

CHILD WELFARE AND POVERTY IN NIGERIA



***Poverty Phase II
Dissemination Workshop in
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Presenters

**Dr. Benjamin
Nnaemaka Okpukpara
Chiauwone**
Dr. Fidelis Uguru
Paul Chine

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INTRODUCTION

- Background
 - Who is a child
 - What is child welfare and its indicators
 - Different types of children according to welfare classification

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INTRODUCTION CONTINUES

- The state of child welfare in Nigeria and other developing countries.
- Different argument about the links between poverty and child welfare (child labour or child schooling and street children).

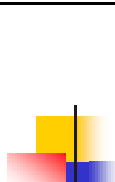
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INTRODUCTION CONTINUES

- The effort made by Nigerian government to improve the child welfare
- Why has these programme failed to achieve the desired goals.

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Why is it difficult to control the incidence of child labour and street children

- Children are seen as a means of generating income for household survival
- High cost and/or inaccessibility of school
- Perception of education as investment with low returns
- Lack of or loose laws to enforce the ban

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The implication of deteriorating child welfare in Nigeria

- Increasing rate of drop out among children
- Low Child Enrolment rate
- Poor Academic Performance
- Increase in Child Health Problems
- Psychological Problems
- Growth of irresponsible citizen
- Deepens inequality in family

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Why this Study in Nigeria

- Children as an important human capital accumulation
- Growing emphasizes of child right
- Increasing rate of drop out among children
- Inadequate information on determinants of child labour and child schooling
- Increasing controversy among researchers on the link between poverty and child welfare (child labour or child schooling, street children)

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Objective of the study

- **To examine child labour, child schooling and street children as patterned by age, gender, sector and zone**
- **To examine and compare the health and education characteristics of child labourers and street children**
- **To identify the determinants of child schooling**

- **To identify the determinants of child labour**

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Methodology

- Data FOS/ILO Child Labour Survey 2001
- Theoretical framework
 - Household utility theory
 - Unitary household model
- Econometric Framework
 - Schooling and economic activities are interdependent decision
 - Probit regression model

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Result and Discussion

Incidence of Child activity options in Nigeria

Gender

	School Only	Work Only	School/Work	Idle	All School	All Work
BYs	82	5	9	4	86	14
GLs	84	4	8	4	78	22
All	83	5	8	4	80	20

Age

	School Only	Work Only	School/Work	Idle	All School	All Work
5-11	84	3	7	6	79	21
12-14	83	5	11	1	78	22
15-17	77	9	13	1	81	19

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Result and Discussion Continue

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Child Activities by Gender

Regions	School only			Work only			School/work			Idle		
	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All
NC	76	79	77	7	6	7	13	11	12	4	4	4
NE	59	68	63	18	13	16	14	11	13	9	8	8
NW	81	83	82	6	3	5	8	5	7	6	8	7
All N	74	78	76	9	6	8	11	8	10	6	7	6
SE	97	96	97	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	1
SS	93	91	92	2	3	3	3	4	4	1	1	1
SW	79	78	78	2	2	2	19	19	19	1	1	1
All S	91	85	89	2	2	2	8	8	8	1	1	1
All	82	84	83	5	4	5	9	8	8	4	4	4

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Result and Discussion Continue

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Child Activity Options in Urban and Rural Nigeria

Years	School		Work only		School/work		Idle		All School		All Work	
	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U
NC	73	85	8	2	14	11	5	2	79	90	6	4
NE	61	74	18	7	12	15	9	4	55	77	6	6
NW	74	90	7	2	8	5	11	3	63	86	3	2
AIIN	72	86	10	3	10	9	8	3	67	85	5	4
SE	96	95	1	2	3	2	1	1	96	96	1	1
SS	92	92	3	3	3	5	2	1	95	95	2	2
SW	78	87	2	1	19	11	1	1	94	95	6	4
All S	87	92	2	2	10	5	1	1	95	95	4	3
All	79	89	6	3	10	6	5	2	78	90	5	3 ³

Result and Discussion Continue

Poverty and Child activity options in Nigeria

Income Approach

	School Only	Work Only	School/Work	Idle
■ C-P	79%	6%	9%	6%
■ M-P	82	5	9	3
■ N-P	86	4	8	2

Expenditure Approach

	School Only	Work Only	School/Work	Idle
■ Q1	77	7	9	8
■ Q2	80	6	10	4
■ Q3	83	5	9	3
■ Q4	85	4	9	2
■ Q5	87	3	9	2

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Result and Discussion Continue



Types of Economic Activities

	Male	Female	North	South
■ Bricklaying	6%	1%	2	2
■ Scavenging	4	2	1	2
■ Water fetching	51	49	46	35
■ Domestic sweeping	23	38	32	39
■ Bus conductor	20	10	1	1
■ Load carrying	23	10	11	5
■ Hawking	33	37	18	19
■ Farming	43	27	49	52

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Result and Discussion Continue



Reasons for Never Being to Sch

Reasons	Male	Female	North	South	All
Parents Poor	10%	9%	6%	14 %	9%
Parents not interested	36	41	39	18	39
Parent's sickness	2	2	1	1	2
No School in vicinity	19	16	17	5	19
Not Interested	8	10	7	8	9
Poor Health	2	3	1	4	3
Under age	20	19	17	46	19

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Result and Discussion Continues

Table 6: Distribution of Child Labourers According to the Reason for Stopping School

Reasons	Male	Female	North	South	All
Failure to pay fee	21.82	22.53	10.05	35.90*	22.16
Poor performance	11.95	9.34	9.03	12.25	10.68
Married	0.26	9.62*	7.79	1.42*	4.81
To assist family enterprise	8.05	9.07	11.31	5.41	8.54
Got pregnant	-	2.20	0.50	1.71	1.07
Poor health	7.01	6.32	7.79	5.41	6.68
Terminated by parents/guardian	5.45	5.49	6.78	3.99	5.47
Don't know	4.42	6.04	6.78	4.56	1.60
Others	40.01	29.00	39.97	29.35	34.84 ¹⁷

Result and Discussion Continue

■ Health: Environment

Work Environment	Male Children	Female Children	All Children
Crowded	11%	11%	11%
Poor Ventilation	6	6	6
Insufficient Light	10	9	10
Poor Sanitation	17	16	16
Poor Water Supply	19	16	18
Explosive	4	4	4
High Tension Cable	3	4	4

Child Labourers

■ Health: Ailment

Illness/Injury	Male	Female	All
Cold	15	12	14
Eye infection	2	1	1
Ear infection	1	0	1
Skin problem	6	2	4
Breasting problem	1	1	1
Stiff Neck	4	5	4
Body pain	51	47	49
Tiredness	44	40	42
Stomach problem	14	19	15
Headache	35	35	35
Others	29	24	27

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Econometric result

■ Introduction

- The general school model
- school model = school only and those combining school with some economic activities
- work model = work only and those that combine work with schooling

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Econometric result

- Determinants of Child schooling
 - Child characteristics
 - Female are less likely to enrol
 - Younger children are more likely to be enrolled (13 years as inflection point)
 - Head's child are more likely to go to school.

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Econometric result

- Parents characteristics
 - Children from female headed household are more likely to school
 - Children from Older household head are more likely to go to school
 - Children from literate father and mother are more likely to school. However literate father's education impact more on child schooling

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Econometric result

- Household characteristics
 - Children from household with children aged below 11 years are likely to school

 - Household poverty decreases the probability of child schooling

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Econometric result

- Community characteristics
 - Children from North West are less likely to be enrolled

 - Children from other zones are more likely to enrolled. However, the probability of child schooling in South is more than those of North

 - Access to school in terms of distance spur children to school

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Econometric result

- Determinants of Child Work
 - Child characteristics
 - Girls are less likely to school
 - Older children are more likely to work

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Econometric result

- Parents characteristics
 - Children from literate parents are more likely work
 - Mother with any level of education and has more impact in withdrawing children from work
 - Fathers educated up to secondary and postsecondary school level

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Econometric result

- Household characteristics
 - Household poverty has influence in withdrawing child from economic activities.
 - Very weak

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Econometric result

- Community characteristics
 - There is higher probability of child withdrawing from work in South than North
 - Access to school has impact in withdrawing children from work

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Street Children

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK



Street children Incidence

Regions	Work Only	School/work	Idle	All
North central	93.24%	5.85%	0.90%	12.87%
North East	94.95	4.33	0.72	7.21
North West	95.75	3.25	1.00	17.92
South East	83.44	15.52	1.05	6.89
South South	96.38	2.08	1.54	18.20
South West	95.12	4.36	0.52	36.91
All	94.97	4.24	0.79	100.00

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Street children

■ Residence

	Male	Female	North	South	All
Under the bridge	2.33	1.88	0.37	4.26	2.32
In the market stall	27.64	35.48	28.99	27.26	28.12
Vehicle parked outside	6.09	1.88	4.57	7.08	5.83
Motor park	27.46	10.75	29.26	23.56	26.41
Uncompleted building	15.17	16.67	14.95	15.58	15.26
Others	13.72	8.60	12.63	14.17	13.40

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Street children

■ Education

Distribution of Street Children According to Reason for Never Attend

Reasons	Male	Female	North	South	All
Parents Poor	25.99	33.33	23.60	34.37	26.41
Parents not Interested	34.16	23.26	38.72	18.97	33.58
Parents sick	2.99	6.20	2.03	6.38	3.16
No School in the Vicinity	3.85	0.75	3.43	4.35	3.69
Not Interested	20.01	24.81	19.55	22.24	20.25
Poor Health	1.54	2.33	1.35	2.18	1.58
Do not know	8.51	6.98	9.04	6.69	8.42
Others	2.95	2.33	2.25	4.82	2.92

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Street children Education



Distribution of Street Children According to the Reason for Drop Out

Reasons	Male	Female	North	South	All
Failure to pay fee	46.10	35.77	33.42	50.21	45.63
Poor performance	23.97	34.15	18.36	26.72	24.44
Married	0.12	3.25	0.27	0.26	0.26
To assist family enterprise	3.25	2.44	4.25	2.83	3.21
Got pregnant	0	8.13	0.96	0.51	0.64
Poor health	2.04	4.07	2.47	2.00	2.13
Terminated by parents/guardian	13.24	8.94	23.56	9.10	13.04
Don't know	4.86	2.44	7.12	3.85	4.75
Others	6.15	0.81	9.59	4.52	5.90

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Street children Health: Environment



Working Environment	All	Male	Female
Crowded*	47.95	49.32	23.23
Poor Ventilation	17.58	18.58	11.72
Insufficient light	11.27	11.48	7.48
Poor sanitation*	37.58	38.44	21.65
Poor water supply	20.96	20.95	21.25
Explosives	4.41	4.58	1.00
High tension cable	3.18	3.31	1.00

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Street children Health: Ailment

Illness/Injury	Male Children	Female Children	All Children
Cold	11	13	11
Eye Infection	2	1	2
Ear Infection	0	0	0
Skin Problem	5	6	5
Breathing Problem	1	0	1
Stiff Neck	8	5	7
Body Pain	27	24	27
Tiredness	23	23	23
Stomach Trouble	5	12	5
Headache	18	16	19

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Comparing Child Labourers and Street Children

- Education
- Health

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The regional analysis seems to inform us that parental factor is the major difference in the determinants of non-school attendant by region. This also was identified in econometric analysis in form of the effect of educated parents and illiterate parents in child school enrolment and work activity. This influence is stronger in North than South. Literacy programme (be it formal or non-formal) for parents should be organized to educate parents on the importance of child education and bad effects of child labour and more importantly girl child education and parents in Northern Nigeria. This should be supported by a follow-up programmes or workshop on re-orientating the value system of children.
- There is also a greater sectorial difference in school enrolment in North East and North West. This calls for a concerted effort of child education campaign in these rural zones. This can be done using grassroots approach in form of first, organizing workshop on the ills of not being educated through training the respected leader in the communities and secondly, these leaders will then educate parents and children in their respective

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- However, for those children combining schooling with some economic activities, (which is a response to poverty) which is also higher in South than North, there is need to structure school programme to accommodate them in form of school hours etc especially in the Southern Nigeria. This is because most families especially poor families may not afford the cost of schooling without engaging their children in economic activities. Alternatively, government should provide some assistantship in form of grant, free education or scholarship for children of poor. This can be done through well articulated and target programme devoid of politics to these families.
- The child participation in school or economic activities is influenced by regional dummies. In view of this, we may not accurately infer the reason for this. However, this could be attributed to religion and/or tribal (in form of culture) influence which was not captured in the survey. Therefore, community heads should be educated in any form on the need for playing down some of the cultural

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

→ The factors that encourage existence of street children should be discouraged in all form and format. Street children are compelled to do anything possible to meet their basic survival needs in the street. They are mostly engaged in the worst forms of child labours. Therefore government, non-government, private sector and international non-government organization should first establish a rehabilitation centers, run-in homes for correction. In this centers and homes, a lot of counseling and other non-formal education should be the highest priority. There should also be a regular networking meetings not only GOs, NGOs, and community based organizations (CBOs), but also street children should be able to share experiences, ideas, resources, and information that will uplift their welfare. These centres should be more in cities

→ where there is higher incidence. It is also important to educate both parents and children on the recently signed child right bill in whatever language and mode that could ensure effective understanding. This is important because some parents and indeed children lack complete knowledge of their right in the society. In addition, government should develop effective and efficient strategies in enforcing the

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

→ Regular survey on child labour and street children are important for monitoring the trends of the incidence. However, the obvious lapses in terms of inclusion of omitted variables especially in street children survey should be

→ corrected. The environment where children work is wordy of comment. All stakeholders should provide necessary work environment and working condition for children comparable to those of adult if they must work. In addition, parents should not use their children as means of improving household welfare rather they should see their children's work as a supplement to household income towards the child's education expenses. In this vein, parents (especially fathers) should be advised and encouraged to channel whatever income accrued from child labour to their school expenses. However, this policy

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CONCLUSION

⇒ Child welfare is affected by region, sector, child, parents and household characteristics. It is important for policy makers to consider these variables when formulating child welfare policy in Nigeria. Government should also play down on their total ban policy considering the effect it may have on poor families. However, they should use every machinery to



**SAVE THIS CHILD FROM EXCULSIVE
CHILD LABOUR OR STREET CHILD
FOREVER.**

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**THANK YOU AND
GOD BLESS**

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