

African Renaissance

Published consistently since 2004
ISSN: 1744-2532 (Print) ISSN: 2516-5305 (Online)

Indexed by: SCOPUS, IBSS, EBSCO, COPERNICUS, ERIH PLUS
ProQuest, J-Gate and Sabinet

Vol. 22, (No. 1), March 2025
pp 269–288

Tackling Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: Towards Strengthening the Child Rights Act and Policy in Nigeria

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31920/2516-5305/2025/22n1a13>

Sunday Olawale Olaniran

*School of Criminal Justice
College of Law, University of South Africa.
olaniso@unisa.ac.za*

Abstract

There is widespread concern about the rising cases of child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite substantial investment in a wide range of projects and programmes towards sensitising people about the danger of child labour, there has not been a considerable reduction in the practice. This paper investigates the menace of child labour in Nigeria and the effectiveness of the Child Rights Act (CRA) through an in-depth review of scholarly literature and grey publications. A narrative review method was adopted for this study. Peer-reviewed literature was sought from popular databases such as Scopus, AJOL, and DOAJ, among others. The peer-reviewed studies were analysed through content analysis to discuss the dynamics and complexities of child labour in Nigeria. The Lundy Model of participation was used as a conceptual framework to underpin the study. Child marriage, child street hawking, and baby factories were among the activities recognised as child labour in Nigeria. Findings from the literature suggest household poverty, lack of political will, and weak strategies towards implementing the Child Rights Act are barriers towards eliminating child labour in the country. Recommendations include

revising and re-implementing the Child Rights Act and criminalising actions and activities preventing children from accessing basic education.

Keywords: *Child rights, Child labour, Child marriage, Out-of-school children.*

Introduction

There is a growing concern about the rising cases of child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa despite several efforts toward protecting the rights of children globally (Okafor, Okafor, & Ngini, 2018; Fatima, 2023). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) classified child labour as any "work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development" (Edmonds, 2008:1). This paper examines the menace of child labour in Nigeria with a special focus on the Child Rights Act 2003, which was introduced to create a safe space for all Nigerian children. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), also known as the Children's Charter, was adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (now African Union) in 1990 (UNICEF, 1990). The Charter, which became effective in 1999, is similar to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC). The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is a comprehensive document that outlines children's rights and establishes universal principles and standards for their well-being (African Union, 1999). The ACRWC and the CRC are the only international and regional human rights treaties that address the full range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for children.

To domesticate the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nigeria introduced the Child Rights Act (CRA) in 2003 (McCafferty, 2017). The introduction of CRA was also to conform with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which was adopted on the 1st of July 1990 by the African Union (Murray, 2019). The CRA contains elaborate provisions on the rights to be enjoyed by the Nigerian child. Despite this legislation, the Nigerian child, especially the girl-child, has yet to fully enjoy these rights. Child labour is a phenomenon that has gained significant attention globally, especially in developing nations where the practice is prominent (Josefsson & Wall, 2020; Olaniran & Perumal, 2021). While there are many definitions, child labour could be summarised as the exploitative engagement of children in a business or activity that denies them their childhood and exposes them to the danger of physical, psychological, or mental harm

(ILO, 2016; Ramaswamy & Seshadri, 2020; Daly *et al.*, 2021; Abusaleh *et al.*, 2022). Although basic education is free and compulsory in many African societies, countries like Nigeria, Mali, and South Africa continue to experience a surge in the rate of child labour in Africa. According to Smillie and Mobotja (2019), nearly half of the elementary school pupils enrolled in Grade 1 in South Africa drop out of the schooling system before they reach Grade 12. Studies have also explored the health and educational consequences of child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa (Agbo, 2017), predictors of child labour among public secondary school students (Enebe *et al.*, 2021), and the perception of child labour among agricultural workers (Williams *et al.*, 2016). Additionally, research has highlighted the impact of street hawking on children's education (Olaniran & Perumal, 2021; Obuzor & Gabriel-Job, 2022), patterns and practices of child labour among mothers in rural and urban areas (Ogunyemi *et al.*, 2023), and socio-economic factors influencing child labour (Okoronkwo & Oprah, 2024).

The relationship between child labour and delinquent behaviour has also been explored, emphasising the need for qualitative education to be accessible to all children, especially at the elementary and high school levels (Okpa *et al.*, 2021). In South Africa, there has been a focus on legislative changes regarding child labour in the context of democratic political transformations (Levine, 2006). Moreover, studies have linked social factors such as self-esteem and self-efficacy to adolescent predisposition to child labour in Nigeria (Oruche & Ezeiba, 2021). The role of the curriculum in addressing child labour has been discussed, highlighting the need for further research to inform curriculum responses (Visser, 2021). Therefore, a study like this one is relevant to unravelling how education as a tool can respond to the menace of child labour.

Child Labour in Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous country in Sub-Saharan Africa, with abundant human and material resources but faces a myriad of challenges. While child labour is an age-old problem, it exists in various forms and has been practised in many societies globally, including Nigeria. Although the Nigerian government prohibits child labour, many children continue to be subjected to it in various forms. According to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Nigeria has the highest number of child labourers in Africa, with an estimated 15 million

children involved in child labour (ILO, 2020). These children are involved in various forms of labour, including domestic work, street hawking, mining, agriculture, and other hazardous activities. Child labour is prevalent in rural and urban areas, with children as young as five years old engaged in various forms of work (Kennedy, 2020). Child labour gained significant attention during the industrial revolution period (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2019). Prominent studies conducted in the United Kingdom, which were prompted by the adverse effects of child labour, happened during the industrial revolution (Humphries, 2013). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) took its first stance on child labour in 1973 by setting the minimum age for work (Dahlen, 2007). Nevertheless, the ILO and many other international groups that target the issue failed to achieve their goals. While eradicating child labour was included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by 191 countries in 2005, the target was not achieved by the set year—2015 (Rena, 2009; Radfar *et al.*, 2018). Subsequently, ending child labour was also captured in the Sustainable Development Goals (Griggs *et al.*, 2013).

Article 3 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2016:np) Convention number 182 identified the four worst forms of child labour, which are:

- i. All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- ii. The use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution to produce pornography or pornographic performances.
- iii. The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- iv. Work that, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children ("hazardous child labour", see below)

Government policy has been recognised globally as a crucial tool for addressing child labour and other related activities threatening children's growth and well-being (Dammert *et al.*, 2018). Larmar *et al.* (2021) recommend partnerships between governments, universities, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to strengthen policies and programmes for the total elimination of child labour.

Drivers of Child Labour in Nigeria

Child labour in Nigeria is a complex phenomenon with multiple drivers. A range of studies that explore the phenomenon of child labour in Nigeria have looked for common trends among children who are victims of child labour to identify common factors (Togunde & Carter, 2006; Amuda, 2010; Agbo, 2017; Adeoye et al., 2017; Olayiwola, 2019; Fahlevi, 2021; Nnama-Okechukwu & Erhumwunse, 2021; Adeoti, 2021; Francis & Aborisade, 2022; Yinalabi, 2022; Nnama-Okechukwu, Ebimgbo, Agha, Onalu, 2023). These studies have reached a common ground. Some of the identified key drivers of child labour in Nigeria include poverty, lack of access to education, cultural practices, and weak legal frameworks.

Poverty

While the causes of child labour in Nigeria are multifaceted and complex, poverty remains the primary cause (Ekpenyong, Sibiri, & Island, 2011). Many families in Nigeria are living below the poverty line, and as a result, parents are forced to send their children to work to supplement their income (Nuhu & Nuhu, 2010). Families living in poverty often rely on the income earned by their children to meet basic needs (Aghedo & Eke, 2013). A report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) also confirmed that children are forced to work long hours in hazardous and exploitative conditions to help support their families (ILO, 2020). Families who send their children to work for their economic survival create to a vicious cycle of poverty (Hallegatte et al., 2020). Children who work instead of going to school are less likely to access education, limiting their future employment prospects and perpetuating the cycle of poverty (Koehler & Schneider, 2019; Silva-Laya *et al.*, 2020). Furthermore, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) report on Global Estimates of Child Labour (2017:np), stated that poverty contributes to child labour globally, with 72.1 per cent of all working children living in poor households". The report also highlights that in developing countries, where poverty rates are higher, children are more likely to be engaged in hazardous work. Moreover, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its report on child labour (2018) also notes that poverty is a primary cause of child labour, as poor families may view their children as a source of income rather than as individuals with a fundamental right to education and protection. In

conclusion, poverty is a significant factor that contributes to child labour, as inadequate access to food can also force children to look elsewhere in search of other means to access sufficient food.

Inadequate access to education

Inadequate access to education is one of the main drivers of child labour in developing nations (Du Plessis & Mestry, 2019; Mohammed, 2023). When children do not have access to quality education, they are more likely to work to help support themselves and their families (Geovani *et al.*, 2021). Moreover, children who come from poor families may not have the resources to attend school or may be forced to drop out of school to work and earn money to help support their families (Dakpan & Oluwabamide, 2010; Fareo & Ategu, 2020; Ibrahim, Magdalene & Abasido, 2021; Obioha & Ngwa, 2023). Child labour can trap children in a cycle of poverty and prevent them from getting the education they need to break free from it (Sohel, 2022). In addition, uneducated children may not be aware of their rights or may not have the skills and knowledge they need to advocate for themselves (Hanson, 2015; Kaur & Gulati, 2022; Odunuga & Adeogun, 2022). This can leave them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by employers who exploit their lack of education and experience (Chang, Tsang & Chisolm-Straker, 2022; Giang, 2023). Furthermore, when children are forced to work at a young age, they may not have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed long-term (Fuseini & Daniel, 2020). This can limit their future opportunities and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Child Marriage

Child marriage is considered a form of child labour because it deprives children, particularly girls, of their right to education and exposes them to a range of physical and emotional health risks (Şişli & Limoncelli, 2019; Mrabure & Ovakporae, 2020; Bolarinwa *et al.*, 2023). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) defines child marriage as "a formal or informal union where one or both parties are under the age of 18" (UNICEF, 2021: np). Child marriage is a violation of children's human rights and is prohibited by several international human rights instruments (Azubike & Adeniyi, 2015). In Nigeria, child marriage is prevalent, especially in the northern part of the country, where the prevalence of child marriage is 57% (UNICEF, 2021). According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), child labour is "work that

deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development" (ILO, 2019). Child marriage is categorised among the activities that promote child labour because it violates the fundamental rights of children and prevents them from enjoying their childhood (Mukherjee & Sekher; Salam & Aktar, 2020). Child marriage in Nigeria often leads to early pregnancy, which poses significant risks to the health of the mother and the child (Envuladu *et al.*, 2016; Adebola, 2020). According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years worldwide (UNFPA, 2021). In addition to the physical risks, child marriage also leads to emotional and psychological consequences for the victims (Ramaswamy & Seshadri, 2020). Girls who marry early are more likely to experience domestic violence and abuse, which can have long-lasting effects on their mental health and well-being (WHO, 2021).

Baby Factory

The term 'baby factory' is described as a building or physical structure where young ladies are coerced or encouraged to get pregnant by commercial infant traffickers or sellers (Alabi, 2019). Many women fall prey to baby factories due to extreme poverty. They are lured with promises of financial gain or employment, only to find themselves trapped. Babies delivered at the baby factory can be taken from their mothers almost immediately after birth.

Nigeria is one of the countries where the proliferation and discovery of 'baby factories' are on the high side of the rampage (Cristiansson, 2013; Makinde *et al.*, 2015). Baby factories are illegal shelters that harbour young women who give birth to children for trafficking and illegal adoption either at their will or under slavery-like conditions. Corruption within law enforcement and governmental institutions allows baby factories to operate with impunity. Bribes and lack of accountability enable traffickers to continue their activities.

Weak Policy

Weak legal frameworks also contribute to the prevalence of child labour in Nigeria. Although Nigeria has laws prohibiting child labour, enforcement is weak, and penalties for violators are not severe enough to serve as a deterrent (ILO, 2020). Nigeria has various laws and regulations against child labour, which include the Child Rights Act

enforcement is often weak due to a lack of political will and corruption (Mrabure & Ovakporae, 2020; Sahovic & Eriamiatoe, 2020). This creates a gap between policy and practice, which is exploited by employers who engage in child labour. For instance, the Child Rights Act of 2003 prohibits the use of children for labour, but the Act has not been fully implemented in many parts of the country (Enemo, 2021). According to a report by the United States Department of Labour, "the Nigerian government has not adequately enforced laws prohibiting child labour, particularly in the agricultural, domestic work, and mining sectors" (USDOL, 2021). Furthermore, the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Act of 1971 is 12 years, but this law is often violated, especially in the informal sector. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), "Children are engaged in hazardous and exploitative work in agriculture, domestic work, and other informal sectors, where they are often paid very low wages or work without pay" (ILO, 2019). In conclusion, weak policy enforcement contributes to the prevalence of child labour in Nigeria.

The Child Rights Act and child labour in Nigeria

The Child Rights Act (CRA) was enacted in Nigeria in 2003 to protect the rights of children in the country. The act is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an international treaty that outlines the fundamental rights of every child, irrespective of race, gender, and religion. The Act advocates for the protection of children from all manners of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. The Child Rights Act also prohibits child labour, particularly hazardous activities, and makes provision for the violators to be punished under the law.

Part II of the Child Rights Act: Rights of a Child

A 460 2003 No. 26

Child's Rights

Freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

6. Every child has a right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly in conformity with the law and in accordance with the necessary guidance and directions of his parents or guardians.

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

7.—(1) Every child has a right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

(2) Parents and, where applicable, legal guardians shall provide guidance and direction in the exercise of these rights having regard to the evolving capacities and best interest of the child.

(3) The duty of parents and, where applicable legal guardians to provide guidance and direction in the enjoyment of the right in subsection (1) of this section by their child or ward shall be respected by all persons, bodies, institutions and authorities.

(4) Whenever the fostering, custody, guardianship or adoption of a child is in issue, the right of the child to be brought up in and to practise his religions shall be a paramount consideration.

Right to private and family life.

8.—(1) Every child is entitled to his privacy, family life, home, correspondence, telephone conversation and telegraphic communications, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) No child shall be subjected to any interference with his right in subsection (1) of this section, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Nothing in the provision of subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall affect the rights of parents and, where applicable, legal guardians, to exercise reasonable supervision and control over the conduct of their children and wards.

Right to freedom of movement.

9.—(1) Every child is entitled to freedom of movement subject to parental control which is not harmful to the child.

Source: *Child Rights Act 2003* (FGN, 2003), page 10.

While CRA expresses clearly that every child in Nigeria has the right to education, health care, and protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation (Child Rights Act, 2003), several provisions in the Act are not in line with the UNCRC. One of the major critiques of the CRA is that it does not adequately protect children from harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation (Collins, Rizzini & Mayhew, 2021). The UNCRC prohibits all forms of harmful traditional practices and requires states to eliminate them (United Nations, 1989). However, the CRA permits the continuance of certain activities under specific instances, such as when they are “justified by tradition” (Braithwaite, 2014). This provision is a clear violation of the UNCRC and puts children at risk of harm.

Another issue with the CRA is that it does not provide adequate protection for children with disabilities (Ajuwon, 2008). The UNCRC requires states to provide equal rights and opportunities for children

with disabilities, including access to education and health care (United Nations, 1989). However, the CRA does not specifically address the needs of children with disabilities and does not provide any measures to ensure their full participation in society. Furthermore, the CRA does not provide adequate protection for children in conflict with the law. The UNCRC requires states to treat children in conflict with the law in a manner that is consistent with the promotion of their sense of dignity and worth (United Nations, 1989).

The Child Rights Act has had a significant impact on child labour in Nigeria since its implementation. The act has provided a legal framework for the protection of children from all forms of exploitation and abuse, including child labour. The act has also raised awareness about the importance of protecting the rights and welfare of children. Furthermore, the Child Rights Act has provided for the punishment of offenders who engage in child labour, which has served as a deterrent to those who engage in such practices. However, despite the provisions of the Child Rights Act, child labour remains a significant problem in Nigeria. The act's implementation has been hampered by a lack of political will, inadequate funding, and a lack of awareness among the population.

Lundy Model of Participation: Can it provide a roadmap to ending child labour?

The Lundy model of participation (Lundy, 2013) is a conceptual framework that describes different levels of participation that can be achieved by children and young people in decision-making processes that affect their lives. This model was developed by Laura Lundy, a law professor at Queen's University Belfast, and has been widely used in the fields of child rights and child participation. According to the Lundy model (Lundy, 2013), there are three levels of participation: (1) "space to be heard," (2) "space to contribute," and (3) "space to decide." Each level builds upon the previous one and represents greater participation. At the first level, "space to be heard," children and young people are allowed to express their views and have them taken seriously by adults. This can be achieved through mechanisms such as consultations, surveys, or focus groups. However, at this level, children and young people do not have any decision-making power, and their views may not necessarily be acted upon.

At the second level, "space to contribute," children and young people can participate in decision-making processes as active contributors. This means they are involved in discussions and have a say in the final decisions, but the ultimate decision-making power still rests with adults. This level of participation can be achieved through mechanisms such as youth councils or participatory budgeting.

At the third level, "space to decide," children and young people are given the ultimate decision-making power. They are involved in decision-making processes as equal partners with adults and have the authority to make final decisions. This level of participation can be achieved through mechanisms such as children's parliaments or student councils with decision-making powers.

The Lundy model emphasises the importance of participation in promoting children's rights and ensuring their voices are heard. It also recognises that different levels of participation may be appropriate for different contexts and that participation should be tailored to the needs and abilities of individual children and young people. Overall, the Lundy model of participation provides a useful framework for understanding and promoting children's participation in decision-making processes. Acknowledging the different participation levels helps ensure that children and young people are given appropriate opportunities to contribute to decisions that affect their lives, especially regarding child labour.

In the context of Nigeria, this model is relevant to engage children and their communities in the effort to end child labour. For example, when children are given adequate education, they are not only empowered to be heard but also positioned towards becoming active contributors to national development. One strategy for implementing this model in Nigeria is by using Child Labour Eradication Committees (CLECs). These committees can be established locally and consist of children, parents, teachers, and community leaders. The CLCs can work together to identify instances of child labour, raise awareness about the harms of child labour, and develop solutions to address the problem (Okoye, 2018).

Another key component of the Lundy model is recognising children as rights holders. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of exploitation, including child labour. Therefore, any effort to end child labour in Nigeria must be grounded in a rights-based approach (UNICEF, 2021).

Conclusion

Child labour has numerous consequences on the physical, emotional, and social development of children. Children who are involved in hazardous work, such as mining and domestic work, are exposed to various health hazards, such as respiratory diseases, hearing loss, and other occupational hazards. These children are also denied access to education and are at a higher risk of dropping out of school. Child labour also affects the emotional and social development of children, as they are deprived of their childhood and are unable to participate in recreational activities that promote their social development.

The Nigerian government needs to ensure that the CRA is fully implemented in line with the UNCRC to provide adequate protection for children in the country. In addition, the government must collaborate with major stakeholders such as schools, families, and civil societies to strengthen efforts to enforce existing laws and regulations and allocate adequate resources to combat child labour in the country.

Policy Implications

Advocating against child labour in Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the social, environmental, legal, economic, and cultural factors contributing to the menace. By strengthening the legal framework, empowering families economically, and enhancing educational opportunities, Nigeria can make significant strides in eliminating child labour and protecting the rights of its children. Continuous advocacy, awareness, and collaboration are essential to implement these strategies successfully. Moreover, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the progress of the Child Rights Act is necessary to make data-driven policy adjustments.

References

- Aborisade, R.A., 2022. 'To Serve and Be Abused': The Use of Adolescent Girls as Waitresses in Outdoor Drinking Bars in Lagos, Nigeria. *Journal of child sexual abuse*, 31(4), pp.466-487.
- Abusaleh, K., Islam, M.R., Ali, M.M., Khan, M.A., Shahinuzzaman, M. and Haque, M.I., 2022. Prevalence of economic exploitations and their determinants among child labourers in Dhaka City, Bangladesh: a mixed-method study. *Child Indicators Research*, pp.1-20.

- Adebola, O., 2020. The nexus between female genital mutilation and child marriage in Nigeria: a cultural inhibition to achieving sustainable development goals. *LAU International Journal of Social Sciences*, 10(2), pp.1-8.
- Adeoti, A.T., 2021. Child Labour in Nigeria: Causes and Consequences for National Development. *Young African Leaders Journal of Development*, 3(1), p.7.
- Adeoye, S.O., Agbonlahor, M.U., Ashaolu, O.F. and Ugalahi, U.B., 2017. Analysis of child labour dimensions and causes in rural farm households of Ogun state, Nigeria. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 17(3), pp.12198-12214.
- African Union (1999). African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36804-treaty-african_charter_on_rights_welfare_of_the_child.pdf
- Agbo, M.C., 2017. The health and educational consequences of child labour in Nigeria. *Health science journal*, 11(1), p.1.
- Aghedo, I. and Eke, S.J., 2013. From alms to arms: the Almajiri phenomenon and internal security in northern Nigeria. *Journal of Policy Studies*, 28(3), pp.97-123
- Ajuwon, P.M., 2008. Inclusive education for students with disabilities in Nigeria: Benefits, challenges and policy implications. *International Journal of special education*, 23(3), pp.11-16.
- Amuda, Y.J., 2010. Working conditions and consequences of child labour in Nigeria. *OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development*, 1(7), pp.53-72.
- Azubike, O.O. and Adeniyi, O., 2015. Sexual abuse and child marriage: promise and pathos of international human rights treaties in safeguarding the rights of the girl child in Nigeria. *Child abuse research in South Africa*, 16(2), pp.78-87.
- Bolarinwa, O.A., Seidu, A.A., Tessema, Z.T., Adu, C., Oyeleye, O.J. and Ahinkorah, B.O., 2023. Spatial distribution and multilevel analysis of factors associated with child marriage in Nigeria. *International Health*, 15(2), pp.171-181.
- Braimah, T.S., 2014. Child marriage in Northern Nigeria: Section 61 of Part I of the 1999 Constitution and the protection of children against child marriage. *African Human Rights Law Journal*, 14(2), pp.474-488.
- Chang, K.S., Tsang, S. and Chisolm-Straker, M., 2022. Child trafficking and exploitation: Historical roots, preventive policies, and the

- Pediatrician's role. *Current problems in pediatric and adolescent health care*, p.101167.
- Chukwudeh, O.S. and Oduaran, A., 2021. Liminality and child labour: Experiences of school-aged working children with implications for community education in Africa. *Social Sciences*, 10(3), p.93.
- Collins, T.M., Rizzini, I. and Mayhew, A., 2021. Fostering global dialogue: Conceptualisations of children's rights to participation and protection. *Children & Society*, 35(2), pp.295-310.
- Dammert, A.C., De Hoop, J., Mvukiyehe, E. and Rosati, F.C., 2018. Effects of public policy on child labour: Current knowledge, gaps, and implications for program design. *World Development*, 110, pp.104-123.
- Daly, A., Hillis, A., Shrestha, S.M. and Shrestha, B.K., 2021. Breaking the child labour cycle through education: issues and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children of in-country seasonal migrant workers in the brick kilns of Nepal. *Children's Geographies*, 19(5), pp.622-628.
- DAkpan, N. and Oluwabamide, A.J., 2010. The menace of child abuse in Nigeria: A case study of street hawking in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 24(3), pp.189-192.
- Dahlén, M., 2007. *The negotiable child: the ILO child labour campaign 1919-1973* (Doctoral dissertation).
- Du Plessis, P., Mestry, R., & Department of Education Leadership and Management, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa. (2019). Teachers for rural schools – a challenge for south africa. *South African Journal of Education*, 39(Supplement 1), s1-s9. <https://doi.org/10.15700/saje.v39ns1a1774>
- Enemo, I.P., 2021. Challenges Still Facing the Domestication and Implementation of Key Provisions of Nigeria's Child Rights Act of 2003. *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, 39(3), pp.358-372.
- Edmonds, V. (2008). *Defining child labour: A review of the definitions of child labour in policy research*. A Working Paper for the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). file:///Users/gatekeepers/Downloads/Defining_Child_Labour_En.pdf (Retrieved on 14 March 2024).
- Ekpenyong, S.N., Sibiri, A.E. and Island, W., 2011. Street trading and child labour in Yenegoa. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 4(1), pp.36-46.
- Enebe, N. O., Enebe, J. T., Agunwa, C. C., Ossai, E. N., Ezeoke, U. E., Idoko, C. A., & Mbachu, C. O. (2021). Prevalence and predictors of

- child labour among junior public secondary school students in Enugu, Nigeria: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public health*, 21, 1-12.
- Envuladu, E.A., Umaru, R.J., Iorapuu, N.O., Osagie, I.A., Okoh, E.O. and Zoakah, A.I., 2016. Determinants and effect of girl child marriage: a cross-sectional study of school girls in Plateau State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Medicine and biomedical research*, 5(3), pp.122-129.
- Fahlevi, M., 2020. Economic Analysis of Child Labour Based Households. *Open Journal for Research in Economics*, 3(1), pp.21-32.
- Fareo, D.O. and Ateegu, W., 2020. Determinants of girl child education among the Nomads in Nigeria. *East African Scholars Journal of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences*, 2(5), pp.30-37.
- Foua, A. and Diriwari, W., 2019. New perspectives in combating child trafficking and the shift to effective child protection in Nigeria. *Beijing L. Rev.*, 10, p.1239.
- Francis, C.S. and Yinalabi, A.J., 2022. Socio-Economic Factors Associated with Child Labour in Northern Nigeria. *Sapientia Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Development Studies*, 5(1), pp.114-129.
- Fatima, S. (2023). Rural development and education: critical strategies for ending child marriages. *Fatima, S. Rural Development and Education: Critical Strategies for Ending Child Marriages. Archives of the Social Sciences: A Journal of Collaborative Memory*, 1(1), 1-15.
- Fuseini, T. and Daniel, M., 2020. Child begging, as a manifestation of child labour in Dagbon of Northern Ghana, the perspectives of mallams and parents. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 111, p.104836.
- Geovani, I., Nurkhotijah, S., Kurniawan, H., Milanie, F. and Ilham, R.N., 2021. Juridical Analysis of Victims of The Economic Exploitation of Children Under The Age to Realize Legal Protection From Human Rights Aspects: Research Study At The Office of Social and Community Empowerment In Batam City. *International Journal of Educational Review, Law And Social Sciences (IJERLAS)*, 1(1), pp.45-52.
- Giang, P.T.H., 2023. Corporate Social Responsibility to Eliminate Child Labour in Vietnam. In *Laws on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Developmental Trend in Vietnam (pp. 83-95)*. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Griggs, D., Stafford-Smith, M., Gaffney, O., Rockström, J., Öhman, M.C., Shyamsundar, P., Steffen, W., Glaser, G., Kanie, N. and Noble, I., 2013. *Sustainable development goals for people and planet. Nature*, 495(7441), pp.305-307.

- Hallegatte, S., Vogt-Schilb, A., Rozenberg, J., Bangalore, M. and Beaudet, C., 2020. From poverty to disaster and back: A review of the literature. *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*, 4, pp.223-247.
- Hanson, K., 2015. Child labour, working children and children's rights. In *Routledge International Handbook of Children's Rights Studies* (pp. 332-346). Routledge.
- Hesketh, T., Gamlin, J. and Woodhead, M., 2006. Policy in child labour. *Archives of disease in childhood*, 91(9), pp.721-723.
- Humphries, J., 2013. Childhood and child labour in the British industrial revolution 1. *The Economic History Review*, 66(2), pp.395-418.
- International Labour Organization (ILO). (2020). Child Labour in Nigeria: Drivers, Challenges and the Way Forward. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_738731.pdf
- Ibrahim, A., Magdalene, D. and Abasido, A.U., 2021. Street hawking as a predictor of enrolment, attendance and retention of students in basic education in Gusau, Zamfara State-Nigeria. *International Journal of Intellectual Discourse*, 4(3), pp.191-201.
- Josefsson, J. and Wall, J., 2020. Empowered inclusion: Theorizing global justice for children and youth. *Globalizations*, 17(6), pp.1043-1060.
- Kaur, N. and Gulati, S., 2022. Child Labour Is A Denial Of Human Development: An Analysis. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(9), pp.277-285.
- Kennedy, A.G., 2019. Understanding child labour in Myanmar. *Journal of Global Ethics*, 15(3), pp.202-212.
- Koehler, C. and Schneider, J., 2019. Young refugees in education: the particular challenges of school systems in Europe. *Comparative migration studies*, 7(1), p.28.
- Lamar, S., Sunuwar, M., Sherpa, H., Joshi, R. and Jordan, L.P., 2021. Strengthening community engagement in Nepal during COVID-19: Community-based training and development to reduce child labour. *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development*, 31(1-2), pp.23-30.
- Levine, S. L. (2006). The 'picaninny wage'. An historical overview of the persistence of structural inequality and child labour in South Africa. *Anthropology Southern Africa*, 29(3-4), 122-131.
- Lundy, L., 2007. 'Voice' is not enough: conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. *British educational research journal*, 33(6), pp.927-942.

- Lundy, L., McEvoy, L., & Byrne, B. 2011. Involving children and young people in policy, practice and research. In *A. Farrell (Ed.), Ethical research with children (pp. 83-98)*. Open University Press.
- Lundy, L. 2018. Children's rights and educational policy in Europe: Converging towards a model of subsidiarity? *European Educational Research Journal*, 17(1), 1-12.
- Mmaduabuchi, C. E., & Nwosu, C. O. 2021. The menace of child labour in Nigeria: An overview of causes and policy responses. *African Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development*, 5(3), 231-243. doi: 10.1504/AJESD.2021.117258
- McCafferty, P., 2017. Implementing Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in child protection decision-making: A critical analysis of the Challenges and Opportunities for social work. *Child Care in Practice*, 23(4), pp.327-341.
- Mohammed, A.R., 2023. Children's lives in an era of school closures: Exploring the implications of COVID-19 for child labour in Ghana. *Children & Society*, 37(1), pp.91-106.
- Mrabure, K.O. and Ovakporae, M.K., 2020. Unabated Menace of Child Marriage in Nigeria. The Need for an Enabling Constitutional Provision. *Journal of Policy & Globalization*, 98, p.179.
- Mukherjee, A. and Sekher, T.V., 2017. 'Do Only Girls Suffer? We Too!': Early Marriage Repercussions on Boys in Rural India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 52(1), pp.75-82.
- Murray, R., 2019. *The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights: A Commentary*. Oxford University Press.
- Nnama-Okechukwu, C.U. and Erhumwunse, E.A., 2021. Factors responsible for child vulnerability in Nigeria: Suggestion for programme development. *Journal of Social Work in Developing Societies*, 3(1).
- Nnama-Okechukwu, C.U., Ebimngbo, S.O., Agha, A.A. and Onalu, C.E., 2023. Vulnerable children aiding visually challenged beggars in Nigeria: Need for social work intervention. *Children & Society*, 37(2), pp.616-633.
- Nuhu, F.T. and Nuhu, S.T., 2010. Opinions and attitudes of some parents in Ilorin, north-central Nigeria, towards child abuse and neglect. *South African Journal of Psychiatry*, 16(1), pp.27-32.
- Obioha, R.S.C.N. and Ngwa, E.S., Gender And Social Issues In Teenage Hawking: Implications on Educational Development in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. *International Journal on Integrated Education*, 4(3), pp.75-86.

- Obuzor, I., & Gabriel-Job, N. (2022). Street Hawking among Children: A form of Child Abuse Often Overlooked. *International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health*, 43(11), 38-44.
- Odunuga, A.F. and Adeogun, A., 2022. Emphasizing the Right of the Child Through African Cultural Values and Music Education. *Kabarak Journal of Research & Innovation*, 12(1), pp.48-57.
- Ogunyemi, A. O., Chukwu, F. N., Oluwole, E. O., Olatona, F. A., Otokpa, E., & Ofonakara, U. (2023). Patterns and practices of child labour among mothers in rural and urban areas in Lagos, Nigeria-A comparative study. *Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care*, 35(3), 61-71.
- Okafor, J.C., Okafor, U.C. and Ngini, I.I., 2018. Impact of Child Labour on Socio-Economic and Political Development in Nigeria. *Socialscintia: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(1).
- Okoronkwo, I. N., & Oprah, N. A. (2024). Ocio-Economic Factors That Influence Child Labour in Nigeria. *British Journal of Multidisciplinary and Advanced Studies*, 5(1), 1-15.
- Okoye, K. U. 2018. Child labour committees: A participatory approach to eliminating child labour in Nigeria. *Child Abuse Review*, 27(6), 382-392.
- Okpa, J. T., Eshiotse, E., Ofem, N. O., Sylvester, A., & Andrew, U. S. (2021). Child labour and delinquent behaviour in Nigeria: A risk factor analysis. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 10(3), 99-110.
- Olaniran, S. O. (2024). Community and Cultural Influence on Child Schooling: A Case Study of the Fulani people of Nigeria. *Journal of Social and Policy Issues*, 4(2), 54-59.
- Olaniran, S. O. (2018). Almajiri education: Policy and practice to meet the learning needs of the nomadic population in nigeria. *International Review of Education*, 64(1), 111-126. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11159-018-9705-2>
- Olaniran, S. O., & Perumal, J. (2021). Girl-Child Streetism and Possible Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa. *African Journal of Gender, Society & Development*, 10(3), 163.
- Olayiwola, P., 2019. 'Killing the Tree by Cutting the Foliage Instead of Uprooting It?' Rethinking awareness campaigns as a response to trafficking in South-West Nigeria. *Anti-trafficking review*, 7(13), pp.50-65.

- Opeloye, M.O., 2020. Contextualising Nigeria's Child's Rights Act 2003 within the Islamic child's rights provisions frame. *UiTM Journal of Legal Studies*, 2(2), pp.11-19.
- Oriwoh, V.E. and Efanodor-Obeten, H.O., 2022. Non-Domestication of the Child's Rights Act and Child's Rights Violation in North-East Nigeria: *The Implications*. *Human rights*, 1(1), 87-105.
- Oruche, J., & Ezeiba, V. A. (2021). Influence of child abuse on the academic achievement of Anambra state public junior secondary school students in Anambra state. *Journal of Educational Research & Development*, 4(1).
- Parker DL. 1997. Child labour. The impact of economic exploitation on the health and welfare of children. *Minn Med*;80:10–2.
- Radfar, A., Asgharzadeh, S.A.A., Quesada, F. and Filip, I., 2018. Challenges and perspectives of child labour. *Industrial psychiatry journal*, 27(1), p.17.
- Ramaswamy, S. and Seshadri, S., 2020. Children on the brink: Risks for child protection, sexual abuse, and related mental health problems in the COVID-19 pandemic. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 62(Suppl 3), p.S404.
- Rena, R., 2009. The Child labour in developing countries: a challenge to millennium development goals. *Indus Journal of Management & Social Sciences*, 3(1), pp.1-8.
- Sahovic, N.V. and Eriamiatoe, P., 2020. Effectiveness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the realization of the right to a remedy for Child victims of violence in Africa. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 110, p.104307.
- Salam, S. and Aktar, B., 2020. Child marriage in rural Bangladesh and its consequences on reproductive and maternal health: an empirical study. *European Journal of Medical and Health Sciences*, 2(4), pp.74-85.
- Silva-Laya, M., D'Angelo, N., García, E., Zúñiga, L. and Fernández, T., 2020. Urban poverty and education. A systematic literature review. *Educational Research Review*, 29, p.100280.
- Smillie, S., & Maboŧja, K. (2019). Matric Results: Drop-out crisis in SA schools. <https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/news/matricresults-drop-out-crisis-in-sa-schools18693946>
- Şişli, Z. and Limoncelli, S.A., 2019. Child brides or child Labourathe worst form? *Journal of Labour and Society*, 22(2), pp.313-324.
- Shohel, M.M.C., 2022. Education in emergencies: challenges of providing education for Rohingya children living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. *Education Inquiry*, 13(1), pp.104-126.

- Togunde, D. and Carter, A., 2006. Socioeconomic causes of child labour in urban Nigeria. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 12(1), pp.73-89.
- UN Convention on the rights of the child. (1989). *Population and Development Review*, 15(4), 779-783. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1972615>
- UNICEF (1990). The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. <https://corecommitments.unicef.org/kp/the-african-charter-on-the-rights-and-welfare-of-the-child>
- UNICEF. 2016. *The State of the World's Children 2016: a fair chance for every child*. Technical Report, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- UNICEF. (2021). Child marriage. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage> (19th March 2023).
- UNICEF. 2021. Child labour. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-approach/child-labour> (4th April 2023).
- United States Department of Labour. (2021). *2020 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour: Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labour/nigeria> (19th March 2023).
- United Nations Population Fund. (2021). Adolescent pregnancy. Retrieved from <https://www.unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy> (27th March 2023)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2018). Child Labour in Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/child-labour-nigeria>(4th April 2023).
- Visser, A. (2021). Child labour is a matter of national concern: What is the curriculum doing about it?. *Journal of Education*, (85), 29-54. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/2520-9868/i85a02>
- Williams, O., Famuyiwa, B., & Abdulkarim, I. (2016). Perception of Nigerian Cocoa Farmers on Child Labour: Implications for Hazardous Child Labour. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 10(3), 1-11.
- World Health Organization. (2021). Child marriage. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-marriage> (4th April 2023)