

The Status of Child Labour Exploitation in South West Ethiopia, Jimma Town: The Case of Bocho Bore Kebele

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Abstract: Nowadays, child labour exploitation has become a global problem. Hence, this study intends to examine the status of child labour exploitation in Jimma town, Bocho Bore Kebele. I used a purposive sampling technique to select informants and conducted non-participant observation, in depth and key informant interviews, document analysis and focus group discussion to generate data. The findings from this study revealed that children in Bocho Bore Kebele are vulnerable to wide and extreme violations of their rights. They are verbally, physically and sexually abused. The majority of child labourers are “invisible”, hidden from sight and beyond the reach of the law. Many of these children are not only being exploited, they are often being denied education, basic health care, adequate nutrition, leisure time and the safety and security of their families and communities. Data generated from different methods showed that the most decisive factors for child labour exploitation are economic and social problems that adversely affect the living condition of child. Finally, child labour exploitation observed in Bocho Bore Kebele needs greater attention from different governmental and non-governmental organizations cooperation to solve the problem at a grass root level.

Background

The history of child labour can be traced back to some dark realms of industrialization. But a more detailed study of this heinous, shameful practice can reveal that child labour was there much before industrialization in various forms, like in child slavery. According to UNICEF 2010 nearly a quarter of a million children, or 16 out of every 100 children worldwide, are engaged in exploitative child labour in violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international labour standards. Almost three-quarters of them work in hazardous environments, such as mines or factories, or with dangerous substances, such as chemicals (UNICEF 2010).

A majority of countries have adopted legislation to prohibit or place severe restrictions on the employment and work of children, much of it stimulated and guided by standards adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO, 1973 convention No. 138 ratified the minimum age for admission to employment and work. One of the most effective methods of ensuring that children do not start working too young is to set the age at which children can legally be employed. The minimum age at which children can start hazardous work (any work which is likely to jeopardize children’s physical, mental or moral health, safety or morals) is 18 and light work can be done by children between the ages of 13 and 15 years old, as long as it does not threaten their health and safety, or hinder their education or vocational orientation and training. According to the ILO, 1999 Convention No. 182 helped to focus the international spotlight on the urgency of action to eliminate as a priority, the worst forms of child labour without losing the long term

goal of the effective elimination of all child labour. The convention prohibits all types of jobs such as bonded labour, prostitution, pornography, illicit activities and child trafficking which are dangerous or unhealthy, that expose children to physical, psychological, moral damage or sexual abuse.

According to recent estimates by the International Labor Organization, approximately 166 million children between the ages of five and fourteen were working as child laborers in 2004, of which roughly 74 million were participating in hazardous work (ILO 2006).

Child labour is work that is likely to interfere with a child's education and development; labour that exceeds a minimum number of hours, labour that is hazardous; and/or labour performed by a child who is underage according to state legislation. A child is considered a person under the age of 18 years (UNICEF 2010). The worst forms of child labour include trafficking, armed conflict, slavery, debt bondage, sexual exploitation and hazardous work (ILO 1999).

For instance, children in Ethiopia are also engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, which is most prevalent in urban areas, including in Addis Ababa. Girls are recruited to work in commercial sexual exploitation at brothels, hotels, bars, rural truck stops, and in resort towns. Children, mostly girls, work in domestic service, potentially exposing them to sexual and other forms of abuse like children that for example have been working in factories, mines, selling food, flowers, polishing shoes, serving as waiters in restaurants, domestic servants, child trafficking and organized begging and prostitution. Child domestics in Ethiopia may also suffer from a variety of mental health, physical and psychological disorders, such as anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, servitude or the removal of organs and drug abuse. Children collect firewood and water, which may require them to walk long distances with heavy loads (Abebe 2009).

Theoretical Framework

The study draws upon the Theories of Parenting and Poverty by Oscar Lewis (1966) and the Rational Choice Model of George Homans (1961).

Theories of Parenting and Poverty

The terms 'parents' and 'parenting' are commonly used to refer to those people who provide significant care for children. These can be, besides the biological parents, grandparents, other relatives and also adults who are not biologically related to the child. At the broadest level, parenting encompasses the provision of care directed at children's physical, emotional and social needs. Thus the two key tasks of parenting are nurture and socialization (Baumrind 1991: 53).

The other component of the theory is the concept of cultural poverty. The most accepted definition of poverty is provided by social scientists who attempt to combine both material and non-material dimensions of poverty (Chambers 1989: 4). This suggests that poverty is a product not just of material conditions, but also of a set of interlocking factors, including physical weakness, social isolation, vulnerability and powerlessness. The theory asserts that it is attitudinal and behavioral patterns of the poor which prevent them from being socially mobile (Lewis 1966a).

The Rational Choice Model

Many children have made a measured choice to become involved in different activities of life, and giving up their life at home (Aptekar 1998; Felsman 1981). Bounded by cognitive limitation and imperfect knowledge, the individual does not necessarily seek out the set of conditions which will maximally satisfy needs, but a set of conditions that are at least, sufficient.

Adaptation in the rational choice model however, does not mean that the one state that evolves is somehow “better” than other states of being; but that there exist multiple ways of satisfying the same needs. Thus, adaptation is not optimal but is merely good enough or satisfactory (Veale 1996: 98).

In rational choice theories, individuals are seen as motivated by the wants or goals that express their preferences. They act within specific, given constraints and on the basis of the information that they have about the conditions under which they are acting. Rational individuals choose the alternatives that are likely to give them the greatest satisfaction (Heath 1976: 3; Carling 1991: 27; Coleman 1973).

The principles of parenting and poverty theory and rational choice model are applied to the situation of children, which implies that involvement in the labour exploitive work, at some level, fulfills certain functions for the child or youth and that this involvement is a rational adaptation to the context of the respective child’s life, given his or her environment, past circumstances and experiences, and the choices open to him or her (Heath 1976: 3; Carling 1991: 27; Coleman 1973).

Methods and Settings

Description of the Study Area

Jimma is one of the largest towns in Ethiopia located in the Southwestern part of the country. The town is located 356 km Southwest from Addis Ababa and has a total population of 184,925, of which 92,938 are men and 91,987 women. The three largest ethnic groups reported in Jimma town are Oromo (46.71%), Amhara (17.14%) and Dawuro (10.05%); other ethnic groups make up 26.1% of the town’s population. The town has 13 kebeles. Kebele is residence place divided by government for administrative purpose based on the number household more than 25,000. Bocho Bore kebele is the largest and the broadest located in east Hora Gibe, in west, Hermata kebele in south Bore, and in the north Awetu Mendera kebele. The total population of the kebele is 29458, the male and female accounts 15,326 and 14,132 respectively according to a population and house census conducted in 2007.

Jimma town is surrounded by different neighboring districts. Many rural families migrate to urban areas because of rural push and urban pull factors. As a consequence of this, they are often forced to live and work in the street as they lack accesses to basic requirements such as food, shelter, clothes etc. According to Adugna 2011 due to rural to urban migration children from different areas reside in the town. These children are exposed to the worst forms of labour exploitation like being susceptible to illegal activities, such as stealing, trafficking drugs and prostitution. Rural to urban or “labour migration”, the movement of able-bodied individuals from their rural village of origin to cities to earn a labour-wage is occurring at seemingly higher rates (Adugna 2011). They do not only increase numbers in the population but also affect the economic operations of the area.

Even though a little emphasis has been given to the child labour exploitation problem in Ethiopia, different researchers tried to investigate the issue in some selected districts which did not encompass Jimma town, which is a town highly susceptible to serious child labour exploitation. To fill this gap I tried to cover a prevalent area of child labour exploitation, its causes, impacts and consequences at a level of family and country.

Study Design

Ethnographic research design was used to understand the interaction of children, in light of child labour exploitation. The research is conducted using qualitative methods. I deployed purposive sampling to identify informants, including children and the administrative staff of Jimma town's women and children's affairs office.

I then administered key informant interviews with 2 key informants from Jimma town women and children's affairs office and 3 different focus group discussions with children and employees from Jimma town women's and children's affairs office. The focus group discussions were held between May 10th and May 15th 2014. The **first** focus group discussion was organized with 7 purposively selected employees who provide child related services in Jimma town's women and children's affair office. The focus group discussion informants were selected based on their educational level and work experience. The **second** focus group discussion was conducted with 6 purposively selected employees in Jimma town's women and children's affairs office from the department of vulnerable children and care. The **third** focus group discussion was conducted with 8 purposively selected children exposed to child labour exploitation.

On top of this, I observed children exposed to labour exploitation and their living conditions in five areas where children are highly concentrated at Bocho Bore Kebele. This was done for a month, throughout the field visit. I sat in the verandah and observed activities of children. For instance, I used to make informal conversations with shoe shines about their living situations. This method had helped the researcher to compare what they say and what they do, and to write expressive accounts of the living situation of children in the different places in Jimma town specifically at Bocho Bore Kebele.

Additionally, I used structured interviews to collect data concerning labour exploited children's problems; e.g. family, demographic, education, present living situation and health and addiction status. An in depth interview conducted with different children in different areas of hazardous and exploitative work like carrying huge bags for passengers at bus station, welding metals at garages without using safety materials, exposure to pesticides, the use of dangerous machinery or tools (like knives), carrying heavy loads, cleaning shoes on the road which is exposed to high car traffic problem and so on. These hazardous work environments expose children to diseases like cancer, mental illness, chronic back pain and intelligence query (IQ) reduction. This method helps to enhance the profundity of information about their initiation to the problem under study and their relationship with their family and present living circumstances.

Document analysis was also used as a data collection instrument. Official documents are intended to be read as objective statements from organizations, governmental or non- governmental, which produce information about children. Document analysis conducted based on official documents like annual reports from Jimma zone women and children's affairs office, Jimma town women and children affair office, and Jimma zone police station representatives who are directly related to the issue under study.

Definition and Conceptualization of Child Labour Exploitation

The term child labour has many definitions by different scholars. According to the ILO (1930) labour exploitation is work obtained from a person under threat (real or perceived) and which the person has not offered voluntarily to others.

Moyi (2011) child labour refers to low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse. According to Edmonds and Pavcnik (2005) child labour is viewed as a form of child labour abuse, when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations.

Child labour refers to all forms of work undertaken by children below 18 years of age. It is an economic and social issue in developing countries because children are perceived to represent an important source of total family income (International labour organization, 1999).

The International labour organization (1999) suggest that light work can have positive outcomes for child development because it provides work experience, builds confidence in children, and provides some financial support/means. However, child work is considered acceptable only when it is not hazardous to children's health and psychological development.

Studies by Dessy and Pallage 2003 argue that not all the work that children do is harmful or brutal. Some work may provide successful learning opportunities, such as baby sitting or newspaper delivery jobs, but not if the work exposes them to psychological stress like human trafficking, prostitution and pornographic activities.

Millions of children make their way through life impoverished, abandoned, uneducated, and malnourished, discriminated against, and neglected and vulnerable. They are excluded from essential services such as hospitals and schools, lack the protection of family and community, and are often at risk of exploitation and abuse (UNICEF 2007: 1). For these children, childhood as a time to grow, play, learn and play safe is in effect meaningless. The experiences of these children contrast with the ideal of childhood as a time when children are allowed to grow and develop to their full potential (UNICEF 2006: 1).

Ethical Clearance

I consulted beforehand with the Jimma town women and children's affairs office head and other administrative bodies. They assessed the intent of the research and gave us a written letter of ethical clearance that permits the study in the office. The employees, administrative staff and children had participated in the research cognizant of the research objectives as well as the permission given by the Jimma town women and children's affairs office officials. They were informed not only about the study and asked for their consent but also about their right to withdraw at any time during the study. The maximum privacy of informants and confidentiality of information with a serious informed consent was enacted to make the study fair and humane. I also used pseudo names to protect the informant's personal privacy.

Results and Discussion

This study was inspired by the interest to understand the status of child labour exploitation at Jimma town, Bocho Bore kebele. A study by Tatek Abebe (2009) in Ethiopia has indicated not only that all categories of children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC) do exist in the

country but also that their number is mounting at an alarming rate. The basic biological and psychological needs of children remain neglected in many parts of Ethiopia (UNICEF 1992).

The most obvious way to define a child would seem to be in terms of age. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN in 1989, defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 unless, under the law of his/her state he/she has reached his/her age of majority earlier” (Eade et al. 2000: 270).

The Ethiopian civil code of 1960, also defines a child as every individual of either sex who has not attained the full age of 18, in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nevertheless, Articles 329 and 330 of the Civil Code state that for specific purposes a child may be emancipated at an earlier age. Such specific emancipation could take place either by marriage or upon authorization of the family council (Cecchetti 2001: 14).

Under the provisions of the Ethiopian Revised Family Code (2000), a child is defined as “a person of either sex who has not attained the full age of eighteen years”. The Criminal Code (2005) classifies children into three age groups using ages nine and fifteen as thresholds for criminal responsibility while thirteen appears to be an important landmark in the classification of victims. The Ethiopian Labor Proclamation (No. 42/2003), on the other hand, uses age fourteen as a point of reference. The Proclamation forbids the employment of children under 14 and categorizes children between 14 and 18 as young workers. The preferred age range for child labour statistics, on the other hand, is between five and seventeen with sub-groups defined at ten and fourteen years.

In line with the provisions of the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, the Proclamation prohibits the employment of young workers for ‘hazardous work’. This prohibition thus amounts to a minimum age of 18 for work considered hazardous under the general definition, the proclamation’s enumerations or the schedule to be issued by the Minister. This prohibition does not, however, apply to work performed by young workers following courses in vocational schools that are approved and inspected by the relevant authority.

A key informant from Jimma town’s women and children’s affairs head office confirmed that most children who participated in exploitative work came from neighboring districts like Seka, Dedo, Serbo, Dawuro, Ameya and etc. Children came to Jimma town as migrants due to divorces in the family, unsuitable living conditions in their family home, or the death of either father or mother of child and financial crisis in the family.

The experience of Child D, a 12 year old shoeshine boy, is another good example. His father was a farmer and his mother a housewife. Because their income was not enough to support the family, his older siblings and his mother started running petty trade in the nearby town of Yem special district. Because Child D spent the whole day being alone at home, he asked his father to give him permission to work as a shoeshine boy. After securing his own income for transportation, he came to Jimma and reside Bocho Bore kebele to work on his own.

Socio-Economic Status of Children’s Families

Data obtained from exploitative children focus group discussants showed that majority of the discussants children reported that some members of their families have jobs while the remaining did not have. According to findings, majority of the children’s guardians or parents work as domestic workers, vendors, peasant farmers, self-employed, petty sellers and industrial workers.

Studies by Bhat and Rather 2009 have demonstrated that the most notable reason for child labour exploitation is poverty. Decisions about child labour and schooling are generally made by parents. If the family live below the poverty line, parents see children as a part contributor to their family income. Besides, Basu 1998 the only reason parents send children to work is because of their low income. Consequently, poor parents cannot afford schooling for their children. Thus, mainly poor households are forced to send their children to work instead of sending them to school.

Data generated from in-depth interviews from exploited child labourers revealed that in almost all study areas, many parents spend their time and money on drinking, leaving families without any time for parental guidance. This implied that children lack parental love and moral guidance because the parents come back when they are drunk while the mothers cannot fill in these gaps completely.

Data generated from focus group discussion with employees of Jimma town women and children's affairs office showed that in rural villages, many parents (particularly fathers) spend time at bars and restaurants rather than at home. Additionally, in urban areas, parents spend most of their time at work; they wake up very early and come back very late after work. Children spend most of their time at home without any guidance. Children exposed to different problems; they start street life, exploitative labour work and using toxic materials and benzene sniffing to lead their life.

Livelihood Strategies of Children

The majority of children informants were engaged in menial jobs like shoe shining, carrying goods at bus stations, selling tissues and a messenger to buy something for someone. Irrespective of all the sacrifices and efforts they made to be self-supportive, the average daily income is around 1 US dollar that is the meager income obtained from work which was not enough to cover even their most essential basic needs. These children are unprotected working and they are highly vulnerable to exploitation by the work itself and by others and lack opportunities to basic needs like food, shelter, education and basic health services.

How Children Spend Their Income?

The majority of interviewed children informed that they spend their money on food. Other children, mainly shoe shiners, reported that they also spend money to buy their own clothes while a few others spend it on meeting family expenses and other children's spent most of their earnings on themselves, purchasing their food and buying their own clothes. Among informant children, girls reported that they spend their money on meeting family expenses and covering the cost of their educational materials.

Addiction of Children

Many children are involved in the harmful use of psychoactive substances, like chewing 'chat'. This habit can lead to excessive intake; increase the chance of misbehaving, violence, unwanted pregnancy and unprotected sex. Over time, the continued use of substances can lead to complications such as brain and liver damage (WHO 2000).

Data generated from key informants from Jimma town women and children affair office revealed that exploited child labourers started taking drugs being persuaded by their peers. In depth interviewed informant Child B a 15 year old child said that:

We consumed drug when we got depressed and wanted to fantasize about our life and alcohol use remains very common among us and we took intoxicants and vulnerable to a number of risks due to apparent lack of experience like chewing chat. Additionally we also use consume cigarette for pleasure and during anger time and irritability to forget the past problems we faced in our family.

The one issue to be given particular attention is the problem of benzene sniffing among children under study. This is a dangerous and serious problem which leads to death within a short period of time. For instance, the interviewed informant regarding this problem did not tell his name but the I will call him child X. Child X, 12 years old, he said “I use benzene daily it gives me more satisfaction other than anything and helps me in order to avoid thinking about myself and family.”

The effect of child labour on the psychological and physical development of the child is obvious. In-depth interviews conducted with children confirmed that as they spent long hours working, they experienced exhaustion and fatigue. Moreover, children reported that their working status affected their schooling. Child D, a shoeshine boy, mentioned “because I work on the street the whole day, my body and clothes were dusty. This makes me easily identified among other school students and uncomfortable. Besides, the work burden itself makes me sleepy.”

Causal Factors for Child Labour Exploitation

Marital Problem

Marital problems of the parents were cited as a recurrent theme to push children into these problematic conditions. The family institution is going through a lot of upheavals and (Kopoka 2000) fewer and fewer children have stable and caring family environments. Many families have broken up, with the children left to fend for themselves. Many families are also increasingly characterized by absent parents, lack of communication between parents and children, alcoholism and domestic violence. Many children run away to the streets to avoid violence and abuse in the family (Kopoka 2000: 9).

Child Y, 13 year old from the focus group participants, said that “My father died and I left home to find work because of conflict with my step father.”

Another typical story was that of Child Z, a 12 year old boy born in Kulo Konta, Ameya district. He reported that after his mother passed away in 2010 his father became engaged with a woman who became his stepmother. He used to repeatedly quarrel with his step mother because she treated him ruthlessly and he was weighed down with a heavy workload. This disagreement reached its peak when he punched out his step mother’s teeth and left home to the streets of Jimma in 2011.

Most children informed that the reason for their initiation to urban areas for work was committing a misdemeanor which led to them running away from home with responses like: “I quarreled with my father so I couldn’t stay with him”, “my father beat me because I came home very late in the night so I Just ran away and joined to different areas of hazardous work”, “I came out

onto the street after my father and I exchange blows and that was my first contact with street life.”

A broken family is taken by various experts to be the major cause for labour exploitation (Gobena 1994: 13). Tsegaye (1988) points out those family disruptions are “highly prevalent among families with poor economic conditions”. Family income affects children’s education and poor parents cannot afford to pay for their children’s education. Children are compelled to work and thus they are less in enrolled in school.

Urbanization can be taken as the major cause for child labour exploitation. The urbanization process involves rural-to-urban migration. The migrant families overwhelmed with multiple adversities are unable to support their families in which case children are forced to join street life for a better chance of survival (Eade 1995: 278). Child labour is widespread throughout Africa, and Asia. Many cities in developed and developing countries, like India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Sudan, and Chad have experienced rapid urbanization. This means that population is increasing in cities due to immigration and natural growth. Increased urbanization has resulted in poverty in the cities. Urban poverty raises slums. These areas are characterized by high unemployment, poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean drinking water and inadequate housing (Lister 2004: 51).

Data generated from a key informant from Jimma town’s women and children’s affairs office revealed that a growing number of children who have either lost one or both parents and those impacted by HIV AIDS in the family are forced to work in order to support themselves and their siblings. The numbers of orphaned children are vulnerable to economic problems. Hence family breakdown, urban poverty and urban to rural migration are brought forth as some of the key factors which precipitate children introduction into labour exploitation.

Poverty

Economic factors have been cited most frequently as the reason the majority of children are engaged in labour exploitative work. . The least developed countries have high child populations. According to data of UN population division in 2004, 49 percent of the population of least developed countries was under the age of 18 while it is 21 percent for developed countries (UNICEF 2007: 12).

Poverty and its related problems are some of the main causes of child labour in Ethiopia. A survey conducted in Ethiopia in 2001 reported that about 90 per cent of the children working in productive activities replied that they were working to either supplement family income (23.8 per cent) or to improve it (66.0 per cent). Poverty in Ethiopia is chronic due to, among other factors, population pressure, land degradation, unemployment and under employment among adults and school leavers (youth). Children are paid lower wages than adults, not unionized, and do not demand workers’ rights. They are also thought by some to be more efficient in certain types of work, though this has not been demonstrated. Thus, these people tend to prefer child workers to adults.

Nardinelli (1980) argues that the demand for child labour in the English cotton mills in the early part of the 19th century was precisely of this sort. Even though technological innovations made the machines easier to run, that task was not wholly taken over by children. Rather, child labour was complementary to adult labour. Children were assigned the task of picking up waste cotton, running errands, and assisting older workers. Further, Nardinelli makes the case that the decline in child labour through the middle of the 19th century in England was largely driven by

technological change. In 1830, mills began to adopt self-acting spinning mules. The self-acting mules broke threads less often than the hand-operated mules. Piecing the broken threads together had been a task performed by children.

Admassie (2003) makes a similar argument concerning the cause of child labour in Ethiopia. There is a fairly strong correlation between the incidence of child labour and agriculture's share of Gross domestic product (GDP). Although there are several possible explanations for this, Admassie argues that when the production system is "backwards and labor intensive", there is a greater demand for child workers.

Data generated from a key informant from Jimma town's women and children's affairs office revealed that the major factors that expose children for labour exploitative work are financial problems of the family. Most families are unable to feed their family members due to economic problems.

Cultural Pressure

Culture is another factor which is driving children into the labour market. The culture of many societies makes children start work at very young age which are related to traditions and cultural factors. Families of children assume that children need to learn skills that can be good for their future. According to Tauson (2009) in rural Guatemala parents prefer their children to work because they consider it beneficial for them as they learn work skills.

Children participating in the focus group mentioned that cultural expectations, such as the idea that a boy should go to work as soon as he is able to, can be an explanation for children's involvement in different work in Jimma town. The children who came from Guraghe district areas worked as shoe shiners, which seems a traditional occupation for children from Guraghe ethnic background. Parents send their children to the city to work and earn money, first as shoe shiners, then as petty trade '*Suqbederetie*', with the ambition of becoming a small shopkeeper, and from there to move up to the status of shop owner.

Studies by Obinna E. Osita-Oleribe (2007) argue that many families in Africa want their children to help in contributing towards family income. Some of the interviewed children believed that they were pressurized by family members to go to towns to work. A typical response from children in these circumstances was the story of Child G, 14 year old boy. "My friends were selling tissue papers and chewing gum and my family was always insisting that I do likewise". He added "what I earn is not only for myself. I have to work hard for the reason that assisting my family financially is expected of me". Other children revealed peer influence as a cause for their involvement in different working environment.

The Role of Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations Working on Child Labour

The efforts of both government and non-governmental organizations, local and international, in the socio-economic development and the alleviation of poverty in Jimma town are not undervalued. The most prominent organization working on children includes; Jimma zone women and children's affairs office, Jimma town women and children's affairs office, SOS Jimma Children's Village, Save the Children, Child Fund International and etc. are working to alleviate children's social,

economic and psychological problems. SOS children's villages, a non-governmental and non-profit organization, work in Jimma town to prevent family breakdown and care for children who have lost parental care, or who risk losing it. They also work with communities, partners and states to ensure that the rights of all children, in every society, are respected and fulfilled. The organization works to help children exposed to different interim problems such as finances, schooling fees and medical care. Save the children nongovernmental organization set up its first formal office in Ethiopia in 1984. It is working in over 70% of the worst-affected districts, providing food, water, medicine and crucial support to families who have lost their incomes. The organization is also training community-based health workers to treat malnutrition, and supporting families that have lost their livestock and livelihoods with cash-for-work programs. Save the children has implemented cross-cutting strategies that focus on education, health, food security, HIV/AIDS prevention/education and saving newborn lives. Child Fund International is inspired and driven by the potential that is inherent in all children, the potential not only to survive but to thrive, to bring positive change for those around them. The work began with an effort to support orphanages for the children who had been left without homes or families and focused on strengthening families and community structures that make up a child's environment.

Conclusion

The majority of children exposed to labour exploitation in Jimma town are boys and they are found to be neither homeless nor delinquent. Most have a home where they lived with their parents or relatives, while others live and work outside of their parent's house. Living alone or with friends in rented houses was also common, mainly among migrated children in Jimma town from different nearby districts. Most nations have laws that prohibit child labour. For instance, the Indian government has established various proactive policies towards the elimination of child labour. India has not yet ratified ILO conventions 138 and 182 on banning child labour and eliminating the worst forms of labour exploitation though. However, the government of India implemented a child labour law in 1986 (Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act). The legislation set a minimum age for employment of children at fourteen years and forbid child labour in dangerous sectors (Venkatarangaiya Foundation 2005).

Besides this, the Nigerian government ratified the Labor Act policy and has set the minimum age for the employment of children at twelve years which is in force in all the 36 states of Nigeria. Nigeria's Labor Act permits children at any age to perform light work in domestic service or work with family members in agriculture. However, the Child Rights Act prohibits the worst forms of child labour, including the forced labour of children and use of children in prostitution or in armed conflict. The Labor Act sets different ages for various hazardous occupations. For instance, a child aged fifteen or older can work in industries. The law forbids children under the age of sixteen to work underground or to work with machines but the law clearly allows children aged between sixteen and eighteen to do these hazardous occupations (United States Department of Labor 2010).

Yet throughout the world, children in large numbers can be seen toiling in sweatshops, hauling concrete, tilling fields, plucking garbage or peddling shoes. The work is often backbreaking for many children of agricultural families. Agriculture, in fact, employs the majority of the world's working children (ILO 2011).

According to the findings the major cause for child labour exploitation is economic and social factors appeared to be primary in pushing children to participate in hazardous work to obtain

income for survival. Poverty and the death of a parent(s) appeared to be the key factors resulting in families' inability to look after their children properly. Orphanhood has created a vacuum in childcare responsibilities by removing and/or incapacitating those with an obligation to provide for children's basic needs.

Any attempt to solve the problem of child labour exploitation should take in mind the root cause behind the problem and how it can be solved. The outcome obtained from governmental and non-governmental organizations and their efforts to improve the living standards of poor people or beneficiaries is not that much significant compared with the amount of money incurred for specific projects concerning child related problems. There are still more children suffering from hunger, more in unfavorable conditions that need support in order to be free from the labour exploitative work they face.

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Notes

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