

Analysis of Child Labour and School attendance in Nigeria: The present and future implications

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Abstract

Child labour acts as a major hurdle for ensuring free, quality education for all children. Over 246 million girls and boys around the World are working instead of attending school and enjoying their childhood of which Nigeria account for about 6.1 %(15million). This paper investigated the motivating factors into child labour in Nigeria, examined Nigerian government efforts at reduction and improvement of child labour and school attendant rates. The result showed that child labours are predominantly found in the informal sector of Nigeria with family characteristics as a very important determining factor of children's educational attainment and labour in Nigeria. The future implication of the exploitation of child labour will not only damages the children concerned but also inhibits the emergence of a skilled workforce, but will force Nigeria into a cycle of impoverishment. It will lead to high child mortality rate as a result of working too young, for too many hours, and in hazardous conditions. By the time such children reach adulthood they are often damaged physically, emotionally, morally and intellectually and would have lost the opportunity for an education that would open up a better futures and the amount of schooling in children today determines the wage they command as adult tomorrow. Government should not only emphasis the need for a reduction in family size but also enforce the law on the ban of child labour and compulsory education and give parent who want to educate their child access to market credit.

Keywords

Child labours, school attendance, present implications, future implications and Nigeria