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Child Labor as a Form of Slavery in Contemporary Nigeria

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Dedication

This paper is dedicated to my husband Djamal, my children, my cousin Hanane, Fatima, Fatiha, Wahiba, Lalla, Fatna, Rokia, Zahia and all my family members for their support and encouragement. Also to my colleges and friends. Amina and Aziza to whom I am truly grateful. This work is also dedicated to my parents, and my siblings, who have always loved me unconditionally. In the end, I want to dedicate this work to my mother-in-law.

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List of abbreviations

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

BBC: British Broadcasting corporation

CB: Civil Knight Grand Cross Star of The Order of the Bath

CMS: Church Missionary Society

CRC: Convention on the Rights of Child

DSO: The Distinguished Service Order

FOS: Federal Office of Statistics

GCMG: Grand Cross ST Michael and ST George

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GNI: Gross National Income

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ILO: International Labor Organizations

IPEC: Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching

MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index

NAPTIP: The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking In Persons

NBS: Nigerian Bureau of Statistic

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

PC: Privy Council

PPP: Purchasing Power Parity

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

WOTCLEF: Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation

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Abstract

This paper presents a general idea of child labor as a form of slavery in contemporary Nigeria. It discusses the concept of child labor and the historical background of child labor in Nigeria. It argues about the different types of child labor, possible causes, effects, laws, and policies taken by the Nigerian government. This paper shows that slavery still exists under new form although it was abolished in the nineteenth century. Dictatorship in Nigeria, which lasted for decades after the independence of Nigeria from Britain, contributed to the suffering of the Nigerian people despite the Nigeria's economic growth, and its possession of natural resources, such as oil which allows Nigeria to prevail large revenues. This research clarifies the significance of education in the life of Nigerian child to secure his/her future. Also it sheds light on the role of the ignorance and the illiteracy of some parents who push their children to work, without being aware enough of the risk of child labor. This emphasizes the need for education to eliminate this phenomenon in the future.

French Abstract

Ce mémoire présente une idée générale du travail des enfants en tant que forme d'esclavage dans le Nigeria contemporain. Il aborde le concept du travail des enfants et le contexte historique du travail des enfants au Nigeria. Il discute les différents types de travail des enfants, les causes possibles, les effets et les lois et politiques prises par le gouvernement Nigérian. Cette recherche est une tentative pour éclairer l'apparition de l'esclavage sous de nouvelles formes bien qu'il ait été aboli depuis le XIXe siècle. La dictature au Nigéria qui a duré des décennies après l'indépendance du Nigeria de la Grande-Bretagne a contribué aux souffrances du peuple nigérian malgré sa croissance économique et sa possession de ressources naturelles, telles que le pétrole qui y retourne avec des revenus importants. Finalement, ce mémoire clarifie l'importance de l'éducation dans la vie d'un enfant pour assurer son avenir. Il met également en lumière le rôle de l'ignorance et de l'analphabétisme de certains parents Nigériens qui poussent leurs enfants au travail, sans avoir suffisamment conscience du risque de travail des enfants, ce qui souligne le besoin d'éducation pour éliminer ce phénomène dans le futur.

Arabic Abstract

تقدم هذه المذكرة فكرة عامة عن عمل الأطفال كشكل من أشكال العبودية في نيجيريا المعاصرة. يناقش مفهوم عمالة الأطفال، الخلفية التاريخية لعمل الأطفال في نيجيريا. وهي تدور حول أنواع مختلفة من عمالة الأطفال والأسباب المحتملة والآثار والقوانين والسياسات المتبعة من الحكومة. تظهر كذلك استمرارية العبودية ومظهرها في أشكال جديدة رغم أنها ألغيت منذ القرن التاسع عشر. تساهم الديكتاتورية في نيجيريا ، التي استمرت لعقود من الزمن بعد استقلال نيجيريا عن بريطانيا ، في معاناة الشعب النيجيري على الرغم من نموه الاقتصادي وامتلاكه للموارد الطبيعية مثل النفط الذي يعود بعائدات كبيرة. يوضح هذا العمل أهمية التعليم في حياة الطفل لتأمين مستقبله. كما أنه يسلط الضوء على دور الجهل والامية لدى بعض الآباء والأمهات الذين يدفعون أطفالهم إلى العمل ، دون أن يكونوا على دراية كافية بخطر عمل الأطفال. مما يؤكد الحاجة إلى التعليم للقضاء على هذه الظاهرة في المستقبل

General Introduction

The worst type of injustice practiced by man against his fellow men is slavery. The latter has been known since the dawn of history. Islam was the first to denounce slavery, and it was able to diminish slavery through the law of atoning the sin and repent to God by freeing one or more slaves, depending on the nature of the sin. However, the transatlantic slave trade appeared clearly from the 16th century to early 19th. After the discovery of the New World, the greed of some European traders and explorers for expansion and the establishment of colonies led to exploiting slaves badly without any consideration for humanitarian or even divine laws. These slave traders had been subject to violent confrontations from the humanitarians who later succeeded to pass a law that abolished slavery in 1833. This act contributed to the abolishing slavery globally.

Although slavery was abolished more than two centuries ago, a new and recent form of slavery appeared worldwide known as contemporary slavery. The latter varies in its forms of exploitation and abuse. Contemporary slavery includes human trafficking, forced labor, child labor, early or forced marriage and many other types of contemporary slavery.

This research is concerned with child labor in Nigeria which is denounced by all international organizations. However, child labor is still practiced by greedy people who exploit and abuse children through low or no pay. Child labor is spread all over the world even in the developed countries which established many organizations to fight child labor. The Third World suffers the most from child labor due to poverty which dominates a great number of its countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The research focuses on Nigeria and examines child labor as a form of slavery in contemporary Nigeria. The study contains three chapters.

The first chapter sheds light on slavery in general. It provides readers with a definition of slavery and gives a concise background to child slavery. Then, it offers a definition of contemporary slavery based on some scholars' definitions. The chapter presents a brief study about the history of Nigeria. Furthermore, it presents the economy and the poverty rate in Nigeria to allow the readers have an extra understanding about the actual economy of Nigeria and what it suffers from. Finally, it gives the impact of contemporary slavery on Nigeria.

The second chapter of the work examines child labor. It clarifies this concept and gives a short history of child labor in Nigeria. The research also centers on studying different forms of child labor, its causes and consequences, and it gives some laws and policies that are against child labor and an attempt to ban it.

The third chapter concentrates on education. It is considered as the main solution to stop child labor. It explains the impact of child labor on education, and to which extent it influences the life and the future of a child. Passing through strict actions against child labor which are from International Organizations and recommendations to overcome child labor.

Despite the great efforts and actions that have been taken from the Nigerian government against child labor, it still exists. Lana Osment (1998) pointed out in her research paper that the causes and consequences which pushed both India and Nigeria to adopt laws and regulations to eliminate Child Labor. However, despite all these efforts, child labor and the factors that influence the incidence of Child Labor continue to be prevalent.

The research is based on facts found in books, articles and some reliable websites, as well as some reports of banks and of some activists in international

organizations that take care of children. The research also uses maps, tables and photos to illustrate some facts which are necessary to support the evidence.

Chapter One

Contemporary Slavery in Nigeria

Introduction

Slavery is a phenomenon, which has been known since ancient periods in history. Each time it differs from its main meaning, from ancient slavery by the rule of Hammurabi¹ till the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade at the beginning of the 19th century. Slavery was known as the capturing or purchasing of people to make them under the mercy of a new master who forced them to do work against their will and without salary. In modern slavery, people may find themselves into slavery and do work by their will accepting the worst forms of exploitation and abuse to escape poverty. In this chapter the research will define slavery in general and clarify the background to child slavery. However, a new concept of slavery appeared known as contemporary slavery by the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st. The research will tackle contemporary slavery from the beginning of the 21st century till modern era in general, and in Nigeria particularly.

I-Background to Nigeria

Nigeria has known several conflicts throughout its history. After the abolition of slave trade and slavery at the beginning of the nineteenth century, in addition to the independence of Nigeria from the British colonization at the beginning of the 1960's, Nigeria initiated the work towards evolution. However, conflicts soon began in Nigeria. In 1967, Biafra² announced secession from Nigeria (History). This event led to civil war in Nigeria. (See map 1). Given the diversity of the cultures, ethnicities, religions as well, the Biafrans decided to establish the republic of Biafra. Whereas

1-Hammurabi was the sixth king of the [First Babylonian Dynasty](#), reigning from 1792 BC to 1750 BC.

2-Biafra, officially the Republic of Biafra, was an unrecognized secessionist state in West Africa which existed from 30 May 1967 to January 1970; it was made up of the states in the Eastern Region of Nigeria.

Chapter One : Contemporary Slavery in Nigeria

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Nigeria responded violently and attacked Biafra by its government forces. At the end, Biafra surrendered to Nigeria in 1970 (History).

Nigeria witnessed several vicissitudes of government and several military coups after its independence from Britain. From 1966 to 1999, Nigeria saw five military coups. The era of coups ended with the announcement of the General Abubakar³ to turn power into civil order (BBC NEWS). These events led to rampant corruption among the rulers.

Nigeria is listed among the most exporting countries of oil; however, corruption, maladministration and the anarchy of government affected common people and made them suffer from abject poverty, while wealth is limited to the ruling class only. In this respect Ajayi says: " This unsavory development had led to abandonment of social/welfare programs, inadequate and poor infrastructure and mass unemployment thereby condemning many people to abject poverty while the small 'tribe' of the ruling elite (military and civilians) are stupendously rich"(139).

All these factors led the Nigerian people to fall into a swamp of slavery to find a way out of poverty. Neither the government make reforms to bring prosperity to people nor the grip of tyrant mercy the Nigerian people and bring them out of poverty. However, it increases their suffering and instability. Many children do not attend school, women are vulnerable to rape and abuse, and the older people suffer from starvation which leads them to push their kids to be enslaved as *wahaya*.

3- **Abdulsalami Abubakar** (born June 13, 1942) is a retired Nigerian Army General who was [Military Head of State](#) from 9 June 1998 until 29 May 1999. He succeeded [Sani Abacha](#) upon Abacha's death. It was during Abubakar's leadership that Nigeria adopted a modified version of the 1979 constitution, which provided for multiparty elections. Abubakar transferred power to president-elect [Olusegun Obasanjo](#) on 29 May 1999.

Map1: The independent Republic of Biafra in June



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War

II-Economy and Poverty Rate in Nigeria

Nigeria is known by its big superficies' and massive population in addition to the oil. Nigeria's economy is based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁴. The oil in Nigeria contributes with 75% in the Nigerian revenue (Kirby). Though the Nigerian economy has grown in several sectors such as agriculture and oil, but the population suffers from deprivation. Both the export of petroleum, cocoa, rubber and the foreign investments have contributed to Nigeria growing Gross Domestic project GDP, which was 262 billion in 2012 (Allison). Despite the development of Nigeria's economy and considering Nigeria as Africa's largest economy in 2014 (Kirby). Yet, the inequality and instability in the country including the government's greedy made a huge gap between the population and the government. Many people in Nigeria die from starvation or the lack of medication, considering the mass revenue from exports, 90% of the population are poor. This affirms the term of 'rich country with poor masses' (Olufemi).

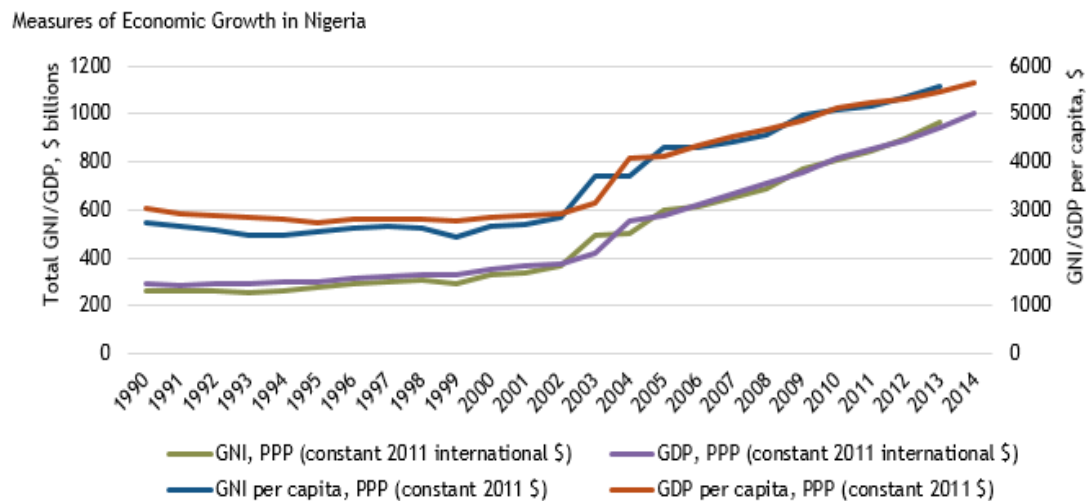
The next figure illustrate the apparent evolution of the (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI)⁵ in the consecutive years from 1990 to 2014. Although the GNI knew no retreat and no progress in two years (2004-2005). However, the years later knew the obvious progress in both the GDP and GNI. In addition to the

5- The GDP is a monetary [measure](#) of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period (quarterly or yearly) of [time](#).

6-Gross National Income is the sum of a nation's gross domestic product and the net income it receives from overseas.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)⁶ which indicates the increase of the price of the Nigerian's currency compared to foreign currencies.

Figure1: Measures of Economic Growth in Nigeria

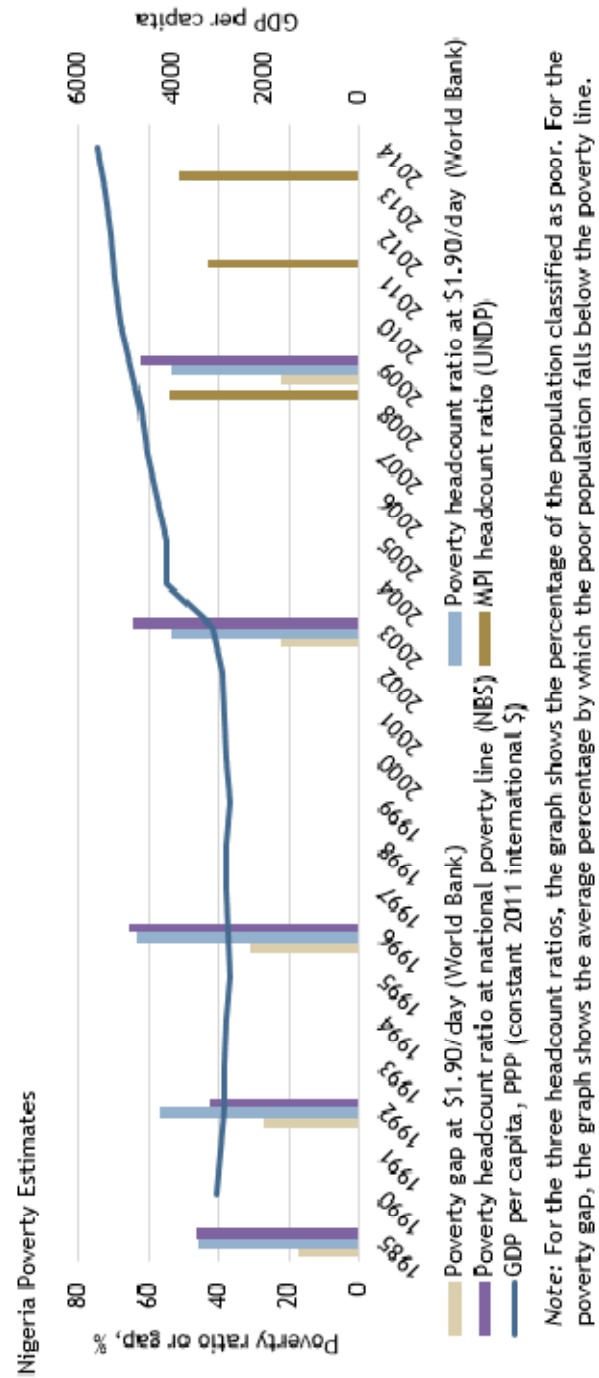


Source: World Bank, 2015b

Although the growth in strength of the Nigerian economy, people did not benefit from that growth. Poverty is still rampant in the Nigerian people. Figure 2 shows the paradox between economic growth and poverty rate. Despite the slight decline in poverty rate but the growth remains insufficient for the Nigerian economic growth to get Nigeria out of the list of the poor countries.

6-Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is an economic theory that compares different countries' currencies through a market "basket of goods" approach. According to this concept, two currencies are in equilibrium or at par when a market basket of goods (taking into account the exchange rate) is priced the same in both countries.

Figure 2: Nigeria Poverty Estimates



Source: World Bank, 2015b; Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2015; UNDP,

2015

It is surprising that despite the strength of its economy, its people still suffer from poverty. Due to Nigeria's encouragement of imported goods from abroad and foreign investments. It led to the deterioration of local production, and thus it kept the popular class always in need. According to ABUJA (Reuters) - Poverty in Nigeria is rising with almost 100 million people living on less than \$1 per day, despite the strong growth in Africa's second largest economy, data showed on Monday(Joe). The next picture shows the suffering of the Nigerian people at the end of the first decade of the twenty- first century. Children and women are almost barefoot and naked without clothes and shoes, in light of the globalization and the economic growth of Nigeria.

The following pictures depicts how people in the 21st century, are still living in a risky environment in Nigeria. Despite the development of science and the elimination of ignorance at large proportions of the world yet people are still living in unsuitable housing conditions.

Moreover, the spread of slums in Nigeria indicates the suffering of the Nigerians despite Nigeria's economic growth. Makoko⁷ slums are built on water fragile and exposing, its people to huge risk. Makoko is a village located in Lagos city. Due to the weak governance and corruption, the government failed to secure safe housing for its poor people. Instead of finding solution, the government treats the residents with expulsion and demolition of their homes. On 16th July 2012, four days after the State Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development issued a 72-hour quit notice to residents, a band of machete-wielding men laid siege to Makoko's buildings... the

7- **Makoko** is a neighbourhood across the [3rd Mainland Bridge](#) located on the coast of mainland [Lagos](#). A third of the community is built on stilts along the lagoon and the rest is on the land. The waterfront part of the community is largely harboured by the [Egun](#) people who migrated from Badagary and [Republic of Benin](#) and whose main occupation is fishing

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demolition workers set fire to targeted structures and deployed armed police who allegedly fired gunshots indiscriminately. One resident was killed, shaming the demolition workers into suspending their efforts. By then, 30,000 people had been rendered homeless(Tolu).

Though, Makoko is the biggest floating slum in the world(Tolu). However, it contains only two primary schools(Tolu). This illustrates the government's failure to provide this city with infrastructure hospitals, services or even schools. Kids in this city are exposed to risks and dangers. They are not like other children enjoying their childhood by playing with secure games or toys. The secure location to play in too are almost nonexistent. The next picture shows a boy swims in the dirty water of Makoko, contaminated with oil and other pollutants, unaware of the risks surrounding him.

Boy Swimming in Contaminated Water (Makoko)



Source: Mohammed Elhashimy/ Anadolu Agency/ Getty Images

Residents of the Makoko fishing community in Lagos standing outside their house, November 21, 2009.



Source: Reuters/Goran Tomasevic

III-Definition of Slavery

When a person is under the absolute control of another powerful person, who treats them as property or commodity; this can be considered as the common definition of slavery. The enslaved person would be robbed of their liberty, freedom and fortune. Slavery contains many contexts, it has become an allegory for extreme disparity, subjection, privation and segregation. Thus, from these contexts chattel and wage slaves have spread, the latter occurs when persons lose their morals, values and dignity to receive a low salary, and the first one stands for servants and vassals. Feudal lord and factory owners exploit children in need by depriving them from education and making them a wage slaves. Another factors of slavery is represented in Sex slaves, which occurs when a person is forced to practice sexual acts, and does

not have freedom to stop or to leave. Contemporary slaves are among the types of slavery as well.

Scholars debated in finding a precise definition to the word slavery.

According to Suzanne Miers:

Scholars have disagreed over the attributes of slavery. Were slaves primarily property, and if so, how was property to be defined? Did slaves have to be saleable, or otherwise transferable? What rights did owners have over their slaves that they did not have over the free members of a kin group, family or community? Would it be more accurate to define slaves as persons under the complete control of, and utterly dependent upon a master, a mistress, a kin group or some other organization? If so did that control have to be lifelong and/or hereditary, or could a slavery be a temporary condition?... or could they be recognized as people with rights of their own?(1)

Numerous ways put a person into slavery. The most current one is capture in war or being kidnapped. Other ways of being enslaved occurs when a person is being sold by his relatives to escape starvation or pay debts. Many other scholars gave slavery different meaning, a slave may be a political or social property as defined by H. J. Nieboer "A slave is the property of another, politically and socially a slave is at a lower level than the mass of people, and performs compulsory labour"(4). Others differentiate between closed slave systems and open ones. Closed slave conditions never change whereas the open slave may change by being incorporated into the kinship group of the master. That is what James L. Watson clarified in his editor's introduction, he then gives this:

...definition of 'slave' that can be applied cross-culturally, irrespective of local variation and historical era: Slaves are acquired by purchase or capture, their labor is extracted through coercion and, as long as they remain slaves, they are never accepted into the kinship group of the master.... I would argue that the property aspect of slavery must be accepted as primary; this is what distinguishes slavery from all other forms of dependency and involuntary labor"(James 8).

IV-Definition of Contemporary Slavery

Contemporary slavery or modern day slavery has the same roots as the ancient slavery which was based on acquiring slaves by capturing or purchasing them against their will. However, the new slavery acquired by the hard circumstances which overcome the dignity of people and make them under the greed, abuse and the exploitation of another person more powerful and rich willingly. According to Bales modern slavery occurs "when a person is under control of another person, who applies violence and force to maintain that control, and the goal of that control is exploitation"(9). [Global Slavery Index](#) 2016 estimated that there were about 45.8 million slaves around the world in 2016, from these 45.8 million, it is estimated that around 10 million of these contemporary slaves are children. Nigeria is among the most African countries suffering from contemporary slavery. Nigeria ranks 23rd out of 162 countries in the world in contemporary slavery. 875,500 out of 182,202,000 Nigerians is the estimated number of people living in modern slavery, according to Global Slavery Index 2016.

In ancient slavery the masters treated slaves as property, whereas in contemporary slavery the masters treat people or workers as slaves. In both cases, the

masters deprive vulnerable workers from their simplest rights of wages. However, in contemporary slavery wages could be few or nonexistent.

The term of human trafficking does not involve trafficking only for those who have been transported from one place to another. Human trafficking involves men, women and children who are coerced. They could be trafficked in different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labor, forced begging, forced criminality, forced marriage and forced organ removal, without any care to human dignity, morals or even to the fear of God.

The concept forced labor, is related to any work or services that people are forced to do against their will, under threat of some form of punishment. Almost all slavery practices, including trafficking in people and bonded labor contain some element of forced labor. Forced labor affects millions of men, women and children around the world and is most frequently found in labor intensive and/or under-regulated industries such as, agriculture and fishing, domestic work, construction and brick kilns, manufacturing and packaging, prostitution and sexual exploitation, and market trading and illegal activities. In fact, forced labor is about 18% in Africa with 3,7 million, (anti slavery). Some statistics of the International Labor Organization estimates that there are at least 20,9 million people in forced labor worldwide.

However, The vast majority of forced labor cases were managed by individuals seeking profits from people's exploitation. It is usual that the victims are from the minority or marginalized groups who are extremely opposed to discrimination in society where they are vulnerable to slavery practices.

In addition to child forced marriage, which is a form of contemporary slavery. Any kind of marriage of a child under the age of eighteen could be against his will. Because a child before this age does not have enough awareness and does not have

the capacity to take complete responsibility to enter in a marriage. [UNICEF](#) estimates that 11% of women worldwide were married before reaching the age of 15. Although boys can be affected by the practice, it is mostly girls who suffer from slavery as a consequence of child marriage.

Nigerian girls were exposed to another ways of exploitation which is sexual abuse. They may be abused directly by household men or forced to marry at a young age. Many young girls and women are sold into sexual and domestic slavery as the illegal wives to wealthy men known as '*Wahaya*'⁸ their formal family. Parent themselves put their little girls into slaves or make them *Wahaya* to escape poverty or to pay debt of their parents. Moreover, there is no way to escape slavery because they will face a current discrimination, and therefore they have few opportunities for employment.

However, we can refer to child marriage as slavery if one of the following elements exist: if the child has not actually given his free and informed agreement to enter the marriage, and if the child cannot realistically leave or end the marriage, leading potentially to a lifetime of slavery.

Children are the weaker group in the society, they cannot take decisions about their lives. Many children have little or no control over their movements or person within marriage, including over sexual relations. Girls in particular are commonly controlled through violence, threats and humiliation, as well as experiencing isolation and being alone.

8-*Wahaya* are girls and women bought and exploited as property by many dignitaries (mostly religious leaders or wealthy men who bear the title 'Elhadji'). The women are used for free labor and for the sexual gratification of their masters, who assault them at will when they are not with their legitimate wives.

Child slavery is a form of contemporary slavery. Although, slavery had been abolished since the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the big efforts of UNICEF to protect children rights in education, health and their right in enjoying their childhood. Actually, many people who are affected by their greed use children and profit from them, often through violence, abuse and threats. Many children are forced to work for example in agriculture, factories, construction, and other field as well.

Children who work as domestic worker, may work for long hours, for little or no pay, and often far from home. According to (ILO 2012) there are 168 million child laborers aged between 5 and 17 years old worldwide "anti slavery." In Nigeria, children do not suffer from the common contemporary slavery such as domestic servant, working in agriculture, factories, mines, or other forms of contemporary slavery, however, it goes beyond to involve children in armed conflicts. Armed conflicts are not limited on boys only but girls too are taken as wives for soldiers and militia members. (anti slavery)

Moreover, girls in Nigeria are not taken as wives for soldiers and militia members only but they are used in suicides according to(*the Report of the Secretary-General*) issued on 20 April 2016 Boko Haram used twenty-one girls in armed conflicts. Due to the pettiness and the greediness of some people besides the leaders of terrorist organization, such as Boko Haram and Civilian Joint Task Force who ruled the innocence of children and used them as spies and messengers (Secretary-General). Children in Nigeria are vulnerable to abduction, sexual violence, attacks on school, abuse and exploitation more than that they are vulnerable to die each time. The United Nation estimates that 693 children were kidnapped by Boko Haram in 2014 (Secretary General).

V- Background to Child Slavery

The Atlantic Slave trade, the colonization and the ethnic conflicts were the major factors which caused poverty, ignorance and instability in Africa in general and in Nigeria in particular, few centuries ago. Some families suffered from starvation and destitution, which pushed them to send their children to work in early age and comeback with an income to their family. However, those children may face exploitation and abuse from their masters. These situation could deprive children from their childhood and their main right which is education. Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa with about 140 million people according to ILO fifteen million children still work in Nigeria (Aljazeera Africa).

Although slavery had been abolished since the nineteenth century, it still exists in several forms. Child labor, human trafficking, forced marriage and many other forms of exploitation and abuse of human are known as contemporary slavery. Nigeria is one of the countries which suffered the most from all these kinds of contemporary or modern-day slavery. The corruption of Nigerian federal government from one side and the religious conflict between the Muslims and the Christians from another side are the main factors that led to contemporary slavery. Besides, the ethnic conflict between the three main tribes Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa contributed to the spread of contemporary slavery and increased the suffering of people, forcing children to leave school to fall into slavery. In 1999, a conflict took place between Yoruba and Hausa according to Barry Mason " The conflict seems to have been sparked off after several days of a traditional Yoruba festival, the Oro. Traditionally those not involved in the festival are requested to stay off the street. Yoruba people spoke to a BBC reporter and said that the Hausas had not respected this tradition. The Hausas said they had been attacked indiscriminately."(World Socialist)

Coming to the occurrence of Boko Haram in 2002, which was based on the prohibition of the Western Education and the creation of an Islamic state in Nigeria. Boko Haram was peaceful until 2009. Some of its members were arrested for a clash between them and the Nigerian Army that killed 800 people which turned it violent (Genocide Watch). Boko Haram participated significantly in founding a contemporary slavery particularly child slavery. In 2014 Boko Haram kidnapped 200 girls from a western school. Yet, and despite the Nigerian governments efforts, none have been found according to Genocide Watch Journal. Those girls would be treated as slaves either for sexual exploitation or to be treated as servants.

VI-The Impact of Contemporary Slavery on Nigeria

Contemporary slavery may affect Nigeria in many cases. Nigeria as it seems is among one of the biggest countries in Africa and growing economy. It had made efforts to develop its economy after its collapse at the end of the 1970s and early 1980s, Nigeria was considered as a low income based on 1987 Data (world Bank 1989). However, Nigeria achieved its goal of promoting economy, while poverty has been confined to the Nigerian society. Poverty and ignorance are the two causes that led people to fall into slavery, whether in their will or without it. Contemporary slavery with its bad reputation could hurt Nigeria's reputation too.

Contemporary slavery including child labor, child slavery, child marriage and human trafficking for both children and adults represent a problem for Nigerian government and the Nigerian people as well. It may affect the psychology of the Nigerian people, education, health and economy as well.

The first victim of contemporary slavery is the child, because he is the only leading factor of this new kind of slavery. The psychological side is mainly affected in the first time children than society, starting from a child to his family as a sequence

Chapter One : Contemporary Slavery in Nigeria

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of society. According to (Agbo) in her article, the minimum working age is 18 years. For this reason, children who work under this age face different psychological problems. So, they didn't live their childhood as world's children do. Most Nigerian families believe that children are God-sent helpers who should be produced in "gross", though they are used as money making venture (Agbo). Children under this circumstances live a traumatic injuries which may affect their psyche throughout their lives.

Children who are engaged in contemporary slavery with its different forms as considering child labor, child slavery, child marriage and human trafficking do not receive a formal and sound education. They suffer a lot and they grow away from education inside and outside their families(Agbo). According to Agbo in her article male children attend school and are more preferable than female because females according to the Nigerian society are more likely to be house helpers more than being in schools. Ezinma reported that over 12 million Nigerian children are deprived of formal education and engaged in child labor (11).

Table 1: Educational effects of child labor

Educational effects of child labor	Rank	Sometimes	Almost always	Total
- I do not go to school at all so that I can work	2nd	00 (00)	19% (342)	18% (342)
- I miss class for work	5th	8% (144)	5% (90)	13% (234)
- I do not have time to do my home studies	3rd	10% (180)	6% (108)	16% (288)
- My parents(s)/guardian ask me to drop out of school for work	6th	8% (144)	4% (72)	12% (216)
- I work in the morning and attend afternoon school	4th	9% (162)	6% (108)	15% (270)
- I attend school in the morning and work after school	1st	11% (198)	13% (234)	24% (432)

Source: The Health and Educational Consequences of Child Labour in Nigeria 2014

(Maria Charity Agbo)

The last table shows that the percentage of children who do not attend school definitively is higher than that of those who may go according to their circumstances either for work or dropping out of school by their parents.

A lot of health problems and injuries are resulted from child labor which cause pain and serious health implications. Children who work in domestic works and agriculture are more exposed to poisoning and pneumonia due to the chemicals used in agriculture which may lead to death . They may have been mutilated while cutting with matchers(Agbo). Children are also more vulnerable to physical violence and traffic accidents.

Alphonso cited in his article about human trafficking and its effects on the national image that an official of the NAPTIP, *Alhaji Mohammed Babandede*⁹ revealed in 2004 that there were no fewer than 100,00 00 Nigerian women sold into sex slavery as prostitutes in Europe by human trafficking. Sexual transmitted infections and sexual abuse are also consequences of child labor which is mainly with females, this caused for transferred diseases like aids and sexual diseases(Agbo).

Contemporary slavery adversely affects through the human trafficking brain drain. Foreign countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States benefit from Nigerian experts skills. Ibekwe gives the negative effects of brain drain on developing countries including Nigeria:

Brain drain in developing countries has financial, institutional and social costs: little return from their investments in higher education; increasing dependency on foreign expertise due to dwindling professional sector; diminishing ability of several developing countries to offer basic health care services to their subjects;

9- Mohammed was in charge of military operations on March 14, 2014, when Boko Haram members attacked the Giwa barracks in Maiduguri, northeastern Nigeria, freeing more than 1,000 detainees suspected of sympathizing with the militant group.

widening gap in science and technology between the richer and poor countries; crumbling middle class population; failing tax system and disappearance of jobs and society (12).

In addition to Professors Wilma Meus and David Sanders, both of the University of the Western Cape's School of Public Health, South Africa stated in their research report that Nigeria has incurred loss of \$420 million (N53.34 billion) through the loss of 21,000 doctors to the United States of America(Alphonsus). Dr Alphonsus supported his argument to clarify how much United States profits from brain drain particularly the Nigerian one in his article "Meus and Sanders stated that conservative estimates showed that the United States has saved at least \$3.86 million (N490.2 million) in training fees by employing doctors from Nigeria."

Contemporary slavery is pervasive in Nigeria with its all kinds. It damages the world view of Nigeria in general and the Nigerian people in particular. Indeed, humanitarian contributed to ending slavery at early 19th century. For many years the answer went roughly as follows: Slavery and the slave trade were accepted features of life until in the later eighteenth century a movement arose for its abolition, initially in Britain, led by figures such as William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson. Motivated by humanitarian concerns, the movement spread from Britain to other countries and gained a series of victories, culminating in the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire in 1807, the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies in 1832, and the eventual extinction of slavery in the New World by 1882 (Stephen Davies).

Despite, the awareness of people to the risk of contemporary slavery, some people are obliged to be victims of the abuse and the exploitation of greedy people. The main reason to be enslaved is to escape poverty.

Chapter two

Child Labor in Contemporary Nigeria

Introduction

Child labor has become a universal problem. Since centuries it has been prevailing across the world and practiced in societies. It is a violation of human rights as it is barbarous and degrading to the personality of children. Thus, child labor is not only a social evil but also a stigma on the childhood and exploitation of children. By the beginning of the 21st century, child labor becomes a form of contemporary slavery throughout Nigeria as well as other regions in the world. This practice is considered exploitative by many international organizations. It puts the children in the most painful and harsh conditions either in momentary or sustained labor. Actually, children are a necessary pillar of any nation. Since they hold the future in their hands, they should be brought up with care in a dynamic environment to effectively form a future productive citizen. This chapter will provide an overview about the concept of child labor. It will also shed light on its history and forms as well as the reasons behind this worldwide phenomenon. The chapter will also consider available international and local policy frameworks and the reaction of the Nigerian government to it.

I-The Concept of Child Labor in Nigeria

An important subject as child labor will be preceded with various efforts to determine the exact definition of the concept. Different organizations define child labor within the context of their own unique circumstances, laws and experience. Child labor is to use a child under the age of 18 in different activities either in the form of light or hazardous works including the duration of the work (ILO). Child labor is also responsible for depriving children from school attendance. The concept of child labor may differ from child work. While the latter is a work done by a child

willingly and it benefits him without affecting his study, child labor provides the child with work that does no tangible benefit and usually its harm is more than its benefit. Furthermore it deprives the child from his childhood and affects his school attendance.

The international organizations defined child labor in several meaning. The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines child labor as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity; and is harmful to their physical and mental development. It addresses specially such work that interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school , or requiring them to combine school attendance with an excessively long and heavy workload(ILO).

The International Program of the Elimination of Child Labor defines the concept as “work situation where children are compelled to work on regular basis to earn a living for themselves and their families Where children work in conditions that are exploitative and damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development”(IPEC). In addition, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), observes that child labor is work that is likely to be Hazardous, or interfere with the child's health or physical, mental and spiritual development. The most general idea about child labor is that when a person below 18 years of age does work that deprives them of their childhood, their potential and their dignity. When the work harms their physical and mental development or forces them to leave school in early age(ILO).

The UNICEF expanded ILO definition and defines child labor as follow:" A child is considered to be involved in child labor activities under the following classification:

- A- Children 5 -11 years engaged in any economic activity, or 28 hours or more domestic work per week;
- B- Children 12-14 years engaged in any economic activity (except light work for less than 14 hours per week), or 28 hours or more domestic work per week;
- C- Children 15-17 years engaged in any hazardous work(UNICEF).

Child labor remains a major source of concern in Nigeria in spite of legislative measures. Child labor is defined as work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to the children and deprives them of opportunities for schooling and development (UNICEF).

Hugh D. Hindman mentioned in (An Historical And Regional Survey) that in Nigeria 2,941,888 children, aged five to fourteen years in Nigeria are engaged in child labor. However, (UNICEF) estimates that 39 percent of children aged five to fourteen, or roughly 12 million, are child laborer(226).

Table 2: Child Activity Breakdown, by Age and Gender

Percentage of children of the relevant age								
Age	Economic activity only		school only		combining school and		neither in school	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	3	2	63	62	11	12	22	25
6	3	2	72	67	17	21	8	10
7	4	2	68	72	25	24	3	2
8	3	2	70	67	25	28	1	3
9	5	2	69	69	25	28	1	1
10	5	3	64	64	30	32	1	1
11	5	2	68	66	30	36	0	0
12	4	3	64	65	31	32	0	0
13	5	3	63	67	31	30	1	0
14	5	4	65	64	29	31	0	1
Total	4	3	67	66	25	27	4	4

Source: Okpukpara and Odurukwe (2006), 7.

The table above illustrates the age of children from age five to age fourteen including both male and female. It shows the percentage of children and whether a child practices economic activities, attends school only, combines between both economic activities and school attendance or does not practice neither economic activities nor school attendance. This table demonstrates that the percentage of the children who attend school are more than those who do economic activities or who combine between school and economic activity.

II- History of Child Labor in Nigeria

Child labor is an ancient practice in the history of mankind. It has existed in various forms in different parts of the world. The very early practice of child labor

was slavery which was relied on the support network used by big merchants. From 18th century, child labor emerged as an issue during the Industrial Revolution when children were obliged to work in dangerous conditions for more than 12 hours a day. Nigeria is a country known by child labor. Adelaja mentions in his article that most Nigerians still consider advocacy against child labor as a sort of colonial mentality (Adelaja 231). Due to the widespread poverty among Nigerian population which was caused by corruption and mismanagement and inequality in the distribution of country revenue, child labor is widespread in Nigerian regions. People use the income of the child labor for their survival.

The Yoruba people sanctify work and see that it is the only solution to escape poverty. They have a proverb, which says "*Ise ni ogun ise*," that is, "hard work is the only antidote for poverty," (Adelaja 231). Another proverb goes "*Ise kii pa niyan*," meaning "hard work does not kill." According to Nigerian culture, children should acquire work skills, be obedient and respect their parent and their society too. That is why (Oloko 231) argued that exclusion of children from work was not in the interests of society, as it portends negative and dysfunctional implications for the integration of children.

Nigeria is a source and destination country for child trafficking. Children in Nigeria are trafficked internally to work in domestic services, agriculture and street begging (Nwokoro 15)

III-Forms of Child Labor in Nigeria

There are several forms of child labor in Nigeria, some of which were widely exist in one region rather than the other. For instance, *Almajiri*¹⁰ child labor is specific to northern Nigeria but bonded labor is more present in western and eastern regions.

¹⁰ -*Almajiri* means somebody who migrates for the purpose of learning or for the sake of advocating Islamic knowledge

Any hard work by which a child is engaged, is likely to be considered as an exploitation and violation of humanity.

1- Agricultural Child Labor

Agricultural child labor is a form of child labor which is found more in the rural regions of Nigeria. Children of those areas are actually out of school because they are used as supplier for farm works and commodities. children of seven years are involved in harsh works for long daily hours. They are more exposed to dangerous accidents because of the use of dangerous materials like machines . According to the *gandu*¹¹ farming the whole family should be involved in farming to afford food supplies. Sons and nephews work four days in a week in the father's farm. Children who are supposed to be in schools work in cultivation of cocoa farms to compensate the absence of labor within this domain. Children of west and east of Nigeria are provided as cheap farming laborers while they have to be in school (Hill 48-84).

2- Domestic Servitude

Child labor within household services is the most common form in Nigeria after colonization. As an example the Fulani families are known for the use of helpers in their houses. The concept of house servant is widespread in the history of colonized Nigeria. The practice is a skillful exploitation of children for the sake of household service. The Fulani pastoralists are a clear example of house helper in Nigeria. Women of this family brings their unmarried sisters to help them in their house services (Van Raay 52).

Poverty indeed is the leading factor for domestic servitude. It is most common in eastern and western Nigeria especially after independence, that children live with their wealthy relatives for domestic servitude.

¹¹ *Gandu* is a Hausa patriarchal institution that was supposedly voluntary and mutually beneficial in which a married son worked under his father in agricultural production on the fathers farm.

The increase of employment opportunities and urbanization which create jobs for women generated a need for house helpers. Those helpers are poor children from rural regions brought to cities in return for occupational skills and education. However, they are treated badly , exploited, and in some cases sexually abused if the child is a female (Adelaja 233).

3- Child Begging

This concept involves children who beg in street because of poverty. They intend to help their families, or to cover their educational fees. Child begging has psychological and health consequences upon children. The latter are very exposed to risks because they run between cars and vehicles. They are exposed to constant abuse, trafficking and aggression(Imam). In Nigerian traditions some boys called *Almajiri* are sent to Koranic teachers to receive education but some of them were forced by their teachers to beg in streets. Those boys stand mostly without food and shelter(Abubakar).

Almajiri , increasing especially in the northern regions of Nigeria ,played a negative role within child begging. Instead of receiving the koranic knowledge in *Almajiri* school, children were considered as a breeding ground for street beggars. They became also the basis for various street gangs as well as Yandabas , Egbesu, and Bakassi in different Nigerian regions like Kano, Enugu, and Port Harcourt(Baker). *Almajiri* boys were also forced to fight in violent conflicts during the main riots of the 1980s in northern Nigeria (Hisket 209).

4- Bonded Labor

This form of child labor is also known as debt bondage. It is a case of enslaving a child in exchange of a loan. Though in some cases, the entire family is engaged in a debt payment for a period of time. The sickness of the parents or their old age may be the cause for the loan which is transferred to their children and in some cases to their generation. The inability to pay the loan causes the family to pledge some of its members in exchange for the lender. Those victims are mostly exploited and badly treated because of their illiteracy and lack of basic skills; in such cases, the loan increases instead of lessening (Okafor 12).

5- Child Trading

There is a great number of children who are involved in many ways in economic activities in Nigeria. They are engaged in different trading activities which included bus conducting, water fetching, load carrying, hawking, and even prostitution. Children leave their homes for street trading living in parks and under bridges where they are more exposed to danger ,exploitation and abuse. This phenomenon is increasing in many Nigerian cities which declared the risk of such terrible number of children in streets(Aderinto 1199).

A lot of street traders are vulnerable to sexual abuse and prostitution, especially girls, which end in most cases with pregnancy and illegal abortion. In addition, those victims are also exposed to dangerous diseases like AIDS and HIV (Federal Office of Statistics 2001).

The main cause behind street trading is poverty. The inability of the father to provide the needs of his family allows children to go to the street to help their families (Oloko 465). Street trading is mostly existed in urban regions of Nigeria rather than in rural ones where it is rarely founded. The existence of such activities in urban cities

is regarded as the legacy of Nigeria's miserable socioeconomic development (Adesioye 229).

6- Child Marriage

In northern Nigeria, where child marriage is widely spread the phenomenon is seemed not to be a serious problem but a merely sort of destiny. Two main factors were behind the rise of child marriage which are the lack of consciousness for education and the minimum age for marriage. The female child not only loses her childhood but also finds herself in front of obligatory duties toward her husband like cooking, washing, cleaning, and even sexual services (Adelaja 234).

IV- Causes of Child Labor in Nigeria

Child labor is a 21st century worldwide problem which is international organizations oppose strongly. However, child labor is prevalent in Nigerian society due to the poverty, ignorance and illiteracy of some Nigerian people. According to some parents, children have to work and bring money to help their families. Both parents and society believe and consider child labor as a worthwhile obligation. Basu and Dasgupta maintained that the decision to send a child to work is partly a matter of social norm. That means if a parent lives in a society where everybody sends their children to work, it is kind of proud for each parent to send their child to work. If nobody asks their children to work each parent may find it worthless. Moreover, it is not just parents who do not mind child labor, but children themselves perceive that by their work they will become financially independent. In this respect, Oloko mentioned "Such children, it is argued, develop to be economically independent early in life, and their thinking capacity is enhanced"(229).

In the different forms of child labor which were mentioned before in this paper, poverty is a major cause leads or obliges children to do a hard work that would

harm their emotions and their body, and influence their education. Due to the retirement or the insufficiency of the income to pay school fees, rent and feeding, some parents are forced to send their children at an early age to work without caring about their education. Two-thirds of its population are living in rural areas without basic social amenities, such as electricity, roads, hospitals, schools, drinking water etc and they earn less than \$1 per day(Abdulrahman and Oladipo 35). It is obvious that poverty is the main factor led to child labor as Hon mentions "When parents are financially incapacitated to provide the basic necessities of life such as a comfortable house, food, clothes and sound education for their children, the children are sent to work"(135-36).

Illiteracy is another cause of child labor. Some parents particularly in the northern area of the country, are illiterate and do not give much importance to their children education. Tijjani stated in his report that " Due to high level of illiteracy among the rural dwellers in Nigeria, family planning is not adopted, hence people reproduce children recklessly without planning for their education and general welfare, the end result being having more children than they can support hence the willingness to give out their children to agents of trafficking." One of the most dangerous things that threaten the security and the future of children is illiterate parents who do not know how much damage is caused to a child life when they get them out of school and allowing their engagement in the world of work at an early age.

Unemployment and corruption are other causes of child labor. Due to the corruption and mismanagement of the government in Nigeria, it has attained a global status in corruption and tagged as the 38th most corrupt nation in the global rating(Monica). Many people do not succeed to get a decent job which provides their

families with necessities. This requires children to leave school and join the world of work to improve their families' incomes.

Another cause seems so significant which forces a child to go to work. The broken home is a serious issue which affects the child's life. When divorce occurs, each of the parents cares about themselves, neglecting the children in order to avenge the spouse. Many parents abandon their children when the marriage ends in separation(Garba et al. 21). The child finds himself without parents or relatives who take his charge, which forces him to work.

The societies where polygamy is legal some step mothers do not hesitate to exploit children and make them work to benefit from them. That is what Kuni confirms " In some polygamous family, where a husband takes another wife, some step wives are cruel to children of the estranged or former wife and would not hesitate to abuse such children."

V-Consequences of Child Labor

Despite the measures and recommendations adopted by the government, the Nigerian people still suffer from child labor. Moreover it affects children, family and society as well. First, Child labor influences both the physical and the mental development of a child. It results in a mentally uncontrolled and stunted citizen. The new citizen becomes the main founder for a hopeless society. Basu suggested that the family would probably fall into a "child labor trap"(1085). He argues that with the rise of child labor comes a fall in the acquirement, human resources. In other words, as much as a child works, he/ she will remain uneducated and will grow to become an unproductive member of the society. Galbi shares the same idea of Basu and proposes that child exploitation is diminishing his dignity. Eswaran on the other hand, explains

that with parents leaning towards having more uneducated children than an educated few, the growth of the institution of child labor is inevitable.

At the individual level, children are exposed to diseases and death. Working in unhealthy and sometimes dangerous conditions, they are likely to catch serious illnesses. Due to low wages, children have poor access to clean water and healthy nutrition. Moreover, children who are working in mines or agriculture and use machines may have accidents that will lead to serious health damages. Child marriage may affect young girls by risking their lives through early pregnancies and to their newborns as well. In addition to children trading in the streets and go far from home may be kidnapped by human trafficking or recruited in armed conflicts.

VI- Child Labor Laws and Policies in Nigeria

The Nigerian government took different acts and policies to fight child labor or even eliminate its worst forms. These policies were at the international, national, and local levels which if it was imposed and applied in reality it would be in a way or another contribute to the abolition of some forms of child labor in Nigeria.

For that reason, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Section 12(3), seeks to ensure that all citizens have adequate security, suitable employment with just conditions of work, freedom, and protection from abuse and exploitation(Nwokoro 24).

The Nigerian government facilitated also the education for children which attempted to make the 9 years of primary education both free and compulsory for all Nigerian children (Nwokoro 25).

In fact, there are several acts attempted in Nigeria to protect children from exploitation and trafficking, such as the Child's Right Act of 2003, Trafficking in

persons (prohibition) Laws Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, and Children and Young Persons Act 1959 (Onyemachi 378).

The Law Enforcement and Administration Act was a comprehensive anti-trafficking and child labor law initiated by Titi Abubakar¹² in July 2003. This act was also known as " Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation(WOTCLEF), which was passed to enforce the establishment of this act within the coordination of counter-trafficking work. The act involves a series of regulations and laws including life prison for anyone who traffics children inside or outside Nigeria (ILO- IPEC 3-4).

Another act called The Nigerian Act was passed by the Nigerian government to prohibit children aged less than 12 years from engaging in works which may inhibit their physical, health, and mental development. Children less than 16 years were also prevented from industrial works which include long hours and nightly jobs as well as machines and dangerous employment.

The Nigerian government appointed a ministry for the enforcement of working conditions and protection of workers led by the Ministry of Employment for the intense fulfill of these provision. However, any of those inspections were not established mostly in the country except some formal business sectors where child labor was no longer existed. In august 2000, the cooperation of the Nigerian government with the International Labor Organization resulted in a national program titled " Memorandum of Understanding" for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Nigeria(ILO).

.3- Chief Mrs. Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, wife of former Nigerian Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar

Chapter Three

The Impact of Child Labor on Education in Nigeria and Recommendations Policies

Introduction

Science is the foundation of any civilization. Acquiring knowledge skills, it is necessary to take care of education. Most developed nations have relied on advanced education to build and promote their countries. However, some factors threaten education, such as child labor; it eliminates the childhood and the innocence of children through the exploitation of some greedy people. Child labor considers the children as slaves by involving them in prostitution, child slavery, child begging and forced labor. Therefore, the Nigerian government had to take strict measures to eliminate child labor and bring acts to abolish it.

I-The History of Education in Nigeria

Education is a process of learning. Mark K Smith explores the meaning of education and suggests it is a process of inviting truth and possibility. It can be defined as the wise, hopeful and respectful cultivation of learning undertaken in the belief that all should have the chance to share in life. Nigeria has known two major types of education before the coming of western education through missionaries in the nineteenth century. The first type was the indigenous system, where children were taught the practical skills needed to be practiced successfully in traditional society. They were taught the customs of their community. Boys were directed to work in farms or wood carving and girls were introduced to work in farms and learn domestic skills. Moreover, boys would practice apprenticeship under the command of the master craftsman. This kind of education still exists in Nigeria. "Nigeria poverty"

The second type of education was Islam education. Islamic education was based on the *mallam*¹³ who trained children to learn the Holy Quran and the Arabic alphabets, in addition to Math and Science. The Islamic schools were spread in the north of Nigeria such as Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Sokoto states. "wiki islam" (see map two). There were about 19073 school which enrolled 143312 students in 1913 (History of western education).

The western education appeared in Nigeria in the 19th century with the coming of British colonization, in the western part of the country. At the beginning , missionaries came with the notion of educated people in Nigeria and Christian proselytizing. The Anglican Church Missionary Society (CMS) opened several schools in the mid of 1800s (History of western education). The colonial government gave financial aid to the church to build schools and spread Christianity. In the early 20th century the government began building primary and secondary schools (History of western education). Given to the presence of the Islamic regime in the north, both western education and British colonization faced some resistance to spread in the northern part of Nigeria. However, in 1914 the colonial government combined the two regions the south and the north into one colony and established eleven secondary schools under the domination of missionaries (History of western education).

In 1872 the colonial government started to intervene in the educational system through what they called ordinance (History of western education). Ten years later, the colonial government issued a document- Education Ordinance with the aim of having total control on education "History of Western education" . The ordinance

1- *Mallam* is an honorific title given to Islamic scholars in Africa.

failed because the curriculum, the method and the medium of communication were too foreign for Nigerian children. The second ordinance was provided in 1887, but like the previous one, it faced the same reaction from people. Though the second ordinance came with more beneficial ideas; it employed foreign teachers and established more schools in addition to the subsidies which was given to the missions the second ordinance failed. The third ordinance was provided by the Lord Fredrick Lugard,¹⁴ he brought some new ideas and established the ordinance in 1916 "History of Western education" .

As for higher education, the first institution (Yaba Higher College) was established in 1932, and the second university of Ibadan was founded in 1948 (Ibid). Nigeria has followed a path of scientific development and knowledge through the establishment of many universities after its independence from Britain in 1960. More prominent universities which include the university of Nigeria, Obafemiyemi Awolowo University (formerly University of Ife), Ahmadu Bello University and Mohammed Abiola University were founded after the independence. In the 1970s many universities were established, such as the University of Benin, Calabar, Ilorin, Jos, Port Harcourt, Sokoto and Maiduguri. The 1980s also witnessed the establishment of many universities specialized in agriculture and technology (History of Education).

14-Frederick John Dealtry Lugard, 1st Baron Lugard GCMG, CB, DSO, PC (22 January 1858 – 11 April 1945), known as Sir Frederick Lugard between 1901 and 1928, was a British soldier, mercenary, explorer of Africa and colonial administrator. He was Governor of Hong Kong (1907–1912), the last Governor of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate (1912–1914), the first High Commissioner (1900–1906) and last Governor (1912–1914) of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate and the first Governor-General of Nigeria (1914–1919).

and Recommendations Policies

Map 2:

States under Sharia Law

Source: <https://petchary.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/nigeria-sharia-states.png>

II-The Impact of Child Labor on Primary Education in Nigeria

Child labor has an effective impact on education. Many children are not able to pay school fees because of poverty. However, education in Nigeria is obligatory at primary and intermediate stages, but because of corruption that dominates Nigeria's governing system and the parents' lack of interest or their insufficient awareness of the necessity of their children's education, many children drop out of school and engage in work between the age of 5 and 14. The Nigeria NGO's non government organization report attributes that 15million children under the age of 14 are working across Nigeria (Ajagbe and Adegbite 174).

Some intellectuals supports the fact that child labor has affected education and human capital negatively, while some empirical studies support the view that child labor has potential to affect human capital formation of child positively (Edmonds; Udry). Those who consider that child labor negatively affects children and their studies claim that child labor causes harm to the child either physical or mentally. A child may be exposed to work accidents due to the use of dangerous machinery(Edmonds 243) besides to some hazardous jobs which are likely to have adverse effects on the child's safety, health and moral development(Ajagbe and Adegbite 175). With regard to education, a child may not attend school either because he is not capable to secure study fees or time is not enough for school attendance, because of the work for more than eight hours per day. Moreover, even if children succeed in reconciling work and study, it will be hard to understand lessons because of fatigue.

As for those who look at the positive side prove that child labor provides funds that go directly towards his or her schooling costs. Furthermore, a child will be financially independent and capable of providing its needs, such as foods, clothing and health care.

Edmonds shares the same view which supports the positive impact of child labor says: " In the impoverished societies, child labor might contribute to increasing household income and child education attainment."(244). Actually, a child worldwide generally and in Nigeria particularly the important things that drove a child to work are to escape poverty, destitution and need besides to improve the level of family income. So, child labor affects primary education which is the basis for any child to acquire skills and knowledge to be effective in their professional and their personal future.

III- Laws and Policies Related to Primary Education in Nigeria

Primary education is known worldwide as a process addressed to the category of children 6 to 11 years, for six years . However, the success or the failure of the children in their future life is related to the success or the failure of the whole system. Thus the Nigerian Federal Government issued National Policy on Education to improve the educational system and put strict laws to be followed by both teachers and students. National Education Policy is responsible to provide a convenient place for study.

In Nigeria there was a time when students takes their lessons outdoors under the trees. Three demographic studies on the existing national situation in the primary education sector revealed that 12% of primary school pupils sit on the floor, 38% of

classrooms have no ceilings, 87% of classrooms are overcrowded, while 77% of pupils lack textbooks (Adepoju and Fabiyi).

The book of "National Policy On Education"¹⁵(2004) set up some goals of primary education:

- (a) inculcate permanent literacy and numeracy, and ability to communicate effectively.
- (b) lay a sound basis for scientific and reflective thinking.
- (c) give citizenship education as a basis for effective participation in and contribution to the life of the society.
- (d) mould the character and develop sound attitude and morals in the child.
- (e) develop in the child the ability to adapt to the child's changing environment.
- (f) give the child opportunities for developing manipulative skills that will enable the child function effectively in the society within the limits of the child's capacity.
- (g) provide the child with basic tools for further educational advancement, including preparation for trades and crafts of the locality.

This new policy aims to ensure that every Nigerian child acquires a minimum of 9 years basic education (Etuk et al). Study in Nigeria consists of six years in primary school, three years of junior secondary school, three years of senior secondary school and four years at the university as a minimum. National Policy on Education focuses on the formation of teachers in order to ensure the graduation of students with high qualifications. The National policy on Education (2004) maintained that "education in Nigeria is an instrument 'par excellence' for effecting

¹⁵ - National Policy On Education is a program to improve educational system published by Nigeria Education Research and Development Council, it was published the first time in 1977 then reprinted in 1981 and 1998. The fourth edition was in 2004.

national development." Furthermore, Nigeria as other countries interested in development consider education not just a medium of knowledge and skill acquisition, but also a tool for nation building.

IV-Progress in Nigeria

The wide existence of the phenomenon of child labor in Nigeria has a great impact upon the Nigerian economy, culture, politics, and society. It has devastated the Nigerian economy to a great extent, especially the legacy of the issue of Boko Haram founded by Muhammed Yusuf in 2002. Its terrorist activities have strategic implications for national economic implications.

The economy in Nigeria after the emergence of child labor has witnessed a high decrease, especially in the economic income. More than 20 industries has destroyed which has caused the decrease in most industrial output. The destruction includes the electrical manufactures, roads, and communication lines. Most economic investors have left the country which affect directly the coming investigations and the country's fame in this field (Nwokoro 46).

The international image of Nigeria has gone from bad to worse because of the effects of child trafficking which stained the Nigerian society as a hazardous and abused one. Some statistics in The Nigerian Daily Trust Newspaper, state that over 50,000 Nigerian women and children were trafficked to Italy, an act which portrays the bad image of Nigerian society internationally. Consequently, the Nigerian people wherever they go, they are suspected and confronted with the most sophisticated security system in different international borders and embassies(NDTN). The effects of Child labor doesn't affect only the child but also the whole family as a sequence of

the society; though it has caused a decline in the human capital acquisition (Bassu 1083). Bassu adds that if a child works more than his capacity, he will become less productive in his adulthood and diminished his role as the most prominent figure in the society.

The effects of child labor in Nigeria involves the educational field as well. It prevents children from attending school which has considered as the most important challenge to the goals of the Nigerian act "Education For All". It is obvious that children who work as laborers for more than six hours a day do not have either time nor money or ability to attend school and benefit from it. The increasing rates of school enrollment in Nigeria is a sign of the level of commitment to education in Nigeria (Godwin 2). Majority of child laborers either do not attend school or skip school to various degrees. This trend seems to be higher among children who learn apprenticeships, those who hawking the streets and those who work outside their households (Nwokoro and Cyril 52).

V-Strict Actions against Child Labor from International Organizations

Child labor remains a serious problem which requires strict reactions from different local and international organizations that cooperate in a global effort to defend child's rights, along with The International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, scientific, and cultural Organization (UNESCO), and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The opposition of these organizations comes to be an effective step applied in most countries as well as in Nigeria.

The International Labor Organization as an active association against child labor considers the act of child labor as a deviation from the rule that harms the future development of the society. The ILO participates in the fourth Global Conference on Child Labor which brings together representatives from government, social partners, civil society, regional and international organizations to share policies and experiences in the global fight against child labor. It was agreed that the fourth Global Conference should cover both the sustained eradication of child labor and the elimination of forced labor and, in this context, it also addresses the issue of the quality of youth employment (ILO 2017).

When the Country Director of the ILO, Dennis Zulu, visited Nigeria as part of activities to mark the World Day Against Child Labor, reassured the ILO Director that the "Senate assigns particular importance to the fight against child labor." He also said "It is important to promote universal basic education, to support the National Child Labor Policy and the National Action Plan the ILO developed with the Federal Government." He noted also that the overall lack of advocacy limited greater understanding about the issue. For this reason, he said he hosted a Children's Day roundtable discussion with States Assembly on the Child's Rights Act of 2003 to "raise awareness about our obligation to defend the rights of children." (ILO2017).

There is another program which defends child's rights and aims to eliminate child labor in Nigeria. This program is called "The International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor", which was created in 1992, IPEC has grown to become the biggest dedicated child labor program in the world and the largest technical

cooperation program within the ILO. It is now operational in some 90 countries, benefiting millions of children worldwide.

The UNICEF Nigeria undertakes a mix of activities to raise awareness of combat child labor across the country including:

- a) Supporting the federal office of statistics (FOS) to develop child protection in Nigeria.
- b) Signing a memorandum of understanding with University of Lagos for the establishment of University Chair to oversee the compilation of child protection research including child labor.
- c) Supporting the National Baseline Survey with government partners and ILO, which will include data on sexual exploitation and child violence.
- d) Advocating for the ratification and enforcement of international laws that protect children.
- e) Supporting the passage of the Child Right Act at the state level.
- f) Supporting an inter-agency approach especially with ILO-IPEC on child labor.

Supporting African Network for the protection against prevention of all Forms of Child Abuse(Onwe 285).

VI-Recommendations Defeating Child Labor in Nigeria

The Nigerian government assumed to offer a safe society out of child trafficking, exploitation and abuse. For this reason it suggests a list of policies and actions which if well applied will limit the problem for a better future for the Nigerian children :

1. Provision of social assistance to extremely poor individuals and household. This may entail payment of school fees and approved institutions from governments and non-governmental agencies to individuals or households.
2. Social welfare service is highly needed to protect children against abuse and consequences of livelihood, health and social insurance to help secure services in times of need.
3. Capacity development for teachers, health personnel and social workers, the police and judges through investing awareness on preventative services to address child abuse.
4. Provide social equity measures to protect people against social risk such as discrimination or abuse.

Other approaches can be used also to limit the issue like:

- 1- Reducing poverty – widespread poverty is said to be the major cause of harmful child labor in developing countries. If the poverty level of households is reduced, child labor will also be reduced.
- 2- Educating children – making basic education compulsory will solve the problem especially in rural areas children.
- 3- Raising awareness of children about the hard work and its future risks on their health and development(Ugal, David ,and Florence12)

Conclusion

Child labor is inevitable in poor and illiterate society. Corruption is the main factor that leads to the spread of child labor in Nigeria. In addition to some customs and traditions which impose some beliefs that push children to go out and work to improve their families' lot. Neither the laws and policies which have been taken by the Nigerian government nor the international organizations' actions being serve to eliminate child labor.

To end child labor with all its different forms it is necessary to fight corruption and the division of revenues equally between people and the government. Nigerian has to give priority to education and makes it accessible to everyone. Illiteracy and ignorance are the main enemy for poor people which, make them fall in the trap of abuse and exploitation. Moreover, parents themselves put their children into slavery without any awareness about the risks that may threat the future of their children, because of their greedy. The research will conclude with a speech from Mill (1970) who declared that parents are responsible to educate a child to eliminate ignorance which threatens its community.

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