

PARENTAL AWARENESS OF CHILD'S RIGHT AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING THE CHILD AGAINST ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION IN EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to establish the extent parents are aware of the child's economic right and therefore contends that if parents are aware of the economic right of children, they will be in a better position to protect the child from economic abuse. In view of this, the study had four objectives and four research questions. The adopted descriptive survey research design and accidental sampling technique to select 404 parents as respondents. A 22 researcher made questionnaire was the main instrument. The instrument was validated by experts in childhood education measurement and evaluation. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through the use of test retest which gave a coefficient of 0.81. The data generated was analyzed using mean. The basic findings of the study were parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation was low but single parents were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children while married parents were more disposed to the involvement of children in drug related businesses. Based on these, the study recommends thus: the government and non-governmental apparatuses need to engage in aggressive public enlightenment programmes by using all the media sources to enlighten the parents on the evils of different forms of child's economic abuse and that those who conduct marriages such as the parents, church, mosque, court and other institutions must counsel both the married and prospective couples on how to take steps to avert the child's involvement in drug and sex related businesses.

Keywords: Parental Awareness, Child's Right, Economic Exploration and Protection.

INTRODUCTION

From cradle, man has been involved in various economic activities. The urge to live a life of high economic viability has led to man's involvement in the use of different strategies. Some such strategies are engagement of fellow men as slaves, engagement of children for various economic activities, employment of adults to work for others among others. Some of these economic measures cannot be considered dignifying to humanity or suitable to the prescriptions of the law of the land. One of such economic approaches that can be conceived as not proper is the use of children as tools of economic viability. Unfortunately, it is not a hidden fact that children are engaged by people

in various ways for economic pursuit or aggrandizement. The practice of engaging children for economic activities has attracted more criticisms than applause. It is also observable that the use of children for economic activities has gained ground like wildfire and is still ongoing. Indeed, it has no geographical circumference or restrictions hence it is practiced in both rural and urban areas of most nations. Besides, its geographical spread, the scope of child's use for economic purpose range from house help to child slavery. The dimension of how the child is used for economic purposes which contravene the child's right are as contained in the Child's Right Act of Federal Republic of Nigeria

(2003).

The Act under article 30 subsections 2a, b, c, d, e, f spell the practices that are considered economically exploitative to the child as the use of children:

- a. For the purpose of begging for alms, guiding beggars. Prostitution, domestic or sexual labor or for any unlawful or immoral purpose or
- b. As a slave or for practices similar to slavery such as sale or trading of the child, debt bondage or serfdom and forced or compulsory labour
- c. For hawking of goods or services on main city streets, brothels or highways
- d. For any purpose that deprives the child of the opportunity to attend and remain in school as provided for under the compulsory, free universal basic education Act
- e. To procure or offer for prostitution or for the production or pornography or for any pornographic performance
- f. To procure or offer for any activity in the production or trafficking or illegal drugs and any other activity relating to illicit drugs as specified in the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

The prescriptions of the law and other conventional practices which negates child's use for economic purposes can be summed to be the use of the child to beg, sexual labour or prostitution, debt bondage, slavery, hawking, not allowing the child to go to school, use for drug trafficking and use for production of pornographic performances. Beyond these, there may be other ways children are used for economic purposes which negate national and international regulations. Some such ways are the use of children to serve as factory workers, domestic servants (house help), spies in war or trouble driven zones and all these services, they are paid little or nothing at all.

These harsh economic conditions melted on the child may violently be spreading like uncontrollable erosion because some people who care and parent children do not seem to know what negates the right of the child as specified by law at

various levels. Considering that it is abhorred by the provisions of the law and societal norms; it appears unstoppable and takes wider dimension from time to time. It is indeed a national and global concern. Considering its scope of existence, there is the need to x-ray the economic practices as stipulated by the Child's Right Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which provides a clue or describes what is regarded as economic exploitation of the Nigerian child. This is to say that the more the parents and those who take care of children are aware of what constitute an infringement on the child's economic right; it could be easy to resist or desist from the economic manipulation of the child.

Naturally speaking, awareness of a problem is an attainment of a major milestone in solving the problem. Considering this direction of thought, a study such as this is deemed necessary because parental awareness of child's right against the different forms of economic exploitation of the child, is a sure means of protecting the child against economic exploitation. This study is necessitated by the fact that it is almost a common observation that the parents and guardians are docile in tackling the various forms of ill economic practices melted on the child. The accusation that they are unperturbed can be traced to the wild spread of poor economic practices against the child. The practices are witnessed in both urban and rural areas and they are also common among parents from different marital and educational backgrounds. In this study therefore efforts shall be made to establish the rate with which different categories of parents are aware of the child's economic right.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study was to determine the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation. Specifically the study sought to determine:

1. The level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation
2. The differences in the level of urban and rural parents' awareness of child's economic right
3. The differences in the level of married and

single parents' awareness of child's economic right

4. The differences in the level of educated and non-educated parents' awareness of child's economic right

RESEARCH QUESTION

Based on the purpose of this study, the following questions are posed:

1. What is the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation?
2. What is the nature of differences in the level of urban and rural parents' awareness of child's economic right?
3. What is the difference in the level of married and single parents' awareness of child's economic right?
4. What are the differences in the level of educated and non-educated parents' awareness of child's economic right?

DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this study, the following terms shall be discussed and understood as follows:

1. **Parental awareness of child's right:** In this study, is used to tell what the parents conceive as economic malpractice against the child. In this study, some of them are use of the child to beg, sexual labour or prostitution, debt bondage, slavery, hawking, not allowing the child to go to school, involvement of the child for drug trafficking and production of pornographic performances.
2. **Child economic exploitation:** The term child economic exploitation is used in this study to refer to the engagement of the child in any form of economic activities that are not permitted by law.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is carried out in Rivers East Senatorial District of Rivers State, Nigeria. The area is made up of 8 local government areas namely: Port Harcourt, Obio/Akpor, Ikwerre,

Emeohua, Etche, Omuma, Okrika, Ogu-Gbolo. Some of the areas are in urban while some are in rural areas. It accommodates different shades of parents in terms of economic class, marital status and education. The study was centered on the extent the parents can identify and defend the child from been used wrongly by any individual or group to achieve their economic targets.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. To cover the area of the study, the researcher, stratified the area on the basis of urban and rural areas. Since the area is made up of 8 local government areas, the researcher sampled 4 local government areas. In doing this, 2 local governments from urban and 2 from rural areas were selected for the study. Naturally, the parents were not found at one place, as a result the researcher adopted accidental sampling technique to sample parents from the urban and rural areas. The researcher who adopted a 22 item researcher designed questionnaire as the main instrument moved from place to place to administer the instrument to 405 parents. To adopt the questionnaire as the main instrument for the study, the researcher subjected the instrument to validity and reliability. The instrument was validated by giving the draft to an expert in Childhood Education and another expert in Measurement and Evaluation. Based on their inputs; corrections were made and the instrument was subjected to a reliability test by carrying out a test retest exercise by giving it to 20 parents who were found outside the area of the study. The data generated was analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC). The outcome of the test retest result was 0.81 coefficient at 0.05 level of significance. Following the correlational value, the instrument was adopted for the study. The parents were met at homes, market places, churches, schools/care centers, shops among others. Out of the 405 questionnaire administered, one was wrongly filled and was not used for analysis. Therefore 404 questionnaire that were correctly filled and retrieved were used for the analysis. Means was used to analyze the data that were generated.

RESULTS

Research Question 1 : What is the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

Table 1: Summary of Descriptive Statistics in the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

S/N	ITEMS	VG	G	F	P	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Our culture permits the use of children to beg for alms.	11	0	24	369	1.14	0.53	
2	The Nigerian law is against the use of children for begging.	282	42	16	64	3.34	1.12	*
3	A child can be engaged for sexual activity for the purpose of making money.	37	185	182	0	2.64	0.64	*
4	The law of the land does not frown at the use of children sexual use of children to make money.	13	22	11	358	1.23	0.69	
5	The of use children as a means of borrowing money is practiced in my locality.	32	35	11	326	1.44	0.95	
6	No law says that it is wrong to keep a child as a collateral to borrow money from any source.	24	62	318	0	2.27	0.56	
7	It is not wrong to sale children as slaves to raise money for the family.	0	11	22	371	1.11	0.39	
8	The laws of the land is not against the sale of children as slaves.	40	13	26	325	1.43	0.95	
9	Use of children to hawk contradicts the UBE law that says every child must compulsorily go to school.	24	38	316	26	2.15	0.61	
10	All cultures permits any child to be used as a hawker.	0	0	0	404	1.00	0.00	
11	UN and Nigeria as a nation has it as a law that the right to send children to school is a fundamental human right of the child.	0	0	40	364	1.10	0.30	
12	Not all children must enroll for a formal education.	0	40	364	0	2.10	0.30	
13	Nothing is wrong to either put drug(s) in the body of children or ask them to carry out across check points within and outside the country.	244	26	24	110	3.00	1.33	*
14	No law is against the engagement of children for carrying drug from one place to another or country to the other.	0	0	91	313	1.23	0.42	
15	Children cannot be used to display different sexual performances	39	78	276	11	2.36	0.69	

16	No law says that children can be used for form of sexual performance.	380	24	0	0	3.94	0.24	*
17	The laws of nations are against the employment of children as factory workers.	11	0	88	305	1.30	0.61	
18	It is culturally wrong to engage a child for a paid job.	33	64	307	0	2.32	0.62	
19	It is dehumanizing to hire a child as a house help.	0	0	0	404	1.00	0.00	
20	No law permits the engagement of children as house help.	0	11	13	380	1.09	0.37	
21	UN and the laws of nations condemns the idea of using children as spies in war turned places and pay them little or nothing.	11	13	380	0	2.09	0.37	
22	In almost every emergency situation, children are used as spies and are paid for their services.	0	0	22	382	1.05	0.23	
Grand mean						1.84	0.25	

Key: * Good

The result from Table 1 above shows the summary of Descriptive Statistics in the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation. The grand mean in the level of parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation was found to be 1.84, SD=0.25 which means that they possess low level of awareness on what constitute the

economic right of the child. The result further shows that parents are aware that no law permits children to be used for any form of sexual performance (3.94, SD=0.24) use of children for begging alms (3.34 and SD=1.12), involve children in drug trafficking (3.00, SD=1.33) but the parents were aware that a child cannot be engaged for sexual activity (2.64, SD=0.64).

Research Question 2: What is the nature of differences in the level of urban and rural parents' awareness of child's economic right

Table 2: Summary of Descriptive Statistics in the parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on location

S/N	ITEMS	Urban (n=316)		Rural (n=88)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	Our culture permits the use of children to beg for alms.	1.10	0.55	1.27	0.45
2	The Nigerian law is against the use of children for begging.	3.40	1.12	3.14	1.12
3	A child can be engaged for sexual activity for the purpose of making money.	2.66	0.68	2.58	0.50
4	The law of the land does not frown at the use of children sexual use of children to make money.	1.16	0.62	1.50	0.87
5	The of use children as a means of borrowing money is practiced in my locality.	1.34	0.91	1.80	0.98

6	No law says that it is wrong to keep a child as a collateral to borrow money from any source.	2.20	0.48	2.55	0.74
7	It is not wrong to sale children as slaves to raise money for the family.	1.03	0.18	1.38	0.70
8	The laws of the land is not against the sale of children as slaves.	1.32	0.88	1.82	1.10
9	Use of children to hawk contradicts the UBE law that says every child must compulsorily go to school.	2.04	0.35	2.52	1.05
10	All cultures permits any child to be used as a hawker.	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
11	UN and Nigeria as a nation has it as a law that the right to send children to school is a fundamental human right of the child.	1.00	0.00	1.45	0.50
12	Not all children must enroll for a fomal education.	2.00	0.00	2.45	0.50
13	Nothing is wrong to either put drug(s) in the body of children or ask them to carry out across check points within and outside the country.	2.96	1.37	3.16	1.13
14	No law is against the engagement of children for carr ying drug from one place to another or country to the other.	1.16	0.37	1.45	0.50
15	Children can not be used to display different sexual performances	2.28	0.61	2.63	0.89
16	No law says that children can be used for any form of sexual performance.	3.97	0.18	3.85	0.36
17	The laws of nations are against the employment of children as factory workers.	1.20	0.40	1.65	0.99
18	It is culturally wrong to engage a child for a paid job.	2.31	0.59	2.38	0.70
19	It is dehumanizing to hire a child as a house help.	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
20	No law permits the engagement of children as house help.	1.00	0.00	1.40	0.70
21	UN and the laws of nations condemns the idea of using children as spies in war turned places and pay them little or nothing.	2.00	0.00	2.40	0.70
22	In almost every emergency situation, children are used as spies and are paid for their services.	1.00	0.00	1.25	0.44
Grand mean		1.78	0.16	2.03	0.39

The result from Table 2 above shows the summary of descriptive statistics in the parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on location. The grand mean in the parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on location was 1.78, SD=0.16 for Urban and 2.03, SD 0.39. The urban and rural parents were aware that a child cannot be engaged for sexual activity as

urban (3.97, SD=0.18) and rural (3.85, SD=0.36). The parents are also aware that the Nigerian law was against the use of children for begging as urban (3.40, SD=1.12) and rural (3.14, SD=1.12). The result further shows children can be involved in drug trafficking with rural (3.16, SD=1.13) and urban (2.96, SD=1.37). The result finally indicates that both urban and rural parents can engage children for sexual with urban (3.97, SD=0.18) and rural(3.85, SD=0.36).

Research Question 3 : What is the difference in the level of married and single parents' awareness of child's economic right?

Table 3: Summary of Descriptive Statistics in the parents' level of awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on marital status

S/N	ITEMS	Married (n=248)		Single (n=158)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	Our culture permits the use of children to beg for alms.	1.13	0.6	1.15	0.3
			2		6
2	The Nigerian law is against the use of children for begging.	3.39	1.1	3.26	1.1
			0		5
3	A child can be engaged for sexual activity for the purpose of making money.	2.73	0.7	2.49	0.5
			0		0
4	The law of the land does not frown at the use of children sexual use of children to make money.	1.20	0.6	1.28	0.7
			9		0
5	The of use children as a means of borrowing money is practiced in my locality.	1.43	1.0	1.45	0.8
			1		4
6	No law says that it is wrong to keep a child as a collateral to borrow money from any source.	2.25	0.5	2.31	0.6
			3		2
7	It is not wrong to sale children as slaves to raise money for the family.	1.04	0.2	1.21	0.5
			1		6
8	The laws of the land is not against the sale of children as slaves.	1.25	0.7	1.71	1.1
			6		4
9	Use of children to hawk contradicts the UBE law that says every child must compulsorily go to school.	2.06	0.4	2.29	0.8
			0		3
10	All cultures permits any child to be used as a hawker.	1.00	0.0	1.00	0.0
			0		0
11	UN and Nigeria as a nation has it as a law that the right to send children to school is a fundamental human right of the child.	1.00	0.0	1.26	0.4
			0		4
12	Not all children must enroll for a formal education.	2.00	0.0	2.26	0.4
			0		4
13	Nothing is wrong to either put drug(s) in the body of children or ask them to carry out across check points within and outside the country.	2.72	1.4	3.44	0.9
			5		5
14	No law is against the engagement of children for carrying drug from one place to another or country to the other.	1.21	0.4	1.26	0.4
			0		4
15	Children can not be used to display different sexual performances	2.26	0.5	2.52	0.8
			5		5

16	No law says that children can be used for any form of sexual performance.	3.96	0.21	3.92	0.28
17	The laws of nations are against the employment of children as factory workers.	1.26	0.44	1.37	0.81
18	It is culturally wrong to engage a child for a paid job.	2.39	0.65	2.21	0.56
19	It is dehumanizing to hire a child as a house help.	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
20	No law permits the engagement of children as house help.	1.00	0.00	1.22	0.56
21	UN and the laws of nations condemns the idea of using children as spies in war turned places and pay them little or nothing.	2.00	0.00	2.22	0.56
22	In almost every emergency situation, children are used as spies and are paid for their services.	1.00	0.00	1.14	0.35
Grand mean		1.79	0.17	1.92	0.33

The result from Table 3 above shows the grand mean in the parents' level of awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on marital status was found to be 1.79, SD=0.17 for married parents and single parents was 1.92, SD=0.33. Married parents are aware that children cannot be used for any form of sexual performance with 3.96, SD=0.21 and single parents as 3.92, SD=0.28. The

result shows that nothing is wrong to involve children to traffic with single parents (3.44, SD=0.92) and married parents was 2.72, SD=1.45. Parents are aware that use of children for begging is an evil with married parents as 3.39, SD=1.10 and single parents was 3.26, SD=1.15 but single parents agreed that children can be used to display different sexual performances with a mean of 2.52, SD=0.85 while the married are against it.

Research Question 4 : What are the differences in the level of educated and non-educated parents' awareness of child's economic right

Table 4: Summary of Descriptive Statistics in the parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on education

S/N	ITEMS	Educated (n=276)		Non-educated (n=128)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	Our culture permits the use of children to beg for alms.	1.12	0.59	1.19	0.39
2	The Nigerian law is against the use of children for begging.	3.31	1.17	3.41	1.01
3	A child can be engaged for sexual activity for the purpose of making money.	2.67	0.70	2.59	0.49
4	The law of the land does not frown at the use of children sexual use of children to make money.	1.18	0.66	1.34	0.76
5	The of use children as a means of borrowing money is practiced in my locality.	1.39	0.97	1.55	0.89

6	No law says that it is wrong to keep a child as a collateral to borrow money from any source.	2.22	0.50	2.38	0.66
7	It is not wrong to sale children as slaves to raise money for the family.	1.04	0.20	1.26	0.61
8	The laws of the land is not against the sale of children as slaves.	1.36	0.93	1.56	0.99
9	Use of children to hawk contradicts the UBE law that says every child must compulsorily go to school.	2.05	0.38	2.36	0.90
10	All cultures permits any child to be used as a hawker.	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
11	UN and Nigeria as a nation has it as a law that the right to send children to school is a fundamental human right of the child.	1.00	0.00	1.31	0.47
12	Not all children must enroll for a formal education.	2.00	0.00	2.31	0.47
13	Nothing is wrong to either put drug(s) in the body of children or ask them to carry out across check points within and outside the country.	2.92	1.37	3.16	1.20
14	No law is against the engagement of children for carrying drug from one place to another or country to the other.	1.18	0.39	1.31	0.47
15	Children cannot be used to display different sexual performances	2.33	0.64	2.43	0.79
16	No law says that children can be used for any form of sexual performance.	3.96	0.20	3.90	0.30
17	The laws of nations are against the employment of children as factory workers.	1.23	0.42	1.45	0.88
18	It is culturally wrong to engage a child for a paid job.	2.35	0.62	2.26	0.61
19	It is dehumanizing to hire a child as a house help.	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
20	No law permits the engagement of children as house help.	1.00	0.00	1.27	0.61
21	UN and the laws of nations condemns the idea of using children as spies in war turned places and pay them little or nothing.	2.00	0.00	2.27	0.61
22	In almost every emergency situation, children are used as spies and are paid for their services.	1.00	0.00	1.17	0.38
	Grand mean	1.79	0.17	1.93	0.36

The result from Table 4 shows a grand mean in the parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation based on education as 1.79, SD=0.17 for the educated class and 1.93, SD=0.36 for the non-educated class. The result further shows a strong indication that parents are aware that no law says that children can be used for any form of sexual performance from educated parents was 3.96, SD=0.20 and from non-educated parents was 3.90, SD=0.30. The result also shows that

educated parents are aware that the use of children for begging is wrong with the educated as 3.31, SD=1.17 and non-educated as 3.41, SD =1.01. The established that educated parents with 2.92, SD=1.37 and non-educated as 3.16, SD = 1.20 upholds that nothing is wrong to involve children in drug trafficking. The study finally established that educated parents with 2.67, SD=0.70 and non-educated with (2.59, SD=0.49) upholds that children can be engaged in sexual activity.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the data analyzed, the following findings were made:

1. Parents manifest low awareness that no culture, law of the land permits children to be used for economic exploitation. They also possess low awareness that no child should be used as a collateral to borrow money, slave, factory worker hawker and house help. They also do not know that it is the child's fundamental right to enroll and complete primary education. However, the parents are aware that no child should be used for drug trafficking, begging for alms, and any form of sexual exploitation.
2. Urban and rural parents did not differ in their awareness as regards the use of children as a tool for economic exploration.
3. Married and single parents did not also differ in their awareness against the use of children for economic exploitation apart from drug and sex where the married were slightly more disposed to children involvement in drug related businesses and in sexual exploitation where the single were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children for economic purposes.
4. The awareness of the educated and non-educated parents did not differ in any way as regards the use of children as an economic tool.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The discussion of this study shall hold under the following sub-headings:

- Parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation
- Parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation
- Urban and rural parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation
- Married and single parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation
- Educated and non-educated parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

Parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

This study established that parents manifest low awareness that no culture or law of the land permits children to be used for economic exploration. They also possess low awareness that no child should be used as a collateral to borrow money, slave, factory worker, hawker and house help. They also do not know that it is the child's fundamental right to enroll and complete primary education. However, the parents are aware that no child should be used for drug trafficking, begging for alms, and any form of sexual exploitation. The finding of this study may not attract debate in some regards because over the years and in most nations, the use of children as a tool for economic exploitation is as old as man. This stem from the fact that to most people, children has no right and most cultures do not resist the maltreatments given to the child as regards economic exploitation and other forms of inhuman practices.

Observations of human activities credit the position of this paper that children over the years have been mal-used by parents, guardians and others who take of them. In this regard, Essan, Ahmed, Abdullah and Hoda (2012) has it that the people of ancient Greece, practice what can be described as infanticide. The cultural practice of infanticide is where children with any form of deformity is killed so as to cater for others who have no special challenge. Sexually speaking, Sari and Buyukunal (1991) has it that it is a common practice among the Eskimos that parents presented their under-aged daughters to their guests as a form of demonstrating hospitality; and that often times, the innocent children die while undergoing their first sexual experience. The account that culture permits children to be used for economic gains by engaging them in various forms of hash economic conditions is not only noticed among the Greece and Eskimos. Here in Nigeria, we can see the use of group of children known as the Amaljiri been used by adults to beg for alms. It is also evident that those used to beg for alms are denied access to school or exposure to any form of formal training. The inability of the parents and the state not to facilitate the child's enrollment and completion of a course in primary education by any child is a miss-norm and an

obvious case of disobedience to both the provisions of the UBE Act of 2004 which is known as the Compulsory, Free, and Universal Basic Education bill and the United Nations' Act of 1948 on human right to education.

The study also established that parents are not aware that the use of children as factory workers and house helps are forms of economic marginalization of the child. This finding contradicts the position of International Labour Organization (2017) who reported that there are about 40 million children undergoing modern slavery and 152 million suffering from child labour. It explained that the age of the children who are victims of forced labour are 5-17 years of age. It further explained that a good chunk of the children are captured under forced labour. This analogy points to the fact that early marriage is a form of coercing the child into undue hardship in life. It can therefore be deduced that since some parents are still involved in giving out under aged children for marriage means that those who do it, do so because of the monetary gains. It is not in dispute that most parents, especially those from the low economic class do not perceive anything wrong in giving out their children as house helps. Most of them also receive stipends as pay for giving out their children or wards as house helps. Considering that parental awareness towards the economic right of the child is low in some regards, it is obvious that they may not know how to protect the children from economic exploitation. Since parents are yet to be aware of the evil of child economic exploitation, the evil trend may remain for some time.

Urban and rural parental awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

This study established that urban and rural parents did not differ in their awareness as regards the use of children as a tool for economic exploration. This finding simply means that the parents in both urban and rural areas do the same thing as regards protecting the child against economic exploitation. This study has revealed that the awareness of parents as regards the use of children as house helps, factory workers, hawkers, begging for alms, drug trafficking among others by parents is low. The finding of this study justifies the negative stories told about the things

that happen to children which are perpetuated by parents in both urban and rural areas in terms of using children to advance their economic gains. Commenting on the ways children in Nigeria are used in an economic disadvantaged manner by parents Ibeneme (2014) alarmed that Nigerian children are in perilous labour situations. Analyzing the situation, she said that most children are placed to work as servants because they are compelled to cook, clean, take care of domestic animals, take care of the elderly, and in doing these, some of them are not well fed or sufficiently remunerated; above all exposed to poor sleeping places. No doubt, they are physically assaulted from time to time at the slightest delay to cope with the master's or parent's directive. Going by the catalog of these ill treatments, it is obvious that both parents who release their children and those who engage children for one form of service or the other in urban and rural areas are not aware that all these infringe on the economic freedom or right of the Nigerian child. These conforms to a common biblical saying that says all have sinned and falling short of the glory of God. So, both the urban and rural parents cannot exonerate themselves from the offence of trampling on the economic right of the child.

Married and unmarried parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

The third finding of this study has it that married and single parents do differ in their awareness against the use of children for economic exploitation apart from drug and sex where the married were slightly more disposed to children involvement in drug related businesses and in sexual exploitation where the single were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children for economic purposes. The interpretation derivable from the finding is simple. Indeed, it is commonly observed that most single parents mostly the women clamor for financial support from those who come around them. In some cases, some of them allow their female children face early sexual exposure or abuse. This observation may be responsible for the outcome of a section of this finding study which says that the single parents were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children for economic purposes. It appears that

sex abuse of children are more rampant in the rural areas than the urban because Evans-Thompson, Brooks and Green (2017) observed that child sexual abuse in the rural areas occur in the form of rape and incest. The fact that incest is committed implies that either their biological parents or relations are involved. It is also possible that those who perpetuate this may-hem, lure the children with some cash as a means of enabling them carry out their dastard act. The parents if innocent; must keep close watch to their children so as to avert such occurrences.

In this connection, Gelles (1989) made a generalization by stating that the rate of abuse on children from single mothers is high. To him, the high rate of abuse of children cared for by single mothers may be attributed to poverty of the parents. He further explained that it is not as if those from the single fathers do not face abuse but when they do, it may not be traced to the economy of the parents. The study also established that the rate of abuse (inclusive of economic abuse) faced by children from single fathers are minimal compared to that of single mothers. This account indicates that those who are cared for, by single mothers face more abuse than those from single fathers. The study made bold to state that married parents involve their children in drug related economic activities than the single parents. This view can be upheld because some parents who engage in drug business as the main source of income do not do it in isolation of their children and wards. For instance, within our immediate or local environments, it is observable that those who do the business of local gin, marijuana or other local drugs and herbs do so with the company of their children and wards. This scenario, presents a clear picture of how and why the married parents are more involved in exposing their children to drug businesses than the single ones.

Educated and non-educated parents' awareness of child's right as a means of protecting the child against economic exploitation

This study has it that the awareness of the educated and non-educated parents did not differ in any way as regards the use of children as an economic tool. Since education which is generally acknowledged as a tool for eradicating ignorance,

timidity, superstition and other anti-societal developmental tendencies cannot impact on the disposition of parents in using children as a weapon for economic advancement, then one could be just to assert that the muster is deep into the fabrics of our society. In other words, it is a crime committed by all and may be an unending one. This finding is not surprise because most people who engage children as house helps are the educated or the privileged in the society. There are many stories of men sexually abusing house helps by giving them some token as a means of appeasing them to indulge in the nefarious act. This act may be held responsible for the finding established by this study that educated and non-educated parents upholds that children can be engaged in sexual activity. This position is absurd and condemnable before man and God. However, it is not a debate that the law or judiciary system do not allow the culprits when reported and proven to go unpunished. Incidentally.

Children who are victims of these mal-handling do not report due to un-established fears. In most cases, children who are victims find it difficult or become ashamed to tell the world that their father, brother or uncle coerced them and had sex with them. They rather prefer to bear the humiliation and remain in pain. There are also cases where they confide their ugly experience in view persons and in return, what they get are sermons not to tell anyone so as to be free from the stigma of been raped.

Besides, paying the child a stipend and have a charnel knowledge of her or him, children are exposed to forced labor in the form of house help, baby care givers; and these abnormal practices are perpetuated by both the educated and non-educated parents in our society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussions, the study concludes that:

1. Parents manifest low awareness that no child should be used as a slave, factory worker, hawker, house help, drug trafficking, begging for alms, collateral to borrow money and that no culture or law of the land permits children to be used for economic exploitation or denied the right to enroll and complete primary education.
2. Urban and rural parents did not differ in their awareness as regards the use of children as a

tool for economic exploration.

3. Married and single parents did not differ in their awareness against the child's economic right apart from drug trafficking and sexual exploration where the married were slightly more disposed to children involvement in drug related businesses and in sexual exploitation where the single were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children for economic purposes.
4. The awareness of the educated and non-educated parents did not also differ in any way as regards the use of children as an economic tool.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Since the awareness of parents are low as regards the different forms of child's economic right, it is the duty of government and non-governmental apparatuses to engage in aggressive public enlightenment programmes by using all the media sources to enlighten the parents on the evils of different ways the child is used for economic exploitation.
2. Considering that the parents awareness of the child's right are the same in all respect apart from drug trafficking, where the married were slightly more disposed to children involvement in drug related businesses while the single were more disposed to sexual exploitation of children for economic purposes; it is therefore important that those who conduct marriages such as the parents, church, mosque, court and other institutions must counsel both the married and prospective persons getting married on how why parents must resist the involvement of children in drug and sex related businesses.

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