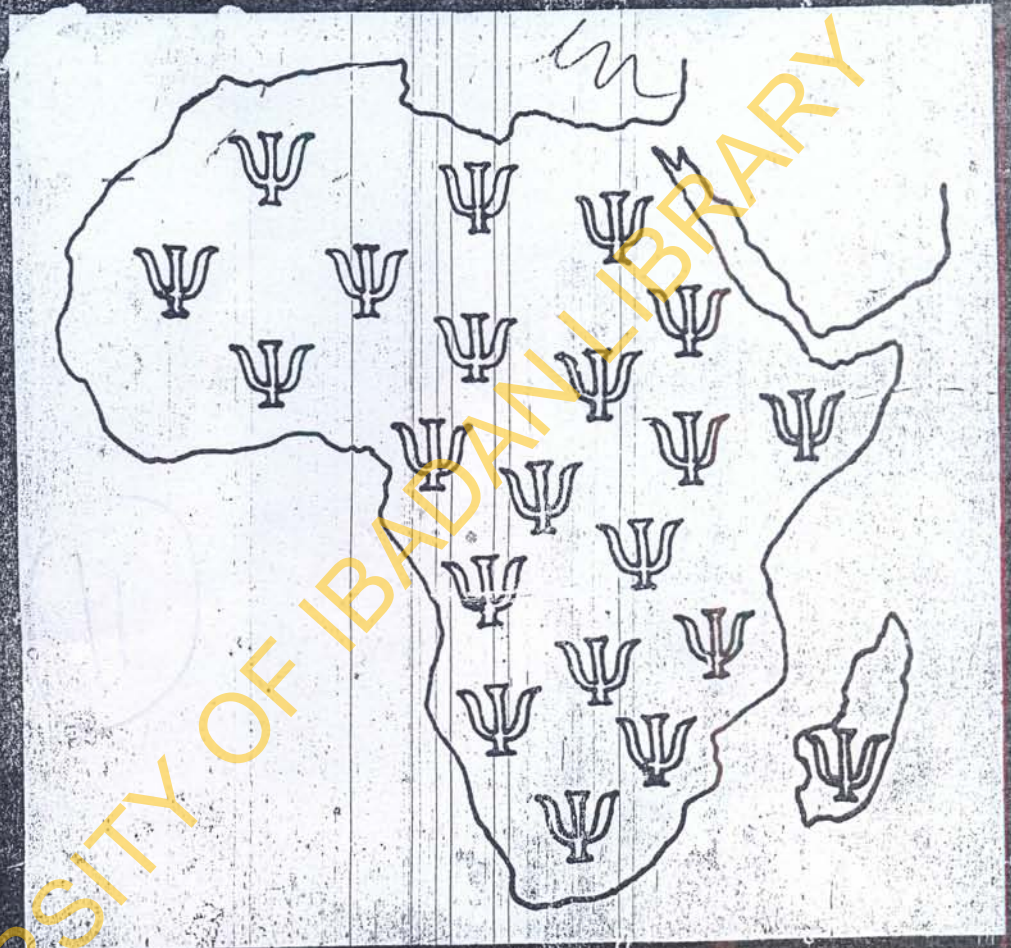


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EDITORIAL

It will delight the authors and readers of this Volume 6 Number 1 that our journal as a mark of its recognition and niche was invited to the just concluded workshop for Science Journal Publishers in West Africa, from 2nd to 6th February 1998, at Wangara Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

The workshop was as a result of INASP's (The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications) interest in strengthening the dissemination of the results of research in Africa.

The workshop was funded by the US National Academy of Sciences. It was hosted by the Association of African Universities.

The facilitator of the workshop was the doyen of publishing Mr. Hans Zell who used his specially prepared book; *A Handbook of Good Practice in Journals Publishing* as guide. The book provides practical guidelines for good practice and good housekeeping not only for those entering journals publishing for the first time, but also for those who already have some experience in academic serials publishing. Mr. Zell was assisted by Woeli Dekutsey. The workshop was very useful. The climax of the workshop was on the last day at the practical demonstration of the Internet and journals marketing on the W.W.W. (World Wide Web) which was conducted by Mr. Kofi Arthiabah at the Association of African Universities Accra. While we "surfed", *Ife Psychologia*; had twelve entries as of that day alone.

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men". Proverbs 22²⁹.

This issue opens with a powerful presentation by Mr. Adedeji an Engineer and Banker with a brilliant exposition on training and development in Nigerian organisations. It will interest all readers.

Next the pair of Dr. Akarakiri and Mrs. Campbell discussed factors affecting technological innovation in Nigerian industry. Nigeria, they argue should learn from newly industrializing countries in promoting and protection of inventions. Dr. Ikelegbe discusses psychological constraints on the autonomisation of local governments in Nigeria. Dr. Akinlo looks at the role of psychological factors in the failure of the adjustment programme of sub-saharan Africa. Dr. Idemudia examines the relationship between period of confinement in prison and psychopathology. He has called for a carefully planned prison system. Mr. Ajayi and Mr. Ogunrewo being librarians measure

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PUSH, PULL, AND SUSTAINING FACTORS OF CHILD LABOUR IN NIGERIA

ADERINTO, A. A.
Department of Sociology,
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

and

OKUNOLA, R. A.
Department of Sociology,
University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

This paper examines a particular aspect of child labour Activities - Street trading. Using 241 subjects, the paper highlighted the push, pull and sustaining factors of child labour. Data collection exercise involved the use of questionnaires, interview and observation of the children at work. Conducted in a business district Ibadan, Nigeria, the study reveals that the children are generally pushed out of their household given the increasing instability of maintenance; attracted to street trading because of its good economic yields; sustained in the job by the harmonious social context, but continuously being ruined and denied of their future by the hazards of the hazards of the workplace and the anti-social elements that they daily come in contact with on the streets. Major recommendations include a reworking of various economic policies, the proper implementation of the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), involvement of various voluntary organizations and a conducive educational and political atmosphere.

INTRODUCTION

Child- Labour remains a widespread phenomenon throughout the world. According to a UNICEF's (1991) report, an estimated 80 million children between the ages of 10 and 14 undertake work, which is either so long, or numerous that it interferes with their normal development. The report further says that some are exploited in factories and sweatshops, but the majority work

in agriculture or in domestic service. Many children born or sold into the visual slavery or bonded labour.

Child labour is viewed as a situation when a child is made to engage, on a regular basis, in some productive or income yielding activities for which the primary beneficiaries may be themselves or are persons other than themselves. In another but similar definition, child labour is described as any physical engagement of the child either paid or unpaid, directed to alleviating adult burden outside or inside the home to make a living (Anukam, 1986).

Although Article 9 of the United National Declaration of the Right of Children and Article 15:1 of the African Charter of the rights and Welfare of the Child had recommend that very child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Recent decades have seen an increase in child labour in Nigeria. This practice manifests itself in various economic activities throughout the urban and rural areas of Nigeria.

Several scholars (Abdalla, 1988) Mejiumi, 1991; Black, 1993) have contended that for large numbers of children, work is an ordeal, a source of sources of suffering and exploitation, and a fundamental abuse of human rights. Yet, some believe that child work can be an important element in maturation, securing the transition from childhood. It has also been seen to be essential for family survival (Kuyongo-Male and Walji, 1984; Obikexe, 1985; Naidu, 1985).

Indeed, Onyango (1994) has observed that it was a tradition for children to perform family errands. This they do according to their ability. Girls would, for example do a small scale, what their mothers did. Boys were expected to follow in their father's footsteps. There were cases where children were sent to lend hands to their relatives, especially grandparents, uncles and aunts. Just like parents, relatives made sure that societal expectations and norms regarding work done by children were strictly adhered to. Members of society worked together to enable children acquire skills that they would need when they reached adulthood. This enhanced a child's health and its entire psychosocial development.

Bequle and Boyden (1988) had also opined that all over the world, children are incorporated into a range of different employment relations as either waged labourers in factories or mines or self-employed workers engaged in street trades. According to them:

Some are out-workers and others seasonal migrant workers. many are involved in work as the final link in a long chain of sub-contractors. Some receive part of their wage in kind and some are paid on a piece-rate basis. Many are unpaid and work for kin in the productive, or it may release others for productivity activity (1988:1).

✓ In Nigeria however, information on child labour is scarce. National data on the labour force, if exclude children under the age of fourteen and there are no published figures on the overall distribution of the economically active population by age. Moreover, even though child labour is widespread in both rural and urban areas, there is a general tendency to conceal it, since law prohibits work by children under fifteen. Nevertheless, casual observations in most cities of Nigeria, and Ibadan in particular suggest an increasing number of these children. The ILO (1992) however observed that "in Nigeria, an estimated 12 million children participate in various categories of work" Since then, the number would have increased especially when the steady deterioration of the economy is taken into consideration Although child labour occurs in both the rural and urban centers, child labour in the rural areas has not attracted the same attention as the in the urban areas. This simply because of the common assumption that most of child work in the rural areas takes place within the family context which is generally regarded as largely non-exploitative and in fact desirable Although there have been contesting arguments, in this regard, the fact is that it is in the urban areas that child labour appears in its most clear manifestations.

One of the most highly cited cause of child labour is poverty. In other words, scholars agree that as society becomes poorer, an increasing number of parents find it difficult to send their children to school. Naidu (1985) and Dorgaramaci (1985) also confirm this when they indicated that socio-economic development is inversely related to the incidence of child labour.

In Nigeria, the migration of people from the rural areas, the dwindling economic fortunes of the country have often been find as reasons for the occurrence of this behaviour among children. Thus problems compounded with the introduction of the structural Adjustment Programme in 1986. The Pain of this Programme especially given its twin evil of devaluation and inflation, are apparent on the institution of the family and other frameworks of the society. These effects have been documented in an avalanche of literature high school

cost, reduction in social services, retrenchments and poverty (Udeogalanya, 1988; Amale, 1991).

Against this background, it is obvious that when parents are unable to meet the needs of the family and the needed support is absent, children tend to suffer. If the marital union breaks down in the process, children tend to suffer. If the condition at home is bad, children may be sent out in their own in order to supplement family income. This paper therefore examines street-training, a predominant form of child labour in Ibadan. It is part of the frowning attempt at the understanding of the phenomenon in Nigeria. It attempts answer the following questions:

1. What are those factors in the-family background that pushed these children into street trading?
2. What pull factors account for the engagement of these children in this occupation?
3. What factors sustain them in the trade?
4. How does this occupation affect the future of the children concerned?

THEORETICAL MODEL

Durkeim's social change exposition is used in the study as a major intellectual frame of analysis. Thus the transformation of Nigeria from a traditional to relatively urbanized society provides an excellent illustration of social change. The twin concept of industrialization, an important component of social phenomenon in 'developing societies', is an important independent variable in explaining many social problems because it is concomitant with basic changes in social institutions. The changes, which accompany urbanization and industrialization, include cultural conflicts, role confusion and frustrated aspirations. Indeed, one of the most notable facts about social change since the end of the Second World War (1939-1945) has been the rapid growth of urbanization in Nigeria.

Contemporary sociologists see social change as originating from multiple factors which influence each other. Some of these factors include changes in technology, economy, politics, religion, ideology, demography and stratification (Ezumah, 1990). In this vein, Durkeim's archaic and advanced societies their accompanying mechanical and organic solidarity and used as an explanatory framework in this paper. Essentially, the traditional Nigerian society and economy, even though agricultural based, provide enough cushion for the less

privileged and was able to contain large number of families from engaging their children in child labour and united the inhabitants in an integrated whole.

While not necessarily over romanticizing the pre-society, there was a high degree of communalism which succoured the less privileged families and halted their children from engaging in income yielding activities, at least not in the present degree. However, with the advent of modernization and consequent growth of cities, many people began to move to the cities. The attendant characteristics of individualism and superficialism made people to become totally amoral and egoistic (Boyer, 1978). The increasing urban population and the complexities inherent in it, poverty, and child labour came to the fore. The poverty problem has been one, which is continually threatening the existence of the society. These problems posed by the increasing rate of population growth and various economic programmes of the government have affected the poor urban dwellers greatly, more often bringing about a chain of consequences on the economic behaviour of the people. Many households find it difficult of feed very well, least of all sending their children to school. As a result of poverty many parents have engage their children in some economic activities.

METHODOLOGY

Four main methods of data collection were adopted for this study. First was the survey of children hawking variety of items at the Sango area on Oyo road in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Ibadan. Here, structured questionnaire was utilized to interview 241 respondents based on the outcome of the survey key actors within the vicinity of the study area were also interviewed for additional data on the phenomenon under investigation. Finally, careful observations were made on the activities of the children hawkers particularly in the areas of dangers the children workers deal with.

Data analysis was done through simple descriptive statistics and quantitative methodology.

RESEARCH SETTING.

The study areas covered between the Polytechnic junction and the Sango market on Oyo road Ibadan. Here there is a large presence of children who daily hawk various items. activities. In addition, many commercial and private vehicles do stopover to either refuel at the petrol station or buy spare parts for minor

repairs-on their vehicles in the mechanic village around the area. The area also serves as terminus to Beere/Oje, Gate, Orita-Mein, Mokola-Round- about and Dugbe commuter buses/taxies. It is also a junction area for the polytechnic/Eleyele. Ijokodo/Apete bound buses/taxies. The area is a growth centre.

FINDINGS/DISCUSSION

(a) Demographic Characteristics

A total of 241 respondents were surveyed with male constituting 52.46% and female making up the remaining. In terms of age major categories were found (see table 1).

TABLE 1: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS.

Age-group	Frequency	Percentage
5-10	14	5.8
11-15	98	40.7
16-18	74	30.7
Above 18	54	22.4
No Response	01	0.4
TOTAL	241	100

Given the area of study, 93% of respondents were of Yoruba origin, Religion can be said to have played no significant orle because both Christians and Muslims were represented in the sample (Christians (107-44.8 Muslims 131-54.4%).

PARENTAL OCCUPATION.

Who are these children living with? Over three-quarter of children interviewed live their parents (78.6%), and minority live alone (5%). Over 50% of father of the respondents are employed in the informal sector while about 23%

have their parents as civil servants. Three percent have their father deceased and 1.5% have their father unemployed.

On mother's occupation about 88% of the children have their mothers in the informal sector (as traders). Civil servants constitute only 3.1% jobless mothers (1.1%) and deceased (1.9%).

EDUCATION

In terms of education, how did the children fare? 64.5% of children interviewed have attended school, while 32.8% have never being to school in their life. Out of those who have attended before, 70% are still in-school, given a dropout rate 30%.

REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL.

What can be said to be responsible for this dropout? Financial reasons top the list, with loss of interest and loss of sponsor closely following.

ARTICLES OF TRADE/LENGTH OF INVOLVEMENT IN STREET-TRADING.

What are the things sold by these children? Over 36% hawk bread, fruits (20.2%), pure water (13.79%), snacks (9.2%) baked grounded beans (3.1%) and yogurt/soft drinks (0.8%) How long have you been involved in street trading? About 48% of the children have spent more than one year in the trade: less than one month (15.3%); one to six months (24.0%); and 7.12 months (12.2%).

(a) *Push Factors.*

What are those concrete factors in the family background that pushed these children into street trading. From the background analysis, it can be submitted that most children were pushed into street trading by maintenance needs. In making this submission we are guided by some issues. First is the issue of where these children deposit the money from their sales. About 58.% of the children do hand over the money to their parents. This means that majority of them are working to maintain their family becoming breadwinners at an early age.

Second, a greater percentage of the children came from a background whose size can be large in the context of Nigeria's economic condition. About 48% came from family with 6-8 children; and 40.8% are from family worth 9-11 children; element to thirteen children constitute 5% and 14 children and above

constitute 3.1%. That they are been pushed by the maintenance needs is further attested to by the fact that submission of about 95% of the children who said that they would rather do other thing rather than trade because they considered the business dangerous (93.1%)

(b) *Pull Factors*

On the pull factors that account for the engagement of children in this occupation. From the data available from the fieldwork we are faced with one major factor that of "good return" from street trading. Over 38% of respondents averagely make over #500:00 per day from this business. About 50% of respondents make between #100-N449 daily (on average). This is a relatively high take-home, which we believe would have attracted the children into this business. This amount is beyond the reach of an average salary worker in Nigeria today. That this is "good return" for most of the children can be argued if one note number only report for duty after school. As majority of them submitted (38.0%) they are happy with the return they get from their daily sale. That they are happy should however, not be taken to mean that they will stick to the job. This is because a very significant proportion (43.69) of those out of school would rather go back if money could be provide for them. About 48% of the childrer interviewed have career aspirations which involved going back to school, and 97.7% of these children would believe that their aspiration is achievable. In fact 85% of these children would rather stop. Perhaps to add here, that achieving such aspirations would depend on the level of resources available to them.

(c) *Sustaining Factors.*

Furthermore, the study was interested in those factors that sustain the children in the trade. Factors being looked for here are job-related. Factors such as comradeship and the issue of social relations amongst the children in the area of study were considered. Questions posed here include the degree of friendliness amongst the children traders; the issue of rivalry/conflict; and harassment at work place.

A greater percentage (82.8%) of the children submitted that they develop friendly relations among reach other. These relationships offer them some feeling of belongingness and succour against any emotioner ill-feelings. Where quarrels occur, adults in the trade constitute the highest group that mediate (51.1%); while a significant percentage (24.8%) claimed that they settle quarrels.

How about the perspective of the children with regards to the danger posed to their lives in the course of work? While observer would talk freely of high-risk level, the children themselves rated the danger low! The argument of the children is that the rate of accident amongst them is very low, and that getting out of danger (with regards to traffic accident) is a question of experience on the job. In the words of some of the children "you learn the tricks as you mature on the entrants have problems with the traffic".

On harassment, the children's problem would appear to be with the law enforcement agents particularly the police and often with officials from the department of revenue in the local government. The girls however talked about occasional sexual harassment, particularly from motor touts and bus conductors.

The perceived low level of risk, the general high level of comradeship, the emerging social network amongst "co-workers" and the relatively high level of returns, co-jointly serve to keep the children attached to the job on the street. From the series of observations and the countenance of the children, there is the impression that they are enjoying the job of the objective reality of high risk to their persons.

(d) *Conditions of Work*

Finally, how is this occupations likely to affect the future of these children? To answer this question, inquires were made on the children's time budge. About of the children being their day at about 5.30 a.m. each day with some household chores. For those still attending school, majority goes straight to school afterwards, while some do some localized hawking before proceeding to school. Those out-of-school also fall into two categories in time budget for the early hours of the day. There are those (after the household chores) that have to do some localized hawking around their residence before moving to the Sango area. The shift period depends on items and the rate of depletion of stock. There are those who report straight for work at Sango as early as 6:30am and stay at work till 7:30 p.m - 8:00 p.m - a total of 13-14 hours per day and about 91 hours in a week! The in-school workers report to Sango after closure of the school. The average daily reporting time (between Monday to Friday) is 2:00 p.m, and they also remain on duty till about 7:30 p.m - 8:00 p.m.

While on duty, the children mostly carry their products either on their heads or hanged on their shoulders or on their hands soliciting for customers. The potential customers are mainly occupants of various vehicles using the Sango area

and also commuters going on foot. However most of the time the children are busy running after vehicles pestering occupations to buy their products, which range from food items to snacks and manufactured goods.

Aside from the high potentials for accident; observation shows that the children are generally weak and exhausted especially towards the end of the day's duty. Constant and continued exposure to the hazards of the weather (especially the scorching sun rain), the exhaust from the various vehicles often given the children a haggard look at the end of the day. Thus their eyes are constantly reddish and their faces generally pale.

For those in school this working conditions will no doubt have negative effect on their schooling. Aside from the health factor which is beyond the scope of the present work, the time budget discussed above does not give them any time to reflect on the day's teaching at school, least of all allow time for the writing of take-home assignments. Little wonder that 85% of the children would rather do other things than hawk on the street. One then wonders, given the time budget of these children and the hazards they are exposed to, how do they hope to achieve their dreams- that of becoming nurses, bankers, medical doctors, and engineers among others. The future of these children looks bleak even though about 97.7% of them believe that they can still make a headway.

CONCLUSION/SUGGESTIONS.

Arising from the results of the study, it can be submitted that a number of factors are responsible for the involvement of children in street trading. The most important of these is the creasing instability of the economy which has incapacitated many parents from meeting the expectations of members of their families.

Related to the above is also the fact that the children are attached to street-trading because of the relatively high returns - that are not generally taxed - and are maintained on the relatively harmonious comradeship and social network of the workplace.

Finally, the study concluded that the children are continuously being ruined and denied a future by not only the hazards of the working conditions but also by the anti-social elements that they come in contact with in the course of their duties.

Finding solutions to these children's conditions will require a large socio-economic change but also require a psychological, and situational preventive measures.

First, since parental inability to meet with the expectations of members of their families has been identified as the push-factor in this paper, the various economic programmes of the society have to be restructured and the populace involved in its planning. Studies to ascertain possible problems and difficulties should be carried out before such policies are finally adopted.

Again, there is also a need to further intensify the campaign on the need to have small families. This is necessary because even if the parent are engaged in low status jobs, the strain of taking care of a small family will not be heavily felt as is the case in large families.

The involvement of trusted and dedicated voluntary organizations and non-governmental organizations (for example The Cross, Rotary club, Lions club) would be a positive step in finding appropriate solutions to child-labour. These organisations could provide the motivation and necessary linkages to secure international and other support for the poor and disadvantaged.

Furthermore, although the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) has been launched with all its laudable objectives, the proper implementation is another issue. It is suggested that if this programme is well implemented, it will offer a supplementary avenue for the survival of the family.

Finally, in addition to the above, we need education package that is grass-root oriented and a political arrangement that is stable and consistent.

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