



## Assessment of the Impact of Household Income on Child Labour in Bauchi State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

### ARTICLE INFO

This study examines the impact of household income on child labour in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The study employs the use of a survey research design through questionnaires. Data were obtained from 50 respondents who reside in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The study makes use of percentage analysis and chi-square for data analysis and tables for data presentation. The result shows that low household income and lack of economic opportunities are the major determinants of child labour in the area, with an inverse relationship between household income and child labour. The research finds that a large majority of respondents (80%) do not receive grants or support from the government. Therefore, the study recommends policies that will provide more employment opportunities and household income schemes.

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## 1. Introduction

Child labour is a worldwide phenomenon. An estimated 160 million child labourers are in both industrialized and developing countries (UNICEF, 2022). In Africa, it is estimated that about 26% of activities related to child labour involve children between the ages of 5 and 17 (UNICEF, 2022). In Nigeria, it is estimated that 12-15 million minors work more as a consequence of abject poverty, hunger and destitution. Various research studies on the social characteristics of children susceptible to child labour linked the phenomenon to the socio-economic status of poor parents who subsist at the periphery of the urban economy (Magaji & Musa, 2015). These parents are found among three identifiable economic groups: the small farmers, the petty traders, the employed and the unemployed (Okojie, 2017). These are people whose income, more often falls below the figure established as the poverty line and are counted as poor because they lack the resources to sustain socially acceptable minimum living conditions in terms of income and consumption (Magaji, 2005). The gap between the poverty line and household consumption is, therefore, an important factor that determines child labour (Musa, Magaji & Tsauni, 2022). Child labour is broadly defined as a worker or economically



active if he/she is remunerated for the work he/she does or if the output of the work the child does is destined for the market. As noted by the World Bank, (2021), this definition is very narrow and it excludes several activities such as household domestic activities. As a result, this narrow definition leads to an underestimation of the extent of child labour in the household mainly from girls. This limited definition assumes that child labour should only encompass risky jobs for children. Any work that harms children's physical and mental development, robs them of their youth, their potential, and their dignity, according to ILO (2018). In Nigeria, any economic activity that employs a kid younger than the age of 14 is regarded as child labour according to official policy. Child labour, according to Musa, Magaji, and Tsauni (2023), is any activity that exploits children or hinders them from going to school and has a bad impact on their health, and social, cultural, psychological, moral, and religious development. Working seven or more hours per week is included in the temporal components of child labour. Since it is impossible to distinguish between hazardous and non-hazardous child labour, any work performed by children that are younger than 14 in any industry is considered to be child labour (ILO, 2018).

Millions of families face economic difficulties on a global scale, and in certain instances, it comes at the expense of a child's safety. At the start of 2020, almost 160 million children were working as children, and COVID-19's effects put an additional 9 million children in danger (UNICEF, 2022). Nearly 1 in 10 youngsters globally fall under this category. Almost half of them are working in dangerous labour that directly jeopardizes their moral development and well-being. For a variety of reasons, parents sometimes drive their children to school. Child labour most frequently occurs when families face financial hardship or uncertainty, whether as a result of poverty, an unexpected illness among caregivers, or the loss of their main source of income.

The results are devastating. Child labour can lead to serious physical, mental, and even fatal harm. Slavery and other forms of economic or sexual exploitation may result. Additionally, it almost always restricts children's access to healthcare and education, risking their futures and their fundamental rights. Children run the risk of being forced into labour and possibly trafficked if they migrate alone or take irregular routes with their families. Many of these children have been displaced because of war, tragedy, or destitution.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Conceptual Issues**

In this investigation, two main concepts were utilized. Household income and child labour are two of these ideas. The following is a review of them:

#### **2.1.1 Concept of Child Labour**

The concept under discussion defies straightforward definition. This is because a person who is regarded as a child in one context may not be one in another, just as labour may not be considered to be such in another.

Child labour, according to UNICEF (2022), is defined as work that is hazardous to children physically, psychologically, socially, or morally and that tends to rob them of possibilities for growth and education. A kid is a person who is younger than the age of eighteen, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Convention places a strong emphasis on the requirement that children be shielded from abuse, violence, and sexual exploitation as well as from forced labour and dangerous jobs.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2022) "child labour" is generally defined as work that deprives children of their youth, their potential, and their dignity and that is detrimental to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that prevents children from attending school, requires them to leave early, or requires them to juggle school attendance with highly arduous labour while also harming them mentally and physically and interfering with their education.

Whether or not a certain type of "work" qualifies as "child labour" depends on the kid's age, the

nature and duration of the work, the working environment, and the goals that various nations have. The response varies between nations as well as between states within nations (ILO, 2022).

### **2.1.2 Household Income**

According to the OECD countries (2022), household disposable income is the sum of final consumer spending and savings (excluding changes to household net equity in pension funds). Additionally, this is supported by the overall wages and salaries, mixed income, net property income, net current transfers, social benefits other than social transfers in kind, lower income and wealth taxes, and social security contributions made by employees, independent contractors, and the jobless. The non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) disposable income is a component of the indicator for the household sector. The price deflator used to obtain real values is consistent with that used to deflate the final consumption expenditure of households and NPISH. The term household income generally refers to the combined gross income of all members of a household above a specified age. Household income includes every member of a family who lives under the same roof, including spouses and their dependents. The incomes of everyone count even if they aren't all used to support the household. Household income also includes anyone living in that home even if they're not related. Household income is an important risk measure used by lenders for underwriting loans and is a useful economic indicator of an area's standard of living.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **Theory of Child Labour**

This heading touches on the theory of household decision-making about the employment of children. Greater emphasis will be placed on the more recent literature that addresses the role of income, particularly household income and its relationship with child labour. The ultimate objective of the review is to identify the household characteristics that ought to emerge in the empirical analysis as statistically significant determinants of child labour.

### **Becker's New Household Economic Theory**

The traditional consumer theory with all its weaknesses is an incomplete interpretation of consumer behaviour and particularly of the behaviour of a household. The so-called alternative model which still represents neoclassical models of consumer behaviour has incorporated some of the elements missing from the traditional theory.

Gary Becker (1962) considers the family to be the most fundamental societal institution in the society and his theory; the new household economic theory was originally adopted to describe resource allocation decision-making and utility maximization processes of households in the USA, Japan and Israel. Later the theory was also applied to developing countries and particularly to the analysis of agricultural households. Becker's approach brings noteworthy new insights to the traditional consumer theory; for example, he considers the household as both a consumption and a production unit. However, many of Becker's ideas on household economic behaviours have been presented earlier and thus cannot be regarded as thoroughly new. However, compared to any of the prior presentations, his was more formalized. Neoclassical household decision-making models, which are typically derived from Becker (1962), are frequently used in the examination of child labour. Models of family negotiations can be divided into two main groups: both those where children have little negotiating power and those where children have some sort of innate value. In models where children don't have a say in family decisions, parents make choices that serve their interests without taking the child's needs into account. This class of models lends analytical support for public policies that constrain the choices that parents are allowed to make for their children, e.g. compulsory schooling, minimum age of work, and a ban on bonded child labour.

## 2.3 Empirical Review

In Nigeria's Katsina State, Abdu, Rabi, and Usman (2020) investigate how child labour affects students' access to education. From three senatorial districts in Katsina State, 216 child labourers were chosen using a multistage sampling technique. Data on the respondents' socioeconomic characteristics, engagement in child labour, causes of child labour, and effects of child labour were gathered using a structured interview schedule. When analyzing the data, descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized. The findings indicate a strong relationship between the extent of child labour, its root causes, and its perceived impact on education. The findings also demonstrate a substantial association between the effect and family income and the mother's profession. The report suggests that free and obligatory primary and secondary education in the state is taken seriously and that parents who might try to prevent their children from attending school face consequences. Even though it was discovered that there is an inverse and significant association between family income and child labour, this study focuses on the impact of child labour on children's education.

But Oli & Nweke (2021), examine the determinants and prevalent forms of child labour practices in Anambra State's Awka South Local Government Area and Southeast, Nigeria. The target population consisted of only adults who were 18 years and above. The study adopts a mixed-methods research design. A sample size of 200 was statistically generated using the Taro Yamane formula. The study used a multistage sampling procedure which involved simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques in selecting respondents. The major instruments of data collection used were the questionnaire schedule which is a quantitative method and the in-depth interview guide which is a qualitative method. Quantitative data collected from the field study were processed with the use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The findings of the study show the determinants of child labour practices include low household income, poverty, educational level of parents, family size, cultural beliefs and living in a slum area. Also, results from the study show that prevalent forms of child labour practices in the Local Government Area of Awka South include hawking, street begging, domestic work, farming and working in factories. This study was conducted only in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State in Southeastern Nigeria.

Musa, Magaji, and Tsauni (2022), using the Tobit regression model as the methodology, analyze the socioeconomic determinants of child labour in Northeastern Nigeria. This is done to cover additional areas and socioeconomic determinants of child labour. Their research shows that household income was identified as the primary socioeconomic driver of child labour. Therefore, their study advises taking the required steps including severely punishing individuals involved in child labour-related activities, educating people about the effects of child labour, and providing enough basic infrastructure. Even though Northeastern Nigeria is included in the study, along with many socioeconomic factors that affect child labour, family income is not given much attention, and there is no clear explanation provided for how much household income influences child labour.

Olukunmi (2017), investigates the socioeconomic determinant of child labour in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The data for the study was collected using questionnaires. 400 questionnaires were administered in the five Local Government Areas of the Ilorin metropolis. The data were analyzed using the descriptive statistical method and inferential statistics of Chi-square. The result of the findings shows that low household income is a major determinant of child labour concerning different households. Family size and educational background of parents also affect and influence child labour respectively.

In their 2009 study, Ugal and Undyaundeye look at the problem of child labour in Nigeria. He defined the term broadly and examined the problem of child labour from several angles to uncover the primary causes and effects of national development. His research shows, however, that the idea of child labour is inescapable in some countries due to the poor and socioeconomic conditions of the families, and that this trend can only be reversed when these conditions are changed. By using the aforementioned cures, it can also be stopped. A word from Mill (1970), stated that for a parent to fail to educate the child is a breach of duty not only towards the child but towards the members of the community generally, who are all liable to suffer seriously from the consequences of ignorance. While some situations call for stringent measures as their condition does not warrant this scenario, the only way out is to make the parents aware of the dangers of not educating their

children. Therefore, it is important to safeguard children and young people who have not yet reached adulthood from being overworked. It is also forbidden to work too hard or too long a day. Instead of focusing on household income, this study focuses more on household education. Therefore, a study that looks at home wealth as the only factor in determining child labour is required, especially in Bauchi State, Nigeria, which is one of the states with the highest incidence of child labour. This is what this study's goal is.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Research Approach**

The research design was the most appropriate one for this investigation. Survey research is described as "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions" (Check & Schutt, 2012). This kind of study permits the use of numerous techniques for participant recruitment, data collection, and instrumentation. The methods used in survey research can be either quantitative (using questionnaires with numerically rated items) or qualitative (using open-ended questions), or both (mixed method). Surveys are widely utilized in social and psychological research because they are frequently used to describe and explore human behaviour (Singleton & Straits, 2009).

The choice of survey research design was informed by the fact that the research was a social survey with management variables. The design was useful to answer research questions. One of the merits of this method is that it has a wide scope which allows a great deal of information to be obtained from a large population that is geographically dispersed (Ndiyo, 2016).

#### **3.2 Area of the Study**

Bauchi State is a state in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, bordered by Kano and Jigawa to the north, Taraba and Plateau to the south, Gombe and Yobe to the east, and Kaduna to the west. It takes its name from the historic town of Bauchi, which also serves as its capital city. The state has a land mass of 45,893 km<sup>2</sup> with an area of 2,630 km<sup>2</sup> and was created on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1976. Bauchi Local Government is the biggest local government and the state capital in Bauchi State where the study area has a land mass of about 2,640km<sup>2</sup>.

#### **3.3 The Study's Population**

The study's population comprises residents of the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. 50 persons constitute the population of the study which consists of child labourers and household heads

#### **3.4 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

The sampling technique adopted is the random sampling technique. Fifty (50) respondents were randomly selected to represent the population of the study which consists of child labourers and household heads.

#### **3.5 Research Instrument**

The research tool utilized in this study was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: Section A and B. Section A was on the demographic data of respondents while Section B provided the answer to the question developed by the researcher on the Nexus between child labour and household income.

### 3.6 Data collection procedure

Fifty (50) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents within the Bauchi Local Government area of Bauchi State. These copies were personally administered to explain portions that were not clear to the respondents. The assignment was carried out within one week, and copies of the questionnaire were administered and retrieved on the spot to ensure 100% return and avoid waste.

### 3.7 Method of Data Analysis

Utilizing frequency counts, basic percentages, and correlation analysis, the survey data was examined.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Data Analysis and Presentation

The results of the data analysis were presented in tables while the interpretation followed immediately.

### 4.2 Respondent Rate

A total of 50 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the resident of the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. All the copies of the questionnaire distributed were filled, retrieved and found useable, making a 100% response rate. The high response rate could be attributed to the self-administration of the instrument by the researcher and the cooperation received from the respondent.

**Table 1.** Gender of Respondents

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Male	31	62.0	62.0	62.0
Female	19	38.0	38.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 Shows that 31 (62%) of the respondents were males while 19(38%) were females. This indicates that male respondents form the majority of the sample.

**Table 2.** Category of Respondents

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative Percent
Household head	35	70.0	70.0	70.0
Child labourers	15	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 Reveals that 35 (70%) of the respondents consist of household heads while 15(30%) of the respondent are made up of child labourers.



**Table 3.** Age of Respondents

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
18-30	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
31-40	4	8.0	8.0	22.0
41-50	16	32.0	32.0	54.0
51-above	23	46.0	46.0	98.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 Reveals that 7 (14%) of the respondents belong to the age range of 18- 30 years, 4 (8%) are within the range of 31-40 years and 15 (30%) belong to the age range of 41-50 years while 23 (46%) fall between age range 51-above. This shows that respondents with age 51-above years had the highest frequency.

**Table 4.** No. of people in the Household

	Frequency	%	Valid % %Percent	Cumulative %
2-4	11	22.0	22.0	22.0
5-8	25	50.0	50.0	72.0
9-14	9	18.0	18.0	90.0
15-above	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 Reveals that 11 (22%) of the respondent's household constitute a range of 2 – 4 people, 25 (50%) of the respondent household constitute a range of 5-8 people, 9(18%) has between 9-14 people in their household while 5 (10%) of the respondents have between 15people or more in their household with a range of 5-8 people having the highest number in their household.

**Table 5.** Household Income

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
16,000-30,000	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
31,000-50,000	17	34.0	34.0	48.0
51,000-above	26	52.0	52.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 reveals the household income of the respondent. 7(14%) of the respondent's household income falls between N16,000 – N30,000, 17 (34%) of respondents' household income falls between N31,000 – N50,000; 26 (52%) of the respondent household income falls between the range of N51,000 – above. This shows that the majority of the respondent's households earn between N51,000 – above.

**Table 6. Education**  
**Do your children receive any form of education?**

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
NO	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
YES	40	80.0	80.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 Reveals that about 10(20%) of respondent children do not receive any formal education while 40(80%) of respondent children or children receive formal education. This shows that a larger population of the respondent children are educated.

**Table 7. Do your children help in business or farms?**

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
NO	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
YES	40	80.0	80.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 reveals that about 10(20%) of respondent children do not assist either in business or farms while 40(80%) respondent children or children assist one way or the other either in business or farms. This shows that a larger population of the respondent engage in child labour.

**Table 8. Are you currently receiving any child support or grant from the Government?**

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
NO	46	92.0	92.0	92.0
YES	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 8 reveals that about 46(92%) of respondent children do not receive any child support or grant from the government while 4 (8%) of respondent enjoys child support from the Government. This shows that a larger population of the respondent are self-dependent on their income.

**Table 9. Family or household income is said to be a major determinant of the increase or decrease in the rate of child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State**

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
NO	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
YES	44	88.0	88.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State, Table 9 presents the respondent's perspective on whether household income plays a significant role in determining the prevalence of child labour. While 44



(88%) of the respondents agree that family or household income is a major factor in changes in the rate of child labour in the Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State, 6 (12%) of the respondents disagree with the idea that household income plays a significant role in determining whether child labour rates increase or decrease. However, the idea is backed by a bigger portion of the respondents. Additionally, this would suggest that there is a connection between household income and child labour in Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State.

**Table 10.** What is the highest level of education our child has completed

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Primary Certificate	16	32.0	32.0	32.0
Secondary Certificate	26	52.0	52.0	84.0
Post-secondary Certificate	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 10 reveals the highest level of education of the respondent child, 16(32%) attended up to the primary level of education, 26(52%) attained up to secondary school education, and 8(16%) only attained post-secondary school education. However, it could be deduced that the level of education of respondent wards with the highest frequency is those with a secondary certificate with 26 (52%) respondents.

### 4.3 Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the relationship between household income and child labour in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State?

**Table 11.** Correlation between household income and participation of wards in labour.

Correlations		Do your wards help in Household Business or Farms? d Income	
Do your wards help in Business or Farms?	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	-.567
	Sig.(1-tailed)	.	2.124
	N	50	50
Household Income	Correlation Coefficient	-.567	1.000
	Sig.(1-tailed)	2.124	.
	N	50	50

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 11 reveals that there is a negative and inverse relationship between household income and child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi state, this relationship is however significant as evaluated with the t-stat of 2.124 which shows that it is statistically significant.

This leads us to reject our null hypothesis (HO1) and draw the conclusion that there is a substantial

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correlation between household income and child labour in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

#### **4.4 Discussion of Findings**

This research investigates the connection between family income and child labour in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State. According to the findings of this study, the vast majority of respondents (80%) do not get government subsidies or assistance, which may contribute to the high rates of child labour in the area. This suggests that government support and social programs may be necessary to address the issue of child labour in the area. Additionally, the research found that 52% of respondents had a monthly earning within the range of #52,000 and above, which highlights that poverty is not the only driver of child labour and there may be other factors such as lack of economic opportunities, cultural norms, or poor access to education and social services.

It's also crucial to remember that although a significant portion of respondents (80%) permit their kids or wards to pursue formal education, this does not preclude the possibility of child labour. Children who are also working might not have the time to get to school or the energy they need to do well. This emphasizes the necessity for education and child labour laws that address the relationship between work and education and make sure that kids can go to school while simultaneously making a safe and sustainable contribution to their families incomes.

#### **5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

In conclusion, the study contends that the main causes of child labour in Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State, are poverty and a lack of employment opportunities. To effectively address this issue, the government must offer assistance and social programs to low-income families as well as create employment options for local people to lessen the reliance on child labour. It is crucial to develop laws that strike a balance between the demands of families for a living and the rights of children to an education and protection from hazardous employment. Other elements to take into account include cultural norms and insufficient access to social services and education and it is recommended that the government at all levels (federal, state, and local) should provide and also implement policies and economic programmes that will enhance household heads daily income in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria.

#### **6. Limitation and Further Research**

In the course of this study, some limitations were faced; issue of proper funding made the study to have limited sample size and barrier in language in that in some areas populations could not read English nor write.

Based on the research findings, it would be beneficial to conduct further studies that delve deeper into the other factors that drive child labor in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria. For example, a study that specifically examines the cultural norms and attitudes towards child labor in the area and how they contribute to the problem.

Additionally, it would be interesting to investigate the effectiveness of different types of government support and social programs in reducing child labor. This could include a study that compares the impact of cash transfers, education subsidies, and vocational training programs on child labor rates. Furthermore, it would be valuable to study the impact of interventions that target

families and children simultaneously, such as conditional cash transfers linked to education attendance, in order to understand how best to support families and children in the area.

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