

Factors Influencing Street Hawking among School-age Children in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study focused on factors influencing street hawking among school-age children in Ido LGA of Oyo State, Nigeria. It determined causes, perceived effects and measures that can be taken to curb street hawking in the study area. Population was made up of parents/guardians of school-age children who were street hawkers at the time of the study in the area. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data. Data were analyzed using percentages and frequency count while inferential statistics employed were chi-square and linear regression at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance. Results shows among others, that 91.1 percent of the respondents engaged children in street hawking at early age of ≤ 10 years. Major causes of street hawking were poor financial status (93.9%), single parenthood (93.9%), and inability to provide the needs of the children (95.4%). Also, majority (94.6%) acceded that implementation of Child's Right Act would curb street hawking.

Keywords: Street, Hawking, Children, Child, Right Act, Ido LGA.

Introduction

Street hawking is one of the commonest forms of child labor in Nigeria and indeed sub-Saharan Africa. It involves selling of things along the road and from one place to the other by children below 18 years (Ashinmolowo *et al.*, 2010). Street trading has been reported to have numerous negative consequences (Amoo *et al.*, 2012). Children who engage in street hawking more often than not are deprived among other things of the opportunity of being in school completely or partially because of

the long hours they are expected to work. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), child labour is defined as "work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development". Globally, 111 million children under 15 years were reported to be in hazardous work in 2006 (ILO, 2006). One of the basic principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child is that every child must be protected against all forms of exploitation,

indecent or degrading treatment, including child labour, abduction and sale (UNICEF, 2000). According to UNICEF (2000), exploiting the labour of a child means employing a person below the age of 15 years and paying him/her less than the minimum standard wage. Trafficked children are made to work as hawkers and petty traders, beggars, car washers, bus conductors, farm hands or cattle rearers (UNICEF, 1997).

The use of children as hawkers, beggars and bus conductors is widespread in the urban areas. Other worst forms of child labour include street hawking, drug peddling, herding of livestock, children used by the physically challenged in begging along busy streets and sneaking (this is a method whereby armed robbers and thieves engaged young children to pass through small inlets into their areas of operation), child trafficking, child prostitution, slavery practices, particularly in the fishing industry, child domestic servitude, exploitation of children in mines and customary servitude (Ojo, 2013). Children in the urban areas are quickly caught up in the daily struggle for survival and material gain (Ebigbo, 1989).

A situation analysis of child abuse and neglect in Nigeria, undertaken through the medium of newspapers, found that child abandonment, sexual abuse (Al-Qaisy, 2007), child neglect, vagrancy, kidnapping and hawking were the most reported forms of child abuse and neglect (Ebigbo, 2013). Factors promoting child labour includes poverty, exploitation by the adults and children's own choices as a result of ignorance, among other things (Okafor, 2010 and Dada, 2013). The problem of child labour is pervasive in nature (ILO, 2006). The Western Societies

see child labourers as people suffering from some psychological and pathological problems, while in the African Society; it is regarded as a natural procedure in child rearing process. Child labour has been considered a social problem in the African context and Nigeria in particular (UNICEF, 2000 and ILO, 2015). Ebigbo (2013) opined that in Nigeria, the rate of child abuse and child hawking has assumed a worrisome and alarming proportion. He further noted that in Ibadan, Ondo and Ogun metropolis, it is a daily occurrence to see children below 14 years, hawking wares and other products along the roadsides.

Although, child hawking, can contribute to the economic growth and development, the risks that are attached supersede the economic positive aspect of it. Risks like motor accident, rape, kidnapping, extortion, sexual molestation (Onuziuke, 2007) and the child involvement in robbery and other anti-social behaviours are too great to ignore. Child hawking exposes the child to a lot of hazards like sexual defilement, sexual assaults, neglects and threat of punishment for speaking out. The consequences of these acts usually result in an unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, psychological problems and a gradual withdrawal from a healthy relationship with the opposite gender (UNICEF, 2000). Oloko (1989) noted that street hawking exposes the male and female child to dangers posed by fraudsters and actual murderers because of their vulnerability at odd hawking hours. They are usually under personal jeopardy, harsh and hazardous conditions such as becoming an easy target to occult predators (ritual killers). Although,

various efforts were made by Federal Government and non-governmental organizations to stem the trend, the problem continues.

Objectives of the study

The broad objective of this study was to examine issues related to street hawking among school age children in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined:

- (i) socio-economic characteristics of parents/guardians in the study area;
- (ii) causes of street hawking in the study area;
- (iii) measures taken against street hawking in the study area;
- (iv) perceived effect of street hawking on school age children in the study area

Methodology

Area of study: This study was carried out in Ido Local Government Area (ILGA) of Oyo state, Nigeria. Ido LGA has an area of 986 km² and a population of 103,261 at the 2006 census. The local government has its headquarter at Ido and was carved out from the former Akinyele Local Government. It shares boundary with Oluyole, Ibarapa East, Akinyele, Ibadan South West and Ibadan North West local governments in Oyo state and Odeda local government in Ogun state. Among the major towns within the local government area include Ijokodo, Omi-Adio, Ido, Apata, Apete, Akufo and Bakatari. Ido has very rich fertile soil which is suitable for agriculture; the basic occupation of the people is farming. The area is also suitable for wide range business activities which made it vulnerable to street hawking among school age children.

Population of the Study: The population comprised all parents/guardians in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State. They are mostly subsistent farmers with low level of education. As a result of the subsistence farming they practiced, their incomes were very low which made them to be poor.

Sampling for the study: Two stage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Stage one involved a simple random sampling of seven major towns in Ido Local Government Area. The selected towns were Ijokodo, Omi-Adio, Ido, Apata, Apete, Akufo, and Bakatari. Stage two involved snow-ball sampling of 40 household heads from each of the seven towns already selected which gave a total of 280 respondents.

Instrument for Data Collection: Structured interview schedule was used for data collection. It was developed based on literature review and the objectives of the study. It was duly validated.

Data Collection Technique: The respondents were interviewed by trained research assistants based on the interview schedule.

Data Analysis Technique: Data were analysed using percentages and frequencies.

Results and Discussion

Data analysis shows that majority of the respondents (45.0%) were between the age of 40 and 49 years, 38.9 percent were between 30 and 39 years, 13.2 percent were between the ages of 20 – 29 years while those between 50 years and above were 2.8 percent of the respondents. This implies that most of the respondents were agile and able to work and mount pressure on their wards to embark on

street hawking. Also, majority (62.1%) were male while their female counterparts were 37.9 percent of the total respondents. This implies that male traders who engage children in street hawking were more than female traders in the study area. Also, majority of the respondents practiced Islam (63.2%), Christians were 35.70% while 1.1% were traditionalists. This

shows that majority of the respondents were religious. Majority of the respondents (67.9%) had primary education background. Low level of education influences involvement of guardians in child labour and street hawking activities to augment family livelihood.

Table 1: Causes of Street Hawking among Households of the respondents (n= 280)

Causes of Street Hawking	YES Freq(%)	NO Freq(%)
Poor financial status	263 (93.9)	17 (6.1)
Inability to provide the needs of children	267 (95.4)	13 (4.6)
Quest for additional income	266 (95.0)	14 (5.0)
Poor level of education ignorance	242 (86.4)	38 (13.6)
Low financial status	263 (93.9)	17 (6.1)
Problem of single parenthood	262 (93.6)	18 (6.4)
The need to keep children engage and busy	249 (88.9)	31 (11.1)
Displacement due to war/ insurance	256 (91.4)	24 (8.6)
Use children to assist in income generation	256 (91.4)	24 (8.6)
To prevent children from playing around in the neighbourhood	251 (89.6)	29 (10.4)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 1 reveals that majority (93.9%) alluded that poor financial status led them to using their children for street hawking to generate income for livelihood. Also, 95.4 percent of the respondents claimed that inability to provide the needs of their children forced them to street hawking, while 4.6 percent were of the view that provision for their children's needs led them into child hawking. Also, 95.5 percent of the respondents agreed that quest for additional income was instrumental to their involvement in street hawking. Majority (86.4%) claimed that their poor level of education and

ignorance brought about using their children for street hawking. Also, majority 93.9 percent, 93.6 percent, 88.9 percent, 91.4 percent, 91.4 percent and 89.6 percent assented that low financial status, problem of single parenthood, the need to keep child engaged, displacement due to war / insurgence, use children to assist income generation and to prevent children from playing around respectively caused them to use their children for street hawking. This is alarming and dangerous and it has to be stopped by coming to the aid of the community in providing all their necessary needs to curb the menace.

Table 2: Measure that can be taken to curb street hawking among households of the respondents (n= 280)

Measures for Curbing Street Hawking	YES Frq (%)	NO Frq (%)
Implementation of Child Right Act by all States of the Federation	265 (94.6)	15 (5.4)
Construction of orphanage	256 (91.4)	24 (8.6)
Reaching out to the poor	261 (93.2)	19 (6.8)
Educating the children	262 (93.6)	18 (6.4)
Provision of free education	269 (96.1)	11 (3.9)
Sensitization on dangers of hawking by government and NGOs	266 (95.0)	14 (5.0)
Increase in community awareness on danger of hawking	262 (93.6)	18 (6.4)
Empowering children through entrepreneurship education	261 (93.2)	19 (6.8)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 2 shows that majority (94.6%) accepted that implementation of Child's Right Act by all states of the federation would curb street hawking. Also, 5.4 percent subscribed that even if the Act is put in place many will still not stop using their children for income generation. Also, 91.4 percent concurred that construction of orphanage home to cater for the less privileged children should be a good measure to stop child labour but 8.6 percent did not allude to this measure. From the table, 93.2 percent, 93.6 percent, 96.1 percent, 95.0 percent, 93.6 percent and 93.2 percent agreed that reaching out to the poor, educating the children to know their rights as members of the society, provision of free education, sensitization on dangers of hawking by government and NGOs, increase in community awareness on dangers of hawking and empowering children through entrepreneurship education respectively were good measures to curb street hawking.

Table 3: Perceived Effect of Street Hawking among Households of the sampled respondents (n= 280)

Perceived Effects of Street Hawking	SA Frq (%)	A Frq (%)	U Frq (%)	D Frq (%)	SD Frq (%)
1 Street hawking lead to prostitution or rape	72 (25.7)	205 (82.0)	3 (1.1)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
2 Street hawking lead to moral decline in the children	65 (23.2)	202 (72.1)	3 (1.1)	7 (2.5)	3(1.1)
3 Hawking cause low self esteem	56 (20.0)	140 (50.0)	6(2.1)	73 (26.1)	5 (1.8)
4 Street hawking expose children to accidents	134 (47.9)	132 (47.1)	7(2.5)	5 (1.8)	2 (0.7)
5 Street hawking lead to unwanted pregnancy	133 (47.5)	130 (46.4)	5 (1.8)	2 (0.7)	0 (0.0)
6 Street hawking lead to arrest of the victims because it is prohibited in Nigeria	130 (46.4)	133 (47.5)	4 (1.4)	13 (4.6)	0 (0.0)
7 Street hawking encourage sexual immoral	41 (14.6)	47(16.8)	14 (5.0)	146 (52.1)	0 (0.0)

	behavior					
8	Child involve in Street hawking risk the chances of being kidnapped	19 (6.8)	162 (57.9)	9 (3.2)	78 (27.9)	0 (0.0)
9	Hawking expose child to pornography films	8 (2.9)	52 (18.6)	15 (5.4)	167 (59.6)	6 (0.2)
10	Street hawking lead to poor education of the children involved	13 (4.6)	37 (13.2)	12 (4.3)	210 (75.0)	5 (1.8)
11	Street hawking lead to dropout among the children that are involved	20 (7.1)	62 (22.1)	38 (13.6)	133 (47.5)	7 (2.5)
12	Street does not encourage gang stealing	5 (1.8)	57 (20.4)	10 (3.6)	211 (75.4)	0 (0.0)
13	Street hawking lead to fight incident	8 (2.9)	161 (57.5)	12 (4.4)	106 (37.9)	3 (1.1)
14	Street hawking can negatively affect the victim psychology	12 (4.3)	192 (68.6)	14 (5.0)	60 (21.4)	2 (0.7)
15	Street hawking is a form of child abuse	16 (5.7)	242 (86.4)	8 (2.9)	5 (1.8)	2 (0.7)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 3 reveals that majority (82.0%) agreed while 25.7 percent strongly agreed that street hawking can lead to prostitution or rape. This is alarming; government and NGOs must rise up to assist the Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State to save our children especially the females. Also, 72.1 percent agreed, 23.2 percent strongly agreed, 1.1 percent undecided, 2.5 percent disagreed and 1.1 percent strongly disagreed that street

hawking can lead to moral decline in the children. 20.0 percent, 50.0 percent, 2.1 percent, 2.5 percent and 1.1 percent strongly agreed, agreed, undecided, decided and strongly disagreed respectively that could cause low self-esteem for the victim. Also, majority of the respondents (47.5%) strongly agreed while 47.1% agreed that street hawking expose children to accidents.

Table 4: Factors influencing street hawking among school-age children

Level of Influence	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
High level of influential factors	208	74.3	74.3	74.3
Low level of influential factors	72	25.7	25.7	100.0
Total	280	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 reveals that 74.3 percent of the respondents categorized factors influencing hawking as highly influential while 25.7 percent agreed that the factors were of low influence.

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics and factors influencing hawking.

Table 5: Chi-square analysis of relationship between Socio-economic Characteristics and Factors Influencing and Street Hawking among Children

		Level of Influence by Factors			χ^2 -value	Df	p-value	Rmark
		High Level of Influential Factors	Low Level of Influential Factors	Total				
Age	≤ 29	22(10.6%)	6(8.3%)	28(10.0%)	11.559 ^a	4	.021	Sig.
	30 - 39 yrs	88(42.3%)	30(41.7%)	118(42.1%)				
	40 - 49 yrs	96(46.2%)	30(41.7%)	126(45.0%)				
	50 - 59 yrs	2(1.0%)	4(5.6%)	6(2.1%)				
	≥60 yrs	0(0.0%)	2(2.8%)	2(0.7%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
Sex	Female	169(81.2%)	56(77.8%)	225(80.4%)	.409 ^a	1	.523	N.S
	Male	39(18.8%)	16(22.2%)	55(19.6%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
Religion	Christian	79(38.0%)	21(29.2%)	100(35.7%)	10.013 ^a	2	.007	Sig
	Islam	129(62.0%)	48(66.7%)	177(63.2%)				
	Trad.	0(0.0%)	3(4.2%)	3(1.1%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
Education	NFE	12(5.8%)	5(6.9%)	17(6.1%)	41.188 ^a	3	.000	Sig.
	1 ^o	164(78.8%)	31(43.1%)	195(69.6%)				
	2 ^o	29(13.9%)	26(36.1%)	55(19.6%)				
	3 ^o	3(1.4%)	10(13.9%)	13(4.6%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
yrs of sch	1 - 10 yrs	176(84.6%)	63(87.5%)	239(85.4%)	.615 ^a	2	.735	N.S
	11 - 20 yrs	31(14.9%)	9(12.5%)	40(14.3%)				
	21 - 30 yrs	1(0.5%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.4%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
Househ old Size	1-5	200(96.2%)	70(97.2%)	270(96.4%)	.177 ^a	1	.674	N.S
	6-10	8(3.8%)	2(2.8%)	10(3.6%)				
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				
Income	≤ ₦10000	205(98.6%)	64(88.9%)	269(96.1%)	14.854 ^a	2	.001	Sig.
	₦10001 - ₦20000	3(1.4%)	5(6.9%)	8(2.9%)				
	₦20001 - ₦30000	0(0.0%)	3(4.2%)	3(1.1%)				
	₦30000							
Total		208(100.0%)	72(100.0%)	280(100.0%)				

N.S = Not Significant Source: Field Survey, 2018

Chi-square analysis of relationship between socio-economic characteristics and factors influencing hawking is as shown in Table 5. Results revealed that there was significant relationship between factors influencing hawking and age ($\chi^2=11.559a$; $p<0.05$), religion ($\chi^2=10.013a$; $p<0.05$), education ($\chi^2=41.188a$; $p<0.05$), and income ($\chi^2=14.854a$; $p<0.05$). This implies that factors influencing hawking depend on age, religion, education, and

income. This was in line with Nuhu (2010) and Ebigbo (2013) that socio-economic and cultural factors are part of the major reasons why parents engage their children in street hawking.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between measures taken to curb street hawking and influencing factors.

Table 6: Linear Regression Analysis of the Relationship between Measures Taken To Curb Street Hawking and Influencing Factors

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	4.070	.471		8.636	.000
Implementation of Child's Right Act by all states of the federation	1.738	.266	.361	6.548	.000
Construction of Orphanage home to cater for the less privileged children	.531	.356	.079	1.494	.136
Reaching out to the poor in form of economic support	.596	.304	.112	1.962	.050
Educating the children to know their rights as members of the society	.665	.331	.114	2.009	.046
Provision of free education by government	.235	.310	.039	.758	.449
Sensitization on dangers of hawking by government and NGOs	-1.026	.419	-.136	-	.015
Increase in community awareness on dangers of hawking	.508	.336	.075	1.513	.132
Empowering children through entrepreneurship education	1.738	.330	.283	5.264	.000
R= 0.681 ^a ; Adjusted R Square=0.448; R Square= 0.464; F-Value = 29.192					
Source: Field Survey, 2018					

Linear regression analysis of the relationship between measures taken to curb street hawking and influencing factors is as shown in Table 6. Result revealed that there was significant relationship between factors influencing hawking and implementation of Child's Right Act by all states of the federation (t=6.548; p<0.05), reaching out to the poor in form of economic support (t=1.962; p<0.05), educating the children to know their rights as members of the society (t=2.009; p<0.05), sensitization on dangers of hawking by government and NGOs (t=-

2.450; p<0.05) and empowering children through entrepreneurship education (t=5.264; p<0.05). The table revealed that construction of orphanage home to cater for the less privileged children (t=1.494; p>0.05), provision of free education by government (t=.758; p>0.05), increase in community awareness on dangers of hawking (t=1.513; p>0.05) were not significant predictors of factors influencing hawking. This was indicative of social correlates and coping measures of street hawking revealed by Aderinto (2000).

Table 7: Linear Regression of the Relationship between Implication of Street Hawking and Influencing Factors

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	7.722	.671		11.512.000	
Street hawking lead to prostitution or rape	.002	.311	.000	.007.994	
Street hawking lead to moral decline in the children involved	.475	.188	.147	2.531.012	
Hawking children may have low self esteem	-.298	.134	-.125	-2.224.027	
Street hawking exposes children to accidents	.162	.087	.124	1.875.062	
Street hawking lead to unwanted pregnancy most especially among the female children	-.265	.134	-.125	-1.972.050	
Street hawking lead to arrest of the victims because street hawking in Nigeria is illegal	-.676	.173	-.264	-3.902.000	
Street hawking encourages sexually immoral behavior	-.112	.130	-.056	-.863.389	
Street hawking lead to school dropout among the children that are involved	.030	.082	.024	.366.715	
Children involved in street hawking risk the chances of being kidnapped	.172	.100	.124	1.717.087	
Hawking exposes children to pornographic films	.280	.087	.186	3.218.001	
Street hawking does not lead to poor education of the children involved	-.281	.100	-.167	-2.800.005	
Street hawking does not encourage gang stealing	.536	.126	.326	4.243.000	
Street hawking does not lead to fight incidence	.230	.106	.137	2.179.030	
Street hawking cannot negatively affect the psychology of the victims	-.124	.087	-.085	-1.428.155	
Street hawking is not a form of child abuse	-.389	.117	-.182	-3.331 .001	

R= .650^a; Adjusted R Square=0.390; R Square= .423; F-Value = 12.807

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Linear regression of the relationship between implication of street hawking and influencing factors are as shown in Table 7. Results revealed that there was significant relationship between influencing factors and street hawking can lead to moral decline in the children involved (t=2.531; p<0.05), hawking children may have low self-esteem (t=-2.224; p<0.05), street hawking can lead to

unwanted pregnancy most especially among the female children (t=-1.972; p<0.05), street hawking can lead to arrest of the victims because street hawking in Nigeria is illegal (t=-3.902; p<0.05), hawking exposes children to pornographic films (t=3.218; p<0.05), street hawking does not lead to poor education of the children involved (t=-2.800; p<0.05), street hawking does not encourage gang stealing

($t=4.243$; $p<0.05$), street hawking does not lead to fight incidence ($t=2.179$; $p<0.05$), and street hawking is not a form of child abuse($t=-3.331$; $p<0.05$). The table revealed that there is no significant relationship between the influencing factors and street hawking can lead to prostitution or rape ($t=.007$; $p>0.05$), street hawking exposes children to accidents ($t=1.875$; $p>0.05$), street hawking can lead to unwanted pregnancy most especially among the female children ($t=-1.972$; $p>0.05$), street hawking can lead to arrest of the victims because street hawking in Nigeria is illegal ($t=-3.902$; $p>0.05$), street hawking encourages sexually immoral behavior ($t=-.863$; $p>0.05$), street hawking can lead to school dropout among the children that are involved ($t=.366$; $p>0.05$), children involved in street hawking risk the chances of being kidnapped ($t=1.717$; $p>0.05$), street hawking cannot negatively affect the psychology of the victims ($t=-1.428$; $p>0.05$). This corroborates Ojo (2013) on determinant factors of street hawking and its effect among school aged children.

Conclusion

Based on the results of major findings, factors influencing hawking were determined by age, religion, education, income, implementation of Child's Right Act, reaching out to the poor in form of economic support, educating the children, sensitization on dangers of hawking by government and NGOs and empowering children through entrepreneurship education. Also, street hawking can lead to moral decline, low self-esteem, unwanted pregnancy, arrest of the victims, exposure to pornographic films among other.

Recommendations

Arising from the study conclusions, it is recommended that:

1. There is need for vigorous enlightenment and economic empowerment of parents, guardians and faith-based organizations, improvement in household wellbeing by government and other key stakeholders.
2. Enforcement of Child's Right Act by all states of the federation, economic support and empowering children through entrepreneurship education must be given serious attention to curb the menace of incessant school aged hawking.

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