INFLUENCE OF EXPLOITATIVE CHILD LABOUR PRACTICES ON CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN ILORIN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ILORIN, KWARA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed influence of exploitative child labour on children's academic performance amidst global challenges in Ilorin metropolis. Five specific objectives and five research questions were formulated with one null hypothesis associated. Survey research design was adopted. Population for the study was primary school pupils, totaling 335 drawn from three primary schools in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State. A sample of 150 respondents from classes 4, 5, and 6 were randomly selected for the study. The instruments used for data collection were a self-design questionnaire, and report cards.

Results revealed that global challenges influencing involvement in Child Labour include – inability of parents to pay school fees, single parenting, family low income, polygamous and price hike of items. On the level of child labour practices, results show that 25 (16.7%) were never involved in exploitative child labour, 88(58.7%) were sometimes involved in exploitative child labour, while 37(24.7%) were always involved in exploitative child labour.

Result of the hypothesis tested at 0.05 level of significance was rejected ($P<0.05$). The findings showed that child labour affect pupil's academic performance. The study recommended that parents should stop exploitative child labour. Government should also enact a law to permanently ban underage recruitment.

Keywords: *child labour, academic performance, global challenge, family, parents.*

INTRODUCTION

Childhood is a phase of life when a child is free from all tension, fun-loving, plays and learns new things, and is also the sweetheart of the family (Orazem & Gunnarsson, 2004), but it is quite unfortunate that something rebellious is depriving some children of irreplaceable moment "child labour". Child labour refers to a situation where children miss their childhood and are not able to have basic amenities which a child should have (Osment, 2014). Child labour can cause damages to the wellbeing of children, physically, psychologically and morally. Whereas child exploitation is the act of using a child for profit, labour, sexual gratification, or some other illegal personal or financial advantages. Child exploitation often results in harmful treatment of the child, as the activities he or she may be forced to take part in can cause emotional, physical, and social problems.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2006), there are approximately 317 million "economically active" children throughout the world. Of these, about 218 million are considered "child labourers". Majority of children, approximately 69 percent, are found to work in agriculture, followed by services (22 percent) and industry (9 percent), respectively (ILO, 2016, p.8). The International Labour Organization (ILO,2016) adopted standards to eliminate it. Throughout 20th century, a number of legally binding agreements and international conventions were adopted but despite all this, child labour continues to this day. Child labour remains a major source of concern in Nigeria, inspite of legislative measure taken by the Government at various levels. Also in 1998, a report from the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2016) estimated that 24.6 percent of children between the ages of 10-14 in Nigeria were working. It is a ridiculous sight in most big cities, as well as rural villages today to see children of school age, trading food on the street, herding animals, tanning and drying raw leather product, fetching water for commercial purpose, washing dishes at restaurants, serving as domestic hands, selling wares at kiosks, collecting fire wood for business, harvesting crops in family farm or commercial plantation amongst other activities (Thomberry, 2013).

According to a UNICEF (2008) report, child labourers toil for long hours under dangerous and unhealthy, hazardous work conditions. Most times, working children undertake work obligations that may be beyond their physical capability for long hours without eating. Child labour in its worst forms is highly exploitative (Adeleye, 2014). Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2001) and Child Right Act (CRA) (2003), the child is entitled to protection from economic exploitation and from work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or development.

In agreement with the labour abuse (child labour) trend, the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2012) in its other report issued, states that the global figure of child labourers was put at approximately 250million. Interaction with students of low academic performance shows that most of them came from poor or broken homes with little or no means of livelihood; hence they

need to fend for themselves, which exposes them to psychological and emotional Instability (Okpechi, 2014). Academic achievement or (academic) performance is the outcome of education, the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has achieved their educational goals. It was observed that for a pupil or student to be successful in his or her academic performance, the pupil has to be regular in school, face learning problems squarely, avoid late coming to school and he or she should consult with the teacher (Giersch et.al, 2016)

Yap, Guliherme, and Peter (2003) pointed out that a child who attends school more frequently may influence the knowledge he or she gains. However, the more the school attendance, the less time a child has on labour activities. Academic performance often revealed the level of a child academic knowledge after the result of each term is received.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the fact that International Labour Organization (ILO, 2016) set a goal to eradicate the worst forms of child labour across the globe, the possibility of achieving this goal in Nigeria is being doubted because child labour in its worst forms continues to thrive in the country, and has become worse in recent times. It has been noticed that child labour and exploitative rooted from poverty. Researchers observed that in some situation a child will be asked to hawk early in the morning before going to the school, which will always result to the child lateness to the school or at times play truancy. This could also result in the child sleeping in class due to fatigue or hardly understand exercises given by the teacher, especially mathematics. At the end of the term the child will come out with a poor performance .Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the influence of exploitative child labour on Children's academic performance.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the influence of exploitative child labour practices on childrn's academic performance in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State. The specific objectives in this study intends to:

I. Identify the factors influencing child labour.

II. determine types of exploitative child labour.

III. assess the level of child labour practices in Ilorin West.

IV. determine the children's perceptions on influence of child labour on their academic performance.

V. investigate the influence of exploitative child labour practices on children's academic performance.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised for the study.

What are the factors influencing child labour?

What are the types of exploitative child labour?

What is the level of child labour practices in Ilorin West?

What are the children's perceptions on influence of child labour on their academic performance?

What influence does exploitative child labour have on children's academic performance?

Hypothesis of the Study

Hypothesis formulated for the study.

$H0_1$: Exploitative child labour will not significantly influence children's academic performance.

Scope of the Study

The study is based on influence of exploitative child labour practices on children's academic performance. The study focussed on the causes for exploitative child labour, types of exploitative child labour, perception of parents in practice of exploitative child labour, and academic performance. The study was carried out in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. Kwara State consists of 16 Local Government Area.

METHODOLOGY

Design of the Study: Survey research design was adopted in this study. Population of the study comprised pupils between the ages of 6 - 12years old in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. It comprises primary four to six pupils in three schools numbering three hundred and thirty five (335).

Sample Size and Sampling Technique: Random sampling technique was used to select 150 samples for the study. This represents 45% of the population. In selecting the sample, ballot paper method in which "Yes" and "No" was written on pieces of papers, folded, put in a box and thoroughly mixed. Each pupil was asked to pick one from the box. Those who picked "Yes" were used for the sample for the study as representatives.

Instruments for Data Collection: The instrument that was used for collecting data for this study is Questionnaire that was tag "Influence of Exploitative Child labour practice on Children's Academic Performance Questionnaire". The questionnaire was developed by the researcher based on the objectives, research questions and research hypothesis. The first section was based

on socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents such as gender, age, while the second section was to identify respondents that engaged in "Exploitative Child labour practice and their academic performances" using the school attendance register and report cards of the pupils for 2018/2019 academic year. Responses of each item was rated on "4 points" scale ranging from (1=strongly disagree; 2= disagree; 3= agree; strongly agree) scaled 4 to 1 respectively.

Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics such as mean, standard deviation, frequencies, and percentages were used to analyze the demographic variables of the respondents. The null hypothesis involved was analyzed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC).

DISCUSSION

Interpretation of Demographic Data of Respondents

Table I: Distribution of respondents according to their socio-demographic information N=150

Variables	Frequencies	Percent%
Sex		
Male	68	45.3
Female	82	54.7
Total	**150**	**100.0**
Age:		
6-8	9	6.0
9-11	87	58.0
12 years and above	54	36.0
Total	**150**	**100.0**
Religion:		
Christianity	31	20.7
Islam	119	79.3
Total	**150**	**100.0**
Classes:		
Primary 4	41	27.3
Primary 5	55	36.7
Primary 6	54	36.0
Total	**150**	**100.0**
Living with parent:		
Yes	115	76.7
No	35	23.3
Total	**150**	**100.0**

Table I shows demographic distribution of the respondents by gender, age, religion, class, and

living with parent. The table shows that 68 (45.3%) males and 82 (54.7%) females participated in the study. The age range of the respondents, indicated that 9 (6.0%) 6-9 years, 87 (58.0%) were between the age range of 9-11 years, 54 (36.0%) were between the age range of above 12years. This shows that majority age range of respondents were between 9-11 years. In terms of religion the findings revealed that 119 (79.3%) were practice Islam, 31 (20.7%) were Christians. This shows that majority of respondents were Muslims. Individual classes revealed that 41 (27.3%) were in primary four, 55 (36.7%) were in primary five, 54 (36.0%) were in primary six. The findings revealed that 115 (76.7%) were living with their parents, whereas 35 (23.3%) were not living with their parents.

Analysis of the Research Questions

The first specific objective was to investigate Factors Influencing involvement in Child Labour in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Research Question 1: What are the factors influencing Child Labour in Ilorin West Local Government?

Table II: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of Respondent on Factors Influencing Child Labour

S/N	STATEMENT	A N (%)	D N (%)	MEAN ($\bar{x}$)	SD	Remark
	Factors Influencing Involvement in Child Labour					
6	Inability of parents to pay school fees	89(59.4)	61(40.6)	2.79	1.16	Agreed
7	To assist parent because of family low income	89(59.4)	61(40.6)	2.79	1.11	Agreed
8	Not living with parents	53(34.6)	99(65.4)	2.33	1.13	Disagree
9	Being in a polygamous family	51(34)	99(66)	2.21	1.09	Disagree
10	Father absence	42(28)	108(72)	2.11	1.07	Disagree
11	Living with a single parents	63(42)	87(58)	2.43	1.16	Disagree
12	Source of personal income	80(53.3)	70(46.7)	2.61	1.11	Agreed

Figures in parenthesis are in percentages

The mean ($\bar{x}$) of 2.50 was used for the decision. A mean rating of any item by the respondents equal to or above 2.50 was accepted and taken as Agree while any mean rating lower than 2.50 was taken as Disagree. Result on factors influencing involvement in child labour in the above table revealed that the respondent agreed with items 6, 7, and 12 and disagree with items 8, 9, 10 and 11, with the mean items ranging from 2.11-2.79.

In Table II, the respondents agreed that factors that influence child labour include inability of parents to pay school fees ($\overline{x}$=2.79) 89% and also to assist parents because of family low income ($\overline{x}$=2.79) 59.4% and as a source personal income ($\overline{x}$=2.61) 53.3%. They however disagree that it is not because they do not live with parents ($\overline{x}$=2.33) 65.4% and being in a polygamous family ($\overline{x}$=2.21) 66% or as a result of father absence ($\overline{x}$=2.11) 72% and living with a single parents ($\overline{x}$=2.43) 58%.

Research question 2: What are the types of child labour?

Table III: Mean ratings and standard deviation of respondent on types of child labour; how often they do the following.

S/N	STATEMENT	Always	Some times	Rarely	Never	Mean ($\overline{x}$)	SD	Remark
	Types of Child Labour How often do you do the Following?							
13	Hawking early in the morning before going to school	26 (17.3)	12 (8.0)	16 (10.7)	96 (64.0)	1.79	1.17	Disagree
14	Working before going to school	95 (63.3)	33 (22.1)	8 (5.3)	14 (9.3)	3.39	.96	Agreed
15	Going to the market to help mother in the shop	40 (26.7)	34 (22.6)	19 (12.7)	57 (38.0)	2.38	1.24	Disagree
16	Cook before leaving home in the morning	42 (28.0)	42 (28.0)	24 (16.0)	42 (28.0)	2.56	1.17	Agreed
17	Hawking pure water	33 (22.0)	25 (16.7)	18 (12.0)	74 (49.3)	2.11	1.24	Disagree
18	Going for apprenticeship training	41 (27.3)	22 (14.7)	17 (11.3)	70 (46.7)	2.23	1.29	Disagree
19	Hawking after the school hours	38 (25.3)	20 (13.3)	27 (18.0)	65 (43.4)	2.21	1.24	Disagree
20	Running errands during school period	22 (14.7)	46 (30.7)	35 (23.3)	47 (31.3)	2.29	1.06	Disagree
21	Washing clothes	67 (44.7)	58 (38.7)	17 (11.3)	8 (5.3)	3.23	.85	Agreed
22	Being an house help	35 (23.3)	41 (27.3)	18 (12.1)	56 (37.3)	2.37	1.21	Disagree

Figures in parenthesis are in percentages

In research question 2 (Table III), respondents agreed with items 14, 16 and 21 and disagree with items 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22. Mean ranged from 1.79-3.39. Respondents agreed that they always work before going to school ($\overline{x}$=3.39) 63.3%, also always and sometimes cook before leaving home in the morning ($\overline{x}$=2.56) 28% and always washing clothes ($\overline{x}$=3.23) 44.7%. They disagree with hawking early in the morning before going to school ($\overline{x}$=1.79) 64% and hawking pure water ($\overline{x}$=2.11) 49.3%, and running errands during school period ($\overline{x}$=2.29) 31.3% and being a house help ($\overline{x}$=2.37) 37.3% and going for apprenticeship training ($\overline{x}$=2.23) 46.7%.

Research Question 3: What is the level of child labour practices in Ilorin West?

Table IV: Frequency of level of child labour practices in Ilorin West

Level of Exploitative child labour practices	Frequency	Percentage
Never	25	16.7%
Sometimes	88	58.7%
Always	37	24.7%

Table IV revealed the result of the 150 pupils, 25(16.7%) were never involved in exploitative child labour, 88(58.7%) were sometimes involved in exploitative child labour, while 37(24.7%) were always involved in exploitative child labour,

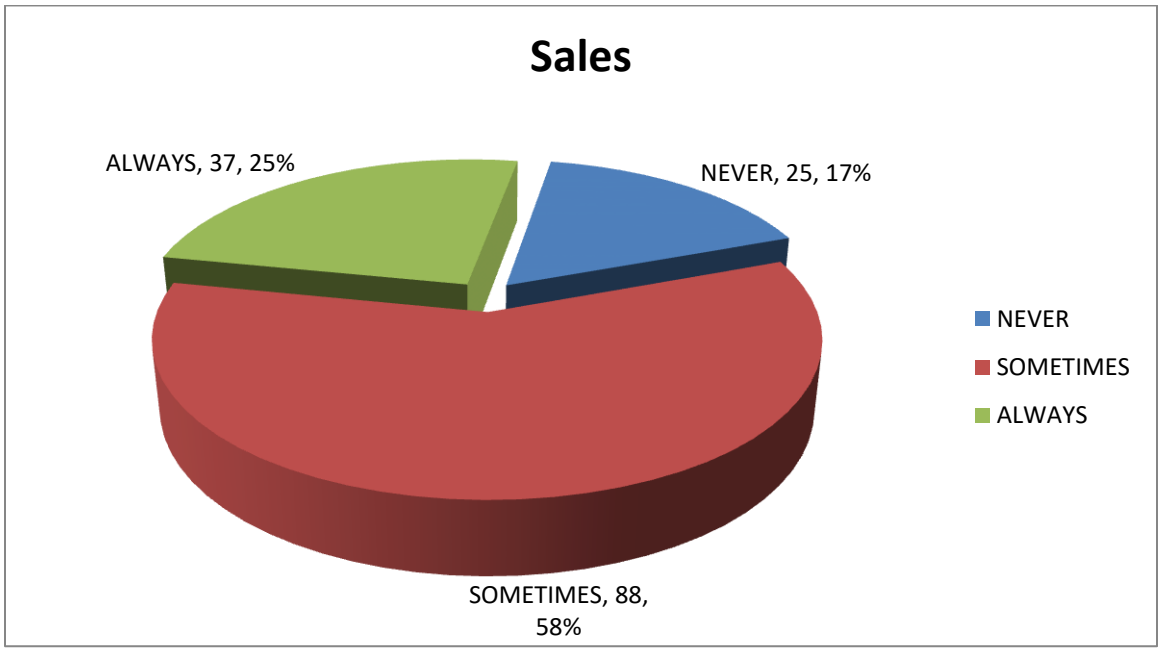


Figure I: Level of child labour practices in Ilorin West

Figure I revealed that of the 150 pupils 25(16.7%) were never involved in exploitative child labour, 88(58.7%) were sometimes involved in exploitative child labour, while 37(24.7%) were **always** involved in exploitative child labour.

Research Question 4: What are the children's perceptions on influence of child labour on their academic performance?

Table V: Mean ratings and standard deviation on children's perception on influence of child labour on their academic performance.

S/N	STATEMENT	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Mean ($\overline{x}$)	SD	Remark
	Children's perception on influence of child labour on their class activities							
23	It reduces ability to cope with the class work	37 (24.7)	62 (41.3)	27 (18.0)	24 (16.0)	2.27	1.14	Disagree
24	It prevents participation school's activities	28 (18.7)	39 (26.0)	29 (19.3)	54 (36.0)	2.75	1.01	Agreed
25	It has nothing to do with academic performance	38 (25.3)	45 (30.0)	45 (30.0)	22 (14.7)	2.66	1.02	Agreed
26	Lack of concentration in class	4 (2.7)	30 (20.0)	43 (28.7)	73 (48.7)	1.77	.86	Disagree
27	Causes absence in school	24 (16.0)	30 (16.0)	30 (20.0)	66 (44.0)	2.08	1.13	Disagree
28	Results into lateness to school	16 (10.7)	45 (30.0)	33 (22.0)	56 (37.3)	2.14	1.04	Disagree
29	Sleeping in class	12 (8.0)	28 (18.7)	39 (26.0)	71 (47.3)	1.87	.99	Disagree

Figures in parenthesis are in percentages

Result on influence of child labour on children's academic performance on Table V revealed that the respondent agreed with items 24 and 25. They disagree with items 23, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Items' mean ranged from 1.77-2.75. The respondents agreed that it prevents participation school activities $\overline{x}$= 2.75) 36% and it has nothing to do with academic performance $\overline{x}$ =2.66) 30%. They however disagree that they do not lack concentration in the class ($\overline{x}$=48.7) 73% and disagree with causes absence in school ($\overline{x}$= 44.0) 66% or result into lateness to school (($\overline{x}$=37.3) 56% and

sleeping in class ($\overline{x}$= 47.3) 71%.

Research question 5: How does exploitative child labour influence children's academic performance?

Research Question 5: What influence does exploitative child labour have on children's academic performance?

Table VI: Influence of exploitative child labour on children's academic performance

Level of child labour	Grades					
Grades	70-100 A	60-69 B	50-59 C	45-49 D	40-44 E	Total
Never	4 (16.0%)	16 (64.0%)	5 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	25 (100.0%)
Sometimes	34 (38.6%)	40 (45.5%)	10 (11.4%)	2 (2.3%)	2 (2.3%)	88 (100.0%)
Always	12 (32.4%)	13 (35.1%)	10 (27.0%)	2 (5.4%)	0 (0.0%)	37 (100.0%)
Total	50 (33.3%)	69 (46.0%)	25 (16.7%)	4 (2.7%)	2 (1.3%)	150 (100.0%)

Table VI revealed the scores of three subjects examined (English Language, Mathematics and Social Studies). There are 12 pupils that have "A" and 13 pupils "B" among children that are always involved in child labour, and for children that are Sometimes involved in child labour 34 "A" and 40 "B" and 4 "A", 16 "B" out of those that are Never involved in child labour. The results revealed that of the 25 pupils that were **never** involved in exploitative child labour, 4(16.0%) has 70-100 % in the summary of subjects scores examined, 16 (64.0%) has 60-69%, and 5(20.0%) has 50-59. Of the 88 pupils that were **sometimes** involved in exploitative child labour, 34 (38.6%) has 70-100 % in the summary of subjects scores examined 40(45.5%) has 60-69%, 10(11.4%) has 50-59, 2(2.3%) has 45-49% and 40-44% respectively. Amongst the 37 pupils that were **always** involved in exploitative child labour, 12 (32.4%) has 70-100 % in the summary of subjects scores examined 13(35.1%) has 60-69%, 10(27.0%) has 50-59, and 2(5.4%) has 45-49%.

This result implied that exploitative child labour has influence on the children academic performance but the effect is not significant.

Hypotheses testing

$H0_1$: Exploitative child labour will not significantly influence children's academic performance.

Table VII: Pearson Product Moment Correlation on influence of Exploitative child labour on children's academic performance
N=150

Variable	Mean ($\overline{x}$)	SD	N	Pearson r	Sig.(2-tailed)
Exploitative child labour	24.5467	5.30112	150	.463**	.000
academic performance.	15.5400	3.86974			

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table VII shows a Pearson r of .463** and a p value of .000, testing at an alpha level of .05. ($p<0.05$) The Pearson r of .463** shows high influence of Exploitative child labour on children's academic performance. The hypothesis which states that exploitative child labour will not significantly influence children's academic performance is therefore rejected. Consequently, exploitative child labour significantly influence children's academic performance.

Discussion of Results

This study investigated the Influence of exploitative child labour practices on children's academic performance in Ilorin West LGA Kwara State. The demographic distribution shows that 68(45.3%) male and 82(54.7%) females participated in the study. The findings revealed that 115(76.7%) are living with their parents and 35(23.3%) are not living with their parents. The bio-data of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were children between the age of 9-11years 87(58.0%), which is disagree with Isah (2013) whose majority of her respondents were between age of 8-10years (63%) referred to them of being regular to school.

Result of the findings in research questions one revealed that factors influencing involvement in child labour include - inability of parents to pay school fees ($\overline{x}$=2.79) 59.4%, and ($\overline{x}$= 2.79)89% said that to assist parent because of family low income. This agrees with Bhat and Rather (2009), decisions about child labour and schooling are generally made by parents. If the family live below the poverty line, parents see children as part of contributor in their family income.

Result of the findings in research questions two revealed that types of child labour include – working before going to school where most of the respondents choose always ($\overline{x}$=3.39) 95%. Likewise ($\overline{x}$=2.56) 42% respondents cook before leaving home in the morning. Since the majority of respondents took part in domestic work before going to school, there will be possibility of not taken part in some activities in the school likewise in the class room. And this agrees with the findings of Derby (2012) who states that child domestic work is also referred to

as child domestic servitude. If children are working 12-14 hours a day along with their parents at the cost of their education, their situation is similar to that of children working for other employers. In fact children, particularly girls, are expected to take on work burdens by parents in complete disproportion to their strengths and abilities. This is the largest category of children who are out- of -school and are working full time.

Result on level of child labour practices in research question three Ilorin West Local Government revealed that out of the 150 pupils 25 (16.7%) were never involved in exploitative child labour, 88 (58.7%) were sometimes involved in exploitative child labour, while 37(24.7%) were always involved in exploitative child labour. This is in line with the report of Yap (2003), who pointed out that a child who attends school more frequently may influence the amount of knowledge he or she gains. However, the more the school attendance the less time a child has on labour activities. Academic performance shown the level of a child academic knowledge after the result of each term is received.

Result on Influence of child labour on children's academic performance in research question four revealed that it prevents participation school's activities ($\overline{x}$=2.75), which means it has a negative impact on academic performance. Whereas result of "it has nothing to do with academic performance" is ($\overline{x}$=2.66) which disagree with Okpechi (2014), who states that if parent have to pay for costs of books and materials, then working may actually facilitate access to education. Interaction with students of low academic performance shows that most of them came from poor or broken homes with little or no means of livelihood; hence they need to fend for themselves. This exposes them to psychological and emotional Instability.
Result of the hypothesis shows high influence of Exploitative child labour on children's academic performance ($p<0.05$). This agrees with Isah(2013) whose study discovered that when children are left to work and at the same time go to school, they will always perform poorly in school and therefore not be able to acquire the quality education they need for productivity in future.

Likewise using their grade scores in Mathematics, English Language and Social Studies, the following was observed: of the 150 pupils, 25(16.7%) were never involved in exploitative child labour, 88(58.7%) were sometimes involved in exploitative child labour, while 37(24.7%) were always involved in exploitative child labour; of the 150 pupils, 50 (33.3%) had 70-100 % in the summary of subjects scores examined; 69(46.0%) had 60-69%, 25(16.7%) had 50-59, 4(2.7%) had 45-49% and 2(1.3) had 40-44% respectively. This result implied that exploitative child labour has influence on the children academic performance but the effect is not significant.

The respondents agreed that "exploitative child labour" prevents participation in school activities ($\overline{x}$=2.75) 36% and it has nothing to do with academic performance ($\overline{x}$=2.66) 30%. They however disagreed that they do not lack concentration in the class ($\overline{x}$=48.7) 73% and disagreed that it causes absence in school ($\overline{x}$=44.0) 66% or results into lateness to school ($\overline{x}$=37.3) 56% and

disagreed that it led to sleeping in class ($\overline{x}$=47.3) 71%. Likewise, this disagree with Senbet (2010) who observed that academic performance is for a pupil or student to be successful in his or her academic performance, the pupil has to be regular in school, face learning problems squarely, avoid late coming to school and he or she should consult with the teacher.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the study concludes that exploitative child labour has influence on children's academic performance but it has no effect on their ability to cope with the class work or concentration in class, absence in school, lateness to school and sleeping in class. This may probably be, because apart from exploitative child labour there are other factors that influence academic performance such as divorce, emotional problem, starvation, lack of proper care etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings of the study the following recommendations were made,

1. Parents should stop involvement of their children in any kinds of exploitative child labour.
2. Parents should fend for their family needs and manage their resources among the family members.
3. Each child in a family should have freedom to education and the Government Organizations and Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) should create more awareness to parents who are ignorant to value education than using their children in exchange for money.
4. Class teachers and head of teachers should also enlighten the children more about the importance of education and the effect of exploitative child labour.
5. Government Organizations can also help parents by employing them and paying them with allowances that can be used to cater for their family needs.
6. Government/parents should develop strategies to reduce or eradicate child labour activities. For example, government should enact a law to permanently ban underage recruitment.

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