

**IMPLICATION OF MARITAL INSTABILITY ON A CHILD
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
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CERTIFICATION

We the Undersigned, confirmed that this research was conducted by **Tracy AIFUWA** with the matriculation number **SSC1909870** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science degree in Social sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God almighty for His love and infinite mercy. and also to my mother and my father for their endless love, support and encouragement throughout my pursuit for education. I hope this achievement will fulfill the dream they envisioned for me.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The development of children and youth is an integral concern for the future of any society, and street hawking especially by girls has been a common thing in most parts of developing world. It is a common phenomenon in Nigeria today which appear to be prevalent in the urban areas. Hawking is a form of trade in which the seller carries goods from one place to another in search of prospective buyers. Child-Street hawking refers to the selling of goods carried out by a person below the age of eighteen (child-street hawker). According to Anyanwu, 2017), Street hawking refers to a wandering like movement in which an individual carries his or her goods with a tray on the head or by means of transportation such as wheel barrow, bicycle or trolley in search of customers. This is usually accompanied by at least one form of advertisement - shouting the name of the item on sale, using bell or special mannerism to attract the attention or interest of the public. It is a trading activity characterized by movement across street in residential areas in which the hawker aims at selling his goods to any interested buyer. Ezenwa (2011) opines that an adolescent street hawker is a person under the age of 15 years who hawks goods and renders services on the commercial road or street.

In modern day Nigeria, child hawkers are faced with a lot of risks. For instance, there are several cases involving young girls as young as ten who are

sexually active and who trade in sexual favors for money alongside whatever commodities they are peddling. This scourge is not limited to the female gender alone as male children also fall victims to sexual offenders as well. The consequences of these acts include unwanted pregnancies, illegal and unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted diseases and psychological trauma (Akigir, 2012), and these teenage hawkers tend to suffer frustration and psycho-social disorientation. The dramatic increase in child labour and street hawking in Nigeria may be attributed to several factors such as the rapid population growth of many less developed countries. High rate of unemployment, inflation, low wages and deplorable working condition which have propelled children to engage in street hawking in order to help support their families (Deth, 2007).

Historically, hawking appears to be part of Nigerian culture and understandably so, Nigeria being among the poorest economies in the world with the accompanying effects of unemployment, poor infrastructural facilities, and lack of human empowerment which has seen most of her populace living in abject poverty. Due to the low socio-economic status of most families in Nigeria and the high rate of poverty, most parents cannot help but push their wards into the streets where they spend long hours, at the mercy of environmental elements, selling pure water (sachet or bottle water), fruits, confectioneries, beverages and so on; so that the proceeds may contribute to family upkeep.

Proper child development which encapsulates relevant and global education is therefore ineluctably tied to sustainable national development. It is therefore unequivocal that child hawkers are most unlikely to contribute significantly to societal development because they lack education hence the interest in this subject matter. Ebigbo and Abaja (2013) maintain that street hawking exposes children to sexual abuse and consequently to infections and that children who engage in street hawking may get involve in criminal acts like prostitution, armed robbery and pick pocketing (Hubert, 2009; Humphries, 2010). The problems associated with urbanization are human and environmental poverty, declining quality of life, untapped wealth and human resources.

Aderinto (2006) asserts that street trading exposes the operators to various risks and health hazards as most children end up engaging in various economic activities like bus conducting, passengers buses load carrying, car washing, hawking earlier as a means of survival. In Nigeria, hawkers are seen on the streets of major cities and majority of them are young people mostly teenagers. These children are usually sent out to hawk by their parents or guardians in order to earn money for the family. However, these child hawkers are exposed to certain dangers where in some cases, they are knocked down by reckless drivers, while some of these children may be abducted and used for ritual purposes. Sometimes, female hawkers are raped by either male customers or strangers. Some social and psychological problems are also associated with street hawking. For instance, it

exposes the not yet-fully equipped or maturing child hawker to thirst due to sweat and hunger following long trekking but more importantly to undue exposure to strangers including those with ignoble intention (Ezenwa, 2011). Literature suggest that parent allow their children into hawking due to the prevailing harsh economic situation in Nigeria (Shailong, Onuk, & Beshi, 2011; Clark & Yesufu, 2014). Empirical study shows a significant relationship between parents' occupational level and street hawking among children (Dada, 2013). Given this situation, it is unlikely that child-street hawking could be put to end any sooner.

Generally, child-street hawking has been assumed to be one of the factors affecting academic performance of students in school. Scholars such as Ubajaka, Duru, Nnebue, Okwaraoha, and Ifeadike, (2010) and Ekpenyong, and Sibiri, (2011) call for legislation against child-street hawking in Nigeria. This suggests that when child-street hawkers are barred from hawking it enable them the time to concentrate on school work. Thought it is desirable to discourage any activity that will interfere with schooling of the children, however, it is not feasible when such activity is the means of livelihood in the absent of other alternatives (Omokhodion, Omokhodion & Odusote, 2006; Anumaka, 2010). Insisting on exclusive schooling for children from low income or unemployed parents will likely: hinders enrolment; leads to withdrawal and drop out of school due to cost of schooling and need for survival.

Given the above situation it is better to allow school going children to engage in income generating activity while they continue schooling than not to be

in school at all (Okpukpara, Chine, Uguru, & Nnaemeka, 2006). Moreover, there are in-school child-street hawkers that perform better in academic work (Johnson, & Ihesie, 2015).which implies that despite the challenges that are associated with combining school and work, there are students who perform better. The incidence of street hawking in Nigeria, has been related to the high rates of unemployment, poverty, inflation, poor school performance, unstable families, Peer group influence, large family size and poor parental care (Magaji & Sarka, 2020). Poverty has been given as a major factor for engaging in street hawking due to the need to compensate for the family income (Onuzulike, 2017). Teenage Street hawking constitute serious nuisance to the society; it is generally viewed as a social pathology and a threat to nation security and development that requires social solution through rehabilitation and re-integration of such kids into their families and needy homes.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

The prevalence of teenage girls hawking appears to be on the increase as each day passes by. Street hawking have in most cases attracted concern from government, teachers and school administrators and researchers call for legislation against child-street hawking in Nigeria. It is supposed that the ban would enable teenagers concentrate on school work for improved academic performance. It has become a normal occurrence to see large amounts of teenagers in the streets, engaging in hawking, which is not ideal for young people in any nation. These

children are exposed to risks such as motor accident, rape, kidnapping, extortion, sexual abuse, trafficking, unwanted pregnancies etc. Though it is desirable to discourage any activity that will interfere with schooling of the children, however, it seems not feasible when such activity is the means of livelihood in the absence of other alternatives. The cost of schooling and need for the children to contribute to family survival is hindering school enrolment, enhancing withdrawal and drop out of school of students from poor background. Magaji and Sarka (2020) observed that the efficiency with which a country will perform and do well in the future depends to a large extent on how its human resource is managed and utilized. Therefore, adequate protection and development of children is a sine qua non for development albeit national security of the nation. It is against this backdrop that this paper assesses the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area,

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area. Other specific objectives are:

1. to know the causes of street hawking in Egor local government area, Edo state.
2. to ascertain the effect of street hawking on the child educational development in Egor Local government area

3. to find out the effect of street hawking on the child behavioral development in Egor Local government area
4. to determine the role of the social worker on the effect of street hawking on the development of the child in Egor local government area

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions were asked to guide the study:

1. What are the causes of street hawking in Egor local government area, Edo state?
2. What are the effects of street hawking on the child educational development in Egor Local government area?
3. In what way does street hawking affects the child behavioral development in Egor local government area?
4. What are the role of the social worker on the effect of street hawking on the development of the child in Egor local government area

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study sought to examine the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area. The findings of this study will benefit the government, school administrators, teachers, Parent Teachers Association (PTA), parents/guardians and researchers.

The study will help sensitize the Government to make policies that will eradicate street hawking among teenagers as the future of every great nation lies on the quality of education impacted in the life of the younger generation.

To the teachers, the findings of the study are expected to be useful in teaching the students; for example the teacher when delivering lesson will consider the street hawker as those with special needs and give them more attention and encouragement to participate in the lesson.

To the Parent Teachers Association the findings of this study are expected to be useful as adviser to the parents as parents can be advised to monitor the academic progress of their children and provide them supportive environment such as; learning material, enough time to rest, and assistance in home work. The social worker will be able to play their role better.-

Lastly, the findings of this study are expected to serves as a guide for further study.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study primarily focus on the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Street hawking: Street hawking in its simplest form is the selling of things along the roads and from one place to the other.

Teenage girls: TEENAGER is someone who is between 13 and 19 years old.

Behavioral development: Behavioral development in early childhood refers to the gradual and systematic changes in a child's behavior as they grow and mature during the early years of life

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with the review of relevant literature on of street hawking on the development of teenage girls. There have been constant issues of street hawking in Nigeria. A number of studies and theories have provided reviews on it, some of which are examined in this chapter.

2.1 Conceptual Review

There is no single universal definition of the concept street hawking; it has been defined differently by many researchers with same meaning. Asare (2010) defines street hawking as an act of selling retail goods directly on busy city streets, while to Amoo (2012), is displaying of wares by the road side, carrying head pan or raising a sample of wares to the commuters while the vehicle are moving. Umar (2009) define street hawking as the selling of things along the roads and from one place to the other. The above definitions give a picture of what is visible in the pattern of present day hawking. Unlike in the past when hawkers move from house to house and around the market place; now high ways are the major areas of hawking due to large numbers of commuters every day. Street hawking therefore, appears to be a small scale trade in which the seller moves around in search for prospective buyer from house to house, public offices, institutions and mainly motor parks and busy pedestals.

Teenage Street hawking is referring to hawking by school-going children. A child is a person male or female who is below the age of eighteen. In literature, hawking involving children is referred to differently but holds the same meaning. It is being referred to as child street-trading (Ashimolowo, *et al* 2010), teenage hawking (Eghosa, 2010), juvenile street hawking (Udoh & Joseph 2010), child street vendor (Ugochukwu, 2012) and child street hawking (Dada, 2013). Therefore, child street-hawking can be interchangeable with street hawking which is the act of selling wares by children. A hawker is someone who engages in street hawking, however when the person is a child, it can be referred to as; juvenile hawker (Ayodele, & Olubayo-Fatiregun, 2014), child street-vendor, (Ugochukwu, 2012), child hawker (Akighir, 2013), and child street-trader. To distinct the child hawker by gender, it can be referred to as male child-hawker (if it is a boy) and female child-hawker or girl-child hawker (if it is a girl). Street hawkers are categorised based on the mode they practice their trading. Ayodele and Olubayo-Fatiregun, (2014) classified hawkers into; those who hawk wares on regular basis and those who are irregular hawkers. The child street hawkers were observed to be regular, that is those who hawk wares every day before and/or after school, and even the whole day (Ebigbo, 2003), and irregular, that is those who hawk on weekends (Ayodele & Olubayo-Fatiregun , 2014) and when on holidays. Hawking has no permanent site or place. Street hawker's patronage to a place depends on how long the situation enabling the gathering and/or access to prospective consumers last.

Street hawkers always move to locations where they would meet large customers and make good sale of their wares.

2.2 Prevalence of Child-Street Hawking in Nigeria

According to Sasu (2021), between 2012 and 2019, some 31 percent of children in Nigeria were involved in child labor, at the moment of the survey. The source specifies that a child is considered to be involved in child labor when he or she does hours of economic activity and/or several hours of unpaid household services. Teenage Street hawking constitutes serious nuisance to the society; it is generally viewed as a social pathology and a threat to nation security and development that requires social solution through rehabilitation and re-integration of such kids into their families and needy homes. Among the core issues of national security are law and order. National security has also been defined as the “aggregate of the security interest of all individuals, communities, ethnic groups, political entities and institutions which inhabit the territory of Nigeria” (Mohammed, 2006). National Security from any perspective is about safeguarding the interests of the citizenry and providing the type of atmosphere that is free of threats that could inhibit the pursuit of the good of all. It is about the processes and measures required to preserve law and order”. In order to fully appreciate the relationship between the growing number of Street Children in Nigeria and the security challenges, it is needful to review some historic conflicts in Nigeria and indeed some recent and on-going conflicts. Nigeria has witnessed and may

continue to witness ethno-religious conflicts due to the failing nature of the Nigerian State and the recourse to ethno-nationalistic sentiments as survival strategies by helpless Nigerians whose destinies have been mortgaged on the altar of a kleptocratic and irresponsible ruling class.

There may not be available study or record which shows child-street hawking stated in Nigeria, however, it is a common knowledge that right from the seventies children have been engaged by parents in transporting and/or sales of farm produce and as well on their own look for fire wood to sell in the city to meet their personal needs. In Nigeria today the incidence of child-street hawking is wide spread (Ebigbo, 2003) and despite the public enlightenment campaign in the media and the signing in to law child right act in some states, the menace continue to flourish unabated. The effort by government agencies to stop the practice especially in the cities did not yield any considerable result. Instead the number of children who enter in to street trading is on the increase as each day pass by. The estimated fifteen million children engaged in various form of labour in Nigeria (Femi, 2011) include those who hawk goods in the street. A child is an individual under the age of eighteen years old (Shailong, *et al.*, 2011). Children at age below ten are found to be engaged in street hawking in Nigeria (Ugochukwu, et al, 2012). This shows that hawking in the street has been part of the children`s way of life right from early child hood which could make it difficult for them to quit the practice. Every day, school age children roam in the streets advertising and selling goods from morning

to evening. This situation has been found to be on the increase in Nigeria (Ekpenyong, & Sibiri, 2011). Literature reveals that these children are commonly seen hawking at road junction, high ways, markets, in buses, motor parks and check points.

Street hawking among the primary school age children is fast becoming the culture in our society. When children are kept busy on the street and come in contact with different corrupt behaviors during hawking, it is worrisome on what the outcome will be on their educational, socio-emotional, security and resource development of the nation. This, if not properly addressed will seriously affect the general standard of morality, social norms, security and development of the nation. In Nigeria, Street hawking is considered to be one form of child labour and exploitative because of the excessively long hour of trading by the children, hindrance of school attendance, and effectiveness on child's health (Ibanga, 2007). Many Nigerian children are compelled to work because of their parents joblessness, poor or uneducated and traditional custom especially polygamy which contributes to poor living standard and push children into the street due to high birth rate. Some of the street hawking children tend to spend the entire day and sometimes until late in the night selling goods under harsh weather condition. This interferes with their emotional, educational and social development. It was observed that children in the study area are involved in harmful and exploitative work during school hours and they work for very long hours per day (Ugochukwu, et al., 2012). Street hawking as

a form of child labor violates children's human rights, as children are forced to partake in abusive, harmful and exploitative work which may affect their physical capabilities, deprives them of childhood freedom; the right to play and recreate and of their natural development (Admassie, 2003). This affects the educational development of a child and is a disinvestment in human capital formation and has negative effects on the private and social returns of child as well as the entire society, as no set of resources is more vital to an organization success than its human resources (Denisi & Griffin, 2005). It is because; every other resource that contributes to organizational/societal goal attainment is initiated, formulated and managed by the people who make up the organization or society (Sarka, 2014). Also, Onah, (2008) observed that the efficiency with which an organization perform its functions depends to a large extent on how its human resource is managed and utilized.

2.2.1 Street Children and National Security

Teenage Street hawking constitute serious nuisance to the society; it is generally viewed as a social pathology and a threat to nation security and development that requires social solution through rehabilitation and re-integration of such kids into their families and needy homes. National Security entails the ability of Nigeria to advance her interests and objectives to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption, improve the welfare, and quality of life of every citizen (Magaji & Sarka, 2020). Among the core issues of national security

are law and order. National Security from any perspective is about safeguarding the interests of the citizenry and providing the type of atmosphere that is free of threats that could inhibit the pursuit of the good of all. It is about the processes and measures required to preserve law and order (Magaji & Sarka, 2020). In order to fully appreciate the relationship between the growing number of Street Children in Nigeria and the security challenges, it is needful to review some historic conflicts in Nigeria and indeed some recent and on-going conflicts. Nigeria has witnessed and may continue to witness ethno-religious conflicts due to the failing nature of the Nigerian State and the recourse to ethno-nationalistic sentiments as survival strategies by helpless Nigerians whose destinies have been mortgaged on the altar of a kleptocratic and irresponsible ruling class. During the series of the major ethno-religious conflicts like the Zagon-Kataf riot, Kano riot, Bauchi riot, Jos riot, Sharia riots in Kaduna etc. Street Children especially the almajiris of Islamic street urchins drew the first blood and the bulk of the mayhem were sustained by this group of children. This could be largely due to the unquestionable indoctrination and lack of objective analysis of social events by children of this age. Their actions are consequently brutal and devastating (Amoo, et al., 2012). In Lagos, the OPC mayhem between 1999 and 2001 involved a lot of Street Children as foot soldiers. The events in Niger Delta cities in the last eight years are equally instructive. Most urban terror gangs operating in these cities have Street Children as both active foot soldiers and surveillance teams that provide the intelligence before attacks. Even

the cult wars that have specifically ravaged the city of Port Harcourt involve the active participation of Street Children who also act as unsuspecting hard drug couriers to beat the prying eyes of security agencies (Amoo, et al., 2012). The logic therefore is that one of the major features of the flash points in Nigeria such as the North-with the potential of ethno-religious conflicts, Lagos-with the potential of ethnic conflicts, the East-with the potentials of ethnic conflict and the South- South-already enmeshed in resistance struggles, insurgency and militancy all have connections with Street Children as their recruit. Also, they constitute a pool of recruits as armed robbers, urban terror gangs and violent cultists and ultimately graduating into political thugs. More so, the criminal nature of Nigeria's transitional democracy tend to rely heavily on „godfathers“, violence and brutality to capture power at all cost (Human Rights Watch, 2007). This, of course, involves the reliance on the large pool of Street Children as potential thugs. The fact, therefore, still remains that Street Children in Nigeria are potent threat to National Security as a nation infested with Street Children cannot be free from security threats. Nigeria is therefore tinkering with a potential time bomb that could explode in ways that cannot be presently imagined. Street Children, street urchins, almajaris, child traders/laborers that dot Nigeria cities will continue to remain a snag on national security and development.

2.3 Causes of Street Hawking

According to Enu (2016), a number of factors are responsible for teenagers hawking in various streets. Such as

- a. **Poverty:** poverty is the state of being in lack and a condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not being met. Studies indicate that most children who hawk are motivated by poverty. The search for money to make ends meet in a depressed economy is obviously one of the major reasons for parent and guardians sending their children or wards to hawk. Either that the parents do not earn enough money or that they have many children to care for, which results in leading them to the street to complement family income (Enu, 2016).
- b. **Poor family planning:** Some families do not adopt and practice family planning; they give birth to more than the number they can cater for because they see children as a free gift of God; therefore, children brought into the world by these parents face difficulties as a result of this. It is not only the children that face hardship but also the parents that gave birth to them. The parents begin to think on how to get support to train the children and end up sending the children to the streets to make money through hawking of goods on the streets (Enu, 2016).
- c. **Child trafficking:** Child trafficking is one of the principal causes of child hawking. Trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. This is in line with the

definition of street hawking by The UN convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). In some countries, women in the cities visit rural areas and meet mothers who they think can easily agree for them to take their daughters or sons to the city where they stay. The poor parents usually think that the persons they handed over their children to will take care of them properly without knowing that they have subjected their children to the modern day slavery known as child trafficking. When the children get to the cities, they would be surprised to see that they were trafficked and hence do not know how to make their ways back to their locations (their parents homes) (Enu, 2016). The “business women” usually hand these children to other people who subject them to hawking on the streets of the cities. Some of these children were usually raped and exploited while hawking on the streets.

- d. **War/Death of Parent:** When war occurs, children usually go fatherless or motherless or both; as the breeze of wars come with many killings and bloodshed. When these children lose their parent that cares for them, either through sickness, sudden death or as a result of war, persons who takes care of them may not be diligent as they see these children as not their own. They are most times subjected to street hawking as their parents are no longer alive to love, educate, house and cloth them properly.

- e. **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy in some parts of Nigeria, has contributed to high level of street hawking by children in the Nation. In some part of Nigeria, especially in the North, there are parents with high illiteracy level. These kinds of parents are bankrupt on the importance of education to nations, as a result, they prefer to send their children to the streets where they will make money for them. The illiteracy the parents of the children suffered from will be transferred to the children because the children do not attend schools when their mates were learning in their various classrooms (Enu, 2016).

2.4 Factors Influencing Street Hawking

According to Appel (2009), structural inequality is a major factor that influences street trading. Also, Nwabueze (1992) attributes street hawking to poverty and inequality. Other factors that influence street hawking are adverse economic environment, unemployment, massive retrenchment, underemployment and poor quality of life (Okojie, 2007). All these factors are features of Nigerian society. Nnom (2003) posits that while poverty is often regarded as the principal cause of forcing children into child labour, a lack of social service at home, lack of good housing, inadequate food and healthcare services combine to compel parents to send their children into street hawking. It then implies that the less privileged including children without homes are the most vulnerable to these social ills. Economic constraints also force parents to look for wealth at all cost to the detriment of their children.

Crosson (2008) posits that there is a link between parents with marginal income and the imperative to push children into work so as to complement family income. Children of poor families have to help generate family income and compensate for discrepancies in the society, particularly as the gap between those that have and those that don't have enough has grown in recent years, such situation breeds poverty (Bass, 2004; Binder and Sorgin, 2009). Low family income carries with it high risk of illness, limitations on mobility and limited access to education, thus the legacy of poverty is passed from parents to children (UNICEF, 2003). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its debut Human development report ranked Nigeria 137th out of 184 nations in terms of human development.

In Nigeria, poverty encourages prostitution, corruption, armed robbery, street life, increased unemployment, poor living conditions, high mortality, acute malnutrition, short life expectancy and human deprivation (Bimonthly digest, March! April 2006). William (2008) opines that such factors as broken homes, unemployment and death of parents can also make or lead a child to be a hawker. According to him, these victims' of broken homes are normally compelled to hawk or engage in jobs in order to cater for themselves since their parents cannot do so. In some cases, some children hawk because of peer pressure. The implication is that youthful exuberance can lead some children to engage in economic activities and they indulge in it out of the desire for adventure without identifying the adverse

effect it will have on their studies. These scholars assert that people who migrate from rural areas to urban centers in search of better prospects are often ill prepared for urban life and therefore forced to either use their children or other children to enhance their economic situation (Adedayo, et al, 2021). Cultural and economic factors interact in complex ways to encourage child hawking in most African urban centers. Street hawking flourishes because people patronize these hawkers by buying from them.

2.4.1 Poverty as a Determinant of Street Hawking by Children

According to Akpotor (2018), poverty is characterized by lack of purchasing power, rural predominance, exposure to environmental risk, insufficient access to social and economic services, lack of political right and few opportunities for formal-sector income generation. The study done by Davies (2010) shows that informal economies have grown in developing countries, and that many households supplement their formally earned incomes with income earned informally. Blank (2010) pointed out that children are predisposed to working not only because of poverty but also factors such as failure of market force, economic underdevelopment, social and political processes. The issue of child labor is mostly rife in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific (International Labor Organization (ILO), 2012). There are about 48 million children involved in child labor in sub-Saharan Africa, plus the 15 million active child laborers in Nigeria (Ajakaye, 2013).

The manifestations of child labor include domestic servitude, forced and bonded labor, begging, mining and agricultural activities, child sex workers, cobblers, car washers, apprentices in various sectors, street hawkers among others. Child Street hawking is the selling of goods and services by children who are below 18 years along major roads or streets and other designated place to make a living or complement family income. Similarly, Akpotor (2018), averred that in Nigeria, working children have been shown to contribute up to 90% of the family income and many children who work do so as a means of survival. Consequently, children hawking are common sights in Nigeria cities and rural settlements. Poverty is perceived as the utmost driver of children into the work force. Prior studies have revealed that child labor is more common in poorer homes and societies with extreme economic inequalities (Owolabi, 2012; Ekpenyong & Sibiri, 2011).

According to Emerson (2009), high income households would prefer not to allow their children to work, while low income households that are in dire need may be forced to push out their children to work in order to survive. He opined that if adult wages are high enough, all households will benefit from the adult earnings and children can be kept out of the labor force.

Aqil (2012) claims that when parents have worked in their childhood, there is a tendency for the children to do same, thereby passing the ugly trend from generation to generation. As a result, by the time they attain adulthood, they are uneducated and low-skilled. Rena (2009) indicates that poverty and

underdevelopment intensify child labor particularly hawking. She found out that the pervasiveness of poverty amongst countries in Asia and Africa has worsened the cases of children involvement in hawking.

Akarro and Mtweve (2011), dealing with poverty is the most viable cure to the menace of children street hawking. Nigeria is presumably one of the poorest countries in the world regardless of the fact that oil exploration and production has fetched the country over \$400 billion in revenues. Several factors have been adduced as the determinants of poverty in Nigeria among, which are unemployment, corruption, over dependence on oil and non-diversification of the economy, income inequality, indolence, and non-functional education system (Nduka & Duru, 2014; Togunde & Arielle, 2008). Despite attempts made by various governments to alleviate the scourge of poverty in the country through programs such as Better Life Program (BLP), Peoples' Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Family Support Program (FSP) and National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) among others, poverty is still highly endemic and it is a serious social malaise.

Poverty in Nigeria is characterized by insufficient access to public services, ecological problems, infrastructural decay, absence of functional education, ill health, insecurity, socio-political discrimination and economic marginalization (Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 2010). This state of affairs according to Nseabasi and Abiodun (2010) has compelled millions of children to work as a means to boost the

income of the family to guarantee the continued existence of the household. The issue of child labor is mostly rife in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific (International Labor Organization (ILO), 2012). There are about 48 million children involved in child labor in sub-Saharan Africa, plus the 15 million active child laborers in Nigeria (Ajakaye, 2013). However, street hawking is the most prevalent mode of child labor in Nigeria (Osiruemu, 2007). Child Street hawking is the selling of goods and services by children who are below 18 years along major roads or streets and other designated place to make a living or complement family income. According to Akpotor (2018), in Nigeria, working children have been shown to contribute up to 90% of the family income and many children who work do so as a means of survival. Consequently, children hawking are common sights in Nigeria cities and rural settlements. Poverty is perceived as the utmost driver of children into the work force. Prior studies have revealed that child labor is more common in poorer homes and societies with extreme economic inequalities (Owolabi, 2012; Ekpenyong & Sibiri, 2011). Vaknin (2009) opined that it is customary for parents and guardians to send a child to work in order to help them learn new skills; however, hawking has been reported to have numerous negative consequences as child hawkers are exposed to physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional hazards. According to Owolabi (2012), children who engage in street hawking are predisposed to sexual exploitation, rape, trafficking. They are robbed of their daily cash, become victims of ritual, poor academic performance

many others. Street hawking affects the educational advancement of a child and is a disinvestment in human capital configuration and has destructive outcome on the personal and social returns of a child (Akpotor, 2018). Prior to Nigeria's independence, legislations opposed to children street hawking were formulated and implemented by the colonial regimes in the 1950s. In the same vein, post-independence Nigeria has passed legislations prohibiting street hawking especially the Child Right Act (CRA) of 2003. One fundamental stipulation of the CRA is that utilizing children for hawking is a punishable offence under the Act. Also, Section.

2.5 Effect of Street Hawking on the Academic Development of the Child

Street hawking has a negative effect on the level of education attained. According to Arhedo, Aluede & Arhedo, 2011; Anumaka, 2012), children are preferred to adult in hawking goods because; they are less criminal and a cheap labour to the employer. This led to increase in the number of children who roam the street daily hawking goods while those of their age are in school. Studies identified the age bracket of these children to fall between 10 and 19 years. Most of these children hawk before going to school in morning and continue after until late night. Street hawking has left many children out of school as they drop out, withdrawn by their parent or not enroll. School age children estimated to be 10.5 million are out of school in Nigeria (The Guardian, 2013). Though, this is not surprising, giving that majority of the population are living below the poverty line couple with the

fact that, these children are being engaged in income generating activities to contribute to the sustenance of the family, however, it is embarrassing to a country with abundant natural resources like Nigeria. Until this is addressed, achieving education millennium development goal remains an illusion. Most of the hawkers are either in primary/ secondary school for the purpose of hawking and at each day sales the children become weak and tired that they are unable to concentrate, contribute to discussion or study on their own. During school hours, they sleep in the classroom due to exhaustion and after school hours, they take to the street to engage in their trade. This results in poor grades and lack of interest in furthering their education. It has been heard that some parents in towns and cities withdraw their children from school in order to send them hawking so as to make more money for the family up keep. In some cases, some children are always dropped out from school for a term or even a whole year and when they get back to school (that is if they go back to it at all) they become too big for their cohort, and they fall victims of name calling by younger classmates (Akpotor, 2018)

2.5.1 Effect of Street Hawking on the Behavioral Development of the Child

Early deprivation of children's right to normal life could lead to behavioral problems. Thus, the behavioral manifestations of problems associated with street hawking include problems of social maladjustment, moral defect, emotional reaction and insecurity. The children tend to keep bad company and are negatively pressured by peer to engage in delinquent behavior (Hughes, 2009). Teenagers

especially the female folks are exposed through hawking to be sexually aware too early in life. In the attempt to sell their wares, teenagers mingle with the touts in the motor packs and in the streets. Some of the female teenage hawkers are lured into sexual relationship that may result into pre-mature pregnancy, some may become promiscuous following exposure through hawking. According to Farauta and Yambuk (2013), street hawkers seem to exhibit low self-esteem, lack confidence, and feel ashamed while their regular school attendance cannot be guaranteed. From observation, street hawkers do not attend school regularly, have little or no time to work on assignment, read or revise notes in preparation for examinations and neither do they have time to rest or relax after school. This seems to influence their academic performance negatively. Udoh and Joseph (2012) averred that street hawking contributes to students' moral laxity laziness and truant behaviors capable of negatively influencing their academic performance. Male teenage hawkers learn the act of smoking cigarette and even hard drugs because of the interaction with people of questionable characters while some are exposed to armed robbery business while some females may drop hawking and resort to prostitution

2.5.2 Effect of Street Hawking on the Socio-emotional development of the Child

According to Asiegbu (2018), Social/emotional development refers to an aspect of child development. It consists of how individuals develop the social skills and emotional maturity to build relationships and relate to other people.

Social/emotional development includes child's experience, expression and management of emotion and the ability to establish positive relationship with others (Asiegbu, 2018). It also involves the ability to form and sustain positive relationships, experiences, manage and express emotion, explore and engage with the environment. Social-emotional development is the combination of learning diplomacy and truthfulness to interact with individuals or groups in a manner that contributes positively to members of society (Kidspot, 2011). It is the time children socialize with each other in the school and in the environment in which they find themselves, they interact with one another and make friends with their mates. However, some children are denied the opportunity due to the exposure to street hawking. The child street hawker faces a lot of emotional trauma and abuse. He is denied of the family atmosphere as he spends his life on the street hawking. It may make him/her feel frustrated, dejected, dominated or humiliated especially in the school.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

This study adopted Karl Marx's Labour Theory of Value. Karl Marx theory is one of the scientific theories that focus mainly on social class. It explains on why one social class dictates for other social life. Like other classical economist, Karl Marx believed in the labour theory of value to explain relative differences. This theory notes that the economic good can be measured on the objective of the average number of labour working hours that the labour used in production.

Marxism measures the society's class and states that the society should have no classes of struggle. That is, no one should have power over another. Everyone should be equal. Marxist belief in the system was inherently unfair under capitalism. To Marx, workers would become poorer and poorer and keep on experiencing poverty and alienation.

Marx calls for the poor to rise up against capitalism. Proletarians and bourgeoisie is the term Marx uses for overthrowing the capitalism. Marx's theory shows how one's social class has a direct influence on one's life which explains how the status of child street hawker's parents has direct effect on the life experiences of child street hawkers. Marx's theory is also a reflection on the conflicting issue of the wealthy and the poor in a society which is focusing on the conditions of the working class people. In adapting Marx labour theory of value to petty of commodity production, drawing on Marx's theory of different modes of production, the petty commodity sector is an integral component of production in which it is related to the capitalist mode of exploitation (Moser, 1978:1057). Within the capitalist production modal, the petty commodity sector plays several important function/roles the cost of labor reproduction and maintenance of low levels of subsistence. Moser thus further states that politically, the development planning cannot be ignored. The implications of the plan of action of Moser's analysis offer little or no hope. Although Moser recognizes the call for grassroots interventions, he states that these measures are to ease some of the anomalies and

not the alteration of the existing exploitative structure. The main point of the Marx's theory of capitalist exploitation in the context of this study is to actually point out the reasons behind the exploitation of children in the hawking business, and from the theory it has been made clear that the reason for the exploitation of children in the economy is due to the economic status in the country. Currently, Nigeria is practicing a Capitalist economy system in which almost all the production of goods and services in the country are produced by private bodies. Thus most businesses in Nigeria are with the aim of maximizing profits, without much consideration for workers' health. Several scholarly arguments are that banning of child street hawking is the only solution to putting an end to under-aged child hawking activities. Anthony (2012) also noted that effect of such ban on less privileged family could be severe and call for government provision on social welfare (Anthony, 2012). They further mention that the effect of Child Street hawking on the education of the child has been detrimental to the child's future and to the society at large. In other words, every member of the family has the obligation to contribute to the financial income of the household. This situation is a direct consequence of the decline in the wages of the parents or guardians. Marx also adds that the long term effects of child labour recognizes the intermeshing of the social and political factors and are used to explain the implications of street hawking for peace and security in order to actualize the aim of this research.

2.7 Empirical Review

Magaji and Sarka (2020) did a study to investigate how teenage hawking affects the child's development and the nation at large. It probed the socio-demographic characteristics of the teenage hawkers, their reasons for hawking, the nature and source of their motivation and their level of awareness of the dangers of hawking in Kagarko, Kaduna State, Nigeria and also examined its implications on national development. The researchers revealed that teenage hawking has negative influences on children's educational development which in turn affects the national security as education is said to be the engine of development. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made among others; there should be public enlightenment campaign to educate parents, guardians and the children on the dangers of hawking on children's educational development especially. Government empowerment programmes should be brought to the grassroots and be sustained

Adedayo, et al, (2021) did a study on the investigation into underage labour in Nigeria with specific focus on street hawkers in Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos State. The study found out that poor parental economic background and involvement of underage in street hawking, parental/guardian occupation does not significantly influence the involvement of underage in street hawking and there is a significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of the underage. The study concluded that government and Nigerians should therefore, practically demonstrate their commitment to the global fight against child labor in which street hawking amongst underage has become a social stigma to the country

especially in the major towns and cities through poverty eradication to enable each household cater for their family needs contrary to the current practice where children engage in street hawking to help boost their family financial status while free compulsory basic education to all children with free meals should be introduced/provided by the government to cater for children from poor socio-economic background while public enlightenment campaign against street hawking should be vigorously pursued.

Oyewale, (2018) did a study to investigate the problem of street hawking among the Nigerian children. The study showed that the awareness level of the affected children on the dangers inherent in street hawking was low. The investigation of the study revealed that parents' level of education, parents' occupation as well as family size were significantly related to the problem of Child Street hawking in the study area. The study recommends that serious efforts should be intensified on enlightenment programmes on the problem inherent in child street hawking, genuine commitment on policy formulation against child hawking, free and compulsory education and creation of job opportunities to the parents to take care of their children by the government and that Parents should also accept and rely on family planning methods in the determination of family size.

Nkok and Ibrahim, (2019) examined the impacts of street hawking on biology achievements of teenage girls in Senior Secondary Schools in Minna Metropolis of Niger State. The findings of the study revealed that street hawking

has adverse effects on the student's academic achievements in biology at all levels of the Senior Secondary Schools. Students should be discouraged from all forms of juvenile trading and the welfare of students should be catered by their parents, guidance, society and governments and this will improve the educational achievements achievement.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the methodology relevant to this research. It contains the research design, the population and sampling techniques, the operationalization and measurement of variables, the research instrument, validity of research instrument, sources of data and method of data analyses.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. The cross sectional research design was adopted for this study. This design was adopted and considered appropriate because it facilitates the collection of original data from the respondent.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population is the totality of the objects or elements being studied and to which the conclusions or generalization of our results was applied. The study was conducted across Egor L.G.A, Edo State, Nigeria. It has an area of 93 km² and a population of 339,899 as at the 2006 census and projected to be 502,700 (National Population Commission,2006).

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

For the purpose of this study, purposive sampling technique which involves the selection of participants in such a way that it would follow the purpose of the study will be employed. The teenage street hawkers will be given the questionnaires to answer during their break time gotten through findings and personal interview. This technique was used because the researcher will identify the participants according to the aim of the study. Teenage street hawkers, members of household and other respondents in this research will be purposively selected based on gender, age, education level, location, position and involvement in child street hawking. This, by implication, means that the population will be those respondents adjudged suitable because they meet certain criteria or the conditions of the research. A sample of 100 questionnaires will be distributed to the participants.

3.4 Research Instrument

Questionnaires were administered as the main data collection instrument that was used in the study. The prepared questionnaire accompanied with letter of introduction was sent to the assigned respondents to be completed and returned to the researcher. The respondents were asked not to give their names in order to increase the chance of obtaining correct information and ensure confidentiality.

3.5 Validity of Instrument

The questionnaire for this study was thoroughly scrutinized by the supervisor for clarity, precision and comprehension. Both the preliminary test and

the main research results was be similar especially in the pattern of response from respondents to fundamental questions relating to the research study under consideration.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was distributed personally to the respondents. The respondents were able to answer the questions honestly after administering the questionnaires to them. The researcher also guided the respondents with regards to filling the questionnaires. The respondents were informed that their responses would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected or generated from the questionnaire was analyzed using the simple percentages, mean via the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 24.0.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter presents the presentation and analyses of data collected as well as the interpretation and the discussion of results of the study. The first section is based on the demographic presentations and analyses via the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The major task of the objective of the exercise is to answer the research questions stated in chapter one of the study. The relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variables were analyzed and then the discussions of findings were made.

4.1 Descriptive Statistics

The retrieved questionnaires containing the information from the respondents was analyzed and interpreted using percentages

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Returned	95	95
Unreturned	5	5
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024

One hundred (100) copies of questionnaire were distributed to 100 respondents. 95 copies completed and returned, representing 95% of the total administered questionnaires.

SESSION A

Section A: Biodata

This section shows the variables of respondents in respect of demography such as gender, age, marital status and highest education obtained.

Table 4.2 Demographic Information on Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	51	53.7
Female	44	46.3
Total	95	100.0
Age		
Below 18 years	51	53.7
18-25 years	33	34.7
26-30 years	10	10.5
Above 30 years	1	1.1
Total	95	100.0
Marital status		
Single	80	84.2
Married	15	15.8
Total	95	100.0
Educational Qualification		
Primary	12	12.6
Secondary	31	32.6
OND/NCE/Diploma	42	44.2
HND/B.Sc./B. A	10	10.5
Postgraduate	-	
Total	95	100.0
RELIGION		
Christian	71	74.7
Muslim	8	8.4
Others	16	16.8
Total	95	100.0

Source: Researcher's fieldwork survey, 2024

Table 4.2 shows that out of a total of 95 respondents, 38 are male while 57 are female. In terms of age, out of a total of 95 respondents, 51 of the respondents are below 18 years, 33 of the total respondents are within the age bracket of 18-25 years, 10 of the total respondents are within the age bracket of 26-30 years, while 1 of the total respondents are above 30 years. In terms of marital status, out of a total of 95 respondents, 80 of the total respondents are single, 15 of the total respondents are married. In terms of educational qualification, out of a total of 95 respondents, 12 are primary school holders, 51 are SSCE holders, 22 are OND/NCE/Diploma holders, while 10 are HND/B.Sc./B.A holders,. In terms of religion, 71 are Christians, 8 are Muslims while 16 belong to other religion.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analyses according to the Research Objectives

Research Question 1: What are the causes of street hawking in Egor local government area, Edo state?

Table 4.3: The Frequency Distribution of Respondents with the below Statement

Variables	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagreed		Strongly disagree	
	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%
Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background	53	53.5	25	25.3	10	10.1	2	2.0	5	5.1
Street hawking is influenced by parental educational background	46	46.5	42	42.4	2	2.0	1	1.0	4	4.0
Parents provide the wares or articles of street hawking for their children	42	42.4	46	46.5	6	6.1	1	1.0		
Poverty is the major cause of street hawking	42	42.4	35	35.4	12	12.1	1	1.0	5	5.1

Source: researcher's fieldwork survey, (2024)

The result in table 4.3 above shows that most of the respondents gave positive response to the itemized items in table 4.3. Majority of the respondents agreed that Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background; that street hawking is influenced by parental educational background; that parents provide the wares or articles of street hawking for their children and that poverty is the major cause of street hawking.

Research Question 2: What are the effects of street hawking on the child educational development in Egor Local government area?

Table 4.4: The Frequency Distribution of Respondents with the below Statement

Variables	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagreed		Strongly disagree	
	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%
Street hawking influence the high rate of school drop out	24	24.2	26	26.3	30	30.3	7	7.1	8	8.1
Street hawking affects the grade level of students who indulge in it	46	46.5	23	23.2	17	17.2	6	6.1	2	2.0
Children who indulge in street hawking lose interest in academic activities	39	39.4	42	42.4	8	8.1	6	6.1	-	-
Children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours.	61	61.6	20	20.2	10	10.1	1	1.0	3	3.0
Grand mean										

Source: researcher's fieldwork survey, (2024)

The result in table 4.4 above shows that most of the respondents gave positive response to the itemized items in table 4.4. Majority of the respondents agreed that Street hawking influence the high rate of school dropout; that street hawking affects the grade level of students who indulge in it; that children who indulge in street hawking lose interest in academic activities and that children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours.

Research Question 3: In what way does street hawking affects the child behavioral development in Egor local government area?

Table 4.5: The Frequency Distribution of Respondents with the below Statement

Variables	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagreed		Strongly disagree	
	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%
Street hawking influences the high rate of moral laxity	23	23.2	27	27.3	34	34.3	8	8.1	3	3.0
Children that hawk on the street are exposed to sexual activities early	15	15.2	37	37.4	18	18.2	20	20.2	5	5.1
Street hawking influence the high rate of truancy	25	25.3	32	32.3	18	18.2	15	15.2	5	5.1
Female children involved in street hawking often turn to prostitution	20	20.2	39	39.4	24	24.2	8	8.1	4	4.0
Grand mean										

Source: researcher's fieldwork survey, (2024)

The result shows that most of the respondents gave positive response to all items in table 4.5. Therefore, majority of the respondents agreed that Street hawking influences the high rate of moral laxity; that children that hawk on the street are exposed to sexual activities early; that street hawking influence the high rate of truancy and that female children involved in street hawking often turn to prostitution.

Research Question 4: What is the role of the social worker on the effect of street hawking on the academic development of the child in Egor local government area?

Table 4.6: The Frequency Distribution of Respondents with the below Statement

Variables	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagreed		Strongly disagree	
	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%
I understand the role of Social workers in my community is to that of counselling and advocacy	40	40.4	35	35.4	9	9.1	10	10.1	1	1.0
Social workers work with families and children who have been abused or neglected	36	36.4	39	39.4	13	13.1	4	4.0	2	2.0
It is believed that Social workers can practice child protection	24	24.2	43	43.4	19	19.2	4	4.0	3	3.0
social workers can practice child protection, without violating cultural values in your area	20	20.2	40	40.4	19	19.2	10	10.1	5	5.1

Source: researcher's fieldwork survey, (2024)

The result shows that most of the respondents gave positive response all the items in table 4.7. Therefore, majority of the respondents agreed that they understand the role of Social workers in my community is to that of counselling

and advocacy; that social workers work with families and children who have been abused or neglected; that It is believed that Social workers can practice child protection and that social workers can practice child protection, without violating cultural values in their area.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The study examined the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area. The result showed that the respondents agreed that Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background; that street hawking is influenced by parental educational background; that parents provide the wares or articles of street hawking for their children and that poverty is the major cause of street hawking.

The result also shows that respondents agreed that street hawking influence the high rate of school dropout; that street hawking affects the grade level of students who indulge in it; that children who indulge in street hawking lose interest in academic activities and that children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours.

The study showed that respondents agreed that Street hawking influences the high rate of moral laxity; that children that hawk on the street are exposed to sexual activities early; that street hawking influence the high rate of truancy and that female children involved in street hawking often turn to prostitution.

The study also revealed that they understand that the role of Social workers in my community is that of counselling and advocacy; that social workers work with families and children who have been abused or neglected; that it is believed that Social workers can practice child protection without violating cultural values in their area.

This agrees with the finding of Magaji and Sarka (2020) who did a study to investigate how teenage hawking affects the child's development and the nation at large. The researchers revealed that teenage hawking has negative influences on children's educational development which in turn affects the national security as education is said to be the engine of development. Based on the findings, the study recommended that there should be public enlightenment campaign to educate parents, guardians and that government empowerment programmes should be brought to the grassroots and be sustained with proper measure to alleviate poverty.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The focus of this chapter is to summarize the findings, draw conclusions reached in the study and make recommendations based on research objectives and the overall perspective of the main findings while making suggestions for further studies. To facilitate the study, questionnaires were administered to the selected school. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, Version 24.0) was employed to examine the feedbacks from the questionnaires. The study examined the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area. The objective of the study is to know the causes of street hawking in Egor local government area, Edo state; to ascertain the effect of street hawking on the child educational development in Egor Local government area; to find out the effect of street hawking on the child behavioral development in Egor Local government area and to determine the role of the social worker on the effect of street hawking on the development of the child in Egor local government area.

The result revealed that Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background. The result also showed that street hawking influence the high rate of school dropout. The study showed that respondents agreed that street hawking influence the high rate of school dropout; that street hawking affects the grade level of students who indulge in it; that children who indulge in street hawking lose

interest in academic activities and that children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours.

5.2 Conclusion

The Study examine the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area. 100 copies of questionnaire was distributed the participants. Based on the findings of this study, Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background. The result also showed that agreed Street hawking influence the high rate of school dropout and that it also influences the high rate of truancy; and that the role of Social workers in their community is that of counselling and advocacy. It revealed that street hawking is a very visible phenomenon in our society. Counsellors and all stakeholders in child education, child care and welfare, and those who are interested in saving the younger generation should encourage the government to make provisions such as incentives and grants (such as scholarship awards) to support children from poor parental backgrounds so that they may enjoy a happy childhood, uninterrupted basic education, and good health.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, these recommendations are made;

1. Serious efforts should be intensified on enlightenment programmes on the problem inherent in child street hawking, genuine commitment on policy formulation against child hawking, free and compulsory education and

creation of job opportunities to the parents to take care of their children by the government and that Parents should also accept and rely on family planning methods in the determination of family size.

2. Street hawking encourages, promotes and generates other social problems like teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, prostitution, armed robbery, pick pocketing. With this at the back of our minds, families, schools, government and nongovernmental organizations should join hands to ensure that this social ill is dealt with in the society.
3. Since poverty appears to be the primary cause of street hawking, the government at all levels should step-up efforts to improve the economy, as a matter of urgency. This they can do by stemming the tide of unemployment, improving the remuneration of workers, improving infrastructure, creating job opportunities, and empowering the masses in various conceivable ways. This would go a long way to raise the socio-economic condition of most families thus reducing the poverty rate in the country.
4. Parents and guardians whose wards are involved in street hawking should endeavour to protect their wards from the corrupting influence of the society. They can achieve this by training their wards to eschew unacceptable behaviours, by not allowing anything to interfere with their education and by respecting their right to a secure and happy childhood.

5. The government at all levels should not only provide free basic education but also take practical steps to ensure that the education they give is truly and completely free, qualitative, and necessarily compulsory. Legislating and effecting punitive measures on education stakeholders that default will enhance success in this direction.
6. School administrators should step-up efforts to curb every form of truancy and loitering in and around their respective schools so that students may be disciplined to stay put in schools and pay attention to their lessons.
7. There should be advocacy campaigns to educate parents and guardians on' the dangers of hawking to the children. Seminars, workshop, radio and television programmes, hand bills, bill boards etc are available instruments that can be used to educate people on the dangers of hawking.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

A replication of this study could be carried out in other parts of Nigeria to compare and contrast the findings of the present study.

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**REQUEST FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS
QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am an under-graduate student of the above named University. As part of the requirements for award of B.Sc degree in social work. I am conducting a research titled *the impact of street hawking on the development of teenage girls in Egor local government area*. In this regard, you have been duly selected as a member of the sample. I also wish to assure you that your answers will be treated in strict confidence and used for the stated academic purpose only. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Aifuwa Tracy,
Researcher**

Section A: Demographic Variables

Instruction: Please tick [] against your chosen response and record your view where necessary in the provided spaces.

1. **Gender:** Male [] Female []
2. **Age:** below 18 [] 18-25 [] 26-30 [] Above 30 years []
3. **Marital Status:** Single [] Married [] Divorced []
4. **Religion:** Christianity [] Muslim [] Others []
5. **Highest Educational Qualification:** Primary [] Secondary []
OND/NCE/Diploma [] HND/B.Sc./B. A [] Postgraduate []

Section B

Instruction: Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following, you are to assess the following on a scale of “strongly agree to strongly disagree”.

Key: SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, N = Neutral, D= Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree

S/N	What are the causes of street hawking in Egor local government area, Edo state?	SA	A	N	D	SD
6	Street hawking is influenced by parental economic background					
7.	Street hawking is influenced by parental educational background					
8.	Parents provide the wares or articles of street hawking for their children					
9.	Poverty is the major cause of street hawking					

	What are the effects of street hawking on the child educational development in Egor Local government area?					
10.	Street hawking influence the high rate of school drop out					
11.	Street hawking affects the grade level of students who indulge in it					
12.	Children who indulge in street hawking lose interest in academic activities					
13.	Children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours.					
	In what way does street hawking affects the child behavioral development in Egor local government area?	SA	A	N	D	SD
14	Street hawking influences the high rate of moral laxity					
15	Children that hawk on the street are exposed to sexual activities early					
16	Street hawking influence the high rate of truancy					
17	Female children involved in street hawking often turn to prostitution					
	What is the role of the social worker on the effect of street hawking on the academic development of the child in Ovia north east local government area	SA	A	N	D	SD
18	I understand the role of Social workers in my community is to that of counselling and advocacy					
19	Social workers work with families and children who have been abused or neglected					
20	It is believed that Social workers can practice child protection					
21	social workers can practice child protection, without violating cultural values in your area					