed that delinquent behaviour is indeed influenced by trading on the street. This finding agree with Aransiola and Zarowsky (2014), who found that that street children are perceived to be perpetrators as well as victims of crime. They are exploited, abused and used as drug mules, pressed into commercial sex, and manipulated or bribed into the fire-bombings and violence in Nigeria. However, this result does not agree with Adegoke (2015), who ascertained factors responsible for an increasing juvenile delinquency and crime that broken home, poverty and peer influence are the main sustainers of juvenile delinquency.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The major objective of the study was to ascertain nexus of street trading and juvenile delinquency in Nigeria, using in Chanchaga Local Government as the study area of Niger State. However, this study, owing to its findings that young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents, has pointed to the fact that there is need for government to take more interest to -up efforts to improve the economy, as a matter of urgency. The findings of this study have clear implications for policy and future research.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

➤ Since young people who trade on the streets are more likely to be juvenile delinquents. The government at all levels should step-up efforts to improve the economy, as a matter of urgency. This can be done by stemming the tide of unemployment, improving the remuneration of workers, improving infrastructure, creating job opportunities, and empowering the masses in various conceivable ways. This would go a long way to raise the socio-economic condition of most families thus reducing the poverty rate in the country.

➤ Parents and guardians should not neglect their responsibility to provide for members of their family irrespective of whether they are members by blood or by adoption

➤ Parents and guardians whose wards are involved in street hawking should endeavour to protect their wards from the corrupting influence of the society. They can achieve this by training their wards to eschew unacceptable behaviours, by not allowing anything to interfere with their education, and by respecting their right to a secure and happy childhood.

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