

Assessment of Farm Hawking among Female Teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State

Mukhtar Nawait Salihu

Department of Counselling Psychology, Faculty of Education, Sokoto State University (SSU), Sokoto, -Nigeria.
Email: muknawait@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper investigated on Farm hawking among teenage girls in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State. Descriptive survey design were employed. 227 teenage farm hawkers were purposively selected as participants representing the entire population of the study. Self-developed questionnaire was used to elicit responses and data collected were analysed using SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistical tools of frequency and percentage were used to analyse the data. The finding revealed that, parental economic constraint, low level of education and in ability of the parent to enroll them in school were the remote causes of farm hawking among the female teenagers. The finding also shown that farm hawking result to high rate of delinquency, moral laxity and expose female teenagers to early sexual activities. And it was finally recommended that, parent should endeavor to dedicate their resources in training and educating girl child to avoid living them standardly hawking around farms at their risk. It was also recommended that to address social effects of farm hawking, entrepreneurship training should be provided and encouraged among female teenagers for individual, communal and national growth.

Keywords: Female Teenagers, Farm Hawking, Sokoto Central Constituency

Cite this as: Nawait, M. S. (2026). Assessment of Farm Hawking among Female Teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State. *Rima International Journal of Education*, 5(2), 159—158. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.65760/rijessu.v5.2.11>

Introduction

Apart from the high death rate recorded as a result of COVID-19 disaster, the Pandemic also accelerated the existing challenges affecting people in Nigeria particularly in the Northern part of the country. Some of these problems are; insecurity, street bagging, street hawking, high rate of farm hawking, child labour teenage prostitution and widen more gap between “the have and have not”. The above mentioned problems indicated that children and teenagers are the major victims and are as well the most vital section of any population for future planning.

Despite the United Nation Children Education Fund (UNICEF) and Girl Education Project (GEP) and Nigeria Enhancing Girl Basic Education in Nigeria (ACTIONAID) to minimize child abuse like hawking at the expense of literacy and skills acquisition, about 121 million children are out of school, 65 million girls and 80 percent from Sub Sahara Africa (UNICEF, 2017). Many of these girls are sending out of school in to the streets and farms to ‘hawk’ goods or other form of economic activities to support the family income. Hawking among children is regarded as a tradition in sub-Saharan Africa. It cuts across every section of the society regardless of gender. In Nigeria, particularly northern states hawking has become the major mean of income earning among the lower and some middle class families.

In Sokoto Central constituency consisting of Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Wamakko, Kware Binji Silame, Tangaza and Gudu local government areas , Sokoto State. , the common forms of hawking are street and farm hawkings. The worrisome aspect of this menace is the involvement of the significant number of teenage school-age girls causing more social and psychological problems than it solves. As a result of this ugly trend, their holistic development is at high risk and their fundamental human rights as citizens are abused and jeopardized.

Farm hawking refers to the act of canvassing for sale of items carried by the hawkers from farm to another farm or under the trees where farmers dry their sweat. Teenagers particularly girls troop down the valley on daily bases carrying wares of mostly “Fura da Nono” (commonest traditional food made from millet) moving from one farm to others selling their wares. Farm hawking prove to be more vulnerable than street hawking because of the isolation and privacy the hawkers and their customers enjoy from various

covers produced by crops in the farm in addition to the existing covers of trees and shrubs in the valley. Farm hawking also exposed the teenage girls to criminal hide-out in the valley where many were either raped, initiated into notorious group and some are being introduced into prostitution all in the name of hawking. Occasionally, hawkers suffer loss of money or food items in the hand of such criminals during or after sells. Moreover, many tugs or criminals sexually abused farm hawkers since shouting and crying are of less used for people's help in the bush. The constituency and its subordinate villages are located on the anticline of the Rima U-shaped valley where agricultural activities are taking place throughout the year.

History revealed that hawking is one of the oldest commercial activity that has come to be a dominant trend even in the modern day society (Abari, 2013). This is a very common trend across Nigerian societies from rural communities to urban centers. It is indeed the most common economic activity in the rural communities of northern Nigeria. For example, it is easy to see teenage Fulani girls moving about the streets hawking cow milk (Lantana, 2010). While other girls hawk different items like groundnut, water, yam and other food commodities by the major highways. For example, a potential bride whose parents are poor must hawk in order to get the money required to buy for her what she should be taking to her husband's house, such as bed, food, and other elegant items (Lantana, 2010).

The research on farm hawking among girl child conducted by Nawait, et al. (2020) revealed that the consistency of farm hawking among teenage girls in Dundaye district was largely caused by home-based factor and farm hawking which have both social and psychological effects of the teenage girls, including exposure to early sexual activities and high rate of truancy. The present study is specifically on farm hawking as hundreds of thousands of school aged teenagers are found to be patronized on daily basis. The main focuses are to identify the causes and effects of farm hawking among these vulnerable set of people in the study area.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

- I. Find out the remote causes of farm hawking among female teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State.

- II. Identify Social effects of farm hawking on female teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were used as guide to the study;

- I. What are the remote causes of farm hawking among female teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State?
- II. What are the social effects of farm hawking on female teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State?

Methodology

The research design used descriptive research which involves the use of questionnaire to get information from the target population. The target population of the study comprise of all the female teenagers in Sokoto Central constituency (Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Wamakko, Kware Binji Silame, Tangaza and Gudu local government areas), Sokoto State, but specifically those hawking within the Rima valley cutting across the above-mentioned local government areas.

The population of hawkers are not stable because they wander about looking for their customers. The inhabitants of the area were predominantly of the Hausa/Fulani ethnic group and they are mostly farmers of all categories. A large proportion of the inhabitants are farmers and traders, with few artisans and civil servants.

The sampling designs used was multi-stage, because the study was purposely or judgmentally sampled. Judgment was used in selecting the area as a case study with specific purpose (area with teenage hawkers) in mind (Neuman, 2003). The study also used the convenience sampling or accidental sampling to select the teenage hawkers that will participate in the study.

The sample size depended on the total accessible teenage hawkers identified with help of Research Average (2006) table of sample size in order to arrive at appropriate size. The questionnaire named Teenage Farm Hawkers Questionnaire (TFHQ) will be used to elicit information from teenage hawkers with the help of Six (6) Research assistants; One for research assistant par local government area. See attach at (Appendix I). The data was collected

through direct contact between the Researcher, Six Research assistants and the respondents. Each research assistant will cover two local government areas since the distribution of questionnaires involve tracking down through the Rima river valley where hawking business is usually taking place. Data collected from the respondents was processed and analyzed with the help of Special Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 20ing percentage frequency and mean to provide answers to the research questions.

Findings

What are the remote causes of farm hawking among female teenagers in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State?

Table 1: Causes of Farm Hawking

S/N	Item	Agree F (%)	Disagree F (%)
1	Children hawk around farms because there are not enrolled in formal school (Boko).	218 (96)	9 (4.0)
2	Farm hawking is influenced by parental economic background	216 (95.2)	11 (4.8)
3	Farm hawking is influenced by parental educational background	226 (99.6)	1 (.4)

Source: Field Data

Results presented in table one shows the causes of farm hawking among teenage girl-child in Sokoto Central Constituency, Sokoto State. Item one of the Table 1 shows that the 96% of the respondents agreed that children hawk around farms because they were not enrolled in formal system of education; this submission was countered by only 9% who disagreed. On item two, 95% affirmed that children hawk around the farm to get money because of their parent economic constrain only 11% disagreed with the statement. While the in respond to the last item 99% submitted that children hawk because of their parent negative perceptions toward education.

What are the social effects of teenage Farm hawking among girl-child in the Sokoto Central Constituency?

Table 2: Social Effects of Farm Hawking

S/N	Item	Agree F (%)	Disagree F (%)
1	Farm hawking influences the high rate of delinquency	224 (98.3)	3 (1.3)
2	Farm hawking influences the high rate of moral laxity	196 (86.3)	31 (13.8)
3	Children that hawk around the farm are exposed to early sexual activities	203 (89.4)	24 (10.6)

Source: *Field Data*

Table 2 presents the social effects of farm hawking among teenage girl-child in the constituency. Item one of the Table shows that 98% of the respondents agreed that farm hawking influence high rate of delinquency only 1.3% disagreed. In item two, 86.3% responded in favour of the item that farm hawking influences high rate moral laxity only 13.8% disagreed. However, in the last item 89.4% agreed that farm hawking exposes girls to early sexual activities, only 10.6% disagreed with the statement. It can therefore be concluded that farm hawking lead to high rate of delinquency, moral laxity and expose them to early sexual activities.

Discussion

This study investigates the effect of farm hawking among teenage girls in the senatorial, Participants involved 227 teenage girls who hawk around the farms. Findings of the study were presented and discussed in accordance with the research questions.

Research question one revealed that the causes of farm hawking among girl-children in the Constituency include: parental economic constraint, low level of education and inability for them to be enrolled in schools. While acknowledging these causes, the finding that farm hawking stemmed from the inability for the girls to be enrolled in school is misleading owing to the fact that of the respondents submitted that they were enrolled in secular school. However, overall, the findings does establish that farm hawking are caused mainly by home factors. In support of this assertion, Ebgbo (2003) contended that while poverty is often postulated as the principal cause of forcing children into labour, lack of social services at home, lack of good housing, inadequate food and health care service, have been known to compel parents to send their children into street hawking and child labour. Other factors considered to cause farm hawking were put forward by Fawole et al. (2003) who contend that these factors include poverty, high cost of living, lack of sponsorship,

poor school performance, single parenthood, large family size, peer group pressure, poor home conditions, lack of parental care, parents' unemployment, parental pressure, poor scholastic achievements. Appel (2009) has identified structural inequalities as the cause of child hawking, while Nwabueze (1992) sees poverty and inequality as the major causes of child hawking and child labour. This concludes that farm hawking stems from domestic factors, which needs to be solved holistically.

Findings from research question two revealed that farm hawking lead to high rate of delinquency, moral laxity and exposed teenagers to early sexual acts. These are social effects that need to be treated with urgent concern. In support of this finding, Onuzulike (2007) found that unwanted pregnancies, prostitution, smoking, robbery, truancy and poor academic performance are among social effects of child hawking amond. He concluded that street hawking does not endanger only the lives of the hawkers, but also the food hawked and the consumer society at large. As put forward by Korbin (1983), socially, children can experience negative effects on their educational development and performance. Illiteracy, low school attendance, and low enrolment have developmental and performance implication and have been attributed to children's economic participation. These empirical evidences affirm the present finding that teenage hawking around the farms expose them to social vices.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that the consistent farm hawking among teenage girls in the Constituency was largely caused by home-based factors. Furthermore, farm hawking has social effects of the teenage girls, including exposure to early sexual activities and high rate of moral laxity.

Recommendations

Based on the outcome of the study the following recommendations were made;

- I. Parent should endeavor to enroll their children in both Islamic and western systems of education for better and brighter future.

- II. Parents are urged to desist from exposing their teenage girls to farm hawking. Although, due to persistent socio-economic status, they can engage their kids in domestic entrepreneurship programmes for future benefits.

Reference

- Abari C. A. (2013) A study of street children in Kaduna Metropolis Nigeria, *Journal of humanities and social science*, vol.15, issue
- Akpotu, N. E. (2004) *Planning Nigeria's Basic Education: Challenges for Child Labour*. In Jike, Vol. 7, Lagos: NISS Publications.
- Bammeke, E. (2004) *Gender and Early Childhood Marriage in Niger State*. In Jike, V. T. (ed) 27: H, Lagos: NISS Publications.
- Chukwuma, S. and Alemika, B. (2000) *Failures of Nigerian Juvenile Justice System*, Lagos: Tupe Publishers Ltd.
- Ebgbo, P.O., (2003). Street child: The core of child abuse and neglect in Nigeria. *Children, Youth and Environment*: 1-13.
- Lantana M. Usman (2010) "Street hawking and socio-economic dynamics of Normadic girls of northern Nigeria", *International journal of social economics*, vol. 37, issue: 9