ANALYZING CHILD LABOUR IN NIGERIA AND ITS EFFECT ON THE SOCIETY[1]: LEGAL PERSPECTIVE.

Abstract

Child Labour is a vicious practice that affects a majority of children worldwide. This is the exploitation, use & employment (paid or unpaid) of children for a wide range of work activities. Statistics has shown that an estimated number of 43 per cent of Nigerian children aged between five and 11 years are involved in economic activities, including exposing them to hazardous situations or stopping them from going to school." This is a violation of the rights of children and has a negative effect on the mental, physical & educational growth of the child. Meanwhile Domestic and international legislations contain provision for the protection of this rights of the children. This article is to explore and analyze the term and concept of child labour and its effect on the child, families and society. The authors has made recommendations that will be of help in the fight against child labour, as it is a global malaise that is negatively affecting the society.

Key words: Child Labour, Child's Rights, Child, Society, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

Child labour is a symptom of poor economies in a country with significant social inequalities. Eliminating it is not easy, as it means tackling poverty among families and increasing educational and social economics level of parents and the society. Child labour is much more common in rural areas than in urban communities. Child labour; in Nigeria has a grown mindset attached to the social cultural ideas, values and tradition cultivated through generations and passed down as social-cultural norm in most communities in Nigeria.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as work that deprives the child of his childhood potential and dignity or is harmful to his physical and mental development[2]. Child labour comes in various forms. It is the economic exploitation of children through hawking, road side begging,

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domestic help, farming, mining and others. This should be distinguished from children who help their family in household chores after school hours, and also children who under supervision learn some trades and handiwork as long it's not hazardous and doesn't interfere with their education, though the largest share of child labour takes place within families. Various legislations have been enacted to protect the rights of these children. Nigeria is a signatory to several International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and has domesticated several. Having regards to the relevant provisions of the international labour organization. ILO C. 138[3], it categorizes child labour as any form of work performed by children in any type of employment but with the exceptions of light work and any work that is not classified under the worst form of child labour particularly hazardous work for children above the general minimum working age. The effect of child labour on the society exposes the defect and abnormalities present in one's country that spans from social injustice, discrimination, poverty and the lack of strong legislation enforcement. To eradicate this plague termed child labour, more focus should be directed towards proper implementation of already existing policies and strong elementary awareness among the grassroots as to the dangers of child labour on the physical, emotional, mental and overall well-being of the child.

This paper aims to discuss and analyze the dangerous scourge of this types of "work" and the impact on the society, the causes and forms these practices takes shape and both the international and domestic approach in combating this societal ailment.

2. Concept Of Child Labour

The concept of Child labour has sparked numerous definitions. Child labour according to International Labour Organization, ILO (2005) is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It is the employment and exploitation of children for work to the detriment of their physical, mental and educational well-being & growth. UNICEF defines child labor as any type of work undertaken by a child. This is work that requires for which they are too young, compromising their health and wellbeing, robbing them of their play time and depriving them of education."[4]Black's law dictionary, defines Child Labour as the "the employment of workers under the age of maturity"[5]. In Nigeria the age of maturity is 18 years so by the definition, child labour is the employment of children below the age of 18. This is the use and exploitation of children particularly below the age of 16 in Hazardous occupations/employments. Child labour is frequently associated with children being out of school, by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy workload. This should not be mistaken with activities that assist in child development, such as helping around the house, doing chores, and assisting in the family business to earn extra money during the school holidays[6] Family-based child labour is frequently hazardous despite common perceptions of the family as offering a safer work environment.

A good understanding of issues relating to culture and traditions is important to understand how values such as respect, obedience and consent contribute to the persistence of child labour despite rights to

ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and work 1973 provides the age limit for admission to work

[4] Unicef Canada (https://www.unicef.ca/en/blog/ten-things-you-didnt-know-about-child-labour) assessed on the 01 Agust 2024

[5] Black Law Dictionary (11th Edition 2019) Pg 302

[6] E E Okafor – Child labor dynamics and implication for sustainable development in Nigeria (Volume 12, No.5.2010)

education[7]. The levels of practice of child Labour in Nigeria has been high and varies across regions. These children are mostly recruited from rural/ under-developed areas in Nigeria. The Northern region is said to be child labour endemic due to the "misapplication of the Almajiri system" s which is predominant and is tacitly supported by both religious and cultural inclinations. Consequently, the northern region is most affected by out-of-school children.[8] In the south-eastern and south-south geopolitical zones in Nigeria, many children drop out of school to work as domestic help. In the western zone, many children are majorly involved in street hawking and domestic help[9]. This is not peculiar to developing countries like Nigeria or Africa, but is a problem that exists even in developed countries.

3. Forms of Child Labour

Children in Nigeria are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and use in armed conflict as well as quarrying granite and artisanal mining[10]. A statement by the Director, Press and Public Relations at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment in Nigeria, Olajide Oshundun, in commemoration of the 2023 World Day against Child Labour (WDACL) estimated that over 43 per cent of Nigerian children aged between five and 11 years are involved in economic activities, including being engaged in the worst forms of Child Labour[11].Children are made to engage in exploits that is dangerous not to just their physical well-being but also their mental and emotional well-being, using children for various forms of labour such as domestic service, begging, street hawking, industrial work, construction, bus conducting, agricultural and hazardous activities that can cause physical injuries and moral corruption. According to UNICEF (2008) an estimated 218 million children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labour, excluding child domestic labour all over the world. Some 126 million of these children are believed to be engaged in hazardous situations or condition such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery during construction[12]. The consequences of child labour are such that cannot be mentioned without imagining the worst. This is not limited to child trafficking, sexual exploitation, and slavery, recruitment into armed conflict such as suicide bombing, drug trafficking and other illicit practices. This doesn't just hinder the growth of the child but also cuts short the life expectancy of these children who are exposed to such activities at a tender age and this can be linked to an introduction into criminal activities which births societal vices. These children as little as 4-7 years of age can also be found along motor parks and under bridges in urban areas clutching to the heels and dresses of passerby begging and are resilient until they move to the next stranger, this is all without any form of safety measures. They are stationed at a designated point as early as 6am in the morning to get to the workers who are going ahead for their daily work; this image as formed in our minds can only tell that these children are constantly exposed to several

[7] Osaiyuwu, Abiodun & Burch, Sarah & Sandu, Adriana. (2021). Acceptance, obedience and resistance: Children's perceptions of street trading in Nigeria. Children & Society. 36. 10.1111/chso.12482.

[8] (UNICEF. Child labour : Are girls affected differently from boys ?)

[9] "Ugal D. B, Undyaundeye F. Child Labour in Nigeria: Causes and Consequences for National Development. SSRN Electron https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=1514460 (accessed on 1st august 2023)

[10] The US Department of Labor ; Bureau of International Labour Affairs https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/nigeria (accessed 1st of Aug 2023)

[11] ThisDayNews https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/25/fg-43-of-nigerian-children-engaged-in-worst-form-of-child-labour (assessed Friday 15th September 2023)

[12] UNICEF (2008). Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse: to every child health, education, equality protection. Belaguer :UNICEF Centre

negative repercussions such as verbal abuse, kidnapping, violence and also being deprived of educational opportunities & developments. Notwithstanding, there are some economic benefits derived by these children when they work outside the home for survival and to assist their impoverished families as some are paid cash directly or to their parents, while some are taken by other persons who take care of the feeding and accommodations of these children.

4. Causes of Child Labour

Child labour is driven by social, demographic and economic factors such as poverty and loss of employment of parents, rural-urban migration, large family size and cultural norms such as polygamy[13]It has been estimated that about 15 million of children under the age of 14 years in Nigeria are engaged in one form of work[14]Child labour is more common in the less developed regions of the world such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Looking at Child labour, it is caused by numerous factors, one of the leading causes of child labour is poverty as its also linked to such other causes such as low illiteracy rate, social-cultural values, unemployment rate, rural-urban migration, conflict and mass displacement due to war, flood & insecurities. Most countries with high percentage of child labour have a very low GDP and poverty rate is on a high scale. Low income families who cannot afford basic needs are forced to recruit their children from tender age into this practice of child labour to supplement the daily feeding, healthcare, and other expense of the families. Sadly, poverty is widely considered as a major cause of child labour, denying the rights to qualitative education, keeps children out of school depriving them of the knowledge and equipment to break out of such practices, parents see it as the norm for their children to earn money as this may have also being that practice from their own time growing up. The need to prioritize the importance of education of these children is put off because illiteracy and lack of better understanding by the parents.

One other cause of child labour as seen in most underdeveloped part of Nigeria is poor family planning and polygamy. Most family units are overwhelmed with more children than parents can take care of, Polygamy in families due to religious affiliation and Families with lower socio-economic status suffer from problems such as unplanned pregnancies or early (adolescents) pregnancy which has a profound effect on the increasing large family size which ultimately leads to child's Labour.

These problems create poor living standards for children and ultimately increase in the expenditures for families. Low-income families also encounter issues of having too many children due to lack of proper education and resources for the parents towards the use of birth control and other method of contraception. Consequently, this leads to unregistered child birth with no issued birth certificate. A birth certificate, with proof of legal identity and age is often required to access social services, including social protection, health, education and justice. Without this, children are at risk of multiple deprivations and

[13]. Federal Ministry of Women Affairs Nigeria. State Of Nigerian Children; Children Left Behind in Nigeria [Internet]. Abuja; 2015. Available from: https://nigeria.savethechildren.net/sites/nigeria.savethechildren.net/files/library/State of Nigerian children report.

[14] International Labour Organisation. World Report on Child labour [Internet]. 2015. Available from: https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor).

vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation including the worst forms of child labour.[15] Moreover, due to the Lack of understanding of the dangers of child labour to the development of the child, more children are being enlisted into this practice. Children work because they lack access to quality, free schools providing a worthwhile alternative from these practices. Decisions concerning children's education can be influenced by family perceptions of its importance and the potential returns in the labour market, as the social- cultural values of most Nigeria family's centers on this long age practices that families find it hard to break from. Family's and parents believes that a child who obeys and works even from a young age is able to grow and carryon with the family business or even contribute to the family cause.

Furthermore, the political environment is a major factor aiding and abetting child labour in Nigeria. There are several laws prohibiting all forms of child labour in Nigeria and there are various punishments prescribed yet in the face of brazen infractions, no one has been or is being punished to serve as a deterrent to others. The enabling political and social environment needed for the rigorous and fruitful implementation of these laws is lacking.[16]

5. Legal Framework for Child Labour: Domestic and International

Children are protected by various legislations and human rights laws all over the world. Governments and countries owe children the protection of their rights as a child and as a human being. Various laws have been put to place to protect the rights of these children. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria[17] as the principal enactment for the protection of the rights of children, Nigeria also enacted the child rights act of 2003, the Child's Right Act has been adopted by only 34 out of Nigeria's 36 states (including the capital federal territory), leaving the remaining 2 states in northern Nigeria with legal statutes that do not meet international standards for the prohibition of children in illicit activities[18]. *The Rights and welfare of the child (African Union)* provides that;

> "States parties to take all appropriate legislation and administrative measures to ensure implementation of this article which covers both formal and informal sectors of employments.[19]

The United Nations convention on the rights of the child;

> "Recognized that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding and the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in the developing countries [20]

Parties to this convention are to recognize the rights of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is 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

[15] International Labour Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, New York, 2021. License: CC BY 4.0.
[16] D Tarh-Akong Eyongndi*C Johnny Okongwu (2019)The legal framework for combating child labour in Nigeria towards National development
[17] Cap. C38 LFN 2004.
[18] The US Department of Labour ; Bureau of International labour affairs https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/nigeria(Supra)
[19] . Article XV of the Rights and welfare of the child (African Union)
[20] Preamble; The United Nations convention on the rights of the child;

developments.[21]. The State is responsible to eradicate illiteracy by providing free educational opportunities at all levels. In accordance with *the* Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act & Child's Rights Bill 2004, Government in Nigeria should provide free, compulsory and universal education for every child of primary and junior secondary school age. Parents must also ensure that their children complete their basic education.[22]

In accordance with the trafficking in Persons (probations), Enforcement and Administration Act engagement of a child is prohibited in all such work that is exploitative and hazardous to physical, social and psychological development of the child. It is a punishable offence with imprisonment of at least 2 years. In case of denied payment and lack of reasonable compensation, the punishment is extended to at least 3 years. Recruitment or offering of child for pornography or pornographic performance is forbidden. It is an illegitimate illegal act with the imprisonment up to at least 10 years[23]. Likewise, any person involved in drug dealing is punishable no less than 1 year. The Child Rights Act (Nigeria) prohibits the following: Use of children for the purpose of begging for alms, guiding beggars, prostitution, domestic or sexual labour or for any unlawful or immoral purpose; use of children as a slave or for practices similar to slavery such as sale or trafficking of the child, debt bondage or serfdom and forced or compulsory labour,use of children for hawking of goods or services on main city streets, brothels or highways; use of children for any purpose that deprives the child of the opportunity to attend and remain in school as provided for under the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act; procurement or offering for prostitution or for the production of pornography or for any pornographic performance; and procurement or offering for any activity in the production or trafficking of illegal drugs and any other activity relating to illicit drugs as specified in the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act. Violation of these provision is punishable with imprisonment for a term of ten years.[24]Also sections 59-62 of the Labour Act[25] of Nigeria states the ages of children prohibited from working in different capacities to be between the ranges of 14-16 years old. Section 64 of the Labour Act of Nigeria makes it an offense for anyone who contravenes the provision in these sections.

The Convention on the protection of rights of the child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict, also condemns and adopt the statute of the International Criminal Court in particular on the use of children in armed conflicts as a war crimes of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years or using them to participate actively in hostilities in both international and non-international conflicts.[26]The convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, recognizes the rights of the child to be protected against economic exploitation and in the context of sale of children. It prohibits the offering, delivery or accepting by whatever means a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation of the child, transfer of organs for profit, engagement of the child in forced labour. It mandates the parties to this convention to ensure that the following act and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law and make these offences punishable by appropriate penalties

[21] Article XXXII; The United Nations convention on the rights of the child;
[22] Section 18 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, Section-59(1-5) of the Labour Act (Cap L1 LFN 2004); Section- 15 of the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act, 2004; Section 15 & 28-29 of the Child's Rights Act, 2003
[23] Section 13-14 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015;
[24] Section 59(5-8) & 60 of the Labour Act (Cap L1 LFN 2004); Section- 28-30 of the Child's Rights Act (Nigeria), 2003
[25] Section 59(5) Labour Act 1974 Cap. L1, LFN 2004
[26] Preamble; Convention optional protocol to the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

that take into account their grave nature[27] In the enforcement of this domestic and international legislation, the Nigerian government through the creation of institutional mechanism needs to create a strong sustainable method of implementation of these policies.

6. **Effect Of Child Labour on the child and the Society**

Notwithstanding, the fact that child labour has countless grievous effects not just on the society but on the overall well-being of the child, there is still a high rise of these practice all over the world. There is a saying that "children are the leaders of tomorrow" how can they be any emergence of future leaders when the children of now are being are subjected in activities that put their mental, psychical, emotional and intellectual needs at risk. Children that are engaged in any form of child labour have a high risk of repeating this cycle of poverty and illiteracy presenting plaguing our society. The worst of this all is that child labour exposes the children into child trafficking, drug trafficking, sexual exploitations of various sorts and ultimately lead to loss of their lives[28]. Children who manage to escape vicious entrapments, suffers long term psychological trauma and find it hard integrating into the society as functioning human beings. The use of this children for drug trafficking, not just promote the negative use and sale of this narcotics but this children are introduced from a very young age into partaking in the use of this drugs themselves and before they can grow into fully knowing their rights from their wrong they are turned into addicts and social misfit who may end up getting tangled with criminals and gangs who recruit them into up being the criminals which we aim to fight against in the society. Also a child that is meant to perform work that is not commensurate with his physical stamina would suffer the risk of several physical impairments leaving him/her physically unfit. Child labour like street hawking and begging exposes children to pedophiles, kidnappers and ritualists who use these vulnerable children for ritual purposes[29], organ harvesting and all sort of unspeakable activity. Child labour majorly robs a child of the opportunity of continuous schooling, every child has a right to basic education and quality learning, as some have to work at the expense of their education, some even end up dropping out of school, robbing them of the opportunity for future resources, jobs and gainful employment to help them fit to the nation as useful adults contributing their quota to the nation[30].

Importantly, child labour deprives the child of their "childhood", the lack of the necessary environmental factors a child needs, the love, attention, the time to play and interact with their peers derails their overall development as there is a need for balance for growth. In the continuous working as beggars, hawkers, house helps and workers in various forms of agriculture, construction and menial labour, these are jobs tiresome and dangerous enough for adults talk more underage children. For a nation to progress and thrive, there can never be enough need to stress the importance of the need for children to be protected at all cost, governmental organization and other agencies have to focus on these issues, strengthen their polices and effectively enforce this polices in eradicating this phenomenon.

[27] preamble& article 3 on optional protocol to The Convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

[28] Responding to the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Emergencies. Commissioned by the Child Protection Working Group (A REVIEW BY ALYSON EYNON)

[29] Tahir, M., Promptnewsonline.com "The Effects of Child Labour in Nigeria", accessed 10 August 2024

[30] TY - Abdu, A.Rabiu, Iibrahim- Usman, Luqman Effect of Child Labour on Children's Education in Katsina State, Nigeria- Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences (2020/07/10) accessed 10 August 2024

7. Effective Ways to Eradicate Child Labour in Nigeria

The root cause on which child labour thrives is centered on lack of proper infrastructures in the society. As earlier stated, we cannot address child labour without addressing poverty. If there are more employment opportunities, parent would not be forced to engage their children in any form of labour especially those forms of labour that is hazardous to their child's well-being. Under the Universal Basic Education Act[31], the rights of children to have basic education should be enforced. Government should be aggressive in investing and ensuring that children during school hours are not found in the streets or major high ways, begging, hawking or engaging in any sort of work. Guardians and parents or any employer of this children, should be duly warned and punished according to the law if found. To eradicate child's labour, education should be compulsory, accessible and affordable regardless of the status or class. Furthermore, a proper awareness of the dangers and consequences of child labour should be pushed and encouraged in the public. Government and non-governmental organizations should ensure that there is a wide spread of education most especially among adults and parents[32].The importance of addressing child labour in domestic and global supply chains, is especially relevant as they are the informal micro- and small enterprises operating at the lower tiers of supply chains, where child labour and other human rights risks are often most pronounced[33]. Manufacturers, industries, companies and organization who exploit children for easy and cheaper labour, should have a more transparent corporate social responsibility mechanism and social & governmental practice, where by legislations like Labour Act are fully complied with. Governments can lead through public pronouncement that discourages child labour in vendor supply chains, and sanction those involved regardless of the size and status of these companies. The sanction should be swift and strict and no offender should be left unpunished. Lastly, although the CRA (child right Act) attempts to address the shortcomings of previous legislation, there are many obstacles in the implementation process. Each state having its own legislative process has led to a wide range of laws among different states, with little positive effect on children's rights. The CRA (child right Act) should be adopted, domesticated and implemented by all states in Nigeria to fully eradicate forced labour, modern-day slavery, human trafficking, and the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Government institutions charged with the protection of the rights of children should provide more family courts which will operate at the High Court and Magisterial levels, and vested with the jurisdiction to hear all cases in which the existence of a legal right, power, duty, liability, privilege, interest, obligation or claim in respect of a child.

8. **How Other Countries View Child Labour.**

Child labour is a worldwide problem, though more prevalent in under-developed countries it is no stranger to even the so called developed countries like the United States of America, United Kingdom and the rest of the 1st world class countries. Child labor is still rampant due to economic challenges, lack of enforcement of labor laws, and poverty. While many individuals and organizations in these countries recognize child labour as a problem, the issue is often complex and tied to socio-economic factors, often due to a combination of poverty, lack of education opportunities, and insufficient labor regulations. A UN report at the beginning of 2020 declared that one in ten children aged 5 and above was involved in child labour worldwide; equivalent to an estimated 160 million children, or 63 million girls and 97 million

[31] Popoola, B Gabriel (The Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act 2004)A nd The Reality Of Out Of School Children In Nigeria. *African Journal of Educational Management*. (Jul. 2021),

[32] I Okegbe Ifeakandu,"Child Trafficking and Rights Violations: Examination of Child Protection under International and Nigeria Legal Provisions" Beijing Law Review, Vol.10 No.4, 2019

[33] M Hindaw,(2018) How Globalization Impacts Child Labour? Child labour, a lost childhood perpetuated by poverty and insecurity (accessed 10 September 2024) .

boys. With its 72 million total populations of children-labourers, Africa ranks highest among regions in the percentage of kids in child labour. Sub-Saharan Africa stands out as the region with the highest prevalence and largest number of children in child labour[34] Reports have been made towards a reduction in the estimates of children being engaged in child labour. This is due to more global spotlights on the dangers of child labour and also the fact that corporate entities are also being curtailed from using children in the production chain of their enterprise.

Many developed countries, such as those in North America and Western Europe, strongly condemn child labor and have strict laws and regulations against it[35]. They generally view child labor as a violation of children's rights, a hindrance to education, and a moral issue. These countries emphasize the importance of education, child welfare, and the need for children to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. Cultural attitudes can also play a role in how child labor is perceived. In some societies, children working alongside their families in traditional occupations might be viewed as a normal part of life. Balancing cultural heritage with children's rights can be a complex challenge.

9. Conclusion

Child labour has profound and far-reaching effects on society, particularly in countries like Nigeria. The consequences of child labour extend beyond individual children, impacting families, communities, and the nation as a whole. It is crucial to understand these effects in order to address the issue effectively and create a brighter future for the next generation. Children are the leaders of tomorrow, as such to build a great, progressive and functioning society, we have to encourage, protect and provide for the safety of our children. In Nigeria, child labor perpetuates a cycle of poverty and under development. When children are forced to work at a young age, they are denied the opportunity for proper education and skill development. This not only limits their personal potential but also hinders the nation's ability to build a skilled workforce and compete in a global economy. The social dynamics of communities is diminished by child labour. Families are often compelled by economic needs to send their children to work, depriving them of a normal childhood and healthy growth. This can lead to fractured family relationships, emotional stress, and a lack of social cohesion within communities. Moreover, the prevalence of child labour normalizes the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, perpetuating a disregard for human rights and ethical considerations.

Additionally, child labor contributes to a cycle of illiteracy and limited opportunities. Without access to education, children are denied the chance to break free from poverty and contribute to the country's progress. This perpetuates a cycle where impoverished families remain trapped in a cycle of low-skilled labor and limited economic mobility. To address these challenges, Nigeria must prioritize comprehensive and targeted strategies. This includes strengthening labour laws and enforcement mechanisms to prevent child exploitation, increasing access to quality education, and implementing social support systems that alleviate poverty and encourage families to prioritize their children's education and well-being. In conclusion, the effect of child labour on the Nigerian society is deeply detrimental, affecting not only individual children but also communities and the nation's long-term development. By recognizing child labour as a systemic issue and taking decisive action to eradicate it, Nigeria can pave the way for a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future for its citizens.

[34] . International Labour Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF, New York, 2021. License: CC BY 4.0.

[35] R A, Asgharzadeh SAA, Quesada F, Filip I. Challenges and perspectives of child labor. Ind Psychiatry J. 2018 Jan-Jun;27(1):17-20. doi: 10.4103/ipj.ipj_105_14. PMID: 30416287; PMCID: PMC6198592.

10. Recommendations

In light of the above views on the consequences of child labour, on the child, family, society and the nation at large. The key players to put an end to this menace starts from government agencies to non-governmental organizations down to the grass-roots. Failure by government to put child labour prevention mechanisms in place tends to suggest a deliberate under-development of future Nigerians. These vulnerable children are also, by the inaction of authorities, exposed to exploitation by individuals who manipulate them for selfish political and socio-economic interests. The authors believe that the following recommendations if put to use, will help salvage the situation. Legislations and policies should be properly enforced in every sector, also by investing in education, healthcare, and social safety nets; we can turn aside this pattern of poverty that perpetuates child labor. Partnerships should be encouraged between governments, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies, which can foster holistic solutions that address the root causes of child labor and provide credible alternatives for families. The Curriculums used in our schools should be revised to incorporate topics like child labour in civic education, social studies etc. The government must as a matter of urgency, involve the media in disseminating information regarding child labour, its effects in our society, so that people in rural areas can as well be reached. More advocacy outreaches needs to be carried out by non-governmental bodies for people to understand what child labour is all about, its dangers and how it can curtailed.