

Midlands State University



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RELEASE FORM

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PROJECT TITLE

THE NATURE OF CHILD LABOUR IN ZIMBABWE AND ITS EFFECTS TO DEVELOPMENT. A CASE OF MUTASA DISTRICT FARMS IN MANICALAND PROVINCE.

THIS PROJECT WAS SUBMITTED FOR A DEGREE IN:

BA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES HONOURS DEGREE

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DECLARATION

I VESTA MACHIMBIDZOFA

Thereby sign and declare that I am the writer of this dissertation and that this dissertation has never been put before or submitted in any academic institution before by me or anyone else for a degree or any other related academic achievements.

Signature.....

Date signed.....

DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this project to my parents....

MR and MRS N.E MACHIMBIDZOFA

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ABSTRACT

Child labour has become a societal problem globally which calls for attention from different institutions. International as well as national instruments have been put in place trying to address the phenomenon however, it still remains on the increase. As a result of the research the root causes of the problem was discovered to be poverty as well as orphans and vulnerable children who are now child headed because of HIV and AIDS. The major reasons of the study was to determine type of work of children in farms will be doing and the effects to development in Mutasa District farms. Qualitative design was used and purposive sampling and in Mutasa there is high incidents of child labour. Interviews and questionnaires were used to collect data. Interviews were also conducted with Simukai Child Programme an organisation that advocates for child rights in Manicaland. Education costs are not met by the rural people in Mutasa therefore increasing child labour cases. Government policies concerning child labour are having loopholes and the researcher recommend on how to curb child labour and upholds protection of child rights.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ILO	International Labour Organization
LRA	Labour Relations Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's

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CHAPTER 1 PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

Introduction

Gives an overview of the research, the purpose of which is to examine the nature and extend of child labour in Mutasa District farms in Manicaland Province. The chapter gives the background of the study, states the problem and identifies the research questions and objectives of the study. The chapter also gives a brief definition of terms and some of the limitations of the study.

Child labour has become a social problem affecting development in today's world, as it is violation of human rights, particularly child rights. This had been so for many years till present day and the major causes of child labour are linked to poverty and results brought about by HIV and AIDS in the families. According to International Labour Organisation, it has been reported that in some developing countries nearly a third of the agricultural labour force is made up of people under the age of 16. According to Sachikonye (1987) survey of labour utilization on tobacco farms observed that, child workers were also employed in other branches of agriculture and were a 'captive group' by virtue of their residence on farm compounds. Profit making farmers encouraged parents to use their children's labour in order to complete task-work, an exercise which still prevails to this day. Children living in farm compounds have often been engaged either as seasonal or casual workers and encouraged to assist their parents in doing work. By so doing, this will affect their performance at school and can increase school dropouts.

According to the Global march against child labour in Zimbabwe (2007) since late 1990s after the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmes, Zimbabwe struggled with economic difficulties, which increased poverty levels, inequalities in land distribution and unemployment. The country also faces challenges of an increasing number of people infected or affected by HIV and AIDS illness due to increasing poverty levels, and limited access to basic social services. Thus the economic collapse has had serious impact on children forcing most of them to subject themselves to unfair labour practises. According to ILO, the use of child labour on farms is said to have risen sharply with over 10 000 children estimated to be working in the agricultural sector alone.

The Farm Orphans Support Trust (2009) further argued that 80 percent of the total population currently derives their livelihood either directly or indirectly from agriculture. In terms of

occupation, the large-scale commercial farming sector is the largest single employer of industry which resulted in a vast number of people living in farms. In this regard, the research has been carried out in Mutasa District farms because it has been noted that more children are working in these farms as they stay with their parents in the compounds. Government subsidies on the provision of public services such as accommodation, water, sanitation, health, education and recreational facilities has been removed, for the most part, been left to the responsibility of the individual farm employers. The economic capability of the farming enterprise, as well as the goodwill and incentive of the farmer to provide, has determined what resources are available for development. Consequently, some farming areas are very developed in terms of social facilities and others are appalling. This removal of subsidies has exposed children especially orphans and vulnerable to child labour.

According to section 1 and 2 Zimbabwe has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age of 1973. According to section 11, consistent with ILO Convention 138, the Labour Relations Act defines child employment as that below sixteen years of age and stipulates that no contract of employment shall be enforceable against any person under the age of 16, whether or not such a person was supported by his or her guardian.

A new Labour Regulation (Employment of Children and Young Persons) under the Labour Relations Act was introduced in February 1997. Section 7 defines a child as any person under the age of 16. This directive bars all employment of children under the age of 12 up to 16 years of age not specifically permitted in the Act as light work. The Children's Protection and Adoption Act of 1972 provides circumstances for protecting children's education in the event of child labour. Eldring (2002) furthermore pointed out that the act forbids certain types of street trading and vending by children under 16. The Act used to make it a crime for a person to employ a child if this lead to a child being absent from school in terms of the Education Act, which 10 Section at the time only applied to white children. This was replaced in 1979 when the Education Act was amended to apply to all racial groups. It is due to this background that the researcher decided to look into the nature, extent and effects of child labour to development in Mutasa district farms.

Statement of the problem

According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monthly review held in South Africa in 2009, it has been noted that Zimbabwe has adopted laws to ban, or place severe constraints on the employment of children in accordance with the CRC and ILO Conventions. In spite of these hard workings of global as well as national instruments, child labour still continues to exist on a large scale. From the researcher's point of view, it seems as if there is a lack of enforcement and monitoring of child labour laws. The existing economic deterioration and the unbalanced political atmosphere have worsened children's problems, causing many children to drop out of schools and search for employment. These children work in poor conditions and they are often abused, in my opinion, this is a human right issue that needs attention, as it infringes the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate poverty, achieve universal primary education, and combat HIV/AIDS. Child labour is an exploitation of children's human rights. The phenomenon of child labour is a deep economic and complex collective issue of extreme urgency. Nevertheless, Non-Governmental Organisations [NGOs], society and the Government have failed to safeguard the rights of vulnerable children against exploitation and abuse for self-centred purposes. Child labour is modern slavery that infringes children's self-worth, moral and physical development, as well as intrusive with their education.

It is with this view that the researcher seeks to investigate the nature as well as the effects of child labour in Mutasa District farms. The research seeks to identify the forms of child labour, the causes and the harmful effects to the children and to the development at large. It will also recommend what measures to be put in place to ensure that children's rights enshrined in the CRC, the ILO Conventions and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) are protected and valued. The research will identify gaps in legislation and make recommendations on how to prevent, protect and rehabilitate children from child labour, as well as the necessary strategy recommendations.

Aim

- To determine the forms of child labour causes as well as assessing effects of it to development.

Objectives of the study

- To identify existing gaps in policies and provide policy makers with recommendations; and
- To contribute to the realization of human rights, especially the rights of the child.
- The study also aims at creating a platform to help alleviate the challenges faced by children especially through policy changes.

Research questions

- What is the nature of child labour perpetrated on children in Mutasa District farms?
- What are the causes of child labour?
- How can the legal framework be used to effectively combat child labour practices?
- What measures should be put in place to prevent child labour?

Justification of the study

Zimbabwe is an agro based state meaning that the country's economy depends on agriculture most. Farmers that are commercial, cooperatives, communal or peasant farmers are all using child labour which is infringing child rights. Global as well as national laws accompanied by efforts of civil society are there to protect children. However, the phenomenon still prevails thus; this study will highlight gaps in the law to the Government and make recommendations on how to fill gaps in the legislation so as to ensure that children's rights are being saved particularly in the farming sector. The study is significant in that it will enlighten, rural children of their rights as well as perpetrators who are doing this unknowingly due to different reasons. The research also stresses the rights of children in general which ought to be protected and promoted as enshrined in various international instruments such as the CRC and ILO Conventions.

Definition of terms

Child

The Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) defines a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child .The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defines a child as a child every human being less than eighteen years of age.

Child labour

There is no universally accepted definition of child labour. ILO defines child labour as work situations where children are compelled to work on a regular basis in order to earn a living for themselves and their families, and as a result are disadvantaged educationally and socially. Thus, child labour is defined not by the activity per se, but by the effect such activity has on the child.

Work

Work means full time commercial work to sustain oneself or add to the family's income. When the work interferes with the moral, physical, mental, education, spiritual and social development of a child it becomes child labour.

Exploitation

The CRC does not provide the definition of exploitation. According to Save the children's definition on child protection, child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimization, oppression or ill-treatment.

Nature of child labour

This refers to different forms or types of work which is being done by children under the age of eighteen which interferes with their education and social life.

Limitations

The research findings cannot be generalized to the whole population given that only a sample of 40 children is targeted for research due to time and resources restraints. This sample is small and therefore cannot be overly generalized. Irrespective of this factor, the findings are likely to highlight the nature and extent of the child labour problem in Mutasa district farms. Another limitation is that there is no internationally endorsed definition of child labour, or universally prescribed methodology for collecting data on child labour. This makes it difficult to determine what definition or methodology to use.

Delimitations

This study is limited to investigating the nature, as well as the effects of child labour in Mutasa District farms. Mutasa District lies in Manicaland province, and this district has commercial, communal and cooperative farms. Therefore, it is a suitable area for this research because it represents the whole of the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe. The research will also focus on children between 7 and 16 years of age.

Assumptions

The researcher managed to come up with the following assumptions; since the research managed to investigate on the causes as well as effects of child labour, the researcher will be in a position to identify some gaps in policies and provide the policy makers with some recommendations. After the study, the researcher assumes that she will be able to contribute to the realisation of human rights particularly that of children. The study made the researcher to assume that the following generations will be assisted by some measures recommended and by so doing helping to alleviate some challenges faced by children especially through policy changes thus contributing to development.

Theoretical framework

The research is based on the basic human needs theory which was propounded John Burton (1979) the theory eludes that people have needs that have to be met for development to take place. Development was defined as meeting people's basic needs. Without those needs being met, it creates a cycle of underdevelopment as a result of people's failure to function to their fullest capacities. The human needs approach emphasises human security and ensuring that an individual's basic needs of which these include food, shelter, education to mention but a few. The argument is that the goal of development should be one of creating appropriate conditions for the realisation of the full potential of the human personality and the most important of these is food without which a man lacks not only bodily energy but an interest in anything else.

This transformation shall be measured using the human development index, which provides three dimensions of human development that is "health, (to live a long, satisfying and healthy life), education (to have in-depth knowledge in the academic arena and the world around oneself) and income (ability to have access to decent standard of living) and to be able to

participate in the community”, (United Nations, 2004). Lack of these undermines access to other opportunities in life. Thus the research was carried out so as to note what are the causes, nature and effects of child labour to development relating them to the theories learnt during the course.

Organisation of the study

This research have five chapters, chapter one has background, statement of the problem, aims, objectives, definition of terms, limitations, delimitations and theoretical framework. Chapter two has the literature review and chapter three is the research methodology. Chapter four is the research findings and data analysis and presentation. Chapter five has the recommendations and conclusions.

Chapter summary

The chapter covers the problem and its setting, described statement of the problem, as well as the purpose and objectives of the study. It covers the definition of terms, the justification of the study, the assumptions and the limitations of the study. The chapter briefly looked at the theoretical framework.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter reviews literature on nature and scope of child labour and what many authors have noted on child labour phenomenon. The legal framework that is, rules that governs labour issues in Zimbabwe and assessing the degree these policies prohibit child labour. In this chapter, the research investigates which global instruments Zimbabwe has endorsed and their implications in relation to child labour policies in the country. Legislation has been the only main response of government to the delinquent of child labour. Although lacking on its own, legislation can be an authoritative instrument in fighting child labour. According to, Jankanish M, (2000) it can serve as a preventive institution to the economic exploitation of children, being the source for both precautionary measures as well as punitive action against violators. Legislation has been accompanied by efforts by the civil society groups who advocate for saying no to child abuses through different programmes such as awareness campaigns against child exploitation, prosecution of lawbreakers and taking action against officers who do not put into effect the laws regarding child labour.

A global overview of the worst forms of child labour

According to ILO current figures on child labourers are increasing internationally due to high and increasing poverty as well as high levels of HIV/AIDS, which in turn rises the number of orphans and vulnerable children. An increase in international consensus has emerged stressing the need to immediately go on with the abolition of the most unbearable and inhumane forms of child labour and these involve the occupation of children in slave-like and bonded conditions and in dangerous and hazardous work, the mistreatment of very young children, and the commercial exploitation of children.

Children and development is increasingly analysed through the lens of globalisation (Cornia 2001; OECD 2003; Ruddick 2003; White 2003). Child labour has been visible through transnational consumer campaigns (Liebel 2004), children are increasingly recognised as refugees, asylum seekers, or temporary cross-border escapees from armed conflict (Bruce 2001), as exports 'placed' within global networks of adoption, forced trafficking or sex tourism (Bump and Duncan 2003) or as either the 'victims' or authorised actors of cyberspace (Hick and Halpin 2001; Veber 2004). The Worst Forms of Child Labour as encompassing all forms of slavery, the use, procurement or offering a child for prostitution,

production of pornographic or pornographic performances, work, which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to endanger the health, safety morals of children. However, the adoption and widespread acceptance of this Convention does not mean that the ultimate goal of the removal of all forms of child labour but it has been abandoned but it surfaced way for some forms of child labour.

Causes of child labour phenomenon in Zimbabwe

The problem of child labour is immense and has been increasing in Zimbabwe and the world, Hindering the provisions of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The presence of child labour is not a new phenomenon, and a number of factors in Zimbabwe are forcing children to seek refuge in the farms and streets. Some of these aspects include the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the economic crisis that has knockout Zimbabwe in recent years, poverty, and is classified as children's work which in its limited access to quality education, scarce agricultural technology, and old-fashioned altitudes towards children's involvement in agriculture activities, abuse, and peer influence.

According to Child International Programme on the Elimination of child labour (IPEC). (2002). Child labour nature or intensity that it is destructive to their schooling or harmful to their health and social improvement. The major aim that causes children to work in farms in Zimbabwe is poverty. The number of children living in poverty in Zimbabwe and the rest of the world is incessantly increasing. Poverty has precipitated, and will continue to quicken, enormous suffering among children. According to the government of Zimbabwe and UNICEF report (2006) the common forms of child labour in farms are children working as cotton, tea and tobacco pickers, picking worms off the tobacco plants, hanging tobacco to dry in the barns, watering the gardens weeding, spraying chemicals onto crops and girls working in domestic work, whilst boys are cattle herders. The most vulnerable groups include the poor, children born to single women and orphans. These, owing to lack of alternative means, are forced to opt for child labour so as to earn a living. Long working hours, for instance, can compromise children's education and development especially, in the cases of street vendors, farm workers and child minders. Most of the working children can be found in the poor communities and rural settlements. By doing these different types of work, children are denied their childhood and child rights for instance the right to play. Such child labour can create irreversible damage to the child and is in violation of international law and usually, national legislation. Child labour affects children's physical, mental and psychological development. Mostly, child labour occurs in the most side-lined communities in which

checking of the workplace is already weak. Economic Structural Adjustment Policies applied in Zimbabwe after independence resulted in the influx of children working in communal and Commercial farms. The Economic Structural Adjustment policies were employed in Zimbabwe between 1991 and 1995; the measures were put in place to enable economic growth and development of African countries. According to C Manyumwa, ESAP measures give rise to the increase in school fees for children who lived in the urban areas, as a result of this there were many school dropouts, in so doing causing children to migrate to rural areas and commercial farms as a means of survival and getting some income. Structural Adjustment measures were put in place by the Western countries as a means to improve the economy of Zimbabwe but the way they were implemented resulted in them failing to meet their objectives. These measures put in place by the Britton's institutions and give rise to price increases, high poverty levels, and the degree of unemployment greater than before, government liability increased intensely thus failure of social services, closure of the major trading industries in Zimbabwe and lastly the country ended up having a huge debt. All these effects had a direct and indirect relationship to the presence of children working in the communal and commercial farms.

The recent economic crisis that hit Zimbabwe in recent years mainly after the fast track land reform of 2000 also resulted in children living and working in farms so as to find a source of income. The failure of the Zimbabwean economy has increased the poverty intensities in different households. This has caused some families living in communal areas to migrate to commercial farms in search of work so that they can have food on the table. By so doing children would accompany their parents so that they can get more food to sustain them.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the major reasons which have led to an increase in the number of children working in the farms. According to the United Nations Research Institute for Development, the AIDs epidemic is affecting large numbers of children and producing serious psychological, social and economic difficulties. This pandemic has given rise to a number of child headed households in Zimbabwe. As a means of endurance children who would have been left as Aids orphans end up working in either communal areas or commercial farms so as to get a source of income and food to eat. HIV/AIDs has resulted in the increase of child headed households, children who belong to these family end up working in the farms. The effect of this is that, these children working in farms end up performing badly at school and can end up being school dropouts thus creating a cycle of underdevelopment. It is the environment in which we live, that determines our level of

development in life. Children living in compounds at farm houses can be limited in their thinking in terms of their future as their education will be limited as well some being dropouts and some not getting quality education in their local schools.

According to a report released by UNICEF, HIV/AIDS releases produces 60000 new orphans every year. Children who would have been left as Aids orphans are taken care of by members of the extended families who live in the rural and urban areas, members of the families' are also failing to meet their basic needs and the inclusion of an Aids orphan worsens and stretches their resources. Some of the members of the extended family end up abusing and mistreating the Aids orphans which results in them leaving and going to work in farms.

Other causes of child labour include:

- Lowly quality education leading to households placing more value on work than schooling.
- Discriminatory practices in society and in education, for example, against girls or certain population groups.
- Employment practices where small businesses may prefer to employ children because they can pay them less than adults.
- The death of parents from HIV/AIDS, creating a new generation of child-headed households. Many children are being withdrawn from school to help in the home or to begin to work.
- Lack of acknowledgement of the problem of child labour by some people, other socio-economic and political actors and even the public at large.

Incidents of child labour in Zimbabwe

The research point out some of the exploitation that children come across even within the school premises. This specifies the gravity of abuse and exploitation that children are exposed to, even when they are in the interior of the school system. The implication of this study is that the school system is failing to protect children from mistreatment by teachers and this could be one of the reasons why children would choose to work in places where they are remunerated less rather than working for nothing for their teachers. Bourdillon made some revelations on the subject of child labour in one of his book as he presented different forms of

child labour. These procedures ranged from children tangled in informal line of work, children working in minimal agriculture, children, sometimes as young as ten years old, in home employment, and children in commercial agriculture. He found the “earn and learn” schools run by a business on their tea and coffee estates. At these schools the children were acknowledged on condition that they were contracted to work. He also found children involved in informal mining, as well as underground mining in severe and unsafe circumstances. Mining is very dangerous especially to children, as it exposes them to different threats and it amounts to one of the worst forms of child labour in terms of the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Child labour was a way of accessing cheap labour which was adopted from the colonial period to the present day farmers. According to Rennie (1978), Labour tenancy was a relation of production that emerged as result of the fact that many white farmers did not have adequate resources to invest in farming and for wages. While land was plentiful, capital was scarce for the majority of white farmers thus the farmers took over land from local agricultural people, they would in many cases thus not evict them. Rather they took control of the people and the land, as in some cases locals did not want to relocate.

This was known as tenancy arrangements which benefitted the farmers because it made the use of family labour possible. The use of family labour involved use of children. The poorly capitalised farmers were, according to Rennie (1978) unable or unwilling to pay for wage labour if they could avoid it. They might pay their transport riders and skilled workers, but for seasonal and unskilled work – road making, planting, weeding, reaping, herding, making irrigation channels, putting up grain stores and the like – they found it convenient and profitable to use labour tenants. The High Commissioners Proclamation No. 19 of 1896 and the Private Locations Ordinance of 1908 gave legal backing to the practice. Child labour was permitted by colonial legislation, in particular the Masters and Servants Ordinance of 1899. The Ordinance which primarily dealt with written contracts between adult workers and employers, contained provisions for the signing of contracts of service between employers and the parents or guardians of children under the age of sixteen. No age minimum was mentioned by the Act so that children well below the age of sixteen could be contracted out. The use of child labour was a common feature in the early colonial period and the present farmers simply took it from there.

Negative effects of child labour

Child labour contradicts the provisions of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In Zimbabwe, many children are involved in child employment, exposed to inhuman treatment as some agonise physical abuse, monetary abuse and disowning of prospect to education. The drive of this research includes looking into the effects of child labour as a stoppage to the achievement of the MDGs. Many unfortunate children face a miserable future because of child labour. Child labour describes a situation where a young person who must be in school is involved in income making activities either for his/her parents, guardian, and employer or for his/her own sustenance Ahamed (2013). Chiketo (2012) also defined child labour as any type of economic task, paid, unpaid, or exploitative, engaged in by a child who is less than 18 years of age, which places the benefits of the receiver well above those of the child and is harmful to the physical, mental, social, educational and moral development of the child. Thus, child labour is a hindrance to the complete development of children, thereby refuting the achievement of the MDGs.

Poverty has often been considered the basic reason for continuation of child labour Chiketo 2012; Chinyoka and Naidu (2013). However, child labour is the primary result of poverty, as it drives children into early work thereby negating children the opportunity to acquire the education and skills they need to obtain decent work and income as adults Rena (2009). The removal of child labour is an essential prerequisite to extermination of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1). This research also recognised that monetary restraints and the need for food, shelter and clothing drives children into the trap of premature labour. The children are seen working in the fields, gardens and sometimes herding cattle for a pittance or food. Some girls were employed as part-time domestic workers. Unpaid child labour was also noted among families, where girl children tied up in domestic work, care for siblings, sick parents and relatives in order to save family returns. This is in line with findings made by Ganga and Chinyoka (2010). However, in Zimbabwe child labour still triumphs expressly in communal and commercial farms thus creating a cycle of underdevelopment as the future of children is affected.

Furthermore, child labour has negative psychosocial effect on children working in the farms. According to UNICEF (2012), there are an estimated 250 million children aged 5 to 14 years employed in child labour worldwide doing work that is damaging to their mental, physical and emotional development. Furthermore, one in every six children aged 5 to 17 worldwide is exploited for child labour in its different forms Chiketo (2012). Many of these children are

forced to risk their health, education and their lives. A joint report by UNICEF and the government of Zimbabwe on the State of Women's and Children's Rights in Zimbabwe (2005-2010), indicates that between 220 000 and 250 000 rural households in Zimbabwe live in extreme poverty and constantly face food insecurity. These households include between 620 000 and 700 000 defenceless children UNICEF (2012). A report issued by the United States Department of State points out that "Children in Zimbabwe are exploited in the worst forms of child labour" United States Department of State (2011). An estimated 1, 3 million Zimbabwe children are orphaned. Of these, about 100000 survive on their own in child-headed households, often working as street vendors Chiketo(2012).Therefore, child labour at farms and resettlement farms in Zimbabwe, particularly Mutasa district cause malnourished children, because they work long hours in hazardous occupations; frequently they do not attend school, thus underdevelopment of a nation.

Education can be defined as a tool for transmitting knowledge and skills for an individual to be a useful person to the society Psacharopoulos, (1997). The psychomotor, affective and cognitive skills that are acquired by an individual through education are required to help one to improve upon his or her living standards. This is one of the main reasons why every child must be educated Patrinos and Psacharopoulos, (1997). Child labour has been seen all over the world including as major obstacle impeding the development of the child. For this reason, the International Labour Organizations fundamental principle and right completely outlines the elimination of all forms of force and compulsory labour and the abolition of child labour as important for the achievement of good and sound child development.

In addition, UNICEF (2012) agricultural work is by far the most common work thus the use of child labour on farms has risen sharply with over 10 000 children estimated to be working in the agricultural sector alone. It has been noted that Zimbabwean law does not provide free schooling or establish a compulsory age for education for children US Department of State (2011).Primary education is said to be compulsory in principle but some especially in communal areas of Mutasa do not afford as they live in extreme poverty and cannot pay for the fees, thus lack of free and compulsory education may put children at risk for child labour practices as they are neither required to be in school, nor legally permitted to work. School fees are often prohibitively expensive and limit access to education US Embassy-Harare (2010).Children are denied their right to education because it is not free or affordable in Zimbabwe and many other African countries Ganga and Chinyoka (2010). Those who work prematurely and extensively may never receive the education or training needed to obtain a

liveable wage. They grow up to be uneducated and illiterate adults, who are either unemployed or underemployed in disorganised sectors with no power to bargain for fair wages Chando. et al.(2012).Like their parents, they are unable to support their children's education Modesaotsile (2012).So they send their own children to work, repeating the cycle of child labour and poverty.

Positive effects of child labour

Child participation in some agricultural activities is not always child labour, as long it does not interfere with child rights to play and to be educated. According to ILO, as long the work does not interfere with these rights it is normal part of growing up in a rural environment. Especially in the context of family farming, small-scale fisheries and livestock husbandry, some participation of children in non-hazardous activities can be positive as it contributes to the inter-generational transfer of technical and social skills and children's food security. Improved self-confidence, self-esteem and work skills are attributes often detected in young people engaged in some aspects of farm work. Therefore it is important to distinguish between light duties that do no harm to the child and child labour, which is work that interferes with compulsory schooling and damages health and personal development, based on hours and conditions of work, child's age, activities performed and hazards involved.

Gender perspective of child labour in Zimbabwe with special reference to the girl child

According to Mahlomaholo (2011), achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) is contingent on freedom from labour to allow female children to attend school and perform well. There is also a gender equality dimension. (MDG 3) to child labour, in view of the discriminatory practices that disproportionately deprive many girls of appropriate education and add to their burdens through excessive household chores. The education of girls as future mothers play a crucial role in reducing child mortality (MDG 4) and improving maternal health (MDG 5), just as it does in favouring schooling of children over work in the next generation. Combating HIV/AIDS (MDG 6), too, bears on child labour since AIDS orphans are among children who are most at risk and since this disempowerment of women and girls increase the risk that they themselves may become infected.

The girl child has been more visible among the numbers of children found providing labour in communal and commercial farms. The more visibility of the girl child has attracted the attention of many scholars and child welfare organisations on the cause of this phenomenon. Some teachers in schools around Mutasa District argued that since most parents were poor, girl learners came to school after doing hard work such as farming and all domestic chores. The researcher also noted that families temporarily withdraw their girl children from school to work in the fields and sell goods like juice cards, fruits, vegetables, freezits, iced water and several other items of rather marginal significance so that they could increase their chances of earning income for the survival of the family. Female children were also observed to act as unpaid domestic servants in their own homes, taking care of the family's needs while both parents work and some of the girls interviewed illustrated some of the challenges faced, and how these can affect participation at school. As girls are given so much work at home they cannot do their reading. They are overworked, and being exploited, while the boys' just roam the shops, and sometimes do their schoolwork. Girls do all the household chores, like washing the clothes, cleaning the house, feeding the young ones, looking after sick relatives and parents, cooking for the entire family, and fetching firewood and water before and after going to school.

The literature confirms and illuminates these findings. A research study by Chung (2009:25) revealed that a woman who helps her family and her neighbours in the community is considered a role model and held in high regard. Notable however, is that children carry out different roles while helping, because of the gender stereotypes attached to roles which are labelled feminine and masculine? It should be noted that in Zimbabwe, and in Africa, culturally, the place of a woman is in the home, particularly in the kitchen, thus it is common knowledge in Zimbabwe that the women care for the family in every respect. They plan, prepare and cook meals, wash clothes, clean the home, and take care of the sick. The culture of Zimbabwe has a proverb which says '*Musha mukadzi*'; the interpretation is that women are the nest-builders. In simple terms it says that the women own the home and they are in control, as they determine what everyone should eat. Thus, the girl children spend too much time on domestic chores, compromising their academic performance. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that gender, culture and poverty combine to produce highly significant educational disadvantages for girls in poor households.

According to Anumaka(2013), an estimated 80 million child workers can be found across Africa. He further suggests that the number could rise to 100 million by 2015. That is the year in which the first and second provisions of the MDGs, eradication of extreme poverty and

hunger and achievement of universal primary education are expected to be achieved. Unless poverty is reduced to enable parents to provide for their children, it will be almost impossible to eradicate child labour and, for as long as child labour persists, achieving universal primary education will remain a mirage MDG Report (2013). Ahamed (2013) stresses the need to implement child protection measures to prevent the exploitation that often keeps children, especially girls away from school. It must be noted that the status of the girl child constitutes an acid test of social development in the third world. Discrimination on the basis of sex is a structural feature of traditional cultures. The lower position of girls in such societies undervalues girl child labourers as compared to the male child labourers. Besides occupational hazards, girl children are vulnerable to sexual abuse both at the place of employment and at home when they are left to themselves and this is according to Iravani(2011).

According to Rurevo R and Bourdillon M (2003) between December 2000 and February 2001, their study exposed the life experiences and plight of street girls. The study found that there is no single cause for children to be on the streets but rather a combination of factors. These factors are both societal and individual, and societal factors include national and international economic circumstances, the inferior status of women and of girls in particular, problems in the education system, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Individual factors are specific to the children and their families such as poor performance at school, or conflict with adult guardians, poverty, and domestic violence. At times children are supported by their extended family. In the current harsh economic climate, however, relatives often resent an extra mouth to feed. Cultural practices are another factor that pushes children to go and work in the streets according to the study.

Summary

This Chapter looked at literature that is available on child labour. It focused on the nature and scope of child labour, the global overview of child labour, specific categories of child labour, and the causes and consequences of child labour. The literature revealed that dominant forms of child labour are children working on streets, children working in farms, child prostitution and children doing domestic work. The literature also explored child labour on gender perspective and how the girl child is disadvantaged. It also looked at the laws and policies that regulate child labour and education in the country.

CHAPTER3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Data gathering confirms the validity of the research and helps in explaining the gaps that exist in the topic under discussion. According to William N. (2006) it is defined as a systematic investigation into the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions. Data gathering plays an important role because it helps the researcher to choose a suitable method depending on the where and from whom the data is gathered, and this should be done with carefulness in order to produce a complete judgement as well as to produce fair results. Data can gathered using either qualitative or quantitative method.

Research approaches

A qualitative approach was chosen for the research because it gave the researcher the capacity to describe a set of non- statistical inquiry systems and processes to collect data about a social phenomenon. Data gathered was non statistical, it was explanatory, but with realistic approach so as to discuss the findings. According to Barbour.(2008) argues that qualitative techniques cannot answer questions such as “how many”, however, it provide an understanding of how official facts are created through social development. Qualitative research can make visible and unpick the mechanisms which link exact variables, by observing at explanations, or accounts, provided by those involved.

According to Duff (2002) argued that qualitative research is associated with ethnography, case study and narrative inquiry, often with a smaller number of participants but fuller and more holistic accounts from each one. Barbour went on arguing that, qualitative analysis is often carried out simultaneously with data collection. Thus the study on the nature of child labour and its effects became ideal to qualitative approach.

Research design

According to Mouton J. (2001) a research design is defined as a plan or blueprint of how the researcher intends to conduct the research. The researcher formulate rules and guidelines that show who is the subject of research, how to get data from informants, and all actions to collect and analyse data. In this case issues concerning children were the subject, interview as well questionnaires were given to the key informants. The research design is therefore a full proof of how one has to conduct the research and reached conclusions. A research design

work for some purposes and these include, that it recommends the necessary information the researcher needs to collect to provide answers to the research question. Secondly, the research design summaries the analytical procedures one needs to undertake when scrutinising data. Thirdly, it aids the researcher to reduce bias and helps to avoid the situation in which the evidence does not address the initial research questions. The research design avoids both internal and external factors from interfering with the research results and the acceptability of research in the discipline in which it is rooted. Supra therefore, argued that a research design is made up of a study questions; its suggestions; its elements of analysis; the logic link of data to the propositions and the measures of interpreting the finding of data.

Sources of data

Kumar (2005) says that they are two major approaches to gathering information about a situation, person, problem or phenomenon. Further says sometimes information required is already available and need only to be extracted, however there are times when the information must be collected. The two approaches are secondary data and primary data. A primary source of data is first-hand information. It is information that the researcher obtains on their own. The researcher had the ability to get up to date information, however, it was time consuming and expensive because the researcher had to travel to Mutasa.

Secondary sources

Saunders et al (2009) define secondary sources as data that have already been collected for some other purposes and they play a pivotal role in any data collection. Supra noted that documentation can take many forms like letters, memoranda, journals, agendas, administrative documents, formal study appraisal and news clippings and other articles appearing in the mass media. An evaluation of literature pertinent to the issue of child labour was accepted to obtain secondary data. Secondary data aided the student to comprehend, among other issues national and worldwide definition of child labour, local and global legislation on child labour and related information on child labour. In order to obtain and review applicable literature on child labour journal articles, books, internet sources, and Government publications were used. Some of the official documents used involve; the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Minimum Age Convention of 1973, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979, The Labour Act (Chapter 28: 01) of 2002, the Education Act of 2004, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990 to

mention but a few. It was easier for the researcher because she managed to get information that had been researched already in the library and on internet. It was cost effective but it was hard to tell whether some of the information was authentic and some of the needed information was not available.

Data collection instruments

Data collection is a sequence of connected activities aimed at gathering data to answer research questions. It includes finding the site or individuals to the study, gaining right to use and establishing relationship so that participants will be ready to provide information, determine the plan for purposeful sampling of the site or individual, and determining the basis for the selected site or individual. In this research, the researcher used interviews, questionnaires, and group discussion with key informants to collect data. Interviews were chosen because it is flexible to use particularly in environments that involve children. They will give the researcher the advantage of clarifying the purpose of the research to the respondent.

Interviews

Interviews are direct methods of obtaining data in a face-to-face situation. According to Mouton, qualitative interview is an interface, a conversation between an interviewer and a respondent in which the interviewer has a general plan of inquiry but not a specific set of questions that may be asked in particular words and in a particular order. In a qualitative interview, the students pursued with specific information, and dig it out to explore the many domains of the unknown terrain. Gray's (2009) said that qualitative interviews can be used as either the main instrument of data collection, or in union with observation, document analysis or some other data gathering technique. The researcher used open-ended questions, and semi-structured. The researcher chose to use semi-structured interviews as a method of data collection because they are flexible and are easier to administer to children than a questionnaire. Interviews give the researcher room to simplify the question such that children were not confused.

Using interviews was also advantageous to the researcher because she got the opportunity to encourage and stimulate respondents whenever they appeared to show lack of interest or became detached. Another important advantage of interview which made it favourable to use in this research is that it was flexible as the researcher got the room to interview the children in a relaxed manner, and ask questions in such a way that they understood. Interviews

allowed the researcher to observe the way the respondent conducted themselves in the interview situation, which was important for the purpose of the research, as the researcher was able to observe how some children were badly treated at work. On contrary, it was time consuming, expensive and difficult to arrange especially with the children of seven years.

Group Discussions

Key informant interviews that were held with were workers from Simukai and a social worker from Department of Social Services (DSS) who noted some reasons why children were engaging in child labour and the major reason was poverty. Key informants also came up with reasons such as ignorant as parents lack knowledge about the dangers associated with child labour.

The major challenge among children in Mutasa is that they are now comfortable in their work and have understood that without their input in terms of labour they can starve. Noreen Bindura a Social worker at Simukai Child Protection Programme stressed that the government needs to come up with concrete policies so as to minimise child labour and this can only be done by helping families in terms of economic position. Children in Mutasa are now ignorant and are comfortable with little wages they earn from providing labour in farms .The Organisation has also been facing financial constrains which has made them incapable of assisting children within the district.

Sampling techniques

According to the Educational Research conducted by Richard M. (2013), sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they were selected. The main aim of sampling is to collect data about the populace in order to make a conclusion that can be generalized to the population. The research uses purposive sampling procedure which will be discussed in this research. According to Chaturvedi (2012) the probability structure is that one in which every element in the population has a chance of being selected in the sample, and this probability can be precisely determined. He argues that probability sampling includes Simple Random Sampling, Systematic Sampling, Stratified Random Sampling, Cluster Sampling, Multistage Sampling and Multiphase sampling. Non probability samples, on the other hand, do not allow the study's findings to be generalized from the sample to the population.

Sample size

According to Mugo (2002) the question of how large a sample should be is a difficult one. Sample size can be determined by various limits, for instance, the available funding may influence the sample size. When research costs are fixed, it is wise to spend about one half of the total amount for data collection and the other half for data analysis. In overall, sample size depends on the nature of the analysis to be executed and the anticipated correctness of the assessments one wishes to accomplish. He further recommends that there are more definite rules to be followed when deciding a sample size for qualitative research than in a quantitative one. It therefore depends on what the researcher search for to achieve which determine what can be done with available time and resources.

A sample of 40 children within the age ranges 7 years' to 16 years was used and this age range was used because according to the Zimbabwean laws, Section 11 of the Labour Relations Act, the minimum age for employment is 15 years old. At 15 years, children may engage in light work beyond training programs. 40 children were used because this was a manageable number to the researcher because of the limited resources.

In this research, the key informant was the Simukai Child Protection Programme staff, an NGO that deals with child abuse and child emphasise on child rights in Manicaland. Simukai mainly aims at eliminating child abuse and child labour through emphasis on the provision of full-time, formal, quality education to all the children in the Province. The organization was master minded through a partnership of three Mutare local community groups namely Scripture Union (S.U), Family Aids Caring Trust (F.A.C.T) and a local church, the Methodist in Zimbabwe. The establishment of Simukai was a response to a number of factors, one of the factors was the baseline survey carried out by Scripture Union and Thuthuka Street children's Project that showed that 30% of the street children living in the streets of Bulawayo had their origins in Manicaland and Masvingo and after an extensive survey in Mutare an alarming number of children living and working in the streets was found and as a result, it became imperative to set up a child centre in Manicaland and Masvingo to find a lasting solution to the problem of children living and working on the streets especially where child rights are uphold where these children could get counselling, rehabilitation, medical access, education and love led to the creation of Simukai Street Youth Programme.

The coalition was made also in response to the growing problem of child abuse cases including child labour, rape cases in the Province as result of poverty due to a falling

economy which then saw many children dropping out of school and getting into child labour. Simukai with its widespread structures in Manicaland would address any issues to do with the education of the children returning from the fields, provides psychosocial support and enhances the prevention and protection of children against abuse. To date the coalition has worked through its strategic partnership to try and eliminate child labour in different areas within the province. A simple interview questionnaire guide was prepared for the interview which lasted for 1 hour. The interview questionnaire guide is to be found in Appendix 2. The interview questions were based on the organization's experience in dealing with child labour in the country such as statistical information on the recent surveys that have been done in the country recently, the nature and extent of child labour as well as activities and the role that has been played by the civil society to eliminate the phenomenon.

Reliability and Validity

According to Silverman. D (2001) reliability refers to the degree of consistency with which instances are assigned to the same category by different observers or by the same observer on different occasions. Reliability and validity enhance the credibility of a research study. Validity refers to the truth: interpreted as the extent to which an account accurately represents the social phenomenon to which it refers. The research was qualitative in nature and term trustworthiness is used instead of reliability and validity. The interviews conducted with Simukai also ensured the trustworthiness of the research findings because they are experts in the field of child rights and child abuse issues which encompass child labour. A literature check was performed to compare and contrast research findings with what other researchers, so as to look for similarities or differences.

Ethical considerations

Research ethics refers to the application of moral standards to decisions and planning, conducting and reporting the results of research studies. There are four principles that guided this research and these are: truthfulness, objectivity, thoroughness and relevance. The truthfulness principle means that it is unethical for a researcher to purposefully lie; objectivity principle refers to the need for the researcher to remain objective and impartial throughout the research. In conducting this research the researcher treated the participants with respect and due consideration.

Unwritten consent to conduct interviews was sought from the parents and guardians of the children. The researcher explained to the parents and guardians the purpose of the research, and that their participation was voluntary, names of the participants would remain private and confidential and would not be used for any other purposes other than to investigate the nature and extent of child labour. This research acknowledges the use of various works such as journal articles, textbooks, internet articles, interviews and other variety of sources that were used in the research. The research concerns issues of children being abused and hence required great sensitivity in conducting the study. The researcher treated the participants with sensitivity, names not to be disclosed.

Summary

This Chapter focused on the methodology used to gather data in the study. It looked at the research approaches, presented the research design that was used as a plan in the collection of data, the sampling framework and the sampling size. Purposive sampling was used to select the sample, based on the purpose of the study. Simukai, an NGO dealing with the elimination of child abuse and upholds child right in Manicaland gave information as the key informants. 40 children from Mutasa District farms were also interviewed. Ethical issues such as respecting the privacy of participants and gaining consent before the interviews were taken into consideration. Limitations of the study are that it was difficult to gain access to children in their situation of work.

CHAPTER4: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANAYLSIS

Introduction

This chapter evaluates, presents and interprets the data gathered by the researcher. The research focused on the sample size as well. The data was collected from school children and key informants that is Simukai staff through questionnaires, interviews as well as data obtained from secondary sources. The main findings of the research include children's views on forms of child labour, and the push and pull factors that cause children to engage in child labour and the as well as the nexus between child labour and education. The data will be presented in form of graphs, and response rates from the interviews, group discussions and questionnaires are also included.

Interview response analysis

Forms of child labour

The data gathered on the forms of child labour and the interviews administered to children between 7-16 years old in Mutasa District revealed that children were involved in various forms of child labour. The research findings disclosed that there are children working in both peasant and profit making farming. The distribution arrangement of the types of work revealed that children's, work involves working in commercial, communal and co-operative farms. Most of the children interviewed were working on farms to earn income, as they execute different type of chores and these include transplanting seedlings, weeding, harvesting crops and spraying chemicals. Others were employed as house maids, caring for the sick, herding cattle, vending and selling firewood.

With the study, the researcher noted that nothing can differentiate between work done by children and what adults do; they do same type of work and they work for same hours. Poverty contributes much that children are exposed to different hazards such as hazardous farming machinery, disclosure to harmful insecticides, herbicides, fungicides as well as exposed to bad weather. Since the employers are poor or because they suffer financial constraints, they do not provide defensive clothing to manual workers subsequently farm workers are vulnerable to chemicals. They work six days a week if not seven and work an average of ten hours a day, as they are paid under commission. Payment is in moneyhowever,

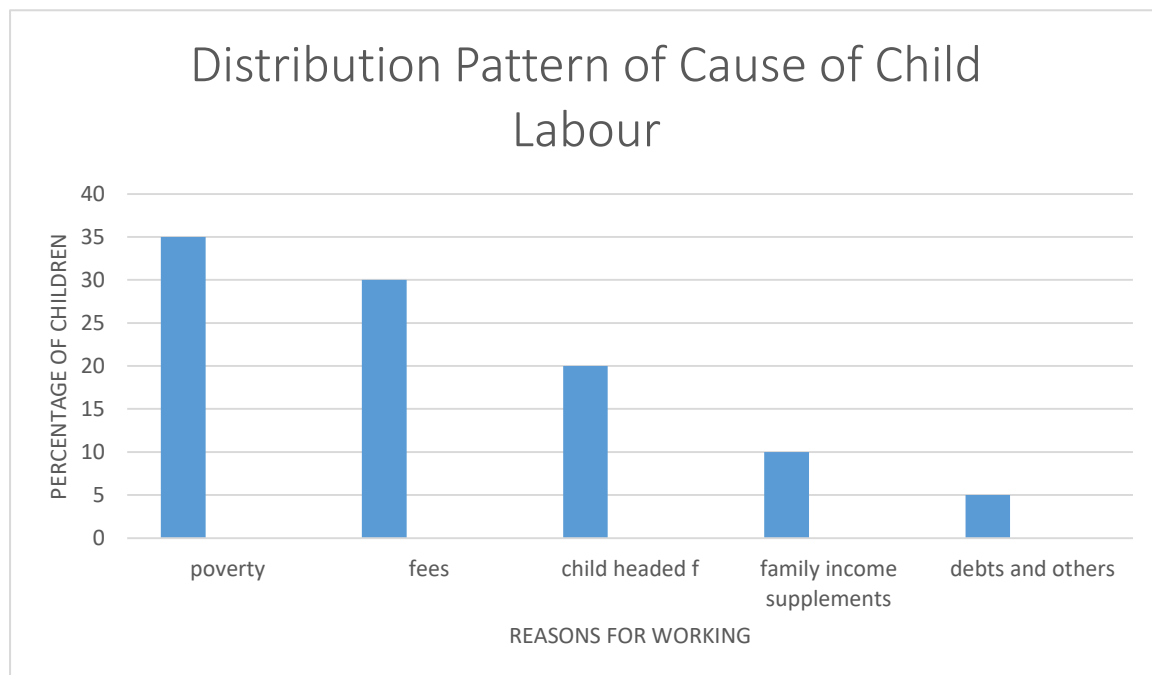
most children interviewed received food, clothing, and payment of school-fees, uniforms and stationery.

Due to economic hardships experienced in the country as from the late 90s and new millennium many households were badly affected, consequently, children are voluntarily working to supplement their family's income. Unluckily, children find themselves at the humanity of their employers, not knowing that their rights are deprived as long the employer benefits than them. Often, economic exploitation arises as a result of workers desperately looking for job because they need income. Therefore, children are exposed to abuse and monetary mistreatment by commercial agriculturalists, who employ them on their farms in exchange for a free education on farm schools. This system is known as earn and learn. Bourdillion noted this and mentioned that children in small scale agriculture are sometimes used by their families to earn money through contract work on other farmers' plots. Children who brought some income in the family generally conveyed pride with their contributions, despite the fact that they are constantly abused by their employers. A 12 year old boy bragged saying, *'I feel greatly honoured with the way my mum appreciates my efforts after I bring income from work, I'm different from some of my friends who depend with parents on everything they need, last term I paid fees for my little sister'* Bourdillion's studies also revealed that occasionally children worked in agricultural and domestic work for over forty hours a week, alike to the working hours of children in formal employment.

More so, interviews done with key informants (Simukai staff) proved that the crisis of child labour is ever increasing. They mentioned that child labour in Manicaland is on the increase as children are employed in farms, mines, domestic employment, in the informal sector and in 'street' jobs. These social workers stated that increased poverty, political violence and the HIV and AIDS pandemic has aggravated the dilemma of many Zimbabwean children. Girl child is more vulnerable to child labour and is not prioritized when resources turn out to be limited. She is the first to be taken out of school when the family decides they need an extra pair of hands to work.

The key informants stated that more children in Mutasa are engaged in informal trade as they will be vending, harvesting caterpillars, selling fish, selling firewood, looking after livestock and poaching. These findings are similar to Bourdillion's findings where he noted children involved in a variety of kinds of informal trade.

The causes of child labour



Source: Data collected from interviewed children

The implication of Fig 1 is that it demonstrates to the study the major causes of child labour in Mutasa District; it is caused and intensified by poverty and lack of income by most households. However, some reasons causing child labour were noted during this research. Research findings revealed that out of the children interviewed, forty percent were said to be working for their school fees and supplementing family income. This is so because most of the parents are employed in those farms and are not earning enough to sustain their families as the wages are very low, thus became one of the push factors and it shows the enlightenments provided by the interviewed children for working and the corresponding percentages. Children enlightened that they were working in order to supplement family income, raise school fees, pay family debt, and help family business or poverty. The major reason for working being the improvement of family earnings.

There are a lot of reasons explaining why children in Mutasa are working to supplement family income. To begin with, more households living in this District, are living by working in farms and farm employees are given low wages to the extent that children are bound by situation so that they can work so as to live a normal life. More so, the country has been going through an economic disaster since the new millennium and it harshly affected all areas

of the economy including the backbone that is the agricultural sector. With such scenario, families were unfavourably affected and subsequently children were unintentionally taking part in exploitative and abusive working conditions. Thirdly, rural settlements are generally poorer than urban settings as a result the probability of finding poor households are higher than in urban settlements. Working as a form of payment for family debt occurs when a family borrows something and fails to pay it back. Consequently, the family will pay back the owner by sending children to work for the owner. The children will have to do any work assigned to them by the owner. It is this poverty and lack of resources that makes children to be exposed to economic exploitation. The children are victims of their parents' employment and economic insecurity. Simukai social workers noted that some of the causes of child labour included:

- Supplementing family income;
- Raising school fees;
- Poverty;
- Pay family debt;
- Ignorance of children's rights by parents/guardians;
- Profit motive by business people;

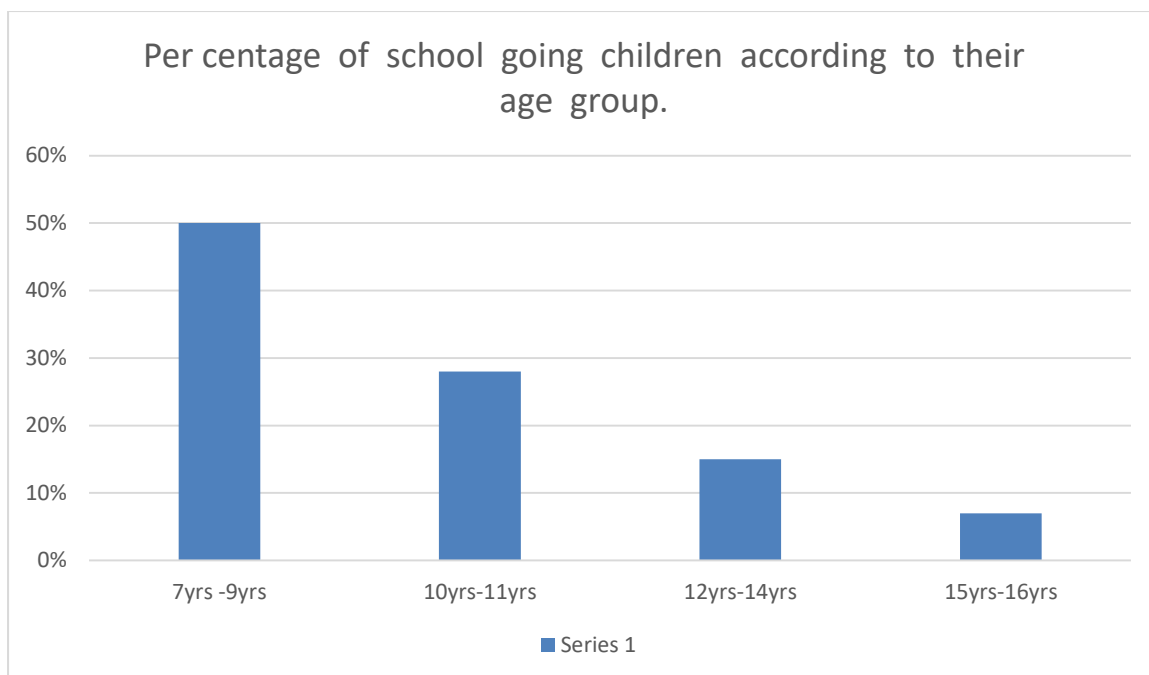
HIV and AIDS pandemic has orphaned many children thus being child headed families who are bound by situation to work so as to earn a living. According to Childline-Zimbabwe,(2012) it highlighted that AIDS is one of the major causes of child labour within the country. As AIDS deaths increases, the quantity of orphans will remain increasing each day. With such kind of scenario, young orphans see it worth to get employed as farm workers for them to survive. According to the children interviewed, poverty plays a pivotal role in causing children to work in farms. Poverty eradication is one of the main goal in the Millennium Development Goals. As long as communities continue to live in poverty, economic exploitation will continue to occur particularly to orphans. According to a Social Worker who works at the Department of Social Services Mutare (DSS) he pointed to the failure of government policies such as BEAM has been responsible for causing an influx in child labour.

Norms of society and child labour

As a result of this research, the researcher noted that child labour and norms are certainly intertwined in Mutasa district. There are some beliefs and norms that view child labour as preparing children for the future. One of key informants pointed out that these cultural practices and some religious beliefs perpetuate child labour. Girl child in most cases is disadvantaged and at times they are forced to drop out of school and find their way into the world of work or get married at tender age.

Arguments were raised that child labour is recognized and identified as a natural extension of what children have always done in Zimbabwean society. Local people were saying, *'back then when we were children we used to work in family production and domestic work from an early age and with the coming of the so called child rights children are very lazy and becoming disobedient since they know that they have rights to protected'*. Traditionally, children looked after cattle, looked for food, looked after younger children and worked in family fields. Therefore people in rural areas often justify the constant existence of child labour. However this could not justify economic exploitation of children by farmers or in private businesses. This research corresponds with Loewenson (2009)'s argument that child labour is not children helping their own families with domestic duties for a relatively brief period of time in the day but it is the premature involvement of children in adult forms of labour, working for long hours and usually under harsh conditions.

The effects of child labour to education system



Source: Data collected from interviewed children

Greatest number of children interviewed viewed going to school as part-time thing than doing their menial jobs in the area. This is so because the parents were unable to pay fees and when children were expelled from school they began doing different work so as to have fees. According to International Labour Office (2007) education provision in rural areas is often characterized by lack of schools, problems of retaining teachers in remote rural areas, lack of accessible education for children, poor rates of rural school attendance, and lower standards of educational performance and achievement. Thus, children do not see the importance of them being at school than search for ‘jobs’. Some engage in “earn and learn” systems. One anonymous child mentioned that she does not pay for school fees in cash but she worked at the farm and so that she can go to school. They said to be working in groups, one group works from 7 am to 12 pm while the other group attends classes. The second group is required to start work from 2 pm to 5 pm after having attended classes in the morning. Although it may appear as if these “earn and learn” programmes benefit children, but farm owners’ benefit at the expense of children. The use of farm schools as an accessible source of cheap labour has opened space for economic exploitation and abuse of child abuse. After working, children often go to class exhausted and cannot concentrate. One group attends classes while the other group works in the fields. Education in such a way is not effective and it is possible to compound issues of child exploitation in the future since children today are leaders of tomorrow. Children if they are not educated it result in high levels of illiteracy and

escalate risks that the children will continue to experience economic exploitation in adulthood because they lack the education. With education a social dilemma of economic exploitation is reduced, thus lack of effective education contributes to increase of child labour.

If education is of poor quality it yields to child labour and can lack relevancy to the children. They end up leaving school and engaging in different economic activities despite of the exploitative conditions. More so, most of rural schools lack resources and inadequate facilities as well as poor infrastructure leading to the recruitment of the least qualified teachers to remote areas. Therefore there are high chances of poor quality education being delivered. A lack of commitment by the Government to providing adequate basic education opens room for children resorting to child labour because there are no schools. Thirdly, if education is not affordable children will leave school and opt to early employment were they might be exploited because they are young and lack the qualifications. There is need for reforms in the education system to ensure that education prevents child labour not increase it. The above graph reveals percentage of school going children in Mutasa, where a higher percentage is found among the younger ages and the percentage drops as the children get older. This is so because primary school is cheaper than secondary and because these children are not aware of the importance of education as they grow they opt for child work which seems to be beneficiary to them though it's not. The importance and significance of this graph is that it establishes to the study the exposure of children to child labour because most of them do not go to school.

According to Chinyangarara et al (2009) the correlation between child labour and the provision of education is that, low school enrolments seem to result in high incidents of child exploitation or child labourers. He went on arguing that, school enrolments are poorest in communal areas, poor in commercial farms and poor or fair in urban areas and child abuse is the same in vice versa. Concerning gender, girl child is disadvantaged educationally in remote rural areas and on commercial farms. These outcomes are substantial because they confirm the study's findings that low enrolment in school leads to increased child labour. The situation is not entirely gloomy; the study observed a positive role that is being fulfilled on farms, where there is early provision of education through day care centres. Simukai noted that some areas of Mutasa are providing children with early childhood development centres at their farms. This is highly commendable and is a positive move towards the elimination of child labour in farms. More initiatives like these will go a long way in preventing children from engaging in economically exploitative work.

Summary

This chapter concentrated on presenting research findings and analysing the data. Qualitative content analyses techniques were used to analyse the data. Data was categorized to establish themes and categories. The findings show a close link between child labour and education. Low levels of education will result in high incidences of child labour.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

An investigation of the nature of child labour was carried out specifically in Mutasa District farms in Manicaland. This region was chosen specifically because it has communal, commercial and cooperative farms. The analysis was based on the specific objectives of the study which were to identify and investigate the nature of child labour in Mutasa District farms; to identify the causes of child labour in Mutasa District farms; to raise public awareness about child labour and how communities can help eliminate child labour; to identify existing gaps in policies and provide policy makers with recommendations; and to contribute to the realization of human rights, especially the rights of the child. This chapter concludes the research. The study introduced the background and problem of the study in Chapter 1, reviewed literature on child labour in Chapter 2, outlined and discussed the research methodology in Chapter 3 and presented and discussed the research findings in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 focuses on conclusions and recommendations based on the literature reviewed in Chapter 2 and data presented and discussed in Chapter 4. The main conclusion that is drawn from the findings is that child labour is widespread in Mutasa District farms. Specifically the research concludes that child exploitation is prevalent in the area of study. Findings of the research proved that children are involved in various forms of labour such as working in communal as well as commercial farms. Children perform various tasks in the farm such as weeding, harvesting crops and spraying chemicals to crops. They do the same work as adults. The study criticises the “earn and learn” schemes as exploitative and furthering child exploitation as stated in terms of Article 32 (1) of the CRC and Article 15 (1) of the ACRWC. The work interferes with a child’s physical, mental, educational and moral development and is hazardous to a child’s health. The research concludes that children’s rights are being violated in Mutasa District farms. Their fundamental rights to dignity and freedom from exploitation are being infringed.

The study concludes poverty as a major cause for the societal problem of child exploitation in Mutasa farms. Other causes include the scourge of HIV and AIDS, socio-economic hardships and working in order to pay debt or to raise school fees. The socio-economic hardships in the country further worsened poor households and children have no alternative than to fend for themselves. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has also left many children orphaned and consequently working is the only alternative they have to earn an income.

In a nutshell, the researcher noted that child labour adversely affects the physical, as well as the moral development of children, as they are exposed to bad weather and dangerous chemicals. It interferes with the education of the children as seen in the “earn and learn” programmes. Child performance is affected and can subsequently cause them to drop out of school. Lack of education may diminish their likelihood of success in their future life as leaders of tomorrow. Other effects of child labour include low self-esteem and confidence, child prostitution which makes children vulnerable to contracting STIs and HIV infection, or unwanted pregnancies. Poor health and stress, poor interpersonal communications skills and children living on the streets are other manifestations of child labour.

Education and child labour

The study concludes that there is a close relationship between child labour and education, the study noted that ineffectual education can produce child labour. It will produce child labour in situations like these; low enrolments at school will result in high incidence of child labour, particularly rural schools probably because they are few. If the cost of education is not affordable, it will result in high drop outs. Some education costs which has escalated to alarming levels forcing many children to drop or look for work in farms to raise school fees. The Structural Adjustment Programme in the 1990s introduced the payment of school fees and removal of subsidies for basic services which made life difficult for rural people. The Education Act states that primary education compulsory, but education is not free and the high cost of education affects poor household particularly rural people, with such kind of scenario school drop outs increases.

This has been the case noted in Mutasa farms because schools are not easily accessible. The “Earn and Learn” schemes which are being criticized as abusive are a result of inaccessibility of schools. In cases where the education system fails to provide relevant and quality education, child exploitation may occur. Due to deteriorating economic standards, education in general is inadequately financed and therefore, no sufficient inputs to propel a vibrant education system. As a result side-lined communities like in the case of farm workers cannot afford to be responsible for their children with learning resources. There is general deterioration in the education system which and lead to massive drop-outs from school. The net result is a high rate of drop outs by many children who then find their way into child labour.

The research determines that the LRA is there but it is failing to make child labour completely illegal, it does not fully protect the rights of children from economic exploitation because of its wide explanation. The gaps in the LRA give rise to different interpretations and create room for exploitation of children. Unscrupulous employers easily hide behind the Act to justify the exploitation of children. There is lack of enforcement of the laws that protect children from exploitation by Government and other agencies responsible for enforcement of all policies and laws concerning child labour.

More so, the worst forms of child labour are prevalent as some children are involved in prostitution and trafficking. The study observed that Government has been concentrating only on the worst forms of child labour and overlooking other forms of child labour such as children being abused on farms. Gaps and the wide interpretations found in the LRA needs to be addressed if child labour is to be eliminated. The law needs to make specific reference to children living and working in farms. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare needs to put in place measures to ensure that child labour laws are considered and adhered to otherwise the laws cease to serve its functions. There is also need for a coordinated approach from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. The two Ministries need to work together to ensure that children are not exploited or abused both at school and outside the classroom.

Recommendations

Below are suggested or proposed recommendations that may lead to reduction in child labour incidence in Mutasa and other rural farms in Zimbabwe.

- Education must remain a central policy instrument for overcoming child labour in Africa. Laws or policies that establish primary education as universal and free promote schooling and provide alternatives to children withdrawn from work.
- Subsidies in education can make schooling more easily reached for families, particularly those in financial need who find it most difficult to afford tuition and other school related fees.
- There is need to improve the quality of basic education in farms
- Increase access to education in rural areas by constructing more schools so as to reduce concentration of child labour, and these schools need to provide the complete basic education course and the necessary ingredients to meet the basic learning needs.

- Governments should ensure food security in schools, particularly in marginalised communities and can give some meals as incentives.
- Qualified teachers should be employed in rural areas not only unqualified yet in towns and cities they are more qualified teachers.
- There should be provision for grants and scholarships to encourage orphans and vulnerable children in rural areas to go to school. Government funds like beam must benefit the marginalised and orphans not children with both parents alive and children of chiefs not to benefit with those funds.
- In the case of school dropouts of children in farms special educational or vocational programs should be developed.
- There is need to overcome social and cultural barriers for girls through awareness raising campaigns and scholarships that target girls. Most of children out of school are girls, and safeguarding their equal involvement requires particular sensitivity to social, economic and cultural barriers. This will help bridge the gender gap.
- There is need to improvise poverty reduction scheme. Government accompanied by civil society must improvise strategies to reduce poverty, so as to empower families so that they desist the use of child labour.
- There is need for monitoring and evaluation on children's issues, monitoring compliance will ensure the protection of the rights of the child.

Conclusion

Children working in farms lack protection and provision rights as a result of them being in rural areas where the monitoring of child rights is weak. It was the aim of this research to determine on the nature of child labour in Mutasa, the extent as well as the effects to development. The phenomenon of child labour has attracted the attention of governments all over the world but very little has been done to eliminate it. However, governments have tried to implement child friendly policies but many of these measures are failing. The research does not exhaust the nature, extent and effects of child labour. However, it highlights a relevant societal problem of extreme urgency that needs attention. The study exposes the exploitation and abuse of children's rights, the plight of children abused and economically exploited. The study examines the rights of children as stated in various international instruments and reveals a violation of these rights. It is high time that children's rights be recognized, protected and promoted. The study exposes the gaps which exist in the LRA and

lack of enforcement of child labour laws. Government needs to evaluate the LRA and ensure compliance of child labour laws. There is need for a coordinated approach between the Government and NGOs to eliminate child labour. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare needs to work closely with the Ministry of Education to protect and promote children's rights from exploitation and ensure that children receive proper education. Further research on child labour should be undertaken in order to have up to date information on child labour. Comprehensive surveys to determine the scope and scale of child labour in the agricultural sector, the number and nature of injuries or illnesses suffered by children working in agriculture, and disaggregate the data by sex and age should be undertaken. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare should commission research on different aspects of child labour.

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILDREN WORKING AT MUTASA FARM

1. How old are you?
2. How many hours do you work on the farm?
3. What kind of work will you be doing?
4. Whom do you stay with?
5. Do you go to school?
9. Are your parents still alive?
10. Do your parents go to work?
11. Do you enjoy working on this farm?
12. Do you get any income from the work you do?
13. What are some of the challenges that you are facing while working on this farm?

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS IN MUTASA

1. What are the common forms of child labour in Mutasa District?
2. What are the various reasons why children are working in the farms?
3. Do you think an ordinary parent or guardian knows what child labour is?
4. Is the information concerning the nature of child labour in Zimbabwe sufficient to understand the problems and causes of child labour?
5. Are Zimbabwean laws comprehensive to effectively combat child labour?
6. Do you think Government is doing enough to deal with the problem of child labour?
7. What has civil societies in this District done in trying to eradicate child labour?
8. What are some of the challenges you are facing in combating child labour in this area?
9. In your own view, do present public policies show a strong commitment on the part of Government and society in general, in trying to reduce the incidence of child labour
In the country?
10. How effective is the education system in providing all children with access to good quality education?
11. Any suggestions or comments in as far as child labour issues are concerned in Zimbabwe?

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