

Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology

10(3): 1-11, 2016; Article no.AJAEES.21644 ISSN: 2320-7027



SCIENCEDOMAIN international

www.sciencedomain.org

Perception of Nigerian Cocoa Farmers on Child Labour: Implications for Hazardous Child Labour

O. A. Williams^{1*}, B. S. Famuyiwa¹ and I. F. Abdulkarim¹

¹Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Nigeria.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author OAW designed the study, wrote the introductory and discussion part, summary and recommendation, wrote the protocol and supervised the work, where authors BSF and IFA edited the write-up. Author BSF performed the statistical analysis. Authors OAW and BSF edited and managed the analyses of the study. Author OAW wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author OAW managed the literature searches. Authors OAW, BSF and IFA edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2016/21644

Editor(s

(1) Jamal Alrusheidat, Assistant and Consultant to Director General for Extension Education, Director of Extension Education

Department, National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE), Amman, Jordan.

Reviewers:

(1) Burhan Ozkan, Akdeniz University, Turkey.

(2) R. Kirby Barrick, University of Florida, USA.

(3) Mikemina Pilo, University of Kara, Togo.

(4) Ender Durualp, Ankara University, Turkey.

Complete Peer review History: http://sciencedomain.org/review-history/13992

Original Research Article

Received 27th August 2015 Accepted 27th November 2015 Published 4th April 2016

ABSTRACT

This paper investigated perception of Nigerian cocoa farmers on Hazardous Child Labour. More importantly, in accordance with International Labour Organisation Child Labour Convention. Accidents, exposure to chemicals, bacteria or viral infection, ergonomically inappropriate tools, child molestation, minimum age requirement, awkward posture, and poor academic performance were identified as farm hazards. Multistage sampling technique was used for the methodology, the selection of study areas, Ondo and Cross-River states was purposive and 240 respondents were randomly selected. Information were solicited by issuance of questionnaires and interview schedule. Data were analysed using percentage, mean, frequency counts, standard deviation, pie chart, bar chart and correlation analysis. The study revealed a mean age of 45.32±8 years and 66.67% of the farmers, who employed children between 5-17 years of which 80% of them were attending secondary schools as labourers. Cocoa farmers (63%) had one form of education which

is an indication of being able to read and write. Almost half of the respondents (49.58%) attested that, they can call upon these children, to work at any time on their cocoa farms. Respondents (60.40%) employed only family labour for their farming activities. Population of 50.80% of the respondents held the view that, child labour was part of socialization and 52.50% saw it as a way of building children up for future. Farmers (55.80%) reported that, child labour was a source of cheap labour and 82.50% of respondents had worked on the farm as labourer during their growing up years. It was revealed that, majority of farmers have high awareness and knowledge on hazardous child labour based on the listed farm hazards, however their practice also was high. Correlation analysis showed that, there was positive and significant relationship between perception and practice of hazardous child labor, r = 0.628** (P≤0.01) which indicated that, majority of respondents are still in the practice of exposing children labourers to hazards. It was concluded that, cocoa farmers should change their perception on hazardous child labour, as it negatively affects the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of a children. Furthermore, awareness should be created to educate farmers in the study areas, on definition and why hazardous child labour should be eliminated. This will contributes to households breaking out of the cycle of poverty and the country to advance in human development.

Keywords: Perception; child labour; hazardous; cocoa farmers and Nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Conventions on the right of the child in 1989, defines child as anyone under the age of 18 and affirms the right of the child, to be protected from economic exploitation and any work likely to be hazardous or to interfere, with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. In the same vein, Hazardous Child Labour (HCL) can be referred to as work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions, that, could result in child being killed or injured (often permanently), and or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements [1].

Safety and health in Agriculture convention, makes specific reference to young workers and hazardous work that the minimum of age for assignment to work in Agriculture, which by the nature or to circumstances, in which it is carried out is likely to harm the safety and health of young persons shall not be less than 18 years [2]. Furthermore, after consultation with the representative organizations of employers and workers concerned, authorize the performance of hazardous work as from 16 years of age, on condition that appropriate prior training is given and the safety and health of the young workers are fully protected. However, despite large social reform that had been generated around the issue, more than 200 million children worldwide are still in child labour and a staggering 115 million at least are subject to its worst forms, from 5 - 17 years of which 70 percent are working in agriculture [3,4].

Child labour is common in the agricultural sector and widespread in countries where cocoa is grown [5,4]. Agriculture is the most common child occupation worldwide, and employs more working children than any other sector. [6] declared that, children as young as six years old work on cocoa farms are under extremely hazardous conditions. Despite the hazards, agriculture is one of the less-regulated sectors and it is among the sectors where the existent laws are very difficult to enforce [7]. [8] opined that, Agriculture remains by far the most important sector, where child labourers can be found. The extent to which, agriculture work is harmful to children depends on type of work they do, number of hours they work, their age and access to education. However, children are physiologically immature, they have risk-taking behavior with greater willingness to go extra mile without realizing the impact of hazards. Also, children learn poor health and safety behavior from adult and in terms of organization and rights, they are virtually powerless. In Nigeria, children are expected to work, learn trade or help to provide for their families, irrespective of the hazards. The prevailing view among cocoa farmers in Nigeria, appears to be that, many aspects of child labour can be described as part of the child's socialization process, to equip the child to assume eventual adult roles and to take over properties, including cocoa farms of their parents. The concepts are held not only by the families, but also by the children themselves [9]. One of the reason, we do not feel the full brunt of hazardous work of children is, because of lack of data and reports on the accident of injuries that result from the work. Unlike developed countries. which have data on injuries and illnesses on

children in hazardous work. Young workers are at least, 50% more likely to be hurt at work than older people and more likely to suffer from an occupational illness [10].

The International Labour Organization (ILO). declaration on fundamental principle and rights at work, shows that child labour continues to decline worldwide, but, at a much slower pace than before. There are clear signs of progress, but also disconcerting gaps in the global response [4]. ILO governing body set 2016, as the target for when its 183 members state in which Nigeria is among, should have freed themselves from the worst forms of child's labor [4]. Almost two years towards the date, if current trends continue the 2016 target may not be reached. Director, UNICEF-Nigeria recently declared in 2015 that, about 10.5 million Nigeria children are out of school [11]. Several studies had been carried out on perception on child labour, for instance, [12] carried out a study on perception and practice of child labour, among parents of school-aged children, in Ibadan South-West Nigeria, but little has been done on the perception of cocoa farmers on hazardous child labour in Nigeria.

In view of the foregoing, therefore there is need for a concise perception study among the farmers in cocoa growing areas, on what is termed as hazardous child labour and their perceptional orientation towards the issue, as stated by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This will now give a poser to solving the problem, associated with non-conformers of the ILO regulations. It could provide baseline information, for implementing a regulation against hazardous child labour. Often than not, health problems caused by working as child labourer, may not show up until they become adults.

1.1 Broad Objective

To determine the perception of Nigerian cocoa farmers on hazardous child labour

1.1.1 Objectives

- To identify socio-economic characteristics of cocoa farmers in the study areas.
- To identify the perception of cocoa farmers towards hazardous child labour.
- To identify the awareness, knowledge and practice of cocoa farmers towards

hazardous child labour with regards to farm hazards

1.1.2 Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between the perception of cocoa farmers on hazardous child labour and their practice in the study areas.

2. METHODOLOGY

Multistage random sampling methods were used in selecting respondents:

- Stage 1: The study was purposely carried out in the two highest cocoa producing states in Nigeria, namely Ondo and Cross-River. The classification is based on CRIN cocoa survey [13].
- Stage 2: In each state, 3 highest cocoa producing Local Government Areas were purposively selected. In Ondo state, the following local government areas were selected: Idanre, Irele and Odigbo. In Cross- River state, the following local government was selected: Boki, Ikom and Etung respectively.
- Stage 3: In each local government area, one highest cocoa producing community was randomly selected Idanre (Owena), Irele (Ajue) and Odigbo (odigbo); Boki (Orimekpang), Ikom (Grass Field) and Etung (Effraya)
- Stage 4: In each community, 40 respondents were randomly selected and interviewed. Thus, giving rise to (6 communities and 40 respondents), the total number of 240 cocoa farmers.

2.1 Statistical Analysis

The data were analysed with both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics used are frequency counts, mean, standard deviation, pie chat and bar chart while the inferential statistics used for testing the hypotheses was correlation analysis.

3. MAJOR FINDINGS

3.1 Socio-economic Characteristics

In a study of [14], that 80% of cocoa farmers are smallholder, in Table 1, majority, (71.25%) were between the ages 31-50 with mean age of

(x=45.32±8.04). This implies that, most farmers are in the middle age group, active on the farms and can still perform farming activities effectively, expected to be knowledgeable on hazardous child labor. However majority (62.20%) were male while female were (30.80%), Cocoa is a crash crop and as dominated by men, but women are involved as wives of cocoa growers, cocoa farm owners, daily labour and cooperative workers [15]. Over 90% were married and more than half of the respondents (51.67%) were into polygamy. This support the study of [16] that men often show off their wealth and have more hands in farm labour, by number of wives and

children they have. Consequently, 66.67% of the farmers employed children between 5-17 years as labourers and it is in line with the International Labour Organization which estimated that 215 million children between the ages of 5-17, out of which 65million (30%) live in sub-Sahara Africa, currently work under condition that are considered illegal, hazardous, or extremely exploitative [4]. [17] declared that, child workers were estimated at about 15 million. Majority of these children (80%) were attending secondary schools and almost half of the respondents (49.58%) attested that, they can call upon these children to come and work at any time on their

Table 1. Respondents socio-economic characteristics

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Std. Dev	
1.	Age					
	21-30	10	4.17	42.32	8.04	
	31-40	79	32.92			
	41-50	92	38.33			
	51-60	59	24.58			
2.	Sex					
	Male	166	69.20			
	Female	74	30.80			
3.	Ethnic group					
	Yoruba	94	39.20			
	Ibo	7	2.90			
	Efik	72	30.00			
	Ibibio	38	15.80			
	Other	29	12.10			
4.	Marital status					
	Married	216	90.00			
	Divorced	9	3.75			
	Widowed	15	6.25			
5.	Family system					
	Monogamy	116	48.33			
	Polygamy	124	51.67			
6.	Farm size (Hectare)					
	1 – 10	204	85.00	7.26	3.47	
	11 – 20	36	15.00			
7.	Labourers' age					
	5-17	160	66.67			
	18 & above	80	33.33			
8.	School levels					
	Primary	30	12.50			
	Secondary	192	80.00			
	Tertiary	18	7.50			
9.	Time of work					
0.	Before school	20	8.34			
	After school	101	42.08			
	Anytime	119	49.58			
10.	Reason for work					
	They are labourers	102	42.50			
	They need money	138	57.50			

Source: Field survey, 2014

cocoa farms. This could be linked to the quality of educational services, for example, types of school, accessibility, number of students in class (which should serve as an encouragement), skill level of the teachers, teachers' absenteeism, and cost to attend school as well as potent outcomes of education and the 'educated' in their communities. More than half of these children (57.50%) labourers needed money to assist their families. Under age children work all sorts of jobs around the world, usually because they and their parents are extremely poor [18]. [19] opined that, agriculture is the most common child occupation worldwide, where more children were employed and the activity is consistently ranked among the most hazardous industry, for mortality and morbidity. Despite its hazards, Agriculture is one of the less regulated sectors where the existent laws are very difficult to enforce [7].

3.2 Respondents' Level of Education

Data in Figure 1 revealed the level of education for cocoa farmers in the study areas, about 30% of the respondents did not have formal education, while majority (63%) had one form of education which is an indication of being able to read and write (they have completed either primary or secondary school education). However, only 7% furthered their education to complete tertiary level. This indicated that, the level of education among cocoa farmers was moderate, however, ability to read and write might help to increase their knowledge. [20] indicated that, parental education plays a large role in determining child schooling and employment.

3.3 Types of Labour Employed by Respondents

Figure 2 showed that, majority of the respondents (60.40%) in the study areas, employed only family labour for their farming activities. Farmers (27.50%) use both family and hired labour while only12.10% employed only hired labour. This is in line with the studies of [21] and [22] that average farms have five workers, and four or five are the farmer's family members in addition, United States Department of States estimated that, there are over 109,000 child labours working in hazardous conditions on cocoa farms, some of whom are forced or indentured workers, but most on family farms or with their parents [23]. In this study, 85% of the cocoa farmers' farm sizes were of the range

between 1-10 hectares and [15] affirmed that, cocoa is produced by some 400,000 small holder farmers in South-West and South-South region of the Nigeria. Most cocoa is grown on small farms, cocoa bean production is labour intensive and overwhelming a family enterprise [1]. The regular practice of children working on cocoa farms, is often a natural way of life for cocoa farmers who, for a variety of reasons, want to train their children and at the same time use them in order to reduce labour costs on the family's farm [24], this may be the reason for the eagerness shown by children, to work at the detriment of their health and school in order to be adjudged competent or hardworking by their parents.

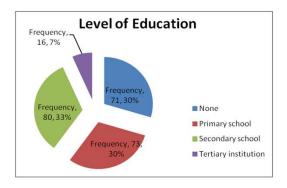


Figure 1. Showing of respondents' level of education

Source: Field survey, 2014

This can, in turn, deprive their children of the chance to develop, advance themselves and so entrenches the household's impoverishment for subsequent generations. This study showed that. most of the respondents employed labourers within their family structure. However, this does not prevent them from being exposed to hazards. and, beyond these situations, illegal and exploitative practices do also exist. Children who supposed to be in school, assist parents on their cocoa farms, usually outside school hours; but they sometimes skip classes to accompany their parents to the farms, especially, during the peak farming season or harvesting periods. [24] stated that, these children are kept out of school, because families need their help on the farms and 12-hour workdays [25] make it difficult to attend school. [26] disclosed that, a higher prevalence rate of child labour was observed, among children living with parents and relations than among those living with unrelated guardians.

3.4 Respondents' Perception on Hazardous Child Labour: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided U, Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

Perception is the representation of what is perceived or a way of conceiving something, in Table 2, likert type was used to elicit information from the respondents, based on their perception towards hazardous child labour. Cocoa farmers (42%) were undecided whether hazardous child labour is not good while only 21.3% believed that it is not good. This implies that, they cannot categorically classify hazardous child labour as either good or bad, due to the socio-cultural factor that influences their perception, to view hazardous child labour as an act of training up a child to be responsible adults in future. However the dangers outweighs its advantages.

Half of the respondents (50.8%) disagreed with the statement that children are not equal to the task, from indication, the respondents believed that children irrespective of their age, are equal to the types of work carried out on the farm. There are limits to the work a child (especially, between the ages of 5-17years) can perform on farm and there are many disadvantages for a child to start work at an early age. [27] stated that children who undertake adult work tasks, do not possess the physical and mental capacity that these jobs call for, and their work is usually done less efficiently than if it were performed by an adult.

Although, respondents of 41.8% agreed that children should be in school, they understand the

importance of education to every child; despite this belief, they still perceived child labour as part of socialization (50.8%) and act of building children up for the future (52.5%). This will definitely have a detrimental effect on children' education, because of the respondents' general perception that child labour is a way of building children up for future responsibilities. There is bound to be a clash of interest between education and farm labour. Every child should have a childhood, where they play and to be educated to better their future. Child labour causes not only loss of formal education and human capital, but also the lack of social and cognitive skills and increased health hazards [28]. In a survey conducted in Pakistan, it was documented that parents pushed their children to work at an early age, so that they could avoid the dangers of vagrancy [29].

In the same vein, 55.8% of respondents observed that, employing children as labourers is a source of cheap labour, when compared with adults who has fully known their rights, but in case of children, they accept any type of work, with little or no payment. Children are the most subordinate and cheapest form of labour, thus highly attractive to some types of employer [30]. [28] opined that, the world of work seems to pull children, because they are very cheap and obedient, can be easily exploited, do certain things more efficiently and effectively which adults fail to do. Children are among the most vulnerable, powerless and continue to be exploited as part of a downward push on costs and a rapid withering of decent, formal employment [31].

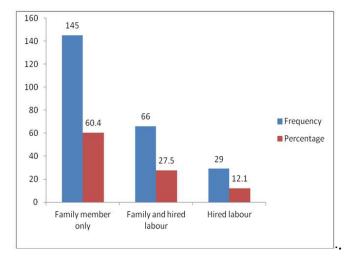


Figure 2. Showing types of labour employed by respondents

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 2. Distribution of respondents' perception on hazardous child labour

Variables	SA	Α	U	D	SD
It is not good					
F	51	23	103	33	30
%	21.3	9.6	42.9	13.8	12.5
Children not equal to the task					
F	30	32	-	122	56
%	13.3	12.5	-	50.8	23.0
Children should be in school					
F	102	66	-	36	36
%	41.8	27.0	-	14.8	14.8
It is part of socialization					
F	122	76	-	34	2
%	50.8	31.1	-	14.2	0.8
It is not their responsibly					
F	35	38	-	106	52
%	14.6	15.6	-	44.2	21.3
Build them up for future					
F	128	84	-	28	-
%	52.5	34.4	-	11.7	-
Source of cheap labour					
F	134	74	-	32	-
%	55.8	30.8	-	13.3	-
This is how I started					
F	198	22	-	20	-
_ %	82.5	9.2		8.3	-

Source: Field study 2014

Table 3. Distribution of respondents' scores of Awareness, Knowledge and Practice on types of farm hazards

S/N	Variables	Awareness	Knowledge	Practice%
		%	%	
1	Accidents, falls, trip, fracture and deformities	53.41	56.50	65.73
2	Chemicals and pesticides	43.67	41.41	56.21
3	Bacteria/viral infections from animals and sharp	68.91	67.17	58.34
	objects			
4	Impaired growth (inadequate sleep/heavy loads)	50.11	56.08	61.13
5	Inappropriate tools	59.67	54.00	71.56
6.	Rape/molestation of children especially females	66.11	64.00	60.57
7.	Minimum age requirement	60.21	55.16	66.67
8.	Awkward posture	57.66	54.19	59.77
9.	Poor academic performance	50.15	45.14	49.58

Source: Field study 2014

Majority (82.5%) affirmed that, they have been employed as child labourers before and as a matter of fact, that was how they started in life. This has a great influenced on their perception due to the fact that, the respondents saw child labour as a way of life. They believed that, early exposure of children to farming activities could be positive, as it contributes to the intergenerational transfer of technical and social skills. Children's skills are attributes that is often detected in young people. In line with the study of [9], that this notion has been inculcated into

children as well; as a way to equip them to assume adult role towards future preparation.

In the studies of [32]; [33] that, knowledge does not always equal to practice, proper articulation of innovation is as a result of knowledge created, accumulated, shared, used and valued. It may be adduced that, the gap between the awareness, knowledge and practiced may be explained by subjective norms; which may include economic, domestic, and social deprivation embedded in the culture. Results in Table 3 showed that,

respondents admitted having some form of awareness and knowledge, these could be attributed to the relentless effort of extension and other concerned agents on campaign against child labour. Despite their high awareness and knowledge on the above mentioned hazards: majority 65.73% attested that, children labourers have been affected by one form of farm accidents or another (such as falls, trips, wounds and fracture). This implies that, cocoa farmers in the study areas are in the practice, capable of predisposing children to temporary or permanent deformity. According to [34], farm accidents claim as many as 300 children's lives per year and 23,500 suffer nonfatal injuries. The findings of [35] corroborated that, these injuries generally result in bruise and fracture.

Inappropriate tools, exposure to chemicals and infections as a result of some poisonous animals, cocoa farmers of (56.21%) did not guided these children, who work as labourers on their farms against these farm hazards. This findings supports the study of [36] which stated, that workers use primitive tools, travel great distances and are exposed to pesticide and chemicals poisonous and disease-carrying fertilizers. insects and reptiles. [37] observed that, longterm pesticides exposure at low levels, has been associated with chronic health problems, in children such as cancer, skin and respiratory problems. Children are exposed to these hazards, with little or no provision for protective equipment, first aid and general hygiene [38].

The study further shows that, about 68% of cocoa farmers, have awareness and knowledge on dangers associated with bacterial and viral infections children may be exposed to, while working on the farm as labourers. Only (58.84%) farmers disclosed that, the children labourers have handled sharp objects on cocoa farms. This practice can predispose them to having lacerations, if not treated immediately, they can be predisposed to bacterial and viral infections which exposes them to HIV/AIDS infection. [8]

stated that, about 78% of children aged 7 - 10 years extracted seeds, a task that typically requires the use of sharp objects that cause injury and potential for bacterial and viral infections, such as HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, 60.57% of respondents revealed that female children labourers have been molested or raped on farms, which was capable of having negative on the victims, physically psychologically with traumatic feelings, HIV/AIDS and even death. This was supported by the study of [39] that, 15.4% female in child labour had committed induced abortion at least twice, had been pregnant without knowing who is responsible, had experienced and suffered rape and also contacted sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including AIDS.

Percentage of 59.77 respondents, reported that, children were saddled with heavy loads, bended for long time on farm. Majority (61.13%) of cocoa farmers attested that children woke up earlier to work on farms (inadequate sleep). This could impact negatively on the children's growth. Childhood is a part of human life, in which, a child enjoys pampering and parents love. [37] associated slower growth, immaturity of sex organs and reproductive health problems to early exposure of a child to hazardous labour. [40] emphasized that, children are also exposed to strenuous labour ,like carrying load and working in an uncomfortable posture, such as stooping in the same position or bending very frequently and repetitive-motion trauma, which could affect the musculoskeletal development of the children. [41]. [22] observed that, children may suffer long term injuries to their skeleton and muscles.

Poor academic performance is one of the major challenges, facing children labourers in the study areas, as 49.58% of the respondents have interrupted these children's education with farm work. This implies that, majority of respondents still keep these children out of school, by employing them at any given time, irrespective of school hours. [42] stated that, child labour affects

Table 4. Correlation analysis between perception and practice of farmers on hazardous child labour

Variable	Pearson correlation coefficient r	Coefficient of determination r ²	Precision	Percentage
Perception	0.628**	0.394	000	39.44

Source: Field study 2014.
**Correlation significant at 0.01 level

the education performance, ambitions and attainment of children's careers; they are usually tired and absent-minded and therefore, perform poorly and eventually drop out of school. Child labour is an important global issue associated with poverty, culture and norms, inadequate educational opportunities and a range of health risks [43].

Majority of farmers (66.67%), were in the practice of employing underage children for farm labours. Despite their high awareness and knowledge on minimum age range, employable as stated by International Labour organization, (ILO). Cultural norms and tradition, has influenced the attitude towards children's contribution to the family income, either as labourer or with their parents. Early exposure of children to labour, often denied them of memorable childhood moments, rather, they are exposed to the hardships of life. [4] emphasized that, 70% of children between the age range of 5-17 are working in agriculture, also [6] declared that, children as young as six years old work on cocoa farms, under extremely hazardous conditions. In addition, employing underage children could further perpetuate noncompliance, due to the fact that, children labourers have been identified as source of cheap labour. This is in line with the study of [44] that, children are often preferred to adults as farm labour because they provided a cheap alternative.

This indicated that, perception of cocoa farmers towards hazardous child labour, is significant and positively related to their practices in the study areas. The strength of the relationship is 39.44% at P<0.01. This implies that, there was positive relationship between the variables. Increase in their perception on hazardous child labour influences the practices towards it, this can be deduced from table 4 above, where high percentage of respondents, were still practicing hazardous child labour and not protecting children, who were working as labourers on their farms, against the identified farm hazards. The study of [45] supported this findings that, rigidity in teacher's perception and underestimation of potential, have the most devastating effect on students practice. This means that perception influences practice.

4. CONCLUSION

The findings clearly illustrated that, majority 71.25% of the cocoa farmers in the study areas, were actively involved in farming activities. Their

ability to read and write, was responsible for their high level of awareness and knowledge on hazardous child labour. However, it was revealed that, Nigerian culture, especially in the cocoa producing areas (study areas), have made the farmers to view child labour, as an act of building a child up for the future. This explained majority 60.40% of cocoa farmers, who employed only family labour for their farming activities, where majority of the labourers (66.67%) were between the age ranges of 5-17 years (school age). This affects their education because, majority of these children (80.00%) were in secondary school; 49.58% of the respondents, can call these children to work at any time. Majority of respondents, have high awareness and knowledge on hazardous child labour, however, their practice toward it was high. Furthermore, it was revealed that respondents' perception on hazardous child labour, influences their practice. Children are physically and mentally different from adults, regardless of cultural perception or social construct. This is basis for the argument and rationale against hazardous work of children, why it requires immediate action, more especially, as ILO (International Labour Organization) governing body set 2016 as the target, for when its 183 members state, in which Nigeria is among, should have freed themselves from the worst forms of child labor.

5. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study, it is therefore recommended that:

- Public enlightenment and continuous awareness creation should be put in place, by extension agents, to educate farmers on how to protect and guide children against farm hazards.
- Nigerian Agricultural sector should have a legalized regulating body, named "War Hazardous Child Labour" Against (WAHCL) under the auspices of Federal Ministry of Agriculture of Nigeria. Frequent visiting and proper monitoring by extension collaboration with officers. in enforcement agents, to provide information for farmers on hazards in child labour and possible penalties for breaches of such legislation.
- The opinion and socio-cultural needs of the concerned groups (the children, farmers and lawmakers) should be determined, before the drafting and then adoption of the proposed legislation (WAHCL).

- Compulsory Universal Basic Education (UBE), should remain a priority in Nigerian System of Government. This will enable children to be in school and know their rights.
- The government should include, child labour hazards within National school curriculums, also school teachers should be trained along the line, to disseminate information about hazardous child labour effectively to their students.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

REFERENCES

- International Labour Office. Combating trafficking in children for labour exploitation in West and Central Africa Geneva: ILO; 2001.
- Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention. International Labour Organization Convention; 2001.
- 3. International Labour Office. World Economic Outlook Washington, DC; 2008.
- 4. International Labour Office. Recommendation HIV and AIDS and the World of Work. (No. 200) ISBN: 978-92-2-123819-5, Geneva; 2010.
- 5. International Labour Office. A future without child labour. Geneva: ILO; 2002.
- International Labour Office. Hard to see, harder to count: Survey guidelines to estimate forced labour of adults and children. Geneva: 2012.
- Committee on the Health and Safety Implications of Child Labor. Protecting Youth at Work: Health, Safety and Development of Working Children and Adolescents in the United States. Washington, DC: National Press; 1998.
- 8. International Labour Organization-International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC). Making progress against child labour-global estimates and trends 2000-2012; 2013.
 - Available: http://www.ilo.org/public//English//standards/ipec/themes/cocoa/dowmload/2005_02_cl_cocoa.pdf.
 - (Accessed on 5th July 2012)
- Integrated System of Social Indicator of Ecuador (SIISE). Bulletin index no 1. Quito, February 2001; 2002.

- 10. Morbidity Weekly Report. Occupational injuries and younger workers-united states. 1998-2007. 2010;59(15):449-445.
- Nigerian Observer. Child labour in Nigeria. Spreading the Word, Saving the Child; 2015.
- Omokhodion FO, Uchendu OC. Perception and practice of child labour among parents of school-aged children in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria. Home/Child: Care, Health and Development. 2010;36(3):304-308.
- National Cocoa Development Committee (NCDC).Cocoa Production Survey Final Report Submitted to the by Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) Ibadan, Nigeria; 2007.
- Onosanya AS. Perceived effect of farming–related health problems of farmers' productivity in Yewa-North area of Ogun State. Nigeria. Medwell Journals. The Social Sciences. 2009;4(1):42-48.
- Adeola OO, Olawoye JE. Market access for small cocoa farmers in Nigeria: What options? University of Ibadan. Ibadan. (Practical Publication). 2014;4.
- Omoyibo KU, Egharevba EM, Iyanda OE. The position and empowerment of women in Rural Nigeria: The gender implication. Journal of Gender and Behavioral. 2010:8:2.
- United Nations International Children's Fund. Information sheet- Child Labour in Nigeria; 2006.
- United Nation Educational and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Reaching the Marginalized. UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report; 2010.
- Cooper SP, Rothstein MA. Health Hazards among working children in Texas. South Medical Journal. 1995;8(5):550-554.
- Tienda M. Economic activity of children in Peru: Labour force behaviour in rural and urban contexts: Rural Sociology. 1979;44: 370-391.
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector of West Africa: A Synthesis of Findings in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria (Croydon, UK: IITA); 2002.
- United Nations Children's Education Fund. Cote d'Ivore: Protecting children against the worst forms of child labour and trafficking. Abidjan: UNICEF (provided by UNICEF); 2010.
- United State Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for

- 2002: Côte d'Ivoire (Washington, DC: USDOS). 2003;19-22.
- International Cocoa Initiative. Child Labour in Cocoa, Annual Report and Leaflet design. ICI Foundation. Activate Media. Switzerland: 2014.
- Hawksley H. "Child Cocoa Workers still 'exploited". BBC News. Retrieved 4 August 2007.
- International Labour Office. HIV/AIDS and Work in a globalizing World. ILO program on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. Switzerland SRO; 2005.
- 27. Fetuga BM. Prevalence, types and demographic features of child labour among school children in Nigeria. Biomed Central, International Health and Human Rights. 2005;5:2.
- Lavalette M. Child employment in the capitalist labour. Ashgate Publishing, Aldershot. 1994;308.
- 29. Herath G, Sharma K. Child labour in South Asia, Ashgate Publishing, U.K; 2007.
- 30. Department of Labour; 1999. Available: www.dol.go
- 31. Fyfe A. Child labour. Oxford: Polity Press; 1989.
- Solidarity Center. Justice for All: the Struggle for Worker Rights in Guatemala.
 1SBN 0-97615518-1-4. United State of America; 2008.
- Badcock-walters P, Kelly M, Gorgenes M. Does knowledge equal change? HIV/AIDS Education and Behaviour Change. 2004;3.
- 34. Asenso-Okyere K, Davis K. Knowledge and innovation for agricultural development. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); 2009.

 Available: www.ifpri.org/pubs/bp/bp0011.as
 p
- 35. Rivara FP. Fatal and nonfatal injuries to children and adolescents in the United State: America Academy of Pediatrics. 1985;76(4):567-573.

- Hoskin AF, Miller TA, Hanford WD, Lander SR. Occupational injuries in agriculture: A35 State Summary. NIOSH Contract Report No. DSR-87-0942. Morgantown. WV: National Institute for Occupational Safety Health; 1988.
- Save the Children Canada. Children still in the chocolate trade: The buying, selling and toiling of West African Child Workers in the Multibillion Dollar Industry (Toronto: Save the Children Canada). 2003;19-22.
- Max JE. Putamen lesion and the development of attention-deficit/ hyperactivity symptomatology. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. 2002;41:563-571.
- ILO/Nippierd A, Gros-Louis S, Vandenberg P. Employers and child labour. Guide 1: Introduction to the Issue of Child Labour (Geneva). International Labour Office; 2007.
- Osinowo AO. Street children and psychomedical consequences. African Journal of Medicine. 1996;2:21.
- International Labour Office. Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right at Work and its follow-up. International Labour Conference, 86th Session, Geneva; 1998.
- 42. Berlan A. Child Labor in Cocoa: whose voices prevail? The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy. 2009;29(3/4): 141-151. Cambridge.
- 43. Walakira EJ. Child labour in Uganda's urban informal sector: The perceptions and work practices of employers. Abuja Journal of Sociology. 2004;2(1):67-80.
- Parker A, Schulz AJ, Israel BA, Hollis R. Eastside village health worker partnership: Community-based health advisor intervention in an urban area. Health Education and Behaviour. 1997:25:24-45.
- 45. Ferguson RF. Teachers' perception and expectations and the black-white test score gap. Urban Education. 2003;38(4): 460-507.

© 2016 Williams et al.; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Peer-review history:
The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
http://sciencedomain.org/review-history/13992