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Determinants of Child Working Hours in Labour Market: A Case Study of Bauchi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Child labour dispossesses children of their childhood's potentials, dignity and detrimental to their physical, health and mental developments. In Sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria, the children exploitation is prevalent. This study explore how much hours per day the children have to work using a case of labour market of Bauchi state, Nigeria. Further, we investigate factors influencing the number of children working hours. Purposive sampling method was used in selecting four local government areas (LGAs) and three wards from each LGA from which 20 randomly selected working children were administered. The final sample consists of 240 working children from the study area. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and multiple linear regression model. The result revealed that children spend between 4 and 35 hours per week working, with a mean of 20.8 hours per week. Majority (58.3 %) of the working children fell within the age range of 6–11, furthermore, majority (55.4 %) of the children are into street hawking. The regression result shows that age, household size, poverty level, low wage, being male, child of unemployed parent statistically significantly affected the increase in the child working hours., male child spends more working hours. While, living with parent, one parent employed, conflict or wars and compulsory education reduce child working hours. As the study found out that in particular children not living with their parents are endangered by engaging in activities that hinder proper development in their health, education and mental development. Hence, we recommend the policy support of those children protection and education.

Keywords: Bauchi state, child labour, labour market, Nigeria